HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,

CONNECTICUT.

BY GEORGE C. WOODRUFF.

LITCHFIELD:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY CHARLES ADAMS.
1845.

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Woodruff, George Catlin, 1805-1885.

History of the town of Litchfield, Connecticut. By George C. Woodruff. Litchfield, C. Adams, 1845.

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1. Litchfield, Conn.—Hist.

The following facts relating to the early History of Litchfield, resting either in tradition, or concealed amidst a mass of other matter, I had the curiosity to collect in moments of leisure, and to arrange for subsequent reference. And I have deemed it well to incorporate therein, extracts from Morris' statistical account of Litchfield, as that work is nearly out of print, and the facts it contains being interesting to a native of this town. I am also indebted to gentlemen in this village, for some of the facts herein recorded. Many others are doubtless in the memory of our older inhabitants, and valuable documents may be found among the papers of those no longer living, developing the manners and customs and early history of our ancestors. Should such be communicated to me, I may hereafter take measures to embody them for preservation and the benefit or gratification of posterity.

GEORGE C. WOODRUFF.

Litchfield, August 1845.

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD.

CHAPTER I.

By the charter of King Charles the 2d, to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, granted A. D. 1662, the boundaries of the Colony were, the Narraganset River on the East, the Sea on the South, the line of the Massachusetts plantation on the North, and the South Sea on the West. Within these boundaries, were included the town and county of Litchfield, which town, until the organization of the county in 1751, was a part of the county of Hartford.

In 1685, on the decease of Charles, his brother James the 2d, ascended the throne. He is represented as having been an "obstinate, cruel tyrant, and a bigoted Roman Catholic, destitute of all the principles of true honor, faith, justice or humanity. The most humble petitions, arguments from reason, charters, the most solemn compact, and royal promises; from justice, humanity, or any other consideration which a subject could plead, had no weight or influence with him. Nearly fifty corporations in England had been deprived of their charters."

With a monarch of such a character, the institutions of New England found no favor. The charter of Massachusetts was vacated. Rhode Island submitted. Its inhabitants, and those of the Narraganset country, were discharged from all obedience either to Connecticut or Rhode Island.

Writs of quo warranto were issued against the Governor and Company of Connecticut, requiring them to show by what warrant they exercised certain powers and privileges, and this under circumstances which showed that it was no part of the King's intention to do them justice.

The government of Connecticut omitted no probable means for the preservation of their chartered rights. But in the year 1687, Sir Edmund Andross, (a fit instrument for such a king,) failing to obtain the surrender or possession of our charter, forcibly assumed the government of the Colony. The charter, the possession of which he coveted, (at the present time in the State House at Hartford,) was secreted, as is well known, in the hollow of an oak now standing in Hartford, called the Charter Oak.

During this period, and, as it was said, for the purpose of "saving the lands from the grasp of Sir Edmund, and to prevent his enriching himself and his minions by a sale of them," the legislature, on the 26th of January 1686, conveyed to the towns of Hartford and Windsor, as follows: "This Court grants to the plantations of Hartford and Windsor, those lands on the north of Woodbury and Mattatuck,* and on the west of Farmington and Simsbury, to the Massachusetts line north, to run west to the Housatonic or Stratford river; provided, it be not or part of it granted to any particular person to make a plantation or village."

This conveyance subsequently created serious difficulty in the Colony, and gave rise to forcible resistance to the public authority.

It was claimed on the part of the colony, that the grant was without consideration, and that those towns were to hold the lands in trust for the Colony till the time of danger should be past.

But those towns denied the justice of the demands of the Colony, and claimed the lands as absolutely their own, and in contravention of the laws of the Colony proceeded to survey and sell them. Some of the offenders were arrested and punished, some were committed to the prison in Hartford. The inhabitants of Windsor and Hartford armed themselves, and in spite of the power and authority of the sheriff, and the assembly, broke open the goal and rescued the prisoners. These events occurred in 1722.

The towns still continued to lay out the disputed lands, and

* Waterbury.

the legislature to pursue spirited measures to prevent it. The controversy assumed a still more serious aspect, but was finally amicably adjusted in May 1726, by dividing the lands in controversy, between the towns of Hartford and Windsor on the one part, and the Colony on the other.

From this division, however, the town of Litchfield, though a part of the disputed territory, was exempted, as were also other lands previously conveyed by those towns.

Those interested in the town of Litchfield had, indeed, some time before the controversy attained its height, with commendable prudence, taken measures to perfect their title by obtaining grants from all claimants.

CHAPTER II.

Our ancestors were not of those who pretended that the aboriginees had no right to the soil which had for centuries been occupied by them and their fathers. The settlers of Connecticut deemed it a matter of conscience, to abstain from trespassing upon the lands of the natives, much more from depriving them of those lands until they were fairly purchased.

It is said that before the settlement of this town by the whites, a tribe resided here, probably on the borders of the lake, in alliance with the powerful tribe of Indians at New Milford, but still independent of them.

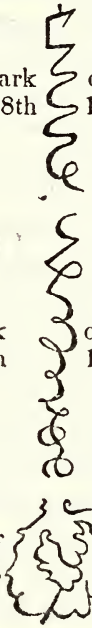
The Tunxis or Farmington tribe of Indians adjoined them on the east, and how far their territories extended into this township, if at all, is uncertain.

But I find that as early as the year 1657, certain Indians of that tribe conveyed to William Lewis and Samuel Steele of Farmington, certain privileges as appears by the following copy of their deed, viz:

"This witnesseth that we Kepaquamp and Querrimus and Mataneage have sould to William Leawis and Samuel Steele of

ffarmington A p sell or a tract of land called Matetucke, that js to say the hill from whence John Standley and John Andrews brought the black lead, and all the land within eight mylle of that hill on every side ; to dig ; and carry away what they will and to build in jt for ye use of them that labour there ; and not otherwise to improve ye land. In witness whereof wee have hereunto set our hands, and thos Jndians above mentioned must free the purchasers from all claymes by any other Indyans.

Witnes ; John Steel. William Lewis,
february ye 8th 1657. Samuel Steele.



The mark of Kepaquamp.
febru ye 8th 1657.

The mark of Querrimus.
febru ye 8th 1657.

The mark of Mataneage.
february ye 8 1657."

Precisely where the hill referred to in this deed was situated, I have been unable to discover, but from the subsequent claims of the grantees, from tradition, and from the deed itself, it would seem that it was in the southern part of Harwinton, and embraced that town, and also some portion of Plymouth (then Matatuck or Waterbury) and Litchfield. This purchase was made by the grantees in behalf of themselves and a company composed of certain other inhabitants of Farmington. And on

the 11th of August 1714 the whole Indian title to the land described in said instrument, in the successors of the grantors, was conveyed as appears by the following deed :

"To all christian people to whom these presents shall come, Pethuzso and Taxcronuck with Awowas and ye rest off us ye subscribers, Indians belonging to Tunxses or otherwise ffarmington jn theyer majesties Colony of Conecticut jn New England send greeting—Know ye that whereas, Kepaqam, Queromus, and Mattaneg our Predisessors, did febr ye eighth 1657 : sell and convey unto Capt. William Lewis and Left. Samuel Steele a certain Tract or prcell of land called Mattatuck ; that is to say the hill from whence John Stanly and John Andrews brought ye black Lead, and all ye Land within eight miles of that hill, on every side ; to jmprove as appeareth on Record jn. ye second book of Records Page : 17th : which Purchas was made, for ye most considerable part, of ye jnhabitants of ffarmington as may appear by a List of theyer Names, who with s'd Lewis and Steele, Payd a considerable sume for ye Purchas. A considerable Part of which Tract or prcell of Land is comprised within ye bounds, of Watterbury and ffarmington, we haueing allso about ye year, one thousand, six hundred and 87 ; with sume of our Predecessors Received of Left. John Stanly, about the sume of eight Pounds for Part of said Land which are confirmed to him, and we do now Quitt our claime to ye same and do confirm ye same to him and his successors according as we or any of our predicessors did before us : and hauing considered what sumes of mony, and that which hath been to or predecessors, and our full sattisfaction for ye said prcell of Land, mentioned jn ye prmisess, with what further, gratuities we have lately received, from Left Stanly and Sarjt Eben Steele, and Now therefore know all men, by these Presents that we Pethuzso and Toxcronock, with Awowas, and ye rest of us that have subscribed do well approve of what Kepaquam, Queromus and Mattanege, have done jn selling ye aboue sd Tract or percell of Land aboue sd to Capt. William Lewis and Left. Steele, and do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, alienate, confirm and convey all or Right jn or to sd tract of land whatsoever, we ye sd Pethuzsoe and Toxcronuck, with ye rest

Now, haue or jn time to come, might ought or should haue had jn or to sd Land aboue mentioned as it is described jn ye Record, and deeds within all ye extent of ye buttments bounded or Reputed to be bounded, Together with all such Rights Libertyes; Profits, Privileges, jmunities, Profits, commodities, immolluments and appertenances, as jn any kind appertain thereunto, belonging unto ye sons of sd Capt Lewis and Left Steele; Namely unto William Lewis Sarjt Ebenezer Steel, and allso Left John Stanly aboue sd all belonging unto sd ffarmington, with ye associats of sd Capt Lewis and Left Samuel Steele, as may appear, by ye List of theyer Names on ye other sid of this Jnstrument, which were ye men yt Payd ye first Purchas; we say to William Lewis junr Eben. Steel and John Stanly with ye ancient Purchasers, we say ye Tract of Land wth all ye preveledges which in any kind appertain thereunto with ye Reuersions and Remainders thereof and all ye estate Right Title, Jnterest, jnheritance, Property claime and demand whatsoever, we ye sd Jndians haue, might ought or shold haue, had to ye sd Land, and Priueledges, and do hereby Quitt any claime thereto, unto ye sd William Lewis and Ebenezer Steel, and ye ancient Purchasers to haue and to hold all ye aboue granted prmises with all and singuler ye appurtenances thereof unto ye sd Lewis Steele and theyer fathers associats, as aboue expresst and to Left John Stanly jn speciall, fifty acres Layd out and confirmed to him near ye sd hill, and fifty acres more where he shall see cause to take it up, or his heirs, which we have had full sattisfaction for, with our Predecessors, the sd Purchasors to haue and to hold ye Land bought as is expressed of our grandfathers and Relations, with ye apurtenances thereof to them theyer heirs and assigns to their own sole and Proper use, and behoof from henceforth forever. Allso ye sd Pethuzso, and Toxcronuck with ye Rest of the Jndians subscribing do hereby for our selves and our heir executrs admintrs couenant promise, grant and agree, to and with ye sd John Stanly Steel and Lewis in manner and form as followeth, that ye sd Keepaquam, Querimus and Mattaneage at ye time of ye ensealing ye conuayance above expressed, they were ye true and lawfull owners of ye Land contained jn ye Premises and stood seized

of the whole tract of land contained in ye book of Records in ye premises: after ye meathod that other Jndians useed to do, jn theyer own right; yet for A further sattisfaction of ye heirs of Capt. Lewis, Steel, and Stanly we haue giuen this Jnstrument to Left Stanly and William Lewis, son of Capt Lewis, and Ebenezer Steele to be A further confirmation to them and ye ancient Purchasers forever. Now this Jndenture wittnesseth for a further confirmation to them ye sd Stanly, Lewis and Steel, that we ye sd Pethuzso and Toxcronuck with ye rest of us ye subscribers do grant Release and Quitt any claime to ye aboue sd Tract or Percell of Land and do hereby assigne, enfeoffe, Rattefie and Confirm unto the aforesd Willm Lewis Sarjt Ebenezer Steel and Left John Stanly theyer ancient Purchasers and theyer heirs forever, all ye forementioned premises that is to say the hill from whence John Stanly and John Andrus brought ye blacklead and all ye Land within eight mile of ye hill on euery side, with all ye timber trees, woods brooks rivers, mines, minerals thereupon, and hereby surrender and Quitt our claime to ye same for them to have and to hold Possess and enjoy and their heirs forever, and do hereby warrant maintain, and defend ye sd Purchasers theyer heirs and assigns jn ye Quiet and Peaceable Possession, and enjoyment thereof as above described, against our selves our heirs executrs adminirs and assigns and and all and euery other prson or prsons lawfully claiming Right Title Jntrest therein from by, or under us.

Jn wittness whereof we ye said Petthuzso Toxcronuck Awowas, with ye Rest haue to this Jndenture Put our hands, and seales, this eleuenth of August in ye year of or Lord one thousand and seven hundred and fourteen: 1714

Signed sealed and delivered in ye presence of us,
John Thomson,
Hez. Hooker.

Petthuzso: his X mark. [L.S.]

Toxcrunuck: his ⟩·C· mark [L.S.]

ffarmington September ye eleuenth day, Anno qe Dom. 1714, Petthuszo, and Toxcronuck, ffarmington Jndians, and subscribers to this aboue written Jnstrument came prsonally before me and acknowledged ye same to be theyer own willing and free act and deed. JOHN HOOKER, Justic.

Wittnesses to Taphow and his squa signing sealing and delivering Th's Lee, Hez. Hooker.	Young Taphow his ʃ mark.	[L.S.]
	Young Tapho w Squa ʒ	
Witnesses to Awowas signing sealing & delivering. Timothy Portter, Josiah Hart.	Petasas granchild her (c mark.	[L.S.]
	Awowas his mark (3)	[L.S.]

ffarmington Octob^r ye 12th, Anno Domi: 1714: Taphow ye younger and his squa; allso Wowowis all ffarmington Jndians came p^r sonally before me, and acknowledged this aboue written Jnstrument—which they have signed and sealed to be thyer own willing free act and deed.

JOHN HOOKER, Justic.

By virtue of these deeds, certain inhabitants of Farmington claimed a title to a portion of this township. But it will be observed, that their title, whatever it was, was derived from the natives only. And that the title of the Colony, was vested in the Towns of Hartford and Windsor. Those Towns therefore claimed the exclusive right to purchase the Indian title, and on doing so, to survey and sell the Lands.

The affairs of "The Western Lands," as they were called, were managed by committees severally appointed by those Towns, who acted in conjunction. As early as 1715, those Towns took measures to explore the Township of Litchfield, and to purchase the native rights. Mr. John Marsh of Hartford, one of the first settlers of this Town, and the ancestor of the Marshes of Litchfield, was one of the committee appointed for that purpose, by the Town of Hartford. He was an energetic and courageous man, and in May 1715 undertook what was then a perilous journey into the pathless wilderness. His bill as appears from our ancient records was as follows:

The Town of Hartford Dr.,

To John Marsh,

May 1715, For 5 days man and horse with expenses in viewing the Land at the New Plantation, £2

I find also the following charges made in January following to the Town of Hartford, by a committee for managing the affairs of the Western Land.

