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GENERAL HISTORY  
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TOWN OF SHARON,  
BY  
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GENERAL HISTORY

—OF—



# THE TOWN OF SHARON,

LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONN.

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT.

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BY CHARLES F. SEDGWICK, A. M.

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SECOND EDITION.

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AMENIA, N. Y.:  
CHARLES WALSH, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.  
1877.



## CONTENTS.

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CONTENTS,.....	3— 5
PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION,.....	6—
PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION,.....	7— 8
CHAPTER I.,.....	9— 16
Containing a Concise History of Events which Led to the Sale and Settlement of the Township.	
CHAPTER II.,.....	17— 20
An Account of the Measures Proposed and Ex- ecuted for the Sale and Settlement of the Township.	
CHAPTER III.,.....	21— 30
Incorporation of the Town—First Town Meet- ing—List of Officers Chosen—Settlement of Rev. Peter Pratt—First Meeting House— Alarming Sickness.	
CHAPTER IV.,.....	31— 37
Indians in Sharon.	

CHAPTER V.,.....	38— 49
Ecclesiastical Affairs—Deposition of Mr. Pratt —His Subsequent Career—Litchfield County when Organized—Settlement of Mr. Searle— Ellsworth Society—Rev. Mr. Knibloe—Dis- mission of Mr. Searle.	
CHAPTER VI.,.....	50— 54
A History of the Moravian Missions in Sharon.	
CHAPTER VII.,.....	55— 64
Rev. Cotton Mather Smith—Census—Church of England Missions—Organization of the Episcopal Parish—New Meeting House—Rev. George Whitfield.	
CHAPTER VIII.,.....	65— 76
Events of the Revolutionary War.	
CHAPTER IX.,.....	77— 86
Incidental Events—Disastrous Fire in Sharon Valley—Small Pox—Casualties—Shays' Rebel- lion—Excise Duties.	
CHAPTER X.,.....	87— 92
Methodist Society in Sharon.	
CHAPTER XI.,.....	93—106
History of the Ecclesiastical Society Continued.	
CHAPTER XII.,.....	107—112
The War of the Rebellion.	
CHAPTER XIII.,.....	113—173
Biographical Notices—Family Sketches, Geneal- ogies, Etc.	
APPENDIX A.,.....	177—179
Form of Deeds Given by the Government's Committee to the Purchasers of Rights to the Common Land in Sharon.	



APPENDIX B.,.....	180—183
Patent of the Town of Sharon.	
APPENDIX C., .....	184—187
Rev. Cotton Mather Smith's Reply to Rev. Dr. Trumbull's Circular.	
APPENDIX D., .....	188—189
Copy of the Deed by which the Indians Con- veyed Away their Last Claim of Title to Lands in Sharon.	
APPENDIX E.,.....	190—
List of Names of Soldiers of the Revolution, belonging to the Town of Sharon, who served in 1776, taken from the Controller's Books, in Hartford.	
APPENDIX F.,.....	191—194
Narrative of Adonijah Maxam.	
APPENDIX G., .....	195—196
Graduates of Yale College who have been Citizens of Sharon.	
APPENDIX H., .....	197—
Names of the Children of the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, with the dates of their decease.	
APPENDIX I., .....	198—203
Roll of the Representatives from the Town of Sharon to the General Assembly.	
APPENDIX J.,.....	204—206
Town Officers.	
APPENDIX K.,.....	207—
Hymn composed by the Hon. John Cotton Smith, and sung at the Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Town Meeting.	

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

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THE Author of the following pages was requested by his fellow citizens of the town of Sharon to prepare an address to be delivered at the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of their first town meeting, on the 22d day of December, 1839. This request was complied with, but the short period in which it was prepared rendered it, necessarily, in many respects imperfect, and in some inaccurate. By the advice of many friends he has been induced to embody the facts connected with the History of the Town in the form here presented, and to commit the work to the press for the benefit of the inhabitants of his adopted town. The labor of making the researches has necessarily occupied much time, and no effort has been spared to make the work accurate in its details. In preparing sketches of the many citizens of the town who are brought to notice in the last chapter, the personal history of more than two hundred individuals, many of whom have been dead for a half century, has been investigated, and many names which had long since gone into forgetfulness are brought to light. It is not unlikely that in this part of the work some errors may have intervened, but it is believed that in almost every instance accuracy has been attained.

If the work shall prove interesting or useful to the citizens of the town, the labor incurred in its preparation will be well repaid.

SHARON, March 1842.

## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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It is now thirty-five years since the author published a history of the Town of Sharon. He was appointed by his fellow townsmen to prepare an address to be delivered on the one hundredth anniversary of the first town meeting of the town. This led him to a partial but by no means thorough investigation of facts connected with the history of the town. Very little aid was obtained from public documents, other than the records of the town, and the principal reliance for items of history was upon the traditions handed down from the early settlers. Under these circumstances the work was committed to the press. The consequence was that in regard to the early history of the town, it was very defective, owing to the uncertainties of traditions and the barrenness of documentary proof. Since the book was published, the study into the history of local corporations has become very general, and the success which has in some cases attended such pursuits has encouraged the author to make more minute investigations into the facts relating to the early history of Sharon. In prosecuting this purpose he was greatly aided by the late Nathaniel Goodwin, Esq., of Hartford, who was an antiquarian of most scrupulous accuracy, and who delighted to extend his aid in the diffusion of historical knowledge. Many of the documents thus obtained have been copied into this work, that the men of those times may give in their own language a history of their trials and success.

When the first book was published some were living who

were acquainted with some of the early settlers of the town, and whose recollections extended back to the preaching of Whitfield and to the exciting times preceding the war of the Revolution. Many others then survived who took an active part in that war. The late Alpheus Jewett, Esq., was one of the party which was organized in Sharon, which broke up and scattered a large body of tories who had gathered at Washington Hollow, N. Y., in 1777, to welcome the coming of the British General, Burgoyne, then on his way with a large army from Canada. He was also in the battle at Compo in Fairfield, where Lieut. Samuel Elmer, Jun., was killed, and furnished the particulars of that battle as given in the body of this work. He had a remarkably retentive memory, and the aid which he furnished the author in gathering up the incidents in the history of the town is gratefully remembered. The same acknowledgment is due to the memory of the late Calvin Gay, Esq., from whom the author derived much aid in the preparation of the notices of individuals noticed in the last chapter.

These worthies of the olden time have all gone to their rest, but their statement of historical events occurring during their time furnish the only authentic information of many incidents in the annals of the town.

It is only of late that the Author has been persuaded to prepare and publish this edition of the work. The strong interest expressed by the prominent citizens of Sharon for the embodiment of such additional facts as might be brought to light by further investigations into another edition of the work, has persuaded him to engage in the undertaking. If in any degree it answers the expectations of those who have urged the publication, he will feel much gratified.

CHARLES F. SEDGWICK.



# History of the Town of Sharon.

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## CHAPTER I.

