

LINCOLN, N. H.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AUGUST, 14-15-16-1964

Lincoln was granted in 1764 to James Avery of Norwich, Connecticut and sundry others from Connecticut and neighboring Westchester County, New York by Benning Wentworth, Royal Governor of the New Hampshire Grants, acting under authority of George III, the British monarch who became the nemesis of the American colonists. Avery and a fellow grantee, Jeremiah Clement, likewise a Connecticut Yankee, promptly bought up all the rights they could and sold out to Israel Morey, father of Samuel Morey, the inventor of the steamboat. Later, Morey did likewise, all of them making a tidy profit on land none of them had ever seen.

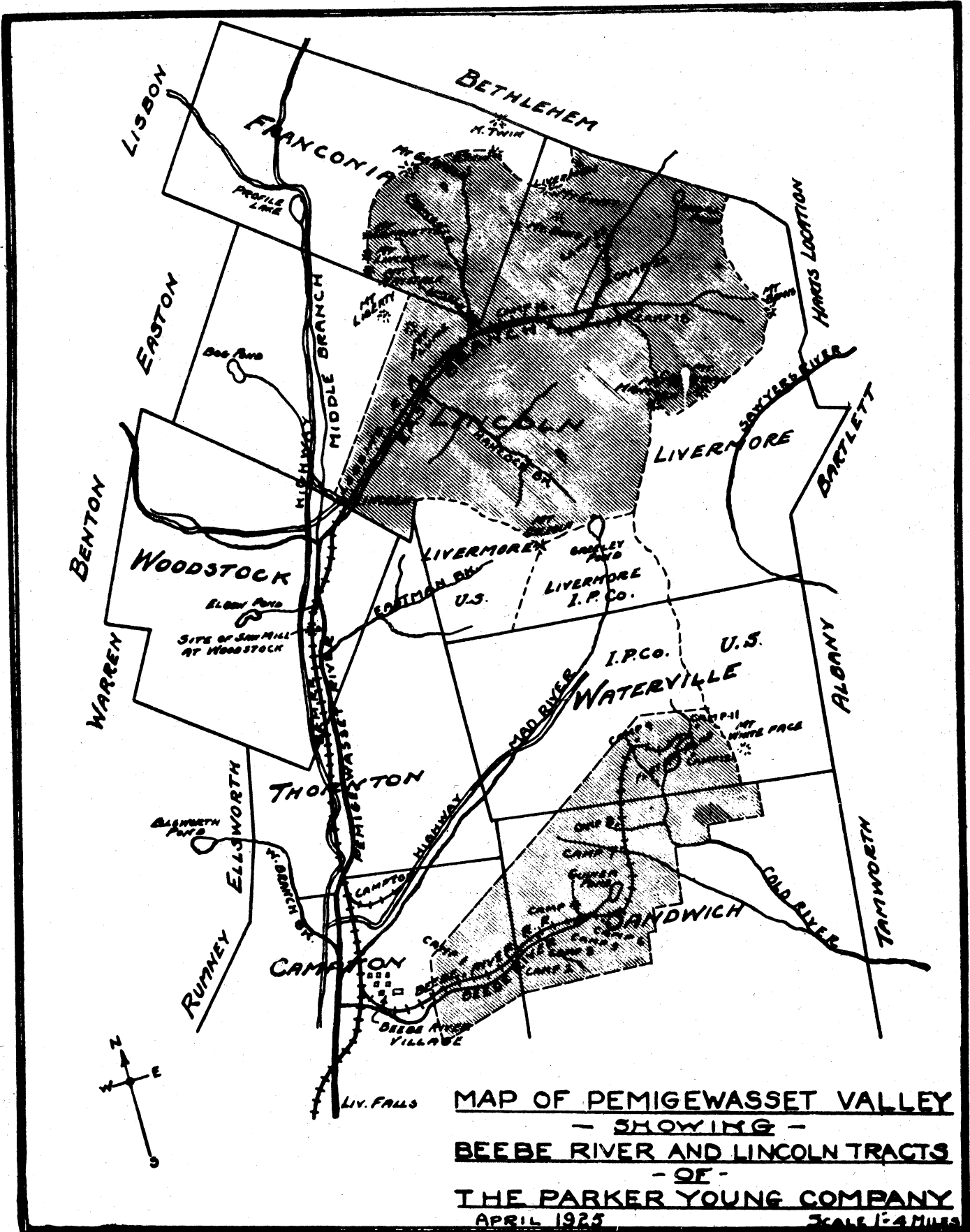
The first town meeting was held in 1802 at the dwelling of Nathan Kinsman, which stood near the Kinsman burying ground in what is now Easton. After the Revolution, about 1783, a small settlement began there, but there were a handful of settlers who cleared the land along Pollard Road and the middle branch of the Pemigewasset where Tuttle's Tavern was later built. The first of these were Aaron Jones, Moses Wentworth and John Coolidge, for whom the Coolidge Mountains were named.

After fourteen town meetings had been held in the little settlement west of Kinsman's Mountain, these pioneers discovered that they did not live in Lincoln at all, and in 1816 town government collapsed. In 1829 there were a sufficient number of settlers along highway #3 and along Pollard Road to begin again, and the town was organized once more.