The Town of Hartford Dr.,

Jan 22 1715-16, To 6 days journey to Woodbury, to treat with the Indians about the Western Lands, by Thomas Seymour,	£1	4	
To expenses in the journey,	1	14	9
	£2	18	9

The Town of Hartford Dr.,

To Thomas Seymour Committy.

May 1716, By 2 quarts of Rum,	£0	2	6
Expenses at Farmington,		4	9
" Waterbury,		1	7
Paid Thomas Miner towards the Indian purchase,	7	10	0
Expenses at Woodbury,	2	11	0
" for a Pilot and protection,	1	10	0
Fastening horse shoes at Waterbury,		2	0
Expenses at Waterbury,		1	8

The result of the negotiations with the Indians, was the sale by them to the Towns of Hartford and Windsor of the Township of Litchfield. For aught that appears, it was fairly purchased, and we have no evidence that the natives became dissatisfied with it, or expressed any unwillingness to surrender the possession. They subsequently gave the settlers little trouble. The capture of Griswold and the murder of Harris were the only exceptions, and whether these were the acts of the natives of Bantam, or of the fierce and warlike Mohawks who extended their predatory excursions into these regions, and to whom our tribes were tributary, is uncertain.

The Indian deed of this Town was executed at Woodbury March 2d, 1715, (probably 1716 N. S.) and is as follows, viz:

"To all people to whom those presents shall come—Know ye that we Chusqunnoag, Corkskrew, Quiump, Magnash, Kehow, Sepunkum, Poni, Wonposet, Suckqunnokqueen, Toweecume, Mansumpansh, Norkgnotonckquy—Indian natives belonging to the plantation of Potatuck within the Colo-

ny of Connecticut, for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen pounds money in hand received to our full satisfaction and contentment, have given granted bargained and sold and by these presents do fully freely and absolutely give grant bargain sell and confirm, unto Colº William Whiting, Mr. John Marsh, and Mr. Thomas Seymour, a Committee for the town of Hartford, —Mr. John Eliot, Mr. Daniel Griswold, and Mr. Samuel Rockwell, a Committee for the Town of Windsor, for themselves, and in the behalf of the rest of the Inhabitants of the Towns of Hartford and Windsor,—a certain tract of Land, situate and lying, north of Waterbury bounds, abutting southerly, partly on Waterbury and partly on Woodbury,—from Waterbury River westward cross a part of Waterbury bounds, and cross at the north end of Woodbury bounds to Shepaug River, and so notherly, in the middle of Shepaug River, to the sprains of Shepaug River below Mount Tom, then running up the east branch of Shepaug River, to the place where the said River runs out of Shepaug Pond, from thence to the north end of said Pond, then east to Waterbury River, then southerly as the River runs, to the north end of Waterbury bounds upon the said River ; which said Tract of Land thus described, To Have and to Hold, to the said Col. William Whiting, Mr. John Marsh, and Mr. Thomas Seymor, Mr. John Eliot, and Mr. Daniel Griswold, and Mr. Samuel Rockwell, Committees for the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, as aforesaid, in behalf of themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants of said Towns, to them, their heirs and assigns, to use occupy and improve, as their own proper right of Inheritance, for their comfort forever ; together with all the privileges, appurtenances and conditions to the same belonging, or in any wise appurtaining. And further, we the said Chusqunnoag, Corkscrew, Quiump, Magnash, Kehow, Sepunkum, Poni, Wonposet, Suckqunnokqueen, Toweecume, Mansumpansh, and Norkgnotonckquy, owners and proprietors of the above granted Land, do for ourselves and our heirs, to and with the above said William Whiting, John Marsh, Thomas Seymor, John Eliot, Daniel Griswold, and Samuel Rockwell, committee as aforesaid, them, their heirs and assigns, covenant and engage, that we have good right and lawful authority, to

sell the above granted land,—and further, at the desire and request of the aforesaid committee, and at their own proper cost and charge, will give a more ample deed.

And for a more full confirmation hereof, we have set to our hands and seals, this second day of March, in the second year of his Majesties Reign, Annoq. D. 1715.

Memorandum; before the executing of this instrument, it is to be understood, that the grantors above named have reserved to themselves a piece of ground sufficient for their hunting houses, near a mountain called Mount Tom.

Signed sealed and delivered in our presence.

Chusqunnoag his mark. [L.S.]

Weroamaug his mark.

Wognacug his mark.

Tonhocks his mark.

John Mitchell
Joseph Minor.

Corkscrew his mark. [L.S.]

Quiump his mark. [L.S.]

Magnash his mark. [L.S.]

Kehow his mark. [L.S.]

Sepunkum his mark. [L.S.]

Poni his mark. [L.S.]

Wonposet his mark. [L.S.]

Suckqunnockqueen his mark. [L.S.]

Taweeume his mark. [L.S.]

Mansumpansh his mark. [L.S.]

The Indians that subscribed and sealed the above said deed, appeared personally in Woodbury, the day of the date thereof, and acknowledged the said deed to be their free and voluntary act and deed. Before me JOHN MINOR, Justice."

The Committees, named in this deed, conveyed all their interest in said Lands, to the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, by Deed dated August 29, 1716.

The conflicting claims to this Township, between the Towns

of Hartford and Windsor on the one part, and "certain considerable persons in the Town of Farmington," on the other, arising out of the preceding conveyances, were subsequently amicably adjusted by the parties. The Farmington company, by their attorney John Stanley, on the 11th of June 1718, conveyed their interest to the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, and in consideration thereof, those individuals were invested by those Towns with one sixth part of this Township.

CHAPTER III.

The title to this Township having thus been entirely vested in the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, and in certain inhabitants of Farmington; in 1718, a company was formed for the settlement of the Town.

The Township was divided into sixty rights or shares, three of which were reserved for pious uses. Purchasers having been found for the remaining fifty-seven shares, on the 27th of April 1719, Deeds of conveyance of that date, were made, by committees of the Towns of Hartford and Windsor, and certain inhabitants of Farmington, conveying to the purchasers the whole plantation called Bantam.

Exclusive of three rights reserved for pious uses, the consideration paid for forty-eight of the shares, was £229,10, in bills of public credit. That paid for seven shares, was £31,4. The deeds of the above fifty-five shares, are recorded on our Records. How much was paid for the remaining two shares, which were purchased by Mr. John Marsh, does not appear.

The Township contains about 44,800 acres, and the purchase money did not exceed one penny three farthings per acre.

The three home lots, with the divisions belonging thereto, i. e. 1-20 of the whole plantation, devoted to public purposes, were, one home lot with the divisions and commons thereto pertaining, to the first minister his heirs &c. forever; one, to

the use of the first minister and his successors; and one, for the support of the school.

It was provided in the Deeds, that, "the Grantees or their sons, should build a tenantable house on each home lot, or on their division, not less than 16 feet square, and personally inhabit them, by the last day of May 1721, and for three years ensuing; and do not lease or dispose of their share for five years hereafter, without consent of Inhabitants or first Planters."*

The title thus acquired, was immediately after still further confirmed by act of Assembly in May, 1719, as follows, viz:

"At a General Assembly holden at Hartford, May, A. D. 1719:

Upon the petition of Lieut. John Marsh of Hartford, and Deacon John Buel of Lebanon, with many others, praying liberty, under committees appointed by the towns of Hartford and Windsor, to settle a town westward of Farmington, at a place called Bantam:

This Assembly do grant liberty, and full power, unto the said John Marsh and John Buel and partners settlers, being in the whole fifty-seven in number, to settle a town at said Bantam; the said town to be divided into sixty rights, three whereof to be improved for pious uses in said town. And the other fifty-seven shall be, as soon as may conveniently be, settled upon by the undertakers, or upon their failure, by others that may be admitted. Said town to be in length, east and west,

* The grantees were, John Marsh (2 rights,) Samuel Sedgwick, Sen., Nathaniel Goodwin, Timothy Seymour, Paul Peck, Jr., Joseph Mason, Nathaniel Messenger, Benjamin Webster, and Joshua Garritt, of Hartford,—Samuel Forward, Thomas Griswold, Jr., Jacob Gibbs, Joseph Birge, and Benjamin Hosford, of Windsor,—John Hart, Timothy Stanley, John Bird, Joseph Bird, Samuel Lewis, Ebenezer Woodruff, Samuel Root, Nathaniel Winchell, and Hezekiah Winchell, of Farmington,—Josiah Walker, Samuel Orton, Joseph Waller, and Isaac Judgeson, of Woodbury,—William Goodrich, Jr., John Stoddard, Ezekiel Buck, and Jacob Griswold, of Wethersfield,—John Buel, (2 rights,) Edward Culver, Hezekiah Culver, Thomas Lee, Elizur Strong, Supply Strong, Caleb Chapel, (2 rights,) Thomas Treadaway, and John Calkins, of Lebanon,—Ezekiel Sanford, (2 rights,) Nathan Mitchell, Thomas Pier, John Man, Joseph Pete, and Samuel Somers, of Stratford,—Jonathan Buck, of New-Milford,—Joseph Gillett, of Colchester, all in the Colony of Connecticut,—Nathaniel Smith, (3 rights,) Ephraim French, and John Collins, of Taunton, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

eight miles three quarters and twenty-eight rods, and in breadth seven miles and an half, being bounded eastward by Mattatuck River, westward the bigger part upon the most western branch of the Shepaug River, and partly upon the wilderness, north by the wilderness, and south by Waterbury bounds and a west line from Waterbury corner unto Shepaug River; said town to be known by the name of LITCHFIELD, and to have the following figure for a brand for their horse kind, viz: 9. And the same power and privileges that other towns in this Colony do enjoy, are hereby granted to said town."

A Patent was afterwards granted to these Proprietors, dated May 19th, 1724, which may be seen in the Appendix.

The township was originally divided into sixty home lots of fifteen acres each, as near as could conveniently be done, and any deficiency there might be, was made up to the owner of the deficient lot, elsewhere; and still farther divided from time to time, into Divisions and Pitches of 4, 20, 60, and 100 acres, &c. &c.

A few individuals commenced the settlement of the town in the year 1720. In the year 1721, a considerable number, chiefly from the towns of Hartford, Windsor and Lebanon, moved on to the tract.*

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*The following is a list of the original settlers who became such during the first three years after the settlement:

Nehemiah Allen from	Coventry.	Joseph Kilborn,	Wethersfield.
Joseph Birge,	Windsor.	Thomas Lee,	Lebanon.
John Bird,	Farmington.	Joseph Mason,	Hartford.
Joseph Bird,	"	John Marsh,	"
Ezekiel Buck,	Wethersfield.	Nathan Mitchell,	Stratford.
Samuel Beebe,	Fairfield Co.	Samuel Orton,	Woodbury.
John Buell,	Lebanon.	Edward Phelps,	Windsor.
John Baldwin,	Stratford.	Thomas Pier,	Stratford.
Daniel Culver,	Lebanon.	Paul Peck, Jr.	Hartford.
Samuel Culver,	"	John Peck,	"
Hezekiah Culver,	"	John Stoddard,	Wethersfield.
Timothy Collins,	Guilford.	Eleazar Strong,	Lebanon.
John Catlin,	Hartford.	Supply Strong,	"
James Church	"	Joseph Sanford,	Stratford.
Joseph Gillett,	Colchester.	Lemuel Sanford,	"
Abraham Goodwin,	Hartford.	Nathaniel Smith,	Taunton, Ms.
Joshua Garritt,	"	John Smith,	"
Benjamin Gibbs,	Windsor.	Samuel Smedley,	Woodbury.
Jacob Gibbs,	"	Thomas Treadway,	Lebanon.
William Goodrich, Jr.	Wethersfield.	Benjamin Webster,	Hartford.
Jacob Griswold,	"	Josiah Walker,	Woodbury.
John Gay,	Dedham, Ms.	Joseph Waller,	"
Benjamin Hosford,	Windsor.	Nathaniel Woodruff,	Farmington.
Joseph Harris,	Middletown.		

The choice of home-lots, was decided by lot. The first lot selected was about half a mile south of the Court House, and next to Middle Street, or Gallows Lane. The second was half a mile further south, and on the corner opposite the late residence of Mr. James Prescott. The third three fourths of a mile west of the Court House, known as the Strong place. The eleventh choice was the lot thirty rods next west of the County House corner, which subsequently the town voted, was not fit for building a house upon. The Mansion House corner was the twentieth choice. The corner now owned by Mr. Oliver Goodwin, was the twenty-fifth choice. The County House corner was the thirty-third choice. Ten lots were selected on Chesnut hill, on both sides of the road and lying southerly from the school house near Mr. Eliada Peck's. The last choice (the 57th) was the lot on which the Hotel of Mr. George Bolles now stands.

The home lot of the first minister, was located on the corner where now stands the dwelling house owned by Mr. Frederick Deming; and the twenty acre division appurtenant thereto, was laid adjoining on the north, and extended to the north line of the premises occupied by the late Mr. Eaton Jones. The home lot and twenty acre division for the use of the first minister and his successors, adjoining on the north. And the home lot and twenty acre division for the school, adjoining the latter on the north.

The highway from Bantam river, running westerly through the village, was laid out, twenty rods wide, and called Meeting House street. That now called North street, twelve rods wide, and was called Town street. That now called South street, eight rods wide, and was called Town Hill street, and the east line terminated six rods east of the front of Mr. Oliver Goodwin's dwelling house. That now called Gallows Lane, twenty-eight rods wide, and was called Middle street. That running southerly from the residence of the late Mr. William Ward, four rods wide was called South Griswold street; and that running northerly was 8 rods wide, and called North Griswold street. That now called Prospect street, twenty rods wide, but soon reduced to seventeen rods, and was called North street.

The first Church, Court House, and School House, stood nearly in the center of Meeting House street, the Court House about opposite the center of Town street, the Church east, and the School House west of the Court House.

The first white child born in Litchfield was Eunice, the daughter of Jacob Griswold, afterwards the wife of Capt. Solomon Buel. She was born March 23, 1721. The first white male child, born in Litchfield, was Gershom Gibbs, on the 28th of July 1721. He was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, and died in captivity. His son Gershom, was born July 18, 1750, and died here in September 1843.

Many persons have died in this town between the age of 90 and 100. The mother of the late Judge Adams, was born in Stratford in 1698, and died here in the year 1803, aged 105. Mr. Reuben Dickinson was born in 1716, and died here in 1818, aged 102. The oldest man now (1845) living here, is Mr. John Hall, a soldier of the Revolution, born February 26, 1754. The next is Mr. Daniel Lamson, also a Revolutionary soldier, born March 28, 1754.