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CONTAINING A CONCISE HISTORY OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE  
SALE AND SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP.

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THE North-western part of Connecticut was sold and settled at a much later period than any other portion of the State. As early as the year 1686, nearly all the lands in the Colony had been disposed of, except those lying north of *Waterbury* and *Woodbury*, and west of *Simsbury*. Under the Charter of Charles II., obtained in 1662, the Colony of Connecticut, though nominally dependant on the crown, enjoyed, in fact, a strictly Republican form of government ; the only service they were required to render to the crown of England being the one-fifth part of the produce of such mines of gold and silver as should be discovered. Charles was succeeded by his brother, James II., a prince of very arbitrary and vindictive propensities, and no sooner was he firmly seated on his throne, than he began to manifest his tyrannical disposition by causing the charters, which had been granted by his predecessors, to be vacated, and by assuming to himself the right of appointing governors for the different Colonies. It was feared by the people, that these Royal governors would seize upon all the

public lands which had not been sold and granted by the Colony, and measures were taken to prevent such unjustifiable proceedings. It was believed, that if the public lands were sold, and the title to them guaranteed by the governor and company of the Colony, they could not be seized for the king, and under this impression, the land within the limits just mentioned were on the 26th day of January, 1686, conveyed to the towns of Hartford and Windsor. The grant, however, did not include the lands west of the Ousatonic River, the assembly probably supposing, that, on account of their great distance from the settled parts of the Colony, they were beyond the reach of the royal governor's rapacity. In October, after the grant just mentioned, Sir *Edmund Andross* came into the Colony, and by virtue of a commission from King James, took upon himself the administration of the government, and continued in it about two years, or until the deposition of King James, when the people quietly resumed their ancient form of government under the Charter.

The lands above mentioned being deemed of little value, and the more fertile parts of the State being but thinly populated, it was more than thirty years before any attempts were made to settle them. About the year 1722, the public attention was turned to the *western lands*, as they were called; and as they began to rise in value, the towns of Hartford and Windsor laid claim to them, under the ancient grant which had been made to them under the circumstances which have been mentioned. This claim created a strong excitement throughout the Colony, and a long and bitter controversy ensued, which resulted in a division of the lands between the towns and the Colony, the towns taking the eastern portion and the Colony the western.

This contention with Hartford and Windsor had retarded the sale of the western lands, but that difficulty was now adjusted, and the Assembly took measures, soon after 1730, to effect this object; and for this purpose they were surveyed, and laid out into townships of suitable dimensions. At the

session in May, 1732, *Edmund Lewis*, Esq., Capt. *Stephen Noble*, and Mr. *William Gaylord*,\* were appointed a committee to view the Colony lands west of the Ousatonic River, and to lay out a township in the northern section of them. They were also endowed with discretionary power to lay out a township on the south of the one just mentioned, if, upon viewing the lands, they should be of opinion that they were of such a quality as to render them a desirable place for a new settlement. This committee entered promptly upon their duties; and by their report, dated at New Milford, October 9, 1732, it appears they laid out both townships. The north township, now *Salisbury*, they denominated “the township of *M*,” and the south township they called *N. S.* The remainder of the country lands west of the Ousatonic River were afterwards annexed to Kent. The boundaries of the second township are thus described by the committee:—“Then having taken a view of the whole tract, we proceeded and laid out a second township, which begins at the southwest corner of the aforesaid township of *M*, it being a stake set in the ground, and many stones laid to it, standing on the east side of a pond, as above set forth; and from thence the line runs  $12\frac{1}{2}$  D. W., with the line of partition between said province of New York, and the Colony of Connecticut, nine miles to a heap of stones laid on a rock, in the aforesaid line of partition, and is about two miles east from Captain Sackett’s dwelling house, which is the southwest corner bounds of said second township,—from thence we run the south line of said second township E.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  D. south four miles and a half and 115 rods, to the Ousatonic

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\* Mr. Lewis, who was placed at the head of this committee, belonged to Stratford, and was the County Surveyor of Fairfield County. He had been employed through the whole of the preceding year in surveying and running the boundary line between the colony of Connecticut and the province of New York, which was a work of very great labor. He had also been employed, years before, in laying out country grants in the south part of the territory, and of course was well acquainted with all this region of country, then in a state of nature. Mr. Noble was the second son of Mr. John Noble, of New Milford, who is reputed the first settler of that town. Mr. Gaylord was also one of the first settlers of New Milford, and was originally from Windsor. He was the patriarch of the Gaylord family which settled in the northwest part of that town, called Gaylord’s farms, or straights, in which the Gaylord name still prevails.

River, where we marked a white oak tree, and laid many stones to it, for the southeast corner bounds of said second township, and we have marked many trees and made many monuments in the said south line. Thus we have surveyed and laid out the township of N. S., and it is bounded north on the township of M., south on the country lands, west on the aforesaid line of partition between the province of New York and the Colony of Connecticut, and east on the Ousatonick River." The above work was completed October 7, 1732.\*

It would seem that the way was now prepared for the sale and settlement of the township, but the Hartford and Windsor lands being nearer the settled portions of the Colony, probably afforded a more desirable field for the enterprise of new settlers, and the Colony lands were neglected. Other circumstances also existed which produced a serious delay in bringing the lands in Sharon into market. The line of partition between the Colony of Connecticut and the Province of New York, was defined and established in May 1731. The commissioners to settle the boundaries between the different jurisdiction on the

---

\* The opinion of the committee as to the quality of the lands west of the Ousatonick River is here given in their own language, and it will be read with much interest by those who are acquainted with its present condition and value. "Furthermore these may certify the Hon., the General Assembly, that as to the quality of the aforesaid described and laid out lands, in the said townships, we find them like a great part of the rest of the lands in this government, some good and some otherwise; we find the good and fertile lands in the north township to be considerably scattering, and that there are country grants laid out in it to the quantity of about 3,500 acres. There are six ponds in said north township, which we judge, all of them, contain not less than 2,000 acres.—There is at the northwest corner of said township, on Poconnuck Mount, a large piece of rough waste land, we think not less than 4,000 acres. The remainder of the lands in said township will, in our judgment, be serviceable for plowing, mowing, and pasturing; and will, with the inhabitants there, and the farms, accommodate a sufficient number of inhabitants for a town.

"In the second township we find two ponds, which may contain 500 acres. There is laid out in it, of country grants, 400 acres, and a considerable quantity of rough land, yet we find such a quantity of feasible lands in it (and not so much scattering as in the first township), as will, in our judgment, accommodate a sufficient number of inhabitants for a town.

"The remainder of the country lands there is about eight miles in length, and at the south end, we judge, about three-fourths of a mile wide; which we find, the greatest part of it, to be very rough and mountainous; yet we find some feasible land in it—which is all at present supposed to be needful by your Honors' most obedient servants to command.

