

In 1907 President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, and Professor Nathaniel W. Shaler, the eminent geologist, became convinced of the need for a practical experiment station for scientific methods of forestry. Forestry schools had been established before that time, notably the Yale School of Forestry, founded in 1900. But up to that time no forestry school had acquired an actual forest in which to try out principles.

President Eliot began by getting Richard T. Fisher, a graduate of the first class at the Yale school, to come to Harvard. Dr. Eliot at that time was serving as a trustee of Public Reservations with James W. Brooks of Petersham, who owned 2,000 acres of land in and about Petersham which he suggested might serve the purpose in mind. Professor Fisher was sent to Petersham to report on the property. The purchase price, \$55,000, was immediately donated by John S. Ames of Boston.