CHAPTER IV.

The first inhabitants of this town, were thoroughly imbued with a sense of the importance of education, virtue, and religion, to the welfare of themselves, and their posterity. The experience of their forefathers had taught them, that perfect freedom of opinion and religion, could not be enjoyed under the European Governments; and they were satisfied that our peculiar Institutions could not long survive the virtue and intelligence of the people. We according find in the original conveyances of this plantation, ample provision made for the perpetuation of these blessings.

In carrying out their original designs, the first settlers of this town brought with them from Lebanon, the Rev. Timothy Collins, a candidate for the ministry, to preach for them. And

at the first Town Meeting of which we have a record, viz. on the 6th of November 1721, he was "called to a settlement in this place, in the work of the ministry." The town then constituted but one Ecclesiastical Society, and for many years all votes relative to Ecclesiastical affairs, were passed in Town Meeting. In addition to the provision made in the deed, giving him in fee one sixtieth of the whole township, and also the use of another sixtieth part, (which last was called the Parsonage Right,) the Town then voted the following salary, viz: £57 per annum for the first four years, for the fifth £60, the sixth £70, the seventh £80, and to continue at £80 a year so long as he continued in the work of the ministry here. The Town also voted to give him £100, to be paid by the 1st of July then next, and his firewood so long as he continued here in said work. The amount of his firewood for a series of years was by vote to be eighty cords per annum. This provision (very liberal for the times) was accepted by Mr. Collins on the 12th of December 1721; he entered upon his labors, was ordained on the 19th of June 1723, and continued to be the minister of the Congregational Society till the 15th of November 1752, when he was dismissed. He afterwards continued here, acting as a Justice of the Peace, and in the practice Medicine, and died in 1776.

In January 1745-6, a committee was appointed to make sale and give deeds or leases of the Parsonage Right. And in March following the committee sold most or all of that right which was not afterwards leased to Mr. Champion, and conveyed it in fee simple to sundry individuals. On the 9th of February 1746-7, the town "Voted That the interest money arising upon the bonds for which the Parsonage Right was sold, be towards the payment of Mr. Collins' rate for the current year." What disposition was made of the principal, does not appear from the Records.

On the 26th of February 1753, the Town voted to give the Rev. Judah Champion, a native of East Haddam, a call to settle here in the work of the ministry, and to give him £2000 in old tenor money, for his settlement. And £800 per annum old tenor money for his salary.

Mr. Champion accepted the call, was ordained July 4th 1753, and continued in the ministry till 1798. His salary was continued till his decease in 1810, in his 82d year. For the purpose of paying the settlement of Mr. Champion, it was, on the 14th of June 1753, voted, to lease to him so much of the Parsonage Right as should be necessary for that purpose, for the term of 999 years. And on the 15th of January 1754, a lease of the home lot and twenty acre division adjoining, was given to Mr. Champion, in consideration of said settlement.

The School Right was disposed of as follows. On the 29th of December 1729, the Town voted, "That the School Right in Litchfield, shall be leased out for the maintainance of a School in said Litchfield, for 999 years ensuing." And also voted, "That the inhabitants of said Litchfield do oblige themselves and their successors, in ye recognizance of Ten Thousand Pounds lawful money, to give a new lease of said right at the end of said term of 999 years, if there shall be occasion."

In pursuance of these votes, the committee appointed for that purpose, on the 15th of April 1730, leased to sundry individuals the School right, being one sixtieth of the Town, for 999 years. The grantees paying twenty-seven pounds annually for eight years, for the support of the School, and the 9th year, paying to the selectmen four hundred and fifty pounds, to be forever kept for the support of a school in Litchfield. To the lease was annexed, the following "P. S. Before signing and sealing, the above mentioned signers and sealers agreed, that whoever occupies and improves all the above land or lands, or any part of them, shall pay all rates and taxes that shall arise upon them or any part of them, during the whole term of the lease." And in the year 1767, it was "voted, to divide the money for which the school right was sold, between the old Society, the South Farms Society, and the Church of England, in proportion to the list of each part."

CHAPTER V.

"The Indian name of this Town, was Bantam. It took the name of Litchfield, when it was incorporated. The first founders built log houses. The settlement proceeded as fast as could be reasonably expected, from the circumstances. During frequent wars between England and France, the Canadians and Indians often harrassed our borders; and Litchfield, being a frontier town, was exposed to their ravages.

Between the years 1720 and 1730, five houses were surrounded with pallisadoes. One of these stood on the ground near the present Court House, another about half a mile south, one east, and one west of the centre; and one in South Farms. Soldiers were then stationed here to guard the Inhabitants, both while they were at work in the field, and while they were attending public worship on the Sabbath."

"In May 1722, Capt. Jacob Griswold, being at work alone in a field about one mile west of the present Court House, two Indians suddenly rushed upon him from the woods, took him, pinioned his arms, and carried him off. They travelled in a northerly direction, and the same day arrived in some part of the township now called Canaan, then a wilderness. The Indians kindled a fire, and after binding their prisoner hand and foot, lay down to sleep. Griswold fortunately disengaging his hands and feet, while his arms were yet pinioned, seized their guns, and made his escape into the woods. After travelling a small distance, he sat down and waited till the dawn of day; and although his arms were still pinioned he carried both the guns. The savages awoke in the morning and finding their prisoner gone, immediately pursued him; they soon overtook him, and kept in sight of him the greater part of the day, while he was making his way homeward. When they came near, he turned and pointed one of his pieces at them; they then fell back. In this manner he travelled till near sunset, when he reached an eminence in an open field about one mile northwest of the present Court House. He then discharged one of

his guns, which immediately summoned the people to his assistance. The Indians fled, and Griswold safely returned to his family.

The capture of Griswold made the inhabitants more cautious for a while; but their fears soon subsided. In the month of August following, Mr. Joseph Harris, a respectable inhabitant, was at work in the woods alone not far from the place where Griswold was taken; and being attacked by a party of Indians, attempted to make his escape. The Indians pursued him; and finding that they could not overtake him, they shot him dead and scalped him. As Harris did not return, the inhabitants were alarmed, and some search was made for him; but the darkness of the night checked their exertions. The next morning they found his body, and gave it a decent burial. Harris was killed near the north end of the Plain, where the road turns to Milton, a little east of a school house now standing; and for a long time after this plain was called Harris' Plain."* The place of his interment remained unmarked for more than a century, but rested in the memory of the older inhabitants. He was buried in the west burial ground, near the village of Litchfield. In 1830 a suitable monument, with an appropriate inscription, was erected at his grave by voluntary contribution.

The summer of 1724, was a period of excitement and alarm. The war between the English and the French, was then prevailing, and the latter used great efforts to incite the northern Indians, to attack the frontier settlements of the whites. "The conduct of the Indians at the north and west during this year, and especially their hostile movements in the vicinity of Litchfield, induced the government to take such precautionary measures as the occasion demanded, in order to furnish protection to the weak and exposed settlements. A line of scouts was established, extending from Litchfield to Turkey Hills, curving around the most northerly and westerly settlements in Simsbury.

On the 4th of June 1724, Capt. Richard Case, of Simsbury,

* Morris' Statistical account of Litchfield.

was directed to employ ten men on this scouting party, to rendezvous at Litchfield. The men employed in this service were sergeant Jonathan Holcomb, John Hill, Nathaniel Holcomb, Joseph Mills, William Buell, Samuel Pettibone, Joseph Wilcoxson, Benajah Humphrey, Nathaniel Westover, and Charles Humphrey; all belonging to Simsbury. They continued in the service until early in October."*

During these difficulties some of the more timid of the Inhabitants deserted their posts, and the interposition of the Legislature was deemed necessary, and therefore the following enactment was passed, viz:

"A General Court holden at New-Haven, Oct. 11, 1724.—Upon the Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield, Bee it Enacted and Ordained, by the Governor, Assistants, and Deputies in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that whosoever hath or ought to have been an Inhabitant and is a proprietor of any of the Lands within the said Town of Litchfield, or have deserted and left said Town since difficulties have arisen there on the account of an Enemy, and shall neglect for the space of one month after the rising of this Assembly to return to the said Town and there abide, or send some man in their room and stead to perform and doe the necessary duties of watching and warding and the like during the continuance of the difficulties of the warr, shall loose and forfeit all their right and estate in and upon any and all of the Lands aforesaid, and their estate, right and interest therein unto the Corporation of Connecticutt. And further, it is provided, that if any other man being now a proprietor and Inhabitant, or a proprietor and ought to have been an Inhabitant in the said Town, shall hereafter during the continuance of fear and danger of the enemy, desert and leave the said Town, or neglect to repair thither and there personally abide, without constantly providing some other sufficient person in his room and stead, there to perform all duties as beforementioned in the case of them who have already deserted, shall likewise forfeit their estates in and on all the lands in the Town aforesaid unto this Corporation. And further, it is pro-

* Phelps' History of Simsbury.

vided that upon complaint made to the Committee of Warr at Hartford of or against any such deserter, upon their sattisfaction of the truth thereof, the said Committee shall declare the forfeiture, and the said Committee are enabled to admit any other person who shall goe and abide there in the room of the deserter and perform the necessary duties as aforesaid, and that he shall hereafter receive a grant from this Court of the estate escheated as aforesaid for his further confirmation therein. And it is further, Ordered that five shillings per week shall be allowed for billeting souldiers in Litchfield for the Summer last past."

CHAPTER VI.

One of the earliest public measures of our pious forefathers was the construction of a convenient edifice for the public worship of God. "In April 1723, the inhabitants voted to build their first Church; and the house was finished within three years. It was built in a plain manner and without a steeple. Its dimensions were 45 feet in length and 35 in breadth." "At the raising of this building all the adult males in the whole township sat on the sills at once."* The Church stood in, and a little north of the center of, Meeting-House Street, and nearly opposite the northern extremity of Town Hill Street as it now runs. It was perhaps in view of the construction of this building that the following vote was passed on the 9th day of December 1723, viz:

"Voted that whosoever shall sell or tranceport any pine bords out of the Town, shall forfit ten shillings per thousand, and in the same proportion for less or bigger quantities; one half to the complainer, the other half into the town tresuery."

In 1662 the second church was completed, and was erected on nearly the same ground occupied by the first. By a vote

* Morris' Statistical Account.

of the town it was to be 60 feet in length, 45 in width, with steeple. In 1829, the present Church of the 1st Ecclesiastical Society was finished, when the second church erected was taken down.

The members of the Church of England in this town, associated together for public worship about the year 1746, and it appears from their records that the Episcopal Society "was organized according to law, on the 26th of October, A. D. 1784." Their first Church was erected nearly opposite the carriage manufactory of Mr. William Lord, about one mile westerly from the Court House. Their Church in the village was completed in the year 1812.

The Church of the Methodist Episcopal Society in this village, was erected in the year 1836.

The west Burial Ground near the village, was reserved for that purpose at the first settlement of the Town. The east Burial Ground was laid out in 1754; and in 1767, the town granted by vote, "the use and improvement of it to Timothy Marsh during the Town's pleasure."

The first inhabitants of the Town, were peculiarly careful that none but persons of good character, should be permitted to settle among them. If a stranger made a purchase in the plantation, a proviso was sometimes inserted in the deed, that the Inhabitants should accept of the purchaser, and that he should "run the risk of trouble from the Grand Committee."

On the 1st of April 1724, it was "voted that the Commite of hartford and Windsor Chouce Inhabitance. In Cace any new are Brought into town, and the town Judg them not holsome, then to be Judged by Inditrant men, and by them Judged Good inhabitance, the cost to be paid by Litchfield, if not the Cost to be paid by the Commite that made Choice of said Inhabitantse."

Bounties were paid for the destruction of Wolves, Snakes, &c. On the 16th of May 1740, it was "Voted that whosoever shall Kill and Distroy any Rattle Snakes, within the bounds of the town, any time before the tenth day of December next, bringing the tayl and som of the flesh to any one of the Selectmen of the town, shall have three pence for each snake."

And for the encouragement of Fisheries, it was on the 12th of April 1779, "on request of Capt. John Marsh, consented, (by vote,) that he might have the exclusive Pickerel Fishing in the Loon Pond, (so called,) for the space of twenty years next after this day, provided he shall at his own expense procure Pickerel to breed and propagate therein, in a reasonable time." It seems however, that no advantage was taken of this privilege. Twenty-eight Pickerel were first procured in the winter of 1809, from a Pond in Southwick, Mass., and put into Cranberry or Loon Pond. Their progeny have so increased, that they are now taken in great quantities in all the Lakes in the Township, and they are the most valuable Fish in our waters. Our Lakes are Great Lake, the largest in the State, covering about nine hundred acres; Mount Tom Pond lying partly in Washington, seventy-two acres; Little Pond, fifteen acres; Cranberry Pond, eight acres. Adjoining some of these Lakes, is a large tract of low meadow containing about five hundred acres, which is apparently alluvial. This land was highly esteemed by the first settlers; so much did they value it, that in making a division of the Township, only four acres of this meadow were at first allotted to each Right. It is said, that for the purpose of destroying the timber then growing upon these meadows, by flooding, a dam was thrown across the outlet of the Great Lake, in consequence of which the fever and ague prevailed to a great extent. Since the dam was removed, it is doubtful whether a case of that character ever originated in the Township. The quality of the meadows is greatly depreciated, by reason, as has been supposed, of the fact that the dam of the old Paper Mill near the Jambs, (so called,) for many years obstructed in some degree the drainage of the meadows.

Our highest mountain is Mount Tom, which is about seven hundred feet perpendicular height above the river at its base on the south side.

"The lands in this Town afforded better hunting ground for the Indians than extensive intervals. Many of the hills were nearly cleared of trees by fires kindled for the purpose of hunting."

The Inhabitants of the Town, are mostly natives of this

State, and many boast of their descent from the Puritans of New England.

"The manners and customs of the first settlers were plain and simple. Their clothing was of their own domestic manufacture; and their food of their own raising. Foreign luxuries were scarcely made use of till about the year 1750. Their amusements were of the most athletic kind." "The first use of the violin in this town for a dance was in the year 1748. The whole expense of the amusement, although the young people generally attended, did not exceed one dollar; out of which the fiddler was paid. When this instance of profusion took place, parents and old people exclaimed, that they should be ruined by the extravagance of the youth. In the year 1798 a Ball, with the customary entertainment and variety of music, cost $160, and nothing was said about it. Such has been the difference in the manners of Litchfield within half a century."*

Slavery can hardly be said to have existed in this town, during the present century, and it has for years been extinct. In the year 1800, only seven blacks were accounted slaves, though some born such are still living. During the eighteenth century, however, it existed here in a mild form, as it did in other parts of the State. The records of Wills and Distributions, show, that a considerable proportion of the personal estate of the most opulent of our early settlers consisted of negro servants.