EDMUND LEWIS, }  
STEPHEN NOBLE, } Committee.  
WM. GAYLORD, }



part of Connecticut, were Samuel Eells, Roger Wolcott and Edmund Lewis ; on the part of New York, Cadwalader Colden, Vincent Matthews and Jacobus Bruyn, Jun., and the articles of settlement are dated Dover, May 14, 1731.

Several years before the settlement of the boundaries, one Richard Sackett had located himself at the place now called the *Steel Works*, in the beautiful Valley of the *Ten Mile River*, about seven miles south of the now village of Sharon. The whole region was a wilderness, and it being in the time of Queen Anne's war, he was exposed to imminent peril from hostile savages. He acquired large possessions of land and his settlement is spoken of in cotemporary documents and records as *Sackett's Farm*. He had been a sea captain in early life, and in connection with wealthy individuals in the city of New York he commenced at an early day to purchase the Indian title to the lands near him. The colony line not having been established, he probably availed himself of his knowledge of astronomy acquired in the study of navigation, and made experiments and observations, based upon a treaty of partition made in 1683, but which had never been carried out by actual survey, and persuaded himself that the boundary line, when surveyed, would run within about two miles of the Ousatonick River. In this belief, he purchased of *Metoxon*, the great Chief of all the Indian tribes in that region, whose residence was probably at *Copake Flats*, N. Y., about twenty-two thousand acres of land, more than seven thousand acres of which the survey of the boundary line, showed to be in Connecticut. The boundaries were definitely traced in the treaty of purchase, but in general terms they were as follows :

The east line commenced at a place which the Indians called *Wimpeting*, at the western base of a range of mountains, about seven miles south of Sharon Village, and from that point it followed the western base of the mountain range, northerly, to a point in Salisbury, a little east of Town Hill, so called. From that point the line ran northwesterly to the base of the mountain north of the Ore Hill, which in the Indian deed is

called *Ponsumpsie*, thence southwesterly to the foot of the mountain west of Spencers Corner, then following that range southerly through the Wassaic valley, to Sackett's other possessions. Looking at this territory in all its characteristics and resources, we can hardly conceive of any other which exceeds it in rural beauty or sources of wealth.

He, believing that the whole tract was within the territory of New York, obtained a confirmation of his title from the Provincial Government and from Queen Ann's Most Excellent Majesty. He exercised acts of ownership in different parts of the territory. He built a dwelling house in what is now called Sharon Valley, which stood west of the Ten Mile River, a little west of the Malleable Iron Works, and just within the territory of Connecticut. There he settled a tenant of the name of Baltus Lott, a Dutchman. There can be no doubt that the house occupied by this individual was the first house built by a white man in Sharon, and that he was the first white inhabitant of the town. Sackett also made other improvements in various portions of the lands claimed by him. But the running of the boundary line in 1731 showed him that a large and valuable portion of them were within the jurisdiction of Connecticut, and that so much of them would be lost to him unless he could obtain a confirmation of his title from that Colony.

He immediately commenced petitioning the General Court of Connecticut for the recognition of his title, and prosecuted his suit for nearly seven years. He urged, from time to time, his claims to the land for the reasons, that he had expended large sums of money in the purchase of it, in the full belief that it was in New York; that he had braved many dangers during a long residence in the wilderness, encountered perils and privations of various kinds, had built a grist mill for the benefit of the neighboring inhabitants; and in various other ways urged a confirmation of his title. His petitions were uniformly rejected by the legislature, and he, after several years' of effort, satisfied that a further prosecution would be useless,

abandoned it forever. But his tenant Baltus Lott held on to his possessions for several years after the town was settled, despite the many efforts of the proprietors to dislodge him, and finally compelled them to pay him a liberal price for his improvements.

The Colony of Connecticut ever made it a practice to deal justly by the Indian claimants before they attempted to dispose of its lands by settlements. Treating Sackett's purchase as a nullity, the governor and company employed Thomas Lamb, who lived at Lime Rock, in Salisbury, to buy up the Indian title to the lands in Sharon, and in October, 1738, he effected a purchase from the tribe claiming title to them, for about four hundred and fifty dollars. The indefiniteness and uncertainty of this contract with Lamb, as to how much, if any land was reserved to the Indians, afterwards, as will be seen, caused no little trouble to the settlers.

It will be observed that the committee who laid out the township mention in their report to the legislature that there had been laid out in *country grants* about four hundred acres of land. This was the designation given to lands patented by the Colony to individual purchasers. The land thus described was near Hitchcock's Corner. It was laid out in two parcels, one of three hundred acres to Samuel Orvis, of Farmington, and another of about one hundred acres to Jonathan Bird, of the same town. Both pieces were surveyed by Mr. Lewis, about the time of the original survey of the town. This grant included lands of the very first quality, and extended as far north as to include the farm of the late Southard Hitchcock, Esq. Orvis and Bird never occupied their lands, but before 1734 sold them to one Daniel Jackson, and the patent was taken out in Jackson's name, and the land for many years was called *Jackson's Patent*. Daniel Jackson was the first New England man who lived in Sharon. His house stood where the house lately owned by the Sharon Manufacturing Company stands. He was originally from Newtown, in Fairfield County, but at the time of his purchase he resided in Dover, N. Y.

His son, Jehiel Jackson, who once lived where George Maxam now lives, in the *Great Hollow*, was the first white child born in Sharon. Mr. Jackson lived but a few years in town. In February, 1739, he sold his patent to Garret Winegar, and removed to Great Barrington, Mass.



## CHAPTER II.

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### AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED AND EXECUTED FOR THE SALE AND SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP.

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At the session of the Assembly in May, 1738, it was ordered that the township should be sold at public auction at New Haven on the second Wednesday of the following October. Samuel Eels, Esq., Joseph Whiting, and Capt. Isaac Dickerman were appointed a committee for that purpose. It was divided into fifty-three rights, or shares, as they were called, one of which was given to the first minister, one was reserved for the use of the ministry in the town, and one for the support of schools, and the debts accruing from the sale were secured by the bonds of the purchasers, and when collected the avails were divided among the other towns in the colony for the support of schools therein. The following is a list of the original purchasers of the town :—

Nathaniel Skinner,  
Thomas Skinner,  
Nathaniel Skinner, Jr.,  
Samuel Calkin, 2 rights,  
Samuel Gillet,  
Joshua Lyon,  
Joseph Skinner,

Ichabod Foot,  
Stephen Calkin,  
Samuel Hutchinson,  
Timothy Pierce, 3 rights,  
James Smith,  
Ebenezer Mudge,  
John Sprague,

John Pardee,  
 Niles Coleman,  
 Matthew Judd,  
 Jabez Crippen,  
 William Goodrich, 2 rights,  
 Jonathan Petit,  
 Zephaniah Swift,  
 Joseph Parke,  
 Joseph Holley,  
 Caleb Chappel,  
 Josiah Gillet, Jr.  
 Samuel Beach,  
 Joseph Monroe,  
 Eben Case,

Samuel Butler, 3 rights,  
 Benjamin Johns,  
 James Talmadge,  
 Daniel Hunt,  
 Thomas Spafford,  
 John Goold,  
 Benjamin Owen,  
 Ebenzer Norton, 3 rights,  
 Samuel Comstock,  
 Jonathan Peck,  
 Jonathan Case,  
 Moses Case,  
 John Woodin.

