



At Play and Rest Amongst the Clouds



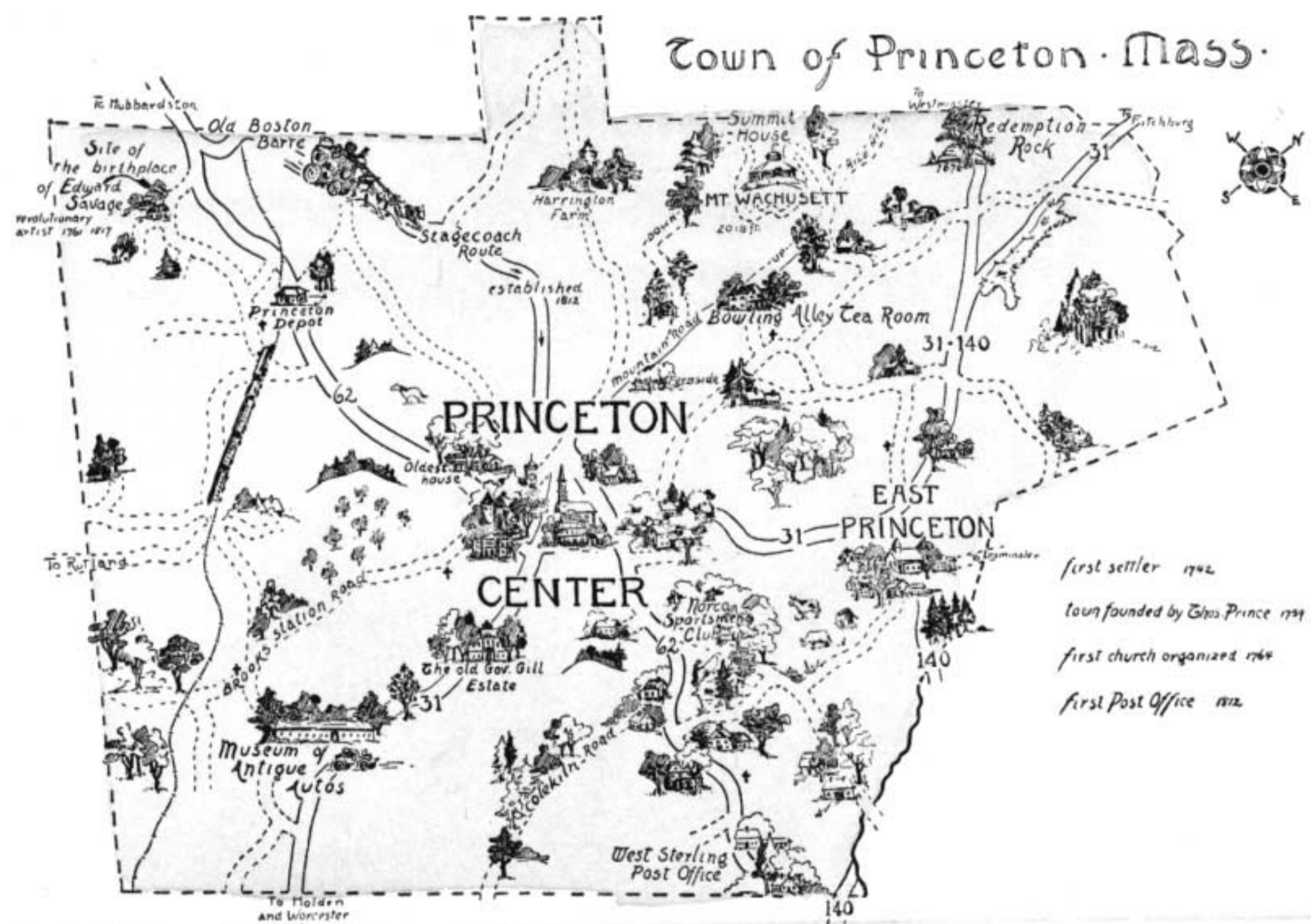
THE MORNING STAGE PICKS UP VACATIONERS AT THE DEPOT

Wachusett Mountain was very different in the 19th Century from the mostly wooded terrain that dominates today. The town of Princeton was a regular summer resort, with stage-coaches shuttling vacationers from the

railroad depot-located about a mile to the west of the mountain – and distributing them at an assortment of clapboard-sided hotels and lodges.

A map from 1898 shows a bowling alley next to the Grand View House, next to the Mountain House Inn – all surrounding a “Mt. Wachusett Post Office” located at what is today a simple trailhead (for the Mountain House Trail) along a high point of Mountain Road. Also around that time period a trolley line from

RECREATION on the MOUNTAIN



PRINCETON – AND WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN – AS IT WAS!

Fitchburg deposited summertime day-trippers to Wachusett Park on the shores of Wachusett Lake – located by Route 140 on the northeast side of the mountain. The lake once bustled with tour boats, rowboats and shoreline picnic groves.

Concessions for food and entertainment catered to visitors escaping from nearby mill towns. There was a camping area, bowling pavilion, skating rink, dance hall, band stand and dining hall featuring pout (catfish) drawn up from cages in the lake.

Excursions to the summit evolved into week-long vacations as lodging and attractions developed on the rocky crown, and roads were improved.



A GROUP OF WOMAN ON HOLIDAY ENJOY NATURE AT THE SUMMIT

Around Wachusett Mountain and Lake - Words and Music by Wm. A.W. Eager

“Oh the wood-lands they ring in the morning
With the sweet singing song birds at dawning
How the whippoorwills sing in the evening
Around Wachusett Mountain and Lake.”



Many free interpretive programs are offered at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. For information about them or our about guided tours, please call us at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation (978) 464-2987.