Formerly, by a law of this State, if debtors had no other means to pay their debts, they were assigned in service for that purpose. And it is said to have been common for poor foreigners, who could not pay their passage money, to stipulate with the Captain of the Ship, that he might assign them to raise the money. Persons so assigned, were called Redemptioners, and several were so held in service in this town. Among them was Matthew Lyon, a native of Ireland, who was assigned to Hugh Hannah, of Litchfield, for a pair of stags, valued at £12. Lyon was afterwards a Member of Congress from Vermont, and from Kentucky. He was convicted under the famous alien

* Morris' Statistical Account.

and sedition law, and fined. The fine was subsequently remitted by Congress, to him or his heirs.

"There has been but one instance of murder in this Town, since its first settlement, and that was perpetrated by John Jacob, an Indian, upon another Indian in the month of February, 1768. The murderer was executed the same year.*

There have been but three executions in this town for capital offences; and these include all which have taken place in the County of Litchfield. The first was the Indian above named. The second was a man by the name of Barnet Davenport, a native of New Milford, convicted of both murder and arson. He was executed on the 8th day of May, 1780, aged twenty years.

This murder, taken with all the attending circumstances, was one of the most inhuman, atrocious, and horrible deeds ever perpetrated in New England. From the criminal's own confession, it appears that his parentage and early education, were exactly calculated to produce his wicked life, and tragical end. Untutored and unrestrained by parental government, he was left to grow up at random. In the morning of life, no morality was inculcated on him, and no sense of religion, either by precept or example. On the contrary he was from early years, unprincipled, profane, and impious. Before he was nine years old, he was expert in cursing and swearing, and an adept at mischief. At eleven years he began to pilfer; at thirteen he stole money; at fifteen he entertained thoughts of murder, and rapidly waxed harder and bolder in wickedness. At nineteen he actually murdered a family in cold blood. As a friendless, wandering stranger, he was taken into the house of Mr. Caleb Mallory, of Washington, and treated with the utmost kindness, in the month of December, 1779. Scarcely had two

* Some years since, when rebuilding a house on the Harwinton Turnpike road, near Spruce Brook, formerly occupied by one Graves, the workmen, under the bedroom floor, disinterred the bones of a man in very good preservation. It was supposed that the remains were those of a pedlar or fiddler who had been murdered. A Court of Enquiry was held, but the investigation did not lead to the discovery of the murderer. Some suspicious circumstances seemed to point out the guilty person, but enough was not proved to justify his arrest.

months elapsed, before the murder was determined upon. The night of the 3d of February, 1780, was fixed on to execute the horrid purpose. With a heart hard as adamant, he lighted a candle, went into the lodging room of his benefactors, and beat them to death with a club. A little grand-child, being with its grand-parents, shared the same fate; and two others were left in sound sleep to perish in the flames. Having kindled a fire in three of the rooms, he fled, after robbing the house of its most valuable articles, from the murdered family and burning house. But from an accusing conscience, and from the hand of justice, which followed hard upon his steps, he was unable to flee. He was taken, and executed by the sentence of court, the May ensuing, at Litchfield.

The third was a man named Goss, for murdering his wife, in one of the northern towns of this County. The sentence of death was pronounced upon an inhabitant, though not a native of this town, named Washburn, for bestiality, in the year 1801.* But the evening before the day appointed for his execution, he put an end to his own life by taking laudanum."† In 1832, Robert Cantine of Goshen, was tried here for the murder of his wife, was convicted, and sentenced to be hung. Owing however to certain mitigating circumstances, his sentence was commuted by the Legislature, to imprisonment for life in the State Prison. In 1835, Agostinho Rabello, a native of Portugal, was indicted for the murder of a lad in Washington, named Ferris Beardslee. He was acquitted by the Jury, solely on the ground of insanity. Rabello was subsequently confined for safe keeping, in our County Prison, and afterwards by special act of the Legislature, in the State Prison.

* It was in 1799. † Morris Statistical Account.

CHAPTER VII.

Few towns in the State so far inland, suffered more in proportion to their population, than Litchfield, during the Revolutionary War. Almost every man of suitable age and ability was ready and willing to aid in person and otherwise, our infant Republic in its struggles for existence. With few exceptions, the purest Patriotism pervaded all, attended with a perfect understanding of their Chartered Rights and Privileges. Their hearts were loyal to their sovereign, but they would not submit to Tyranny, and were prompt to sustain their brethren in other Colonies, in resistance to unconstitutional oppression.

The spirit manifest in the following proceedings of this Town, (drawn up by Gov. Wolcott, a signer of the Declaration of Independence,) upon the blockade of Boston, before the War of the Revolution, renders them worthy of remembrance.

"The Inhabitants of Litchfield, in legal Town Meeting assembled, on the 17th day of August 1774, taking into consideration the Distress to which the Poor of the Town of Boston, may likely be reduced, by the operation of an Act of the British Parliament, for Blocking up their Port, and deeply commiserating the unhappiness of a brave and loyal People, who are thus eminently suffering in a General Cause, for vindicating what every virtuous American considers an essential Right of this Country, think it is their indispensible Duty, to afford their unhappy distressed brethren of said Town of Boston, all reasonable Aid and Support; and this they are the more readily induced to do, not only as the Inhabitants of said Town are thus severely condemned for their reluctance to submit to an arbitrary, an unconsented to, and consequently unconstitutional Taxation, but the whole of the great and loyal Province of the Massachusetts Bay, have been *condemned unheard*, in the loss of their Charter Privileges, by the heretofore unknown and unheard of exertions of Parliamentary Powers, which they conceive is a Power claimed and exercised in such a manner as cannot fail of striking every unprejudiced mind with Horror

and Amazement, as being subversive of all those inherent, essential and Constitutional Rights, Liberties and Privileges, which the good people of this Colony have ever held sacred, and even dearer than Life itself, nor ever can wish to survive; not only every idea of Property, but every emolument of civil life, being thereby rendered precarious and uncertain.

In full confidence therefore, that no Degree of Evil thus inflicted on said Town and province, will ever induce them to give up or betray their own and the American constitutional Rights and Privileges, especially as they cannot but entertain the most pleasing Expectations, that the Committees of the several North American Provinces, who are soon to meet at Philadelphia, will in their wisdom, be able to point out a Method of Conduct, effectual for obtaining Redress of their grievances, a method to which, (when once agreed upon by said Committee) this Town will look upon it their duty strictly to attend. And in the mean time earnestly recommend, that subscriptions be forthwith opened in this Town, under the care of Reuben Smith, Esq., Capt. Lynde Lord, and Mr. William Stanton, who are hereby appointed a Committee to receive and forward to the Selectmen of Boston, for the use of the Poor in that place, all such Donations as shall be thereupon made for that purpose; as also to correspond with the Committee of Correspondence there or elsewhere, as there may be occasion.

We also take this opportunity publickly to return our thanks to the members of the Honorable House of Representatives of this Colony, for their patriotic and loyal Resolutions, passed and published in the last Assembly on the occasion, and order them to be entered at large on the public Records of this Town, that succeeding ages may be faithfully furnished with authentic Credentials of our inflexible attachment to those inestimable Privileges, which we and every honest American glory in esteeming our unalienable Birthright and Inheritance."

Upon the commencement of the War, this Town with vigor entered into the contest. The principal business at Town Meetings for several years, seems to have been the adoption of measures to sustain the cause, and to carry into effect the orders and acts of the Council of Safety, and of the Legislature;

soldiers were encouraged to enlist; their pay was guaranteed by the Town; bounties were granted them; provisions were provided for their Families, and clothing for the soldiers. In the year 1777, eight continental Battalions were raised in this State, of which the Quota belonging to this Town was 92.

A large proportion of those taken Prisoners at Fort Washington, were from this Town; about thirty of whom died in the Prison ships, and other Prisons in New York. Throughont the War, our young men were constantly enlisted into the Army. The Militia were fully organized, and drafts were continually made upon them. In times of alarm they would turn out allmost *en masse.* Our Litchfield Troops, were found at the capture of New York, on the Connecticut coast, on the Hudson, at Boston, at Ticonderoga, and Crown Point, at the surrenders of Burgoyne and Cornwallis, the capture of Stoney Point, in the Battles of White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton, and in almost every military transaction, worthy of note, during the eventful struggle.

The following is from a paper of Payne K. Kilbourn:

"We recently had put into our hands several MSS., left by the late Col. Bezaleel Beebe, of Litchfield, from which we glean the following facts and names. The annexed document, which sufficiently explains itself, contains the *autographs* of each individual whose name is attached to it. This regiment, which, it will be seen, was raised previous to the Declaration of Independence, was designed for the defence of New York. When it was known that Capt. Beebe had received orders to raise a company for that service, the enthusiasm of the Whigs was unbounded. A veteran who died within the last few years, stated that when the news reached him, he started *on a run* for the captain's head quarters, fearing the roll would be full before he arrived. Capt. B. received his orders on a Sunday, and by the following Saturday, the company had been raised, armed and equipped, and were on the march toward Fairfield.

We the Subscribers being convinced of the Necessity of a body of Forces to defeat certain Wicked Purposes, formed by the Instruments of Ministerial Tyranny, do solemnly engage ourselves and Inlist as Private Soldiers, in a Regiment to be

Commanded by Col. Andrew Ward, Jr., under the command of Maj'r General Lee, for the Term of Eight Weeks at the utmost, from the Day we March from Fairfield, which is the place of Rendevouz; the Hon'ble Maj'r General Lee having Given his Word and Honor, that we shall not be Detained a single Day after said Term.

Dated at Litchfield, 21st day of January, 1776.

Briant Stoddard,
James Woodruff,
Oliver Woodruff,
Phineas Goodwin,
Elihu Harrison,
Roger N. Whittlesey,
Charles Woodruff, Jr.
Joseph Sanford.

Caleb Munson,
Abraham Wadhams,
Martin Nash,
Oliver Griswold,
Zadock Gibbs, Jr.
Josiah Bartholomew, Jr.
George Dear, Jr.
Elisha Mayo,
Nathaniel Newell,
Luman Bishop,
Asaph Benham,
George Dear,
Jacob Gaylord,
Abram Beach,
Elihu Grant,
Ichabod Tuttle,
Chauncey Beach,
Jesse Stanley,
Adino Hale,
Allen Lucas,
William Starr.

Joseph Finney,
Peleg Holmes,
Alexander Sackett,
Joel Barnes,
Zebedee Sturtevant,
Martin Curtiss,
Heman Brown,
Heber Gilbert, Jr.
Zebulun Palmer,
Joseph Peters,
Luther Comstock,
Daniel Swan,
Truman Gilbert,
Levi Swan.

Those who have a knowledge of the leading men in Litchfield county fifty or sixty years ago, will recognize in the above list, the names of many of her most prominent and influential citizens—men of wealth and enterprise, who, though surrounded by the endearments of domestic life, voluntarily enlisted as *private soldiers* in that dangerous expedition. They were mainly from the towns of Litchfield, Torrington, Goshen and Warren, and were all enlisted from the 21st to the 25th of January.

Litchfield, 26th January, A. D. 1776.

We the subscribers, being requested to apprise the Arms belonging to Capt. Bezaleel Beebe's company, in Col. Andrew Ward's Regt., going on an expedition to New York under the

command of General Ch. Lee; we accordingly apprised the same, being first duly sworn, viz:

[We omit the figures.]

Elihu Harrison's Gun, Bayonet and Cartridge Box, in his own hands.
Roger N. Whittlesey's Gun, in the hands of Briant Stoddard.
Joseph Sanford's Gun, Bayonet and Belt in his own hands.
Nathaniel Allen's Gun, Bayonet and Belt in his own hands.
Obed Stodder's Gun, Bayonet, Cartridge box and belt.
Joshua Smith's Gun in his own hands.
Zebulon Bissell's Gun in his own hands.
James Woodruff's Gun carried by Stephen Brown.
Phineas Goodwin's Gun, Bayonet and Belt.
Whiting Stanley's Gun carried by James Crampton.
Oliver Woodruff's Gun carried by himself.
Hezekiah Agard's Gun carried by John Lyman.
Jedediah Strong's Gun, Bayonet and Belt carried by William Patterson.
Jedediah Strong's Gun carried by Frederick Stanley.
Lieut. Jonathan Mason's Cartridge box.
Samuel Canfield's Gun carried by himself.
Noah Garnsey's Gun carried by T. Weed.
Sergt. Benj. Bissell's Gun and Bayonet carried by himself.
Asa Osborn's Gun and Cartridge box carried by himself.
Jedediah Strong's Gun carried by Benj. Taylor.
Reuben Smith, Esq.'s Gun, Bayonet, Case and Belt carried by Capt. Beebe.
Capt. John Osborn's Gun carried by Moses Taylor.

ABRAHAM BRADLEY,
THOMAS CATLIN,
OBED STODDOR.
} Apprisers on oath.

At a later date of the same year, (1776,) thirty-six *picked men* were placed under command of Capt. Beebe, to aid in the defence of Fort Washington, near New York. On the 16th of November, as is well known, the Fort, after a desperate resistance on the part of its defenders, fell into the hands of the British, and all the Americans were either killed or made prisoners. The subsequent treatment and sufferings of the prisoners, (who were confined in the Sugar House and on board the prison-ships,) is perhaps without a parallel in the history of the wars of any civilized nation. Crowded into a narrow space, without air, and for the first two days without food, contagion and death was the natural consequence. The dysentary, small pox, and other terrible diseases broke out among

them, and very few of the whole number survived the terrible ordeal. On the 27th of December, an exchange of persons took place ; but only eight of those who survived, (viz. Marsh, Woodruff, R. Loomis, B. Beach, N. Beach, Marshall, Brunson and Benedict, were able to sail for Connecticut,—four of whom, (Marsh, B. Beach, Marshall and Loomis,) died on the way. The remainder of those who were living at that date, being too sick to be removed, were left behind, where all, with a single exception, (Sergt. Mather,) died within a few days—most of them with the small pox.

Here follow the names of the soldiers alluded to. The notes prefixed, appear to have been added at the different periods corresponding with the dates.

'*An Account of the Prisoners Names and Places of Confinement.*

Sergt. Cotton Marther, returned home.

Sergt. David Hall, died of the small pox on board the Grosvener, Dec. 11, 1776.

Elijah Loomis, died.

Gershom Gibbs, died on board the ship, Dec. 29, 1776.