These purchasers formed a legal corporation, whose designation was and is, *The Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Land in the Township of Sharon*. The clerks of the corporation have been *Nathaniel Skinner, John Williams, Daniel Griswold, Samuel Canfield, Samuel E. Everitt and Eben W. Chaffee*. The corporation had power to set out to each proprietor in severalty his share of the lands, and at different times they have been thus deeded, and each right has furnished to its owner nearly seven hundred acres of land. The average price of each right was about one thousand dollars, and each deed to the purchaser contained the following condition, which would ensure the speedy occupancy of the lands :

“ Always provided, and these presents, are upon this condition, that if the said ———, shall by himself or his agent, within the space of two full years next after the date hereof, enter upon the said granted premises, build and finish an house thereon not less than eighteen feet square, and seven feet stud, subdue, clear, and fence six acres of said land, and continue thereon for the space of three successive years, commencing after the two years aforesaid, (unless prevented by death or inevitable Providences,) and do perform all duties and orders, pay all taxes that shall be granted, then the aforesaid deed shall remain in full force and virtue.”

The records do not show how much, if any of the purchase

money was paid on the sale, or that any other security than the personal bond of the purchaser were required before giving the deeds.

Of the original proprietors these became inhabitants of the town:

Nathaniel Skinner,	John Sprague,
Nathaniel Skinner, Jr.	John Pardee,
Joseph Skinner,	Jabez Crippen,
Stephen Calkin,	William Goodrich,
Samuel Hutchinson,	Jonathan Petit,
James Smith,	Joseph Parke,
Ebenezer Mudge,	James Talmadge,
Joseph Holley,	Daniel Hunt.

All the above names have become extinct in the town except those of Pardee and Calkin, each of which is represented by a bachelor, one of the age of eighty-six years, and the other not in a condition to afford much hope of progeny. There are many now remaining in the town who are descendants from the first proprietors through female lineage.

Many of the original purchasers sold their rights to those who were also among the first settlers of the town. Some of them were as follows:—

John Williams,	David Hamilton,
Ebenezer Jackson,	Thomas Hamlin,
Jonathan Dunham,	Bartholomew Heath,
Caleb Jewett,	Samuel Hurlburt,
Obadiah Chapman,	Jonathan Lord,
Caleb Strong,	John Marvin,
John Corbet,	Jonathan Rowley,
Caleb Curtice,	Matthew St. John,
Ebenezer Frisbie,	John Tickner,
Benjamin Fuller,	Bazaleel Tyler,
John Gay,	George Way.

Immediately after the sale of the township, a number of the purchasers came on for the purpose of exploring, and to determine in what part of the town the settlement should be made. After exploring the lands and viewing their situation, it was

found that the centre of the township was very unfavorably situated for the *town plot*. It was on a high ridge of land, where the face of the country was forbidding and uncomfortable. After mature deliberation, it was determined to fix the settlement on a street, laid out from Jackson's Patent to Salisbury line, and the place designed for the center, or site of the public buildings, was laid out in squares of a half mile each.

All the individuals who came on to explore in the Fall of 1738, returned to their families except one, who was *William Goodrich*. He brought his family with him, and spent the winter, which was a very severe one, with no other neighbors than the Indians, nearer than the Dutch settlements in the Oblong. The next Spring, however, brought a large accession to the number of inhabitants, and from that period the settlement of the town may be said to have commenced.

The first division was into lots of about eighty acres each, which was to furnish the *Home lot* or residence of the proprietor. A Committee was appointed to lay out a lot of eighty acres, which was called the *Standard lot*, and all the other lots were made to conform to this in value, the quantity to be more or less according to the quality. Some of the home lots were laid out wholly on one side of the street, and some on both sides, according to the situation of the land. The Standard lot was the one adjoining *Jackson's Patent*, owned by the late Charles T. Lovell. The settlers principally located on the main street leading from Jackson's Patent, now *Hitchcock's Corner*, to Salisbury. Some, however, settled on the mountain and some in the valley, and in the course of a year or two nearly the whole territory of the first society was occupied. A large proportion of the first inhabitants of Sharon were from *Lebanon* and *Colchester*, in the county of *Windham*; some few were from *Norwalk* and *Stamford*, in Fairfield county, and several families were from the *Old Plymouth Colony*. As they removed into the town they located themselves upon the several Home-lots which they had taken up, and by the next fall, were all comfortably provided with homes and other necessities.

## CHAPTER III.

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INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN—FIRST TOWN MEETING—LIST OF  
OFFICERS CHOSEN—SETTLEMENT OF REV. PETER PRATT—  
FIRST MEETING HOUSE—ALARMING SICKNESS.

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DURING the process of locating and settling the township, the inhabitants enjoyed no corporate privileges, nor had the town received any other name than that given it by the committee who laid it out in 1733. After so many inhabitants had removed into the town as came in the Spring and Summer of 1739, it became important that they should be invested with the usual privileges of Towns, and they should receive a corporate name. A meeting was accordingly holden, and Captain *Jonathan Dunham* was appointed agent to make application to the assembly for a charter, with the usual privileges of Towns. The character, principles and expectations of the settlers are forcibly illustrated in their petition to the Assembly for an Act of Incorporation, which is as follows :—

*To the Honorable, the Governor, Council and Representatives,  
in General Court assembled at New Haven, 2d Thursday  
of October, Anno Domini, 1739 :—*

“The memorial of the subscribers hereunto, being the persons who, by your Honors’ favor were allowed to purchase the

southernmost township on the west side of the Housatonic River, which we have presumed to call by the name of *Sharon*, humbly sheweth that the settlers on said tract of land are daily increasing in numbers, and that there are at this present time twenty-eight families settled there, and a considerable number that are not head of families, and all are united in a desire that the plan may have your Honors' favor, protection and encouragement; that we may proceed with courage and resolution, not only to advance our estate, and temporal interest, but also the interest of religion there, and for that we humbly pray,—

1. "That we may be formed as a Town, and have the same privileges as are allowed and granted to other Towns in this Colony.

2. "That we may have your Honors' allowance to call and settle some orthodox minister of the gospel among us. This we the earlier ask, because we have a young gentleman now with us, in whom we think we can all unite, and who we think would be willing to undergo the difficulties of settling a wilderness country, that he might be instrumental in building up the interest of Christ there. Your Honors granting the favors prayed for will engage your memorialists ever to pray.

The petition was granted and the following is a copy of the act of incorporation :—

"Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi 30.