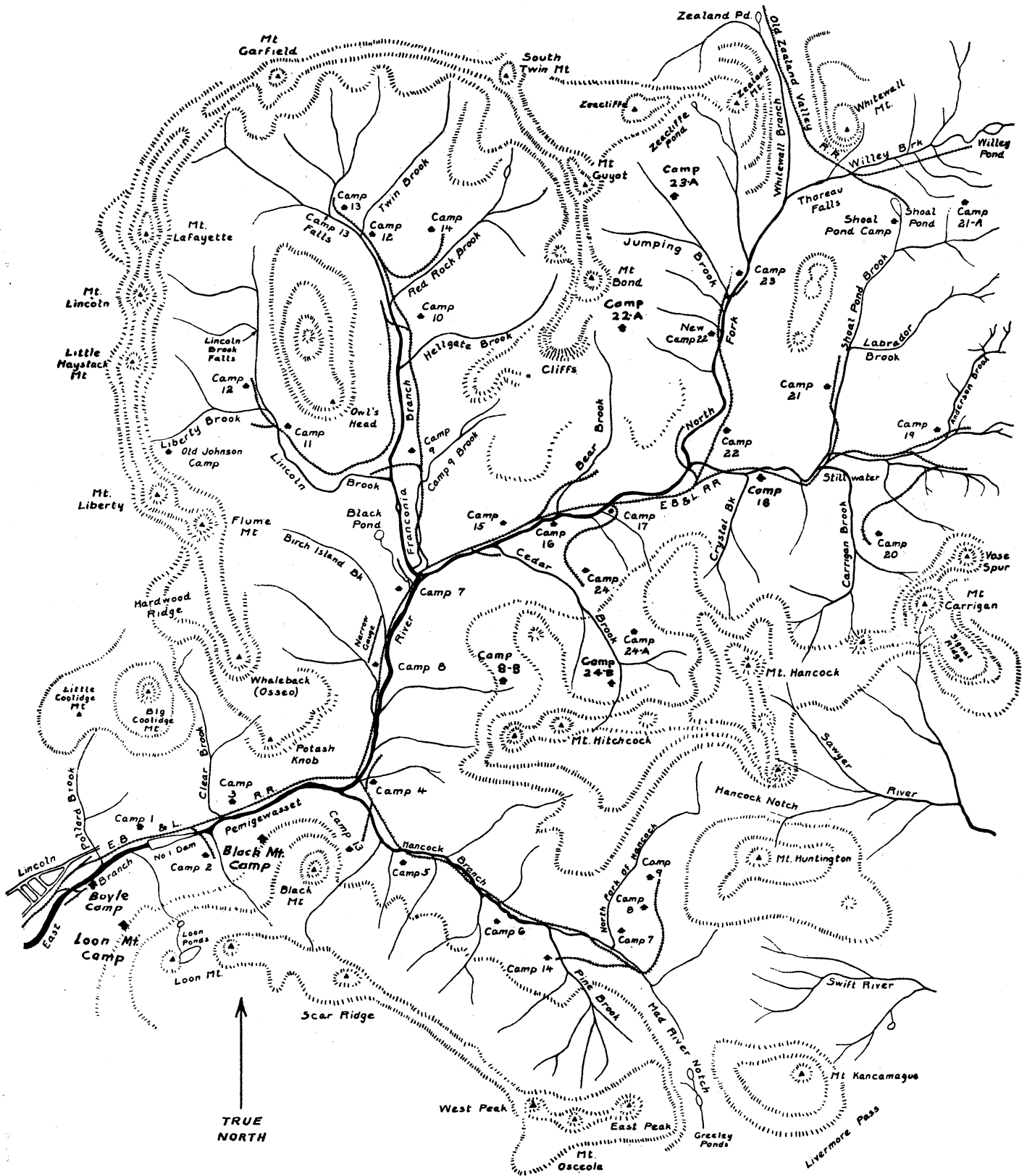
Lincoln was known as a wild land town, indeed, one gazeteer described it as a rough, mountainous township, replete with wild animals, a poor agriculture, and largely unfit for human habitation. In spite of several legislative acts to encourage a road through Franconia Notch, it was not until 1826 that a carriage road was built worthy of the name. Until after 1850, most of the settlers survived by their meager agriculture, largely feed grain, Indian corn, apples, potatoes and maple sugar.

In 1892, J. E. Henry and his sons moved from Zealand to Lincoln, cleared the site for the village and began the manufacture of lumber. There had been a few small sawmills, a chair-back and bobbin factory, but these industries afforded little sustained employment. The Henry operation, converting to the manufacture of pulp and paper, made Lincoln an industrial town. In this respect, the character of the town has not changed since, and the paper-making of the Franconia Paper Corporation constitutes the chief livelihood of the people.

Near the middle of the nineteenth century, travelers and summer guests began to journey from afar to view the wonders of the Notch Road and to receive inspiration from the grandeur of the mountains. Likewise, hunters, fishermen, mountain climbers and finally skiers came to enjoy the advantages of this, the second largest town in the State. The first tavern of note was Tuttle's, but the Flume House after 1850 became the most famous mountain resort in Lincoln's history. For years it had the finest table in the mountains, and many noted people stopped there. Daniel Webster and Franklin Pierce were guests there, Nataniel Hawthorne and Edward Everett Hale were among the writers and preachers who came to Lincoln.



MAP OF PEMIGEWASSET VALLEY
 - SHOWING -
 BEEBE RIVER AND LINCOLN TRACTS
 - OF -
 THE PARKER YOUNG COMPANY
 APRIL 1925
 SCALE 1:4 MILES



Site of Logging Camps and Railroads in the Pemigewasset Wilderness.