Timothy Stanly, died on board the ship, Dec. 26, 1776.

Amos Johnson, died Dec. 26, 1776.

Timothy Marsh, died on his way home.

Berius Beach, died on his way home.

Samuel Vaill, died on board the Grosvener, Dec. 27, 1776.

Nathaniel Allen, died of the small pox, Jan. 1, 1777.

Enos Austin, died of the small pox, Dec. 4, 1776, in the evening.

Gideon Wilcoxson, died.

Thomas Mason, reached home.

Alex'r McNiel, died.

Daniel Smith, died in New York, of small pox. Jan. 1, 1777.

Noah Beach, reached home.

Daniel Benedict, reached home.

Isaac Gibbs, died Jan. 15, 1777.

Oliver Marshal, died on his way home.

Solomon Parmely, went on board the ship, and I fear he is drowned, as I cannot find him.

David Olmsted, died Jan. 4, 1777.

Jered Stuart, died Jan. 26, 1777, in the morning.

John Lyman, died Jan. 26, 1777.
Elisha Brownson, died on his way home.

The above Prisoners are at Livingston's Sugar House.

Zebulon Bissel, died at Woodbury on his way home.
Aaron Stoddard, died Jan. 12, 1777.
John Parmely, died Jan. 15, 1777.
Joel Taylor, died Jan. 9, 1777.
James Little, reached home.
Phineas Goodwin, died Jan. 5, 1777.

The above at the Church called the North Church.

Oliver Woodruff, reached home.
Remembrance Loomis, died on his way home.

The above at Bridwell.

The above Prisoners belong to Capt. Beebe's Company, Col. Bradley's Regiment.

Corp'l Sam'l Coe, Jeremiah Weed, Joseph Spencer, John Whiting,	Were either killed or made their escape from Fort Washington, on the 16th of Nov. 1776.'

Capt. Beebe, the commander of the above company, in consideration of his office, was allowed the limits of the city, but was compelled to provide himself with food, lodging, &c., or go without. He was accustomed to visit his men daily, so long as any remained, but could do little to alleviate their wretched condition. He was not exchanged with other prisoners, but was confined within the 'limits' for about a year, at his own expense."

I have recently found a Deposition made on the the 3d of May, 1777, before Andrew Adams, Esq., J. P., by Mr. Thomas Catlin, of this Town, (the Father of Doct. Abel Catlin,) who was a Lieutenant in the American Army at New York in 1776. Lieut. Catlin gives this account, in substance, of the treatment of himself and others by the British, viz:

That he was taken a Prisoner by the British Troops on New York Island, Sept. 15, 1776, and confined with a great number in close Gaol, eleven days; that he had no sustenance for forty-eight hours after he was taken, that for eleven whole days they had only about two days allowance, and their Pork

was offensive to the smell. That forty-two were confined in one house, till Fort Washington was taken, when the house was crowded with other Prisoners. After which they were informed they should have two-thirds allowance, which consisted of very poor Irish Pork, Bread hard, mouldy and wormy, made of canail and dregs of flax seed. That the British Troops had good bread. Brackish water was given to the Prisoners, and he had seen $1 50 given for a common pail of water. Only between three and four lbs. of Pork was given three men for three days. That for near three months, the private soldiers were confined in the Churches, and in one were eight hundred and fifty. That about the 25th of December, 1776, he and about two hundred and twenty-five others, were put on board the Glasgow at New York, to be carried to Connecticut for exchange. They were on board eleven days, and kept on black coarse broken bread, and less pork than before. Twenty-eight died during the eleven days! They were treated with great cruelty, and had no fire for sick or well. They were crowded between decks, and many died through hardship, ill usage, hunger and cold.

The following facts appear in a letter written by Doct. Reuben Smith, dated at Litchfield, May 12th, 1777, relating to the Danbury alarm, &c.:

"Sunday morning, 27th April, about one o'clock, we were alarmed; our people turned out spiritedly; came up with rear of the enemy about eleven the next day, a little below Wilton Meeting House, and pursued them aboard their ships. Paul Peck was killed in the last attack on the enemy. Levi Peck, Thomas Peck's son, was wounded in the shoulder about the same time; in Wilton, Ozias Goodwin was wounded in the arm, and Salmon Buel had one of his thighs broken, and the other shot through with the same ball.

The infamous Daniel Griswold, came into the western part of the Town, the morning before the alarm, and was there concealed till Monday, and took off to join the ministerial army, David Kilborn, Benjamin Kilborn's son Cha's, Isaac Kilborn's son Abraham, and Samuel Kilborn son to Giles Kilborn, Jonathan Smith, Jr., and his brother Elisha, (who was enlisted in

the light horse,) David Joy, Ephraim Bates, Benjamin Doolittle, Josiah Stone, and John Davies' youngest son David, and one John Beach of Woodbury who lived at Josiah Stone's.

The Wednesday following they were taken, (except Benjamin Doolittle, and Charles Kilborn, who it is said were killed in attempting to escape,) and were carried to Derby, where they were tried by a Court Martial, and Griswold was sentenced to be hanged; which sentence was executed the Monday following, at New Haven. The rest were pardoned, upon their enlisting into the Continental Army during the War.

Governor Franklin, is confined in our Gaol, and a constant Guard is kept. We trust he will find it difficult to escape, should he attempt it. I understand, he utterly denies the charge of dispensing Pardons and Protections."

Of Paul Peck, alluded to in the Letter of Doct. Smith, it is said, "he was the most expert hunter of the time in which he lived. At the Danbury Alarm, he put his large Gun in order, and followed the enemy to Compo, on their retreat, and took a station behind a stone wall, and every shot told, until he was rushed upon by the enemy, who took his gun from him and dashed his brains out with it." He was killed April 28th, 1777, aged about seventy-five years.

During the War, Litchfield was a place of deposite, for Provisions, and other Continental Stores. Workshops for the Army were established here, and Prisoners of War were confined in our Prison.

Mr. Matthews, the English Mayor of New York, was here as a prisoner of War. The first pleasure carriage, [a chair,] brought into this Town, was by him presented to Mrs. Major Seymour, whose husband had the custody of the Mayor, and was in use as lately as A. D. 1812. The Mayor's Travelling Trunk, is still in this town in the possession of one of Major Seymour's descendants. Mr. Franklin, the gentleman spoken of by Doct. Smith as being confined in our Gaol, was the British Governor of New Jersey.

An Equestrian statue of King George the 3d was during the War transported to Litchfield, to be cast into Bullets for the use of our army. The Statue was imported from London. Among

the Archives of the British Government, Mr. John Romeyn Brodhead, the agent of the State of New York to procure Documents in Europe relative to the Colonial History of that State, recently found Letters giving an account of the erection of the Statue and of its demolition, from which I make the following extracts, viz:

Extract from a Letter from Lieut. Gov. Cadwallader Colden to Lord Hillsborough. Dated New-York, August 18, 1770.

"An equestrian guilt statue of the King, made by direction of, and purchased by this Colony, came over in one of the last ships from London. On Thursday last it was opened to view, erected on its proper pedestal, in a square near the Fort, and fronting the principal street of the city. I was attended on this occasion by the gentlemen of the Council, and members of Assembly, then in town, the magistrates of the city, the clergy of all denominations, and a very large number of the principal inhabitants. Our Loyalty, firm attachment and affection to his Majesty's person was expressed by drinking the King's health, and a long continuance of his reign, under a discharge of 32 pieces of cannon, a band of music playing at the same time from the ramparts of the fort. The General and and officers of the army gave us the honor of their company on the occasion. The whole company walked in procession from the fort, round the statue, while the spectators expressed their joy by loud acclamations, and the procession having returned with me to the fort, the ceremony concluded with great cheerfulness and good humour."

Extract from a Letter of Governor Tryon to Lord George Germain.

"Ship Duchess of Gordon, }
Off Staten Island, 14th August, 1776. }

"The confederate Colonies have declared themselves independent States. Enclosed is a printed copy of their declaration of Independency, which was published through the streets of New-York the middle of last month, where the King's statue has been demolished, as well as the King's arms in the City Hall, the established churches shut up, and every *vestige* of Royalty, so far as has been in the power of the Reb-

els, done away. The persons of the Mayors of the cities of York and Albany, Judges, Counsellors, Magistrates and principal gentlemen of the country that are not in rebellion, seized and secured, and even down to the meanest planters persecuted and tyrannized over.

The whole armament destined for this part of America, except the last division of the Hessions, being now assembled here, I expect, by the courage and strength of this noble army, tyranny will be crushed and legal government restored."

Tyranny was indeed crushed and legal government restored, but not precisely in the manner anticipated by Gov. Tryon.

A paper read before the New-York Historical Society, in October 1844, by George Gibbs, Esq., gives this further account of the representative of his Majesty.

"ACCOUNT OF THE STATUE OF GEORGE III., FORMERLY STANDING IN THE BOWLING GREEN, NEW YORK.

Most of the members are probably aware that an equestrian statue of King George III. stood upon the Bowling Green, in this city, prior to the Revolution, and was overthrown soon after its commencement. I believe, however, that its subsequent fate has never been recorded, and having in my possession a paper giving authentic information on the subject, I have supposed that the royal effigy might be worth a brief obituary.

Holt's (New York) Gazette, as quoted by Mr. Dunlap, gives the following notice of its erection:

'August 21st, 1770, being the birth day of Prince Frederick, the father of George III., an elegant equestrian statue of his present Majesty, George III. was erected in the Bowling Green, near Fort George. On this occasion the members of his Majesty's Council, the City Corporation, the Corporation of the Chamber of Commerce, the Corporation of the Marine Society, and most of the gentlemen of the City and army waited on his honor, the Lieutenant Governor C. Colden, in the Fort, at his request; when his Majesty's and other loyal healths were drank under a discharge of thirty-two pieces of cannon, from the Battery, accompanied with a band of music. This beautiful statue is made of metal, (Dunlap says by way of parenthe-

sis, 'the writer did not on such an occasion like to say *what* metal represented his royal majesty, the best of Kings ; *it was lead*') being the first equestrian one of his present majesty, and is the workmanship of that celebrated statuary, Mr. Wilton of London.'

Symptoms of disloyalty, betokening revolution I presume, soon manifested themselves in the rude treatment of the effigy, for on the 6th February, 1773, (13th Geo. III. Ch. 1580,) an act was passed 'to prevent the defacing the statues which are erected in the city of New York.'

Upon the above account of Holt's, Mr. Dunlap observes :

'This statue stood till sometime in 1776. I saw it in 1775. In 1776 it was thrown down, and tradition says converted into bullets to resist his gracious majesty's soldiers when sent to enforce the doctrine of 'the sovereignty of British Parliament over the Colonies in all cases whatsoever,' the doctrine of Mr. Pitt, Lord Chatham, which he died in an effort to enforce. The pedestal stood until long after the Revolution. No fragment of the horse or his rider was ever seen after its overthrow, and so completely had the memory of this event (the erecting the only equestrian statue ever set up in New York) been lost, that I have never found a person who could tell me on what occasion it was ordered, or when placed in the Bowling Green.'

In fact so much was the statue forgotten. that Watson in his sketches (p. 30,) has entirely mistaken the personage represented. Speaking of the overthrow, he says with a curious revival of tory feeling : 'My friend, Mr. John Baylie was present in April, '76, and saw the degrading spectacle. He saw no decent people present ; a great majority were shouting boys. The insult, if so meant, was to the dead, as the statue was of George II., our most gracious King.'

Some cotemporary notices of the destruction of this effigy have been pointed out to me, which I will cite, and which will show that Watson was wrong not merely as to the person, but as to the time of its occurrence, which was immediately after the news of the declaration of Independence. The first is from a book of general orders issued by Washington, the original of which is in the possession of the Society. It is as follows :

'*July* 10. Tho' the General doubts not the persons who pulled down and mutilated the statue in Broadway last night, acted in the public cause, yet it has so much the appearance of riot and want of order in the army, that he disapproves the manner and directs that in future these things shall be avoided by the soldiery and left to be executed by proper authority.'

The next is in a letter from Ebenezer Hazard to General Gates, dated July 12th, 1776, which will be found among the Gates papers, also in the Society's Collection, and is as follows:

'The King of England's arms have been burned in Philadelphia and his statue here has been pulled down to make musket balls of, so that *his troops will probably have melted majesty fired at them.*'

Another is in a letter from New York, of July 11th, 1776, published in the New Hampshire Gazette of the 20th.

'New York, July 11. Last Monday evening the equestrian statue of George III., with tory pride and folly raised in the year 1770, was by the Sons of Freedom laid prostrate in the dust, the just desert of an ungrateful tyrant. The lead wherewith this monument is made is to be run into bullets, to assimilate with the brains of our infatuated adversaries, who to gain a peppercorn, have lost an empire. *Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.* A gentleman who was present at the ominous fall of leaden majesty, looking back to the original's hopeful beginning, pertinently exclaimed in the language of the angel to Lucifer 'If thou be'est he; but ah, how fallen! how changed!!"

A note to this letter by the editor marks the allusion to Lord Clare's declaration in Parliament, that a *peppercorn* in acknowledgement of Britain's right to tax America, was of more importance than millions without it.

The destruction of the statue is also alluded to and incorrectly attributed to General Washington in a smutty tory production, entitled 'The Battle of Brooklyn, a farce in two acts, as it was performed on Long Island, on Tuesday, the 27th day of August, 1776, by the Representatives of the Tyrants of of America assembled at Philadelphia: New York, printed for J. Rivington, in the year of the Rebellion, 1776.'

Betty, a servant of 'Lady Gates,' is represented as complimenting General Washington in this wise:

Betty. 'Lord! Lord! mem, did he not make codfish of them all at Boston! and has he not seen tory men rid upon rails at New York by the tailors and coblers of the town? And more, my Lady, did he not order the King's statue to be pulled down and the head cut off? For God's sake, mem, what would'st have of a hero?'

Lady G. '*Codfish at Boston!* It is really an odd term Betty; but he did no more than that old fool Putnam would have done. His not forbidding that insult to humanity at New York, was countenancing an act of barbarism, and none but a little minded barbarian would have suffered the arts to be trampled under foot as he did, in the case of the king's statue.'

Mr. Stephen's (Incidents of Travel in Russia, &c., vol. 2, p. 23,) mentions having met with a curious memorial of its destruction, and at an out of the way place. This was a gaudy and flaring engraving in a black wooden frame, representing the scene of its destruction, which he found in a tavern at *Chioff, in Russia.* 'The grouping of the picture,' he says, 'was rude and grotesque, the ringleader being a long negro, stripped to his trowsers, and straining with all his might upon a rope, one end of which was fastened to the head of the statue and the other tied round his own waist, his white teeth and the whites of his eyes being particularly conspicuous on a heavy ground of black.' How this picture found its way to Russia, it would be difficult to imagine; it would certainly be not less a curiosity here than there.