Connecticut Colony—

"At a General Assembly holden at New Haven, in his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, in New England in America, on the second Thursday of October, being the 11th day of said month, and continued by several adjournments until the 31st day of the same month, annoque Domini 1739. Upon the memorial of the inhabitants of the southernmost town on the west side of the Ousatonic river, showing to the assembly the number of settlers now in said town, and the circumstances they are under, and praying for the countenance and favor of this assembly, first in allowing them to be formed as a town,



and to have the privileges of other towns in this colony, also to call and settle some orthodox minister in the work of the ministry among them.

*“Resolved by this Assembly, that the inhabitants of said town, qualified as the law directs, shall have and enjoy all such rights and privileges, and have such powers as are usually granted to other towns in this colony and that said inhabitants shall have liberty to call and settle some orthodox minister of the gospel in the work of the ministry in that place, taking the advice of the ministers of the neighboring churches, and that the town hereafter be called by the name of Sharon. And captain Jonathan Dunham of said town, is hereby appointed and empowered to cause the inhabitants of said town to meet in said town on the second Wednesday of December next, to choose town officers in said town for the year ensuing.”*

Captain Dunham, in pursuance of the authority given him warned the first town meeting, and the town was fully organized for municipal purposes. For the information of the present generation, and to show in what way the business of this meeting was conducted, its proceedings are here copied from the records, preserving accurately the orthography of the original.

“The Inhabitant of Sharon aplying Themselves to the Genral assembly in October Last Past for Town Priviledges Cap Dunham was mad Choice of to Represent the Town to the Assembly, and having obtained the Desiar of the town he being ordered by the Assembly to Warn the Inhabitant in order To Chuse town officers which Being Dune the Inhabitant being met on the 11 day of December In ye yeare 1739 at the house of Nathl. Skinner In Sharon And then opened the meeting as the Law Dricts

“Cap Dunham Was Chosen moderator

“Leu Jabez Creppen John Sprague and Cap Jonathan Dunham Was Chosen Select men for the year insewing

“Nath Skinner Was Chosen town Clark

“James Smith was Chose a Constable and Sworn as the Law Directs

“ George Way was Chosen Granjuery and sworn as the Law Directs

“ Ebenezer Mudg William Tickner Ebenezer frishbie and Cornelius hamlin Was Chosen Surveys of high Ways and Sworn as the Law Directs

“ Jeremiah foster Samuel Mudg and Thomas Creppen Was Chosen fence vewers and sworn as the Law Directs

“ Samuel Comstock Was Chosen Colector

“ Nathl Skinner Jun Was Chosen Leather Sealer

“ Nathl. Skinner Jonathan Dunham and John Sprague Was Chosen a Com'tt. to go after a Minister.

“ Nathl. Skinner and Lew. Jabez Creppen chosen a Com'tt. to Lay out a Beuring Place.

“ It was further voted that a Note or Warning In writing set up at The house of John Sprague and Nathl. Skinner and at Garrit winegars mill Six Days before a town meeting Given Reasons of Said Meeting, Shall be a Lawful Warning for a town meeting.

“ farther voted that Swin haven a Ring in their Noses Shall be accounted an orderly Creator.”

We have seen that at the first town meeting measures were taken to procure a minister to preach the gospel to the inhabitants. They evidently contemplated the employment of a minister in the early settlement of the Town, and such, too, it seems was the intention of the Assembly in sequestering two rights for the support of the gospel. This aid was afforded in order to assist a community which must necessarily have been weak and feeble in its infancy, in having a supply of the Word of Life, and the benefit of religious ordinances. Prompted by these encouragements, the first inhabitants of Sharon took early measures to settle a minister. The committee appointed at the first town meeting made application to Mr. *Peter Pratt*, of Lebanon, a candidate for the ministry, and graduate of Yale College, of the class of 1736, and on the 8th day of January, 1740, the Town called him “upon trial for some convenient time,” and laid a tax of fifteen shillings on a right for the pay-

ment of his services. His labors were acceptable to the people, and on the 14th day of March following, he was invited to settle over the church and congregation in the work of the ministry. The Town voted him a salary which would amount to about two hundred dollars per annum.\* Mr. Goodrich and Mr. Sprague were appointed to treat with Mr. Pratt and to present to him the offers of the town. These were accepted by him, and the time fixed for the ordination was the last Wednesday in April. It is supposed that it took place at that time, and that the services were performed in a private dwelling, as no place of public worship had been provided at that time.

The records of the Congregational Church in Sharon for the first fifteen years are lost. The exact date of the organization of the Church cannot, therefore, be determined. At a meeting of the Church in Westchester, a parish of Colchester, Conn., on the 28th day of April, 1740, Nathaniel Skinner (deacon), Jonathan Dunham, Jabez Crippen, Benjamin Fuller, Nathaniel Skinner, Jr., Thomas Skinner, David Skinner, Jonathan Skinner, Jabez Crippen, Jr., Samuel Mudge, Micah Mudge, Cornelius Hamlin, Alexander Spencer and Josiah Skinner "received letters of recommendation, in order to be embodied into a Church at Sharon, where they have for some time resided."

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\* Town meeting, January 8, 1740.

Voted that Mr. Peter Pratt, shall be called by us upon trial for some convenient time.

Voted that Deacon Nathaniel Skinner, Capt. Dunham and John Sprague, shall be a committee to call Mr. Peter Pratt for some convenient time of probation for the settling in the work of the ministry, and that said committee is authorized to agree with him for his wages.

March 14, 1740. Voted to call Mr. Peter Pratt to the work of the ministry among us in order to ordination.

March 20, 1740. Voted to Mr. Pratt for his stated salary 210 pounds a year in money which is as silver at 29 shillings per ounce, and for this year 140 pounds, and to rise ten pounds a year until it comes to the 210 pounds, and there to stand during the time of his ministry amongst us.

Voted, that if Mr. Pratt's necessity calls, and the ability of the town will allow it, then to give him more.

March 25, 1740. Voted that the day for the ordination of Rev. Peter Pratt shall be the last Wednesday of April next.

Voted that Capt Dunham, Nath. Skinner, Mr. Goodrich, Mr. Sprague, Mr. Way, are a committee to order the affairs for the ordination of Mr. Pratt.

At a meeting of the same Church, on May 18, 1740, (about three weeks after the former meeting) Jeremiah Foster, Mary Foster, Mary Skinner, Content Fuller, Elizabeth Skinner, Abigail Mudge, Mary Hampton, Mary Dunham, Mary Skinner, Jr., Eunice Mudge, Elizabeth Dunham, Lydia Crippen, Deborah Crippen, Thankful Crippen, Waitstill Heath, Abigail Skinner, Patience Fuller, Hannah Dunham and Martha Mudge received a letter of recommendation "*to the Church in Sharon,*" which indicates that this Church was organized between the meetings of the Church in Westchester.

