

United States Courts

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Chambers of
Elisha H. Brewster
District Judge

Worthington, Mass.
July 22, 1943.

Worthington Historical Society, Inc.
Worthington, Mass.

Walter L. Stevens, Esq.,
Northampton, Mass.

My dear Walter:-

I received your very kind and generous letter. I gather you would like to be purged of contempt. The only way this can be done is for you to send me a bill for services in searching titles in the Registry of Deeds as you would any other client. Acting on the assumption that you will do this I am submitting my problems for attention when you are in need of something to do.

First: My great-grandmother, the widow of Elisha, evidently released her interest in her late husband's real estate upon my grandfather giving a bond for life support secured by a mortgage on real estate in Worthington Center. The mortgage is dated Jan. 13, 1835. It was never recorded but it is a fair inference that the release was. It occurred to me that it might show what real estate Elisha owned at the time of his death. If there is none then that ends the matter. I know there were several conveyances to and from Elisha and I do not want any examination of the records to ascertain ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ his holdings, especially as I know that some of the conveyances were recorded in Springfield. But in 1835 I take it, the record of a release of dower, as it is called in the mortgage, would be in the Northampton Registry of Deeds. *None*

Second: The discription of the property mortgaged by my grandfather Brewster recites that it is "all the premises lately owned by Isiah Kingman East of the road that runs North and South". The Westerly boundary is the road leading South from the meetinghouse. I am satisfied that the mortgaged premises included the land and probably the main part of the building I now own. From old deeds in my possession I learn that Isiah Kingman acquired this property by deeds as follows;

- (1) From Francis Benjamin in 1816. Two acres with buildings thereon were conveyed. This undoubtedly was where my house now stands. Benjamin kept a store there until D. T. Hewitt opened one in the Hewitt mansion.
- (2) From the Town of Worthington in 1829. This covered land where the store now stands and land in the rear. It was the location of the second church erected in the town and the common that was appurtenant.
- (3) From James Kelley in 1831 conveying property North of the Benjamin property of about 23 acres.

I am interested to learn how the title to this or rather these properties passed from Isiah to his son-in-law Elisha Huntington Brewster. I would appreciate the answer unless you find that it will involve an extended search. If so forget it as it is not particularly important except to satisfy my curiosity.

I respectfully submit the foregoing for your consideration at your convenience.

Sincerely yours

E H Brewster