The document I have mentioned gives an account of its remaining history in a shape which history seldom assumes, that of an account *current.* It is preserved among the papers of General, afterwards Governor, Oliver Wolcott, of Connecticut. It is a statement of the number of cartridges made from the materials of the statue by the ladies of Litchfield, and is in these words:—

Mrs. Marvin,	3456 cartridges.	
" " on former account,	2602	
	——	6058
Ruth Marvin on former account,	6204	

Not sent to court house 449 packs,	5388	
	——	11,592
Laura, on former account,	4250	
Not sent to court house 344 packs,	4128	
	——	8378
Mary Ann, on former account,	5762	
Not sent to the court house 119 packs, out of which I let Colonel Perley Howe have 3 packs,	5028	
	——	10,790
Frederick, on former account,	708	
Not sent to court house, 19 packs,	228	
	——	936
		37,754
Mrs. Beach's two accounts,		2002
Made by sundry persons,		2182
Gave Litchfield militia, on alarm,		50
Let the regiment of Col. Wigglesworth have		300
Cartridges, No.		42,288
Overcharged in Mrs. Beach's account,		200
		42,088

The original account is in General Wolcott's hand writing, and is endorsed 'an account of the number of cartridges made.' There is no date to it, nor is there mention made by him of the fact of their being made from the statue, but a memorandum added by his son, the last Governor Wolcott, explains it as follows:—

"N. B. An equestrian statue of George the Third of Great Britain, was erected in the city of New York on the Bowling Green, at the lower end of Broadway; most of the materials were lead, but richly gilded to resemble gold. At the beginning of the revolution this statue was overthrown. Lead being then scarce and dear, the statue was broken in pieces, and the metal transported to Litchfield as a place of safety. The ladies of this village converted the lead into cartridges, of which the preceding is an account. O. W.'

The Mrs. and Miss Marvin and Mrs. Beach, mentioned in the paper, belonged to families who yet reside in Litchfield; the other persons named were the two daughters and the youngest son of General Wolcott.

Litchfield, it may be noticed, was, during the war, a place of great importance as a military depot. After the capture of New York by the British in 1776, all communication between New England and Pennsylvania was turned to the westward of the Highlands on the Hudson, and the troops and stores were usually passed through that village as a point on the most convenient route to the posts on the river yet in possession of the Americans. General Wolcott, who was a member of the Continental Congress, lived there, and during the intervals of his congressional attendance, was constantly occupied in raising troops to supply the requisitions of Washington, Putnam and Gates. It appears from his letters that he returned to Connecticut shortly after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, of which he was one of the signers, and it is probable that the statue was transported there at his instance, immediately after its destruction. Of its identity as the material for the cartridges above mentioned, there can be no doubt. The late Governor Wolcott, on graduating from Yale College in 1778, was appointed to an office in the quartermaster's department, under General Greene, and was posted at Litchfield, in charge of the stores there. His opportunity for knowing the fact, as mentioned in his note, was therefore certain. The late Hon. Judge Wolcott, moreover, who figures in the account as 'Frederick,' and who was a boy at the time, informed me a few years ago that he well remembered the circumstance of the statue being sent there, and that a shed was erected for the occasion in an apple orchard adjoining the house, where his father chopped it up with the wood axe, and the 'girls' had a frolic in running the bullets and making them up into cartridges. I suppose the alarm of the militia, on which some were distributed, was Tryon's invasion in 1777, when Danbury was burnt. On this occasion fourteen men, the last in Litchfield capable of bearing arms, were started at midnight to aid in repulsing the enemy.

The estimation in which lead was held in those days may be imagined from the fact that the above account of cartridges is filed carefully among returns of troops, accounts of requisitions upon the states, and issues of bills of credit.

This incident in revolutionary history might, had it found its way to him, have well barbed a shaft at King George from Peter Pindar's own bow; and we may suppose, from the grave attempts at waggery in the extracts above given, that a great deal of wit of one kind and another was expended on the occasion. I suspect that the monarch, could he have listened to the gossip over the melting ladle, might have exclaimed with Richard,

> 'Let not the heavens hear these tell tale women
> Rail at the Lord's anointed.' "

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Litchfield, on the 6th of January 1778, to take into consideration the articles of Confederation, and perpetual Union, between the States, it was "Voted, unanimously, that the said articles of Confederation be approved, and that the Representatives of said Town be instructed to use their influence and vote in General Assembly, to invest the Delegates of this State, with competent powers ultimately in the name and behalf of this State, in Continental Congress, to subscribe and confirm the said articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the said States."

It seems the sins of the children were visited upon their fathers.

"At a Town Meeting holden on the 25th of March, 1782, Stephen Stone, Elijah Griswold, and Benjamin Kilborn, having lately been assessed on examination by the Civil Authority and Selectmen, agreeably to Law, for each having a son gone to the enemy, and having requested a hearing in Town Meeting, and being heard accordingly, the question was proposed relative to said Stone in particular, and the Town by vote did not discharge said assessment."

At a Town Meeting 2d April 1782, "on the question whether Stephen Stone shall be acquitted from his assessment, &c., Voted in affirmative. Whereupon Elijah Griswold and Benjamin Kilborn, requesting the Town to release them from the assessment, Voted to raise the whole number of recruits required of this Town for continental service, by Tax," &c.

NOTE.—Chas. Kilborn and Benj. Doolittle, (mentioned in the Letter of Doct. Smith,) escaped. Kilborn went to Canada, and died a few years since; Doolittle is still living in western New York

From the State Records it appears that—

Aug. 1, 1776. Letters from the Convention of New-York sent by Mr. DePeyster, respecting the prisoners sent from New-York to Litchfield Jail were read; and thereupon ordered that the Mayor of New-York should be brought to Hartford, and there confined. Gilbert Forbes and William Forbes were directed to be confined in Litchfield jail, and the other ten to be taken to Norwich jail.

Aug. 26, 1776. Last Monday, David Matthews, Mayor of the City of New-York, was brought from Litchfield, and on Friday was returned to Litchfield, to remain under the care of Capt. Moses Seymour.

Feb. 11, 1777. John Marsh 3d, of Litchfield, applied for liberty to take Mark Prindle of Harwinton, (a tory at Mansfield,) and him have before the Court at Litchfield, in discharge of his bail bond, given for said Prindle in another case; which was granted by the Governor and Council, with their order to return said Prindle after his trial, to Amariah Williams in said Mansfield.

April 30, 1777. An order from Congress was received, to confine Gov. Franklin, without pen, ink, or paper; and directed him to be conveyed under guard, by the Sheriff of Hartford County, forthwith to Litchfield jail.

Sept. 19, 1777. An order on the pay table was drawn in favor of Lynde Lord, Esq., for £100 towards the expense of the guard placed over Gov. Franklin.

Jan. 8, 1778. Upon the information of the State Attorney against John Marsh, a Cornet in a troop of horse under Capt. Moses Seymour, for disobedience of orders, the committee found the facts true as stated, and found that he had recently taken the oath of fidelity and declared his willingness to serve his country, risk his life and fortune in its defence, &c. The Assembly ordered said Marsh to pay the cost taxed at £8.14.5, and the complaint dismissed.

Jan. 8, 1778. The Assembly allowed Salmon Buell, of Litchfield, who was wounded in the Danbury expedition, by a ball in both his thighs, £60 for his relief.

CHAPTER VIII.

Not many years after the establishment of our National Independence, symptoms of disaffection to the arbitrary and cruel reign of Alcohol began to manifest themselves. But to the present generation belongs the honor of organizing an extended and regular force to repel his attacks. Many brilliant victories have been achieved, and it may reasonably be expected that the same generation will witness his final overthrow. Honor to those engaged in this struggle for a second Independence.

Below is a copy of the original pledge of a Temperance Association formed in Litchfield more than fifty years since. It shows at how early a day, public attention here was directed to the dreadful evils of Intemperance, and is interesting on account of its antiquity, and the number of distinguished men who adopted the pledge. Among the signers were men of wealth, integrity and benevolence, and some who have filled high places in our State and Nation.

"So many are the avenues leading to human misery, that it is impossible to guard them all. Such evils as are produced by our own folly and weakness are within our power to avoid. The immoderate use which the people of this State make of Distilled Spirits, is undoubtedly an evil of this kind. It is obvious to every person of the smallest observation, that from this pernicious practice follows a train of evils difficult to be enumerated. The morals are corrupted, property is exhausted, and health destroyed. And it is most sincerely to be regretted that from a mistaken idea that distilled spirits are necessary to laboring men, to counteract the influence of heat, and give relief from severe fatigue, that a most valuable class of citizens have been led to contract a habit of such dangerous tendency. Hence arises the inability to pay public taxes, to discharge private debts, and to support and educate families. Seriously considering this subject, and the frowns of Divine Providence in denying many families in this part of the country the means of a comfortable subsistance the present year, by failure of the principal crops of the earth; we think it peculiarly the duty of every good citizen to unite his efforts to reform a practice which leads so many to poverty, distress and ruin. Whereupon we do hereby associate, and mutually agree, that hereafter

we will carry on our business without the use of distilled Spirits as an article of refreshment, either for ourselves, or those whom we employ, and that instead thereof, we will serve our workmen with wholesome food, and common simple drinks of our own production.

Ephraim Kirby,	Archibald McNiel,
Timothy Skinner,	Abraham Bradley,
David Buel,	I. Baldwin Junr.
Julius Deming,	T. Reeve,
Benj'n Tallmadge,	Collier & Adam,
Uriah Tracy,	Tobias Cleaver,
Ebenezer Marsh,	Amos Galpin,
Moses Seymour,	Thomas Trowbridge,
Samuel Marsh,	S. Shethar,
James Stone,	Soloman Buel,
Samuel Seymour,	Briant Stoddard,
Daniel Sheldon,	Abraham Peck,
Ozias Lewis,	Frederick Wolcott,
Lawrence Wessells,	Nathaniel Smith 2d,
Elijah Wadsworth,	John Allen,
Alexander Catlin,	John Welch,
Reuben Smith,	Arthur Emmons.
Lynde Lord,	

By Necessity and on Principle, in consequence of little experiment and much observation, I have effectually adopted and adhered to the salutary plan herein proposed during several months past, and am still resolved to persevere until convinced that any alteration will be productive of some greater good, whereof at present I have no apprehensions whilst Human Nature remains the same. J. STRONG."

Litchfield, 9th May 1789.

In December 1785, the town voted to lease to the adjoining proprietors of the land on the west side of Town Street, a strip of land 24 feet in width from the west side of the highway, and that "one express and immutable condition on which said land shall be leased is, that no person shall have liberty on any pretense whatever, to erect any building thereon, other than a good handsome fence, and if any building should at any time be so set thereon, it shall be lawful for any person to demolish or remove the same." This strip is now occupied chiefly as court yards. Similar votes were subsequently passed relative to Meeting House Street.

"Miss Sarah Pierce opened a School in this town for the instruction of Females, in the year 1792, which has very justly merited and acquired a distinguished reputation."* The school continued under her superintendence for nearly forty years, and its reputation has since been well sustained by her successors. It was incorporated in the year 1827, by the name of "The Litchfield Female Academy."

"The Hon. Tapping Reeve, one of the Judges of the Superior Court, commenced a Law School in Litchfield in the year 1784; and continued it, under his own tuition, till the year 1798. At this period, 210 young gentlemen had been students in his School, and qualified for admission to the Bar. In the year 1798, James Gould, Esq. became joint instructor with Judge Reeve; and from that time to March, 1812, 264 young gentlemen were educated here—in the whole, 474. Without doing injustice, it may be safe to remark, that the science of Law has been more systematically taught in this School, than in any other of the kind in the United States."*

Judge Reeve and Judge Gould continued to be joint instructors till the year 1820; after which, Judge Gould lectured alone, being assisted in examinations by the Hon. Jabez W. Huntington. Judge Gould closed his Lectures in the year 1833. More than 550 gentlemen received their professional education at this school after March 1812; making in the whole over 1024. This school always enjoyed a deservedly high reputation: such as the talents and extensive legal attainments of the gentlemen who conducted the institution were calculated to give it. Young gentlemen from every section of our nation were educated here, and not a few have been distinguished as Statesmen and Jurists.

The village of Litchfield was incorporated in May 1818, and by its charter has the usual powers and privileges of a Borough. Its limits are about one mile and three fourths in length, north and south, and about one mile in breadth, east and west.

A Branch of the Phœnix Bank at Hartford, was established here in the year 1814.

* Morris' Statistical Account.

The "Litchfield Mutual Fire Insurance Company" was incorporated in the year 1833.

The present Court House was erected in the years 1797 and 1798, and the present Goal and County House in the year 1812.

A few years since, "an Indian relic was found about half a mile east of the Court House, near Bantam River. It is a rude sculpture of brown stone, nearly the size of life, representing a female with head and shoulders, and extending down to the waist. It is now deposited at Yale College, New-Haven."

CHAPTER IX.

In May 1740, the Inhabitants of South Farms petitioned the Legislature, to be annexed to the north Society of Woodbury, (now Bethlem.) A committee of the Town was appointed to oppose it, and the application was unsuccessful. Several attempts were made to procure their incorporation as an Ecclesiastical Society, which did not succeed till 1767, when an act of the Legislature for that purpose was passed. In 1753, there were but thirty families in the parish: when it was incorporated it contained seventy.

But the Legislature long before that time, granted the Inhabitants power to maintain the public worship of God among them for three months during the winter, and this right was called the "Winter Privilege."

They thereupon exercised the ordinary powers of an Ecclesiastical Society. Their first meeting for such purposes was holden on the 23d Nov. 1748, at the house of Capt. Thomas Harrison. Josiah Strong was chosen Moderator, and Jacob Woodruff, Clerk. Their meetings were warned by posting notices on trees in different parts of the Society. Their preachers, before the settlement of Mr. Beckwith, were, the Rev. Messrs. Bartlet, Dickeson, Heaton, Richards, Eells, Hart, &c. And

Public Worship was held in different sections, at the School and Private Houses. The first School House was voted to be built in 1747. £20 was given from the Town Treasury for that purpose. In 1747, liberty was granted by the Town, to the inhabitants of South Farms, to have one fourth of an acre of ground laid out by the select men for a Burial Ground.

"The first person buried in South Farms, was interred in the month of March, 1749, viz: Mr. James Stoddard; he was killed at the raising of a dwelling house."