The ministry being thus established, the next business in order was to provide a place of public worship; and to this object the attention of the Town was soon turned. On the 23d of June, 1730, the town voted to build a meeting house at some convenient time, 55 feet by 45, and 22 feet posts. This would have been a large house for those times, and as it was probably found to be more expensive than the circumstances of the town would authorize, it was abandoned for that year. In the mean time the inhabitants met alternately on the Sabbath, for public worship, at the house of Captain Dunham, and at the house of Mr. Pardee, and in the milder season of the year, the meetings were held in Mr. Pardee's barn. For temporary accommodation, and until a better house could be provided, it was voted, in the Spring of 1741, to build a meeting house of logs or poles, 36 feet by 20. Where this temporary log meeting house stood, is not now known. It was used but a short time, as while it was building, measures were being taken by the town to build a house, which should be of sufficient dimensions to accommodate all the worshippers. It was voted that the new house should be 45 feet by 35, and 20 feet posts, and *Capt. Dunham, Ensign Sprague, and Sergeant Pardee* were appointed a committee to superintend its erection. A committee, appointed by the government, consisting of John Bostwick, of New Milford, and Samuel Lewis and John Mills of Kent, were called upon to fix its location, and it was determined that it should be erected in the middle of the

street, directly opposite the tavern now kept by Mr. Perry Loucks. The building was commenced early in the spring of 1742, and in the course of the season it was so far completed, as that public meetings were held in it in the following October. But it was five or six years before it was finished and glazed. The Hon. *Philip Livingston*, who had become a large owner of real estate in the town, generously offered to give a bell for the use of the meeting house, provided the town would build a steeple. It was voted that this should be done at the north end of the meeting house, and Messrs. *Dunham*, *Pardee* and *Hutchinson* were appointed a committee to return the thanks of the town to Mr. Livingston for his munificent offer. For some reason the bell was never procured, nor the steeple erected. The meeting house stood about twenty-five years, when it was found too small for public accommodation.

The first year (1739) was one of great promise and prosperity. The population rapidly increased and the productions of the soil richly rewarded the toil of its cultivators, but the month of May 1742 was marked by the commencement of a wasting sickness which overwhelmed the settlers with distress and threatened the entire breaking up of the enterprise. This calamity put it out of their power to comply with the condition of their bonds, and in their extremity they made application to the Assembly for relief. The following is a copy of their memorial, drawn up by the Rev. Mr. Pratt, which is a remarkable specimen of suppliant eloquence. It was addressed to the Assembly in the usual way, and proceeded to say:—

“That notwithstanding the smiles of Divine Providence upon us at our first settling in this place, in which we thankfully encouraged ourselves, yet so numerous have been the frowns, and so heavy the strokes of the Almighty in the year past, and so dark is the countenance of our present state, that we have not only been brought to uncommon continued distress, but even to despair of future prosperity unless relieved by your Honors’ favor. In May last it pleased the Almighty to send a nervous fever among us, which continued eleven



months, in which time more than one hundred and twenty persons were long confined with it, some have lain more than one hundred days, some eighty, many sixty, and few have been capable of business in forty days after they were seized with the distemper. By reason of which, many were unable to plow for wheat in the year past, many who had plowed were unable to sow, and some who had sowed unable to secure it by fence, and much wheat that was ripe, rotted on the ground. By reason of the sickness of the people, which was not only exceeding expensive to the persons and families sick, but also to those who were in health, their time being taken up in tending those that were sick, many of whom were obliged to suffer for want of help. Twenty are dead, many widows and fatherless children are left among us, not a man but that has sustained loss—many who were more than level with the world are impoverished. The distress of the winter has been exceeding great and impoverishing. Our cattle are so destroyed that there is not a cow left to half the families in the town, and now many men are obliged to leave their business at home, and go twenty miles to labor for bread and corn, and so must continue to do until harvest, so that we are not now able to take up our bonds without being wrecked in our estates, some torn, others quite broke, so that not above three-quarters of us can save our home lots and pay our purchase. Neither can we maintain our minister, or build our Meeting House, but must quit the place, or become tenants, we and our children, to neighboring rich merchants who are seeking our lands, but at their own price.

“Therefore we, a withering branch of this commonwealth, and the poor of this colony, would now humbly pray for your Honors’ assistance and gracious notice. And as our industrious improvements have been the admiration of all who have beheld our settlement, and far exceeding any other instance of late plantation, we trust we may not after three years’ toil, sickness and want, be turned off from our lands; become tenants, or seek another settlement under worse circumstances



than when we settled in this place, which, that your Honors would take into your wise consideration, and upon it graciously act towards us, is the earnest and necessary prayer of your Honors' dutiful and humble memorialists."

The second application was successful to this extent, that the time for the payment of the bonds was extended some two or three years, and thus the settlers were able to meet their payments without further embarrassments.

These memorials explain how Philip Livingston and Martin Hoffman became large owners of real estate in Sharon at an early day, a fact which before was obscure. They were, undoubtedly, the *rich neighboring merchants* referred to in the memorial. The representatives of Philip Livingston are still proprietors of the common land in Sharon.

The first death recorded of those residing in Sharon is that of *Miriam*, the wife of *William Goodrich, Jun.*, which occurred on the 22d of April, 1740.

The following persons also, as appears of record, departed this life during the same season, viz. : *Asa Rood, David Skinner, Mary*, wife of *Nath. Skinner, Esq.*, Deacon *Hezekiah King, Benjamin Fuller, Jonathan Dunham, Jun.*, *Daniel Bouton, Daniel Bouton, Jun.*, in all nine persons.

The first person born in the town after Jehiel Jackson, before mentioned, was *Sarah Bates*, daughter to *John* and *Anna Bates*. She was afterwards the wife of *John Randall*, and lived to a very advanced age. The first marriage in the town was that of *Elnathan Goodrich* to *Elizabeth Showers*. It was celebrated on New Year's day, January 1, 1740.

It is supposed that *Nathaniel Skinner* and *Hezekiah King* were the first deacons of the church. Deacon King, however, died during the first year, and was probably succeeded by *Jonathan Elmer*. The first pound was erected where Mr. *Jay S. Canfield* formerly lived. It would seem from the votes on this subject, and also in relation to the location of the meeting house, that there was some strife between the inhabitants, as to where the *centre* should be established. Some

were for having it fixed half a mile south of the place finally established, but the decision of the *government's committee* seems to have quieted all difficulty on the subject.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### INDIANS IN SHARON.