The orthography of those days was somewhat peculiar. On the 14th of March 1750, the Society "voted, to pay Charles Woodruff six shillings for ye Bears to carry ye dead."

The sancity of burial places formerly seems not to have been very highly regarded. In 1776, the Town empowered the select men to buy of Mr. Thomas Waugh, half an acre about 20 rods south of Joseph Waugh's dwelling house, for a public burying place, and in case said Thomas gave a deed, the Town voted, that "said Thomas Waugh his heirs and assigns shall have good right forever to enclose said Burying Yard, and use it for pasturing, provided, he or they shall keep up and maintain convenient bars for the people to pass and repass, for the purpose of burying their dead."

In 1761 the General Assembly resolved, that the inhabitants of South Farms, "be allowed to have the Gospel preached among them for four months in the winter season, and shall have liberty to build a meeting house." And in 1764 they voted to "build a winter house thirty-five feet long, twenty-five feet wide, nine feet posts, provided Justus Gibbs will do it for £70 10, &c." The house was soon after erected, is still in existence, and is occupied as a dwelling-house. By a resolve of the General Assembly, the 1st Society was required to repay to South Farms Society, what they had paid towards building the new meeting house in Litchfield. The South Farms Society also demanded of the 1st Society, a share of the parsonage money, with what success I am not informed.

In 1769 it was "voted, That we think the sealing ordinances are equally sacred, and any person that is qualified for one is qualified for both." And in 1770, "voted, That we approve

of the Church vote, viz: That conversion, should not be a term of admission for Church communion." This rule has long been abrogated. In 1785, the society built a new Church of liberal dimensions. In April of that year, the Society "voted, That the meeting house committee shall have good right to furnish Rum, Grindstones, and Ropes sufficient for framing the meeting house according to their best discretion." And in June of the same year, the Society appointed an overseer, to direct the issue of Liquor at the raising, and "voted, That the overseer shall give two drams per day to the spectators, one a little before noon, the other a little before night." They entered upon the work with such spirit, that the house was finished in twenty weeks after they began the frame. A steeple was soon after added, and a bell procured. This Church was occupied till the year 1844, when it was taken down, and a neat and tasteful edifice was erected in more modern style.

The once celebrated "Morris Academy," was established in South Farms by James Morris, Esq., in 1790.

"The parish of NORTHFIELD, was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly, at their October session in the year 1794. This parish is situated in the South-east corner of Litchfield, and it includes within its limits a part of the Township of Plymouth. The people settled their first minister, Feb. 17th, 1795, viz: The Rev. Joseph E. Camp."* He died there in May 1837.

"The parish of MILTON is situated in the north-west corner of Litchfield. It includes within its limits, a part of Goshen, a part of Cornwall and a part of Warren. Milton was incorporated by the General Assembly at the May Session, 1795."*

The climate of Litchfield is eminently favorable to health and longevity, and our pure and invigorating atmosphere is resorted to by strangers from the cities and the South, during the heat of summer. Our citizens have had the reputation of being distinguished for their intelligence and virtue. The

* Morris' Statistical Account.

peace of this community has seldom been disturbed by extensive local or personal contests; a spirit of liberality has in general existed between different religious sects, and a feeling of good will between all classes. Party spirit, it is true, has prevailed among political partizans, and formerly embittered to some extent social intercourse. But notwithstanding the calumny which at different times has been heaped upon individuals, and upon opposing parties, its effect has been temporary, and after the heat of contest has subsided, men have learnt the injustice of which they have been guilty, and that neither all that is excellent is to be found exclusively with the one party, nor all that is bad exclusively with the other. And if any there are who disbelieve a truth so obvious, they receive, in this respect, no countenance from those whose opinions are worthy of regard.

The inhabitants of Litchfield have been blessed with peace, harmony and prosperity. They have been well satisfied in preserving the valuable institutions of their forefathers, with such improvements as experience, and the spirit of the times, suggested. The History of such a people is of course somewhat barren of events interesting to posterity, and if what has been collected relative thereto, is either useful or interesting to the inhabitants or natives of the town, (and it cannot be expected to be much so to others,) the author will be satisfied with the result.

APPENDIX.

The County of Litchfield was organized by an Act of the General Assembly, at their session in October, A. D. 1751; and Litchfield was then made the shire town.

List of Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and County Court from the year 1751 to the year 1820.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
William Preston,	1751	1754	Joshua Porter,	1791	1808
John Williams,	1754	1774	Aaron Austin,	1808	1816
Oliver Wolcott,	1774	1786	Augustus Pettibone,	1816	1820
Daniel Sherman,	1786	1791			

Justices of the Quorum during the same period.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
John Williams,	1751	1754	Aaron Austin,	1690	1808
Samuel Canfield,	1751	1754	Nathan Hale,	1791	1809
Ebenezer Marsh,	1751	1772	David Smith,	1791	1814
Joseph Bird,	1753	1754	Daniel N. Brinsmade,	1802	1818
Noah Hinman,	1754	1759	Judson Canfield,	1808	1815
Elisha Shelden,	1754	1761	Birdsey Norton,	1809	died 1812
Increase Moseley,	1755	1780	Augustus Pettibone,	1812	1816
Roger Sherman,	1759	1762	Uriel Holmes,	1814	1817
Daniel Sherman,	1761	1786	Moses Lyman, Jr.	1815	1816
Bushnell Bostwick,	1762	1776	Oliver Burnham,	1816	1818
Joshua Porter,	1772	1791	Cyrus Swan,	1817	1819
Samuel Canfield,	1777	1790	Martin Strong,	1817	1820
Jedediah Strong,	1780	1791	John Welch,	1819	1820
Heman Swift,	1786	1802			

After May, 1820, the County Court consisted of a Chief Judge and two Associate Judges, till May, 1838, and thereafter of one Judge only.

Chief or Sole Judges.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Augustus Pettibone,	1820	1831	Calvin Butler,	1839	1840
David S. Boardman,	1831	1836	Ansel Sterling,	1840	1842
William M. Burrall,	1836	1838	William M. Burrall,	1842	1844
Ansel Sterling,	1838	1839	Abijah Catlin,	1844	

Associate Judges.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Martin Strong,	1820	1829	Morris Woodruff,	1829	1838
John Welch,	1820	1829	Hugh P. Welch,	1836	1838
William M. Burrall,	1829	1836			

Clerks of the Court of Common Pleas and the County Court, and of the Superior Court after its establishment in the County in 1798.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Isaac Baldwin,	1751	1793	Origen S. Seymour,	1836	1844
Frederick Wolcott,	1793	1836	Gideon H. Hollister,	1844	

Sheriffs.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Oliver Wolcott,	1751	1772	Ozias Seymour,	1825	1834
Lynde Lord,	1772	1801	Albert Sedgwick,	1834	1835
John R. Landon,	1801	1819	Charles A. Judson,	1835	1838
Moses Seymour Jr.	1819	1825	Albert Sedgwick,	1838	

The Probate District of Litchfield was established in the year 1747, and embraced the towns of Litchfield, Harwinton, Torrington, Goshen, Cornwall, Norfolk, Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Kent, (then including Warren,) and the Lands on the west side of Housatonic River, between New-Fairfield and Sharon.

Judges of Probate.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Ebenezer Marsh,	1747	1772	Phineas Miner,	1828	1840
Oliver Wolcott,	1772	1796	Ralph G. Camp,	1840	1842
Frederick Wolcott,	1796	1837	Elisha S. Abernethy,	1842	1844
Elisha S. Abernethy,	1837	1838	Ralph G. Camp,	1844	

Town Clerks of Litchfield.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
John Marsh,	1721	1733	Moses Seymour,	1789	1826
John Bird,	1733	1738	Elihu Harrison,	1826	1836
Joshua Garritt,	1738	1742	Samuel P. Bolles,	1836	1840
Isaac Baldwin,	1742	1773	Sylvester Galpin,	1840	1841
Jedediah Strong,	1773	1789	Samuel P. Bolles,	1841	

Litchfield was first represented in the General Assembly in 1740. The following is a roll of the Representatives to the present time:

1740.	May.	Joseph Bird,	Ebenezer Marsh,
	October.	John Bird,	John Buel.
1741.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
	October.	do.	Samuel Culver.
1742.	May.	do.	Joseph Griswold.
	October.	do.	Jacob Griswold.
1743.	May.	do.	John Bird.
	October.	do.	Joseph Bird.
1744.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Edward Phelps,	do.
1745.	May.	do.	do.
2d.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	Isaac Baldwin.
	October.	Edward Phelps,	Joseph Bird,
1746.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1747.	May.	Thomas Harrison,	Joseph Sanford.
	October.	do.	do.
1748.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	John Bird.
	October.	do.	do.
1749.	May.	do.	Joseph Bird.
	October.	do.	Thomas Harrison.
1750.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1751.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1752.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Joseph Kilborn,	Benjamin Webster.
1753.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Thomas Harrison,	do.
1754.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
	October.	do.	Thomas Harrison.
1755.	May.	Peter Buel,	Benjamin Webster.
	October.	Ebenezer Marsh,	Elisha Shelden.
1756.	May.	do.	Peter Buel.
	October.	do.	do.
1757.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Elisha Sheldon.
1758.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.

1759.	May.	Jacob Woodruff,	Elisha Shelden.
	October.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
1760.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1761.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Isaac Baldwin.
1762.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1763.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1764.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Oliver Wolcott.
1765.	May.	do.	Isaac Baldwin.
	October.	do.	do.
1766.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	John Marsh.
1767.	May.	Oliver Wolcott.	do.
	October.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
1768.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Oliver Wolcott,	Jacob Woodruff.
1769.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	Abraham Kilborn.
	October.	do.	do.
1770.	May.	David Welch,	do.
	October.	Oliver Wolcott,	do.
1771.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	John Marsh,
	October.	Jedediah Strong,	Lynde Lord.
1772.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	John Marsh.
1773.	May.	do.	David Welch.
	October.	do.	do.
1774.	May.	do.	John Marsh.
	October.	do.	David Welch.
1775.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Abraham Bradley.
1776.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Andrew Adams.
1777.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1778.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1779.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1780.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	David Welch,	do.
1781.	May.	——— ———,	——— ———.
	October.	Jedediah Strong,	Bezaleel Beebe.
1782.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	Isaac Baldwin.
1783.	May.	do.	Bezaleel Beebe.
	October.	Abraham Bradley,	Isaac Baldwin Jr.
1784.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	Isaac Baldwin.
	October.	do.	Isaac Baldwin Jr.
1785.	May.	Jedediah Strong,	Abraham Bradley.
	October.	Ebenezer Marsh,	Jedediah Strong.
1786.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1787.	May.	do.	Ebenezer Benton.
	October.	do.	Jedediah Strong.
1788.	May	do.	do
	October.	do.	Uriah Tracy.
1789.	May.	Jedediah Strong,	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1790.	May.	Ebenezer Marsh,	do.
	October.	Julius Deming,	do.
1791.	May.	do.	do.

	October.	Ephraim Kirby,	Uriah Tracy.
1792.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Solomon Marsh,	Bezaleel Beebe.
1793.	May.	John Allen,	Uriah Tracy.
	October.	Bezaleel Beebe,	John Allen.
1794.	May.	Ephraim Kirby.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1795.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Moses Seymour,	Bezaleel Beebe.
1796.	May.	do.	John Allen.
	October.	do.	do.
1797.	May.	do.	Ephraim Kirby.
	October.	do.	do.
1798.	May.	James Morris,	Julius Deming.
	October.	Moses Seymour,	Epraim Kirby.
1799.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Ephraim Kirby,	John Welch.
1800.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	James Morris.
1801.	May.	Moses Seymour,	Ephraim Kirby.
	October.	do.	John Welch.
1802.	May.	James Morris,	Frederick Wolcott.
	October.	Moses Seymour,	Ephraim Kirby.
1803.	May.	James Morris,	Frederick Wolcott.
	October.	do.	Uriel Holmes.
1804.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1805.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1806.	May.	Moses Seymour,	Norman Buel.
	October.	Uriel Holmes,	Aaron Bradley.
1807.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1808.	May.	Aaron Bradley,	Aaron Smith.
	October.	Nathaniel Goodwin,	do.
1809.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1810.	May.	Moses Seymour,	Aaron Bradley.
	October.	do.	do.
1811.	May.	Aaron Smith,	Moses Seymour.
	October.	Moses Seymour,	Aaron Smith.
1812.	May.	Aaron Smith,	Moses Seymour.
	October.	Morris Woodruff,	Aaron Smith.
1813.	May.	Aaron Smith,	Morris Woodruff.
	October.	do,	do.
1814.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	Uriel Holmes,	do.
1815.	May.	William Beebe,	do.
	October.	do.	Jonathan Buel.
1816.	May.	do.	do.
	October.	do.	do.
1817.	May.	Jonathan Buel,	Ephraim S. Hall.
	October.	do.	do.
1818.	May.	Stephen Russell,	do.
	October.	do.	Phineas Lord.
1819.	May.	John Welch,	do.
1820.	"	do.	Seth P. Beers.
1821.	"	Seth P. Beers,	John Welch.
1822.	"	do.	do.
1823.	"	do.	Phineas Miner.
1824.	"	David Marsh,	Morris Woodruff.
1825.	"	do.	do.
1826.	"	Morris Woodruff,	Reuben Webster.
1827.	"	Phineas Miner,	William Beebe.

1828.	May.	Jabez W. Huntington,	William Beebe.
1829.	"	Phineas Miner,	Morris Woodruff.
1830.	"	Stephen Russell,	do.
1831.	"	do.	Truman Smith.
1832.	"	Truman Smith,	Elihu Harrison.
1833.	"	William Beebe,	Asa Hopkins.
1834.	"	Stephen Russell,	Truman Smith.
1835.	"	Phineas Miner,	Elihu Harrison.
1836.	"	Morris Woodruff,	Phineas Lord.
1837.	"	do.	do.
1838.	"	Samuel Buel,	William Ray.
1839.	"	do.	do.
1840.	"	Frederick Buel,	E. Champion Bacon.
1841.	"	do.	do.
1842.	"	Origen S. Seymour,	Enos Stoddard.
1843.	"	do.	do.
1844.	"	Elisha S. Abernethy.	Dan Catlin.
1845.	"	Charles Adams,	do.

CLERGYMEN IN LITCHFIELD.

FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY. (CONGREGATIONAL.)

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Timothy Collins,	1721	1752	Daniel L. Carroll,	1827	1829
Judah Champion,	1753	1798	Laurens P. Hickok,	1829	1836
Dan Huntington,	1798	1809	Jonathan Brace,	1838	1844
Lyman Beecher,	1810	1826			

EPISCOPAL SOCIETY.