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THERE was a somewhat numerous tribe of Indians in Sharon before its settlement by the white inhabitants. Their principal village was on the eastern border of *Indian Pond*, in the north-west corner of the town, where they had considerable clearings. The Indian name of this pond was *Weequagnock*. There were numbers of them too on the borders of the other pond, and in the valley of the Ten Mile River. The Indian name of this stream was *Webotuck*. They were never sufficiently numerous to prove dangerous to the safety of the settlers, but their dissatisfaction because of the refusal of the proprietors to acknowledge their claims to a certain quantity of land which they insisted was reserved to them in their sale to Thomas Lamb, and the agitation of that matter for nearly fifteen years was a cause of fear and anxiety to their immediate neighbors during that period. The matter was brought before the Assembly by a joint memorial of the Proprietors and Indians, presented in 1742, which will at once give an explanation of the pending troubles, and which was in the words following :—

*To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, in General Court assembled, at Hartford, in said Colony, on the second thursday in May, A. D. 1742.*

“The memorial of *Peter Pratt, Nathaniel Skinner* and *Jonathan Dunham*, agents for said town, and *Stephen Nequitimaugh Nanhoon*, and others of the Indian nations, residing in said Sharon, humbly sheweth—

“That they, the said *Stephen Nequitimaugh Nanhoon*, and others of the Indian natives, residing in Sharon, were the proper owners of the lands contained in the said township of Sharon, and Salisbury, adjoining to said Sharon, and that a considerable part of said lands was honorably purchased of said Indians, and paid for by *Thomas Lamb* of said Salisbury, and that he, the said *Lamb*, in negotiating the said purchases of said Indians, did take advantage of their ignorance, and as they have since understood, did obtain a deed or deeds from them or some of them for more of said land than ever they sold or intended to sell to said *Lamb*, and particularly the place at the northwest corner of said Sharon, where the said Indians live and improve, and always designed to reserve to themselves for a settlement, besides several other parcels that have never been sold to the English ; That the Government’s Committee have obtained the rights purchased by said *Lamb* of the Indians, and have sold all the lands in the townships of Salisbury and Sharon to the proprietors of said Towns, who are now improving and are entering on the said lands still claimed by the said Indians, which has aroused a great deal of uneasiness among the Indians, they looking upon themselves defrauded of their rights.

“That many of the Proprietors of Sharon are likewise inclined to believe, that the said Indians, who were the proper owners of said land, did never, to this day sell to the said *Lamb* or to this government, all the lands in said Sharon or Salisbury, but that they have still an honest right to that said tract where the said Indians now live, as also to one mile in width across the south end of said town of Sharon, and

that they are willing the said tract where the Indians now live should be restored to them and confirmed to the said Indians, though the Proprietors have purchased the same of the government, Provided they can have it made good to them by other reasonable satisfaction.

“Whereupon your Honors’ memorialists humbly pray that the Honorable Assembly would take the case into their consideration and would appoint a Committee to repair to Sharon to hear and examine and to enquire into the claims of the said Indians, and purchases that have been obtained from them either by the said Lamb or others, with power to agree, settle and determine all matters of difference and controversy relating to the premises, and for the quieting the said Proprietors and the said Indians, or that your Honors would in some other way, as in your wisdom you shall think fit, find a remedy.

“Your memorialists further show, that there is a very considerable number of said Indians, living at said northwest corner of said Sharon, and others not far from them, that are desirous of being instructed in the Doctrines of the Gospel; to be taught to read the Holy Scriptures, and be informed of the way of salvation therein revealed; and that their children may be educated according to Christianity; which your memorialists also recommend to your Honors’ consideration, hoping that your Honors will be inclined to do something towards their encouragement; and your Honors’ memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray. Dated in Hartford this 13th day of May A. D., 1742.”

Upon this memorial a committee was appointed, consisting of the Hon. Thomas Fitch, afterwards Governor of the Colony, Daniel Edwards, Esq., of Hartford, afterwards a judge of the Superior Court, and Robert Walker, Esq., of Hartford, who was a large proprietor of the lands in Salisbury, whose duty it should be to investigate the subject matter of the memorial; and they met the parties in Sharon, on the 11th day of October, 1742, and heard them by their interpreters and witnesses.

They made a long and elaborate report in which they gave

a history of Lamb's purchase ; and believing that the Indians had misunderstood the bargain, recommended that a certain quantity, not exceeding fifty acres should be set off to them ; that some equivalent should be allowed the proprietors, and that some provision should be made for the religious teachings of the Indians.

The Assembly approved the views of the Committee and requested Mr. Pratt, the minister of Sharon, to devote some time to the advancement of the spiritual interests of the tribe, but as they made no provision to remunerate the proprietors, no final adjustment of the difficulty was effected. The Indian improvements contained some ninety acres, and besides this, they demanded a large tract on the adjoining mountains, for fire wood. To this the proprietors would not consent without a compensation from the government, and the old troubles returned with increased acrimony.

In 1745 another effort was made to call the attention of the Assembly to these Indian troubles. The proprietors of Sharon advised their Honors that the Indians were uneasy and restless, in view of the state of their affairs, and they added : "We can't but think needful for some proper care, in this difficult time, to be taken."

This memorial was continued in the Assembly till 1746, when William Preston, of Woodbury, and Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, were appointed a committee to lay out the Indian lands by metes and bounds. This committee, in the prosecution of their duties, employed the celebrated Roger Sherman, then a humble shoemaker, at New Milford, to lay out the Indian lands, in his capacity of County Surveyor, and to mark out definitely their boundaries. All this was accomplished by Mr. Sherman ; but nothing was done to remunerate the proprietors, and both parties were left to contest their rights as best they could. The Indians were stimulated in their quarrel by certain disorderly persons, who made them believe they were their special friends, whose counsels were prevalent in shaping their course. Under the guidance of



those persons, they were emboldened to resistance, and gave great uneasiness and trouble to the proprietors. One Van Arenan, a Dutchman, pretended to make a new purchase of their lands, and it became necessary to take strong measures to prevent open and forcible collision. This state of things portended so much danger that Governor Law found it necessary to issue a formal Proclamation to the intruders, warning them that their Indian titles were worthless, and that the rights of the proprietors would be protected at all hazards.

About the year 1750, Thomas Barnes moved into the town from New Fairfield, in Fairfield county, and purchased a large tract of land in the neighborhood of the Indian territory. In the course of a year or two, he persuaded the Indians to sell out their lands to him, and took a formal deed of their possessions from two of their chiefs, Nequitimaugh and Bartholomew. It was contrary to law to take deeds of the Indian proprietors in that way, but the Legislature, on the petition of Barnes, confirmed his title, and he took possession of the disputed territory, the Indians having gone to other parts. They carried with them, however, a deep sense of the wrongs they had suffered, and some of them were often back among the inhabitants, complaining that they had been overreached, and often giving significant hints of the resentment which was rankling in their bosoms. The old French war commenced about this time, and the stories of Indian atrocities which were borne on every breeze, filled the whole country with terror and alarm. Four persons were murdered about this time, between Stockbridge and Lenox, and this, with other alarming incidents, produced a very general consternation in Sharon.