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Solomon Palmer,	1754	1763	Isaac Jones,	1811	1826
Thomas Davies,	1763	1766	John S. Stone,	1826	1829
Solomon Palmer,	1766	1770	William Lucas,	1829	1832
Nichols,			Samuel Fuller Jr.	1832	1837
Ashbel Baldwin,	1785	1793	William Payne,	1838	1845
David Butler,	1794	1799	Samuel Fuller Jr.	1845	
Truman Marsh,	1799	1810			

SOUTH FARMS. (CONGREGATIONAL.)

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
George Beckwith,	1772	1781	Veron D. Taylor,	1831	1833
Amos Chase,	1787	1814	James F. Warner,	1833	1834
Amos Pettingall,	1816	1822	Ralph S. Crampton,	1834	1836
Henry Robinson,	1823	1829	David L. Parmelee,	1841	

NORTHFIELD. (CONGREGATIONAL.)

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Joseph E. Camp,	1795	1837	Joel L. Dickinson,	1844	

MILTON. (CONGREGATIONAL.)

	Accessus.	Exitus.		Accessus.	Exitus.
Benjamin Judd,	1802	1804	Ralph Smith,		
Abraham Fowler,	1807	1813	John F. Norton.	1844	

The following named persons, natives or citizens of Litchfield, have occupied the stations annexed to their respective names:

Adams, Andrew, Chief Justice Supreme Court.
Allen, Ethan, General Revolutionary Army.
Allen, John, United States Representative.
Allen, John W., United States Representative, Ohio.

Beers, Seth P., Commissioner of School Fund.
Beecher, Lyman, D. D., President Lane Seminary.
Beecher, Edward, President Illinois College.
Bird, John, United States Representative.
Bradley, Abraham, Assistant Post Master General,
Bradley, Phineas, do. do. do.

Collier, John A., Comptroller, United States Representative, N. Y.

Gould, James, Judge Superior Court.

Holmes, Uriel, United States Representative.
Huntington, J. W. Judge Sup. Court, U. S. Rep., and U. S. Senator.

Kirby, Ephraim, Judge, Mississippi.

Lyon, Matthew, United States Representative, Vermont, Kentucky.

Marvin, Reynold, Kings Attorney.
Miner, Phineas, United States Representative.

Phelps, Samuel S. Judge, United States Senator, Vermont.

Reeve, Tapping, Chief Justice Supreme Court.

Seymour, Horatio, United States Senator, Vermont.
Shelden, Daniel, Secretary Legation, France.
Skinner, Roger, United States Judge, N. Y.
Skinner, Richard, U. S. Rep., Chief Judge Sup. Court, Governor, Vermont.
Smith, Joseph L., Judge, East Florida,
Smith, Truman, United States Representative.

Tallmadge, Benj. Major Revolutionary Army, United States Representative.
Tallmadge, Frederick A. Recorder, New York City.
Tracy, Uriah, United States Representative, United States Senator.

Wolcott, Oliver, U. S. Rep. (Signer Declaration of Independence,) Governor.
Wolcott, Oliver, Secretary of Treasury, United States Judge, Governor.
Woodruff, Clark, Judge, Louisiana.
Wright, John C., United States Representative, Judge, Ohio.

Patent of the Town of Litchfield.

The Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:—

Know ye, That the said Governor and Company, by virtue of the power granted unto them, by our late sovereign King Charles the second, of blessed memory, in and by his Majesty's patent, under the great seal of England, dated the twenty-third day of April, in the fourteenth year of his Majesty's reign, and in pursuance thereof and in General Court assembled, according to charter, did, by their act, made, May the fourteenth, Anno Domini, 1719, upon the humble petition of Lieut. John Marsh of Hartford, within the said Colony, and Dea. John Buell of Lebanon, grant unto the said John Marsh and John Buell and Partners, settlers, being in the whole fifty-seven in number, liberty to settle a town westward of Farmington, in the county of Hartford, at a place called Bantam, which town was to be in length, east and west, eight miles, three quarters, and twenty-eight rods, and in breadth, seven miles and an half, to be bounded east on Mattatuck river, west part on Shipaug river, and part on the wilderness, north by the wilderness, and south by Waterbury bounds and a west line, from Waterbury corner to the said Shipaug river. And ordered, that the said town should be called by the name of Litchfield, as more fully appears by the said act. The said Governor and Company by virtue of the aforesaid power, and by their special act, bearing even date with these presents, for divers good causes and considerations them hereunto moving, have given, granted, and by these presents, for themselves, their heirs and successors, do fully, clearly, and absolutely give, grant, ratify and confirm unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and to the rest of the said partners, settlers of said tract of land, [in their actual full and peaceable possession and seizin being] and to their heirs and assigns, and such as shall legally succeed and represent them forever, [in such proportions as they the said partners and settlers or any of them respectively have right in and are lawfully possessed of the same,] all that the said tract of land now called and known by the name of Litchfield, in the county of Hartford aforesaid, be the same more or less, butted and bounded as followeth, viz: Beginning at the north-east corner at a tree with stones about it, standing in the crotch of Mattatuck river aforesaid, and runs southerly by the side of said river until it meets with Waterbury bounds where is a well known white oak tree, standing about fifteen rods west of said Mattatuck river, anciently marked with IS: IN: From thence running west twenty-three degrees thirty minutes south to two white oak trees growing out of one root with stones about them, and west one mile and half to Waterbury north west corner bound mark; and from thence west five degrees thirty minutes, north to Shipaug river, where is a tree and stones about it butting upon Woodbury township. Then beginning at the first mentioned tree by Mattatuck river and running westward into the wilderness to an oak tree marked and stones laid around it, then south to a crotch in the Shipaug river, and thence by the westermost branch of Shipaug river to Woodbury bounds. And also all and singular the lands, trees, woods, underwoods, woodgrounds, uplands, arable lands, meadows, moors, marshes, pastures, ponds, waters, rivers, brooks, fishings, fowlings, huntings, mines, minerals, quarries, and precious stones, upon and within the said

land. And all other rights, members, hereditaments, easements and commodities whatsoever to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, so butted and bounded as is herein before particularly expressed or mentioned, and the reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders, rights, royalties, privileges, powers and jurisdictions whatsoever, of and in all and singular the said tract of land and premises hereby granted, and of and in any and every part and parcel thereof. And the rents, services and profits to the same incident, belonging or appertaining—To Have and to Hold all the said tract of land and all and singular other the premises hereby given or granted, or mentioned, or intended to be granted, with all the priviledges and appurtenances thereof unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the partners, settlers of the same, their heirs and assigns, to their only proper use, benefit and behoof forever; and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever; and the said Governor and Company for themselves and their successors, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and rest of the partners, settlers of the tract of land herein before granted, their heirs and assigns, that the said tract of land so butted and bounded as aforesaid, shall from time to time and at all times forever hereafter, be deemed, reputed, denominated, and be an entire town of itself, and shall be called and known by the name of Litchfield, in the county of Hartford, and that the aforesaid partners, settlers and inhabitants thereof, shall and lawfully may from time to time and at all times, forever hereafter have, use, exercise and enjoy all such rights, powers, priviledges, immunities and franchises, in and among themselves, as are given, granted, allowed, used, exercised and enjoyed, to, by, and amongst the proper inhabitants of other towns in this Colony, according to common approved custom and observance; and that the said tract of land and premises hereby granted as aforesaid, and appurtenances, shall remain, continue and be unto the said John Marsh and John Buell, and the rest of the partners settlers, their heirs and assigns, in proportion aforesaid forever, a good, peaceable, pure, perfect, absolute, and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple, to be holden of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, as of His Majesty's Manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent, in the Kingdom of England, in free and common soccage, and not in capite, nor by Knight's service.—Yielding therefor, and paying unto our Sovereign Lord King George, his heirs and successors forever, one fifth part of all ore of Gold and Silver, which from time to time, and at all times forever hereafter, shall be there gotten, had or obtained, in liew of all services, duties and demands whatsoever.

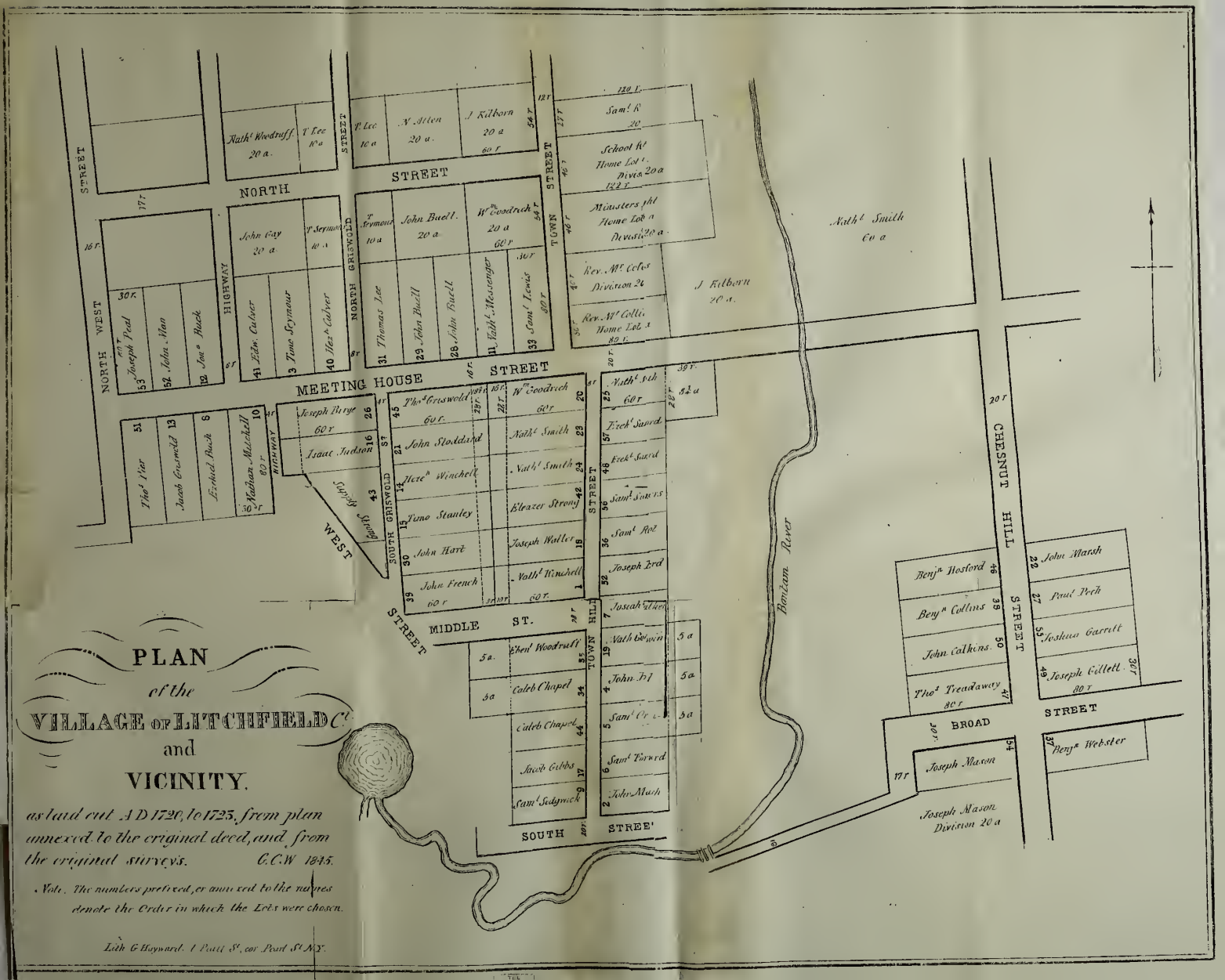
In Witness whereof, The said Governor and Company have caused the Seal of the said Colony to be hereunto affixed.

Dated in Hartford, May the 19th day, Anno regni regis Decimo Georgii, Mag'æ Britt'æ, Fran'æ, Hybern'æ, Annoque Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Four, 1724.

G. SALTONSTALL, Gov'r.

By order of the Gov'r and and Company in General Court assembled.

Hez. Wyllis, Secretary.


PLAN
of the
VILLAGE OF LITCHFIELD Ct.
and
VICINITY.
as laid out A D 1720, to 1725, from plan annexed to the original deed, and from the original surveys. C.C.W 1845.
Note. The numbers prefixed, or annexed to the names denote the Order in which the Lots were chosen.
Lith G Hayward. 1 Pearl St, cor Pearl St N.Y.
NORTH STREET
NORTH WEST STREET
NORTH HIGHWAY
NORTH GRISWOLD STREET
TOWN STREET
MEETING HOUSE STREET
WEST STREET
SOUTH GRISWOLD STREET
MIDDLE ST.
TOWN HILL STREET
SOUTH STREET
CHESNUT HILL STREET
BROAD STREET
Bantam River
Nath.l Woodruff 20 a.
T. Lee 10 a
N. Allen 20 a.
J. Kilborn 20 a
60 r
School Rd Home Lot 1. Divis. 20 a
Ministers pl Home Lot a Devisd 20 a.
Rev. Mr Coles Division 26
Rev. Mr Collis Home Lot 2
Nath.l Smith 60 a
J. Kilborn 20 a.
John Gay 20 a.
T. Seymour 10 a
John Buell. 20 a
Wm Goodrich 20 a 60 r
Joseph Peal
John Van
Jno Buck
Elin Culver
Timo Seymour
Hez.h Culver
Thomas Lee
John Buell
John Buell
Nath.l Messenger
Sam.l Lewis
Joseph Berge 60 r
Isaac Judson
Supply Stoddard
Thos Vier
Jacob Cromwell
Ezekiel Buck
Nathan Mitchell 80 r
Thos Griswold 60 r.
John Stoddard
Hezh Winchell
Timo Stanley
John Hart
John French 60 r
Wm Goodrich 60 r
Nath.l Smith
Nath.l Smith
Ebenezer Strong
Joseph Waller
Nath.l Winchell 60 r.
Nath.l Seth 60 r
Ezek.l Sacord
Ezek.l Sacord
Sam.l Sacord
Sam.l Rol
Joseph Bird
Nath.l Gaylord
John Fol
Sam.l Forward
John Mash
Ebenezer Woodruff
Caleb Chapel
Caleb Chapel
Jacob Cobbs
Sam.l Sedgwick
Benj.n Hosford
Benj.n Collins
John Calkins.
Thos Treadaway 80 r
John Marsh
Paul Peck
Joshua Garrett
Joseph Gillett. 80 r
Joseph Mason
Joseph Mason Division 20 a
Benj.n Webster

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