In 1754 one Thomas Jones had purchased a tract of land near the Indian Pond, which had been claimed by the Indians, and built a log house upon it. His family were frequently disturbed in the night season by what they supposed to be the noise of Indians about the house, and an armed guard was kept there during nights for several weeks. A memorial was presented to the Assembly, detailing the causes of danger from

the Indians, by which the settlers were alarmed, and the statements of the memorial were fortified by the depositions of some half dozen persons, who kept the guard, detailing with minuteness the incidents of one night. The testimony of one witness was as follows:—

“ John Palmer, of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that some time ago I came to dwell, as a hired man, with the above named Mr. Thomas Jones, and have been a member of his family in the time of the late disturbances, which he has testified about, but have not seen any Indians but one night, when I was upon the watch with several other men, but have frequently heard their whoops and whistles near his house, which noises of the Indians I am well acquainted with, having been a considerable time a captive among them and released from them last May. The time when I saw the Indians near Mr. Jones’s was the latter part of the Sabbath day night before last. He came and put his head partly in at the door way, against a blanket that hung before the door. This he did twice. A man near me proposed to shoot, but I prevented him, hoping for a fairer shot, but he not coming there again, I went to the side of the house and looked through a crack between the logs of which the house was made, and saw an Indian but a few rods from the house, it being clear moon light. I then put my gun through the crack and shot, but not having advantage to take good sight, suppose I did not hit him. I then went to a place cut out for a window and saw him clearly, and shot again with a gun that was put into my hands, and supposed I had killed him, for I thought he fell down, upon which I took another man’s gun and went out to see what I could discern, but not finding him at the place, scouted some time for him, at length discovered him at a small distance behind a tree. I endeavored to shoot again, but my gun missed fire. I called to know if any one of the company was near me, when one man came to me. He went further in search of him and presently had a sight of him, when the other man presently shot. Afterwards I shot at him again, but don’t

know that we hit him, except my second shot. I supposed him to be much wounded then, for he walked very poorly, stooping near the ground, his left hand holding up his blanket to his right side and his right arm hanging as if it was broken. But the men all coming out of the house after I had shot the last time, I run to the house, fearing lest some other Indians might get into the house in our absence and kill the women and children, so I saw the Indians no more. I saw no more Indians, but one of the company said he saw another, which by his account I believe he did. I have since seen no more, but heard their whoops and whistles as aforesaid. Dated October 14, 1754, and sworn before John Williams Justice of the Peace."

Such is a specimen of the exciting incidents of the early years of the history of the Town. The peace between England and France in 1761 put an end to all Indian claims.

There is no tradition or record bearing upon the history of the Town, which has any reference to the old French War, other than these Indian alarms, except the simple fact that Colonel Elmore, of the War of the Revolution, was a Lieutenant in the service in the previous war.

## CHAPTER V.

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS—DEPOSITION OF MR. PRATT—HIS SUBSEQUENT CAREER—LITCHFIELD COUNTY ORGANIZED—SETTLEMENT OF MR. SEARLE—ELLSWORTH SOCIETY—REV. MR. KNIBLOE—DISMISSION OF MR. SEARLE.

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WE have seen that Rev. Mr. Pratt was ordained in April, 1740, as the first minister of Sharon. The people were well united in him, and he settled under fair prospects of a long and useful ministry. He was married soon after his settlement to *Mrs. Mary Metcalf*, of Lebanon, and had several children. It would seem that the town showed him several acts of kindness, such as furnishing him with his fire-wood, paying the expenses of hiring a horse for a journey to Lebanon, and in various other ways showing him marks of their respect and confidence. But a dark cloud soon obscured the cheering prospects of Mr. Pratt, and his ministry soon terminated in disgrace. It was soon found that he was addicted to intemperate drinking, and the most painful sensations were produced, as this fact, at first only suspected, was verified by indubitable indications. It is probable that his conduct was borne with for some time after it became evident that this habit was grow-

ing upon him, in the hope that the admonitions of his friends and his own sense of propriety might reform him. The first intimation of displeasure on the part of the town, which appears on record, is a vote passed on the 9th day of January, 1746, when it was solemnly voted that they would not abide by the agreement with him in relation to furnishing him with fire-wood. His conduct was borne with, however, for about two years longer, when his intemperance became so notorious as to forbid further tolerance. A committee appointed by the town for that purpose, made a complaint to the association of New Haven county, accusing Mr. Pratt of habitual and incurable intemperance, offering to prove the charges preferred, and requesting an investigation by the Rev. body to whom the complaint was made. Mr. Pratt was cited to appear before the association at a place then called *Westbury*, now *Watertown*, on the 13th day of October, 1747, to answer to the charges preferred against him, and the town were notified to appear and prosecute the complaint. The particulars of the trial are not known, but it resulted in a decree by the association, that the pastoral relation between Mr. Pratt and the people of Sharon should be dissolved, and that he should be prohibited from the further exercise of ministerial functions.\* Thus

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\* Town Meeting, January 9, 1746. Further it was put to vote whether the town would abide by the original agreement with Mr. Peter Pratt as to the article of fire-wood, that is to say, whether they will annually procure, cut, and draw home for him his fire-wood, voted in the negative.

Town Meeting, Sept. 17, 1747. Voted that we will choose a committee to send to the moderator of the association; at the same meeting Matthew St. John, John Gay, Lieut. John Pardee, Deacon Ebenezer Jackson, Jonathan Davis, Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie, Jacob Bacon are chosen our committee to apply themselves to the moderator of the association for a council to consider our grievances, and said committee to make all proof they can of Mr. Pratt's misconduct from the time he has been settled in the town until the council sits, in order to be laid before the council, and also to lay the same before the council when it comes.

Town Meeting, Oct. 8, 1747. Whereas a complaint and charge has by Messrs. Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay and John Pardee, been carried to the Rev. association of the county of New Haven, and thereupon the moderator of the consociation of New Haven county has cited the said Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay, and John Pardee, to appear at Westbury, in the town of Waterbury, before said consociation, upon the 13th day of October instant, at 12 o'clock, at the house of Mr. Samuel Heacock, Jun., then and there to prosecute said charge and complaint. Voted that the said Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay and John Pardee be our committee to appear according to said citation, and to prosecute said charge and complaint at said Westbury, and elsewhere, if needful, till the matter be finished.



ended the ministry of the Rev. Peter Pratt. Like others who have been the subjects of ecclesiastical censure, he seems to have been dissatisfied with the result, and to have made an effort to procure another hearing, in the hope of being restored to his former standing in the ministry. He invited the town to join him in calling the association together for that purpose, and himself offered to bear the expense of the meeting ; but the proposition was rejected.\* Mr. Pratt continued to reside in the town for several years after his suspension. He had become the proprietor of a large and valuable real estate in virtue of his being the first minister of the town, an estate which at this time would probably be worth twenty thousand dollars. It contained some of the best land in the town. His home lot contained more than eighty acres, and included all the land on the east side of the town street owned by the late Mr. Perry, and on the west side of the street all owned by Mr. Loucks and most of that owned by the Messrs. Goodwin, extending half a mile each way from the street. He owned other large and valuable tracts of land, in the whole more than six hundred acres. It appears, however, that he was embarrassed in his circumstances, and that all his real estate was mortgaged at an early day to secure debts in which he had involved himself, and to some of his more importunate creditors he mortgaged his *negro wench*.† In 1750 he sold his home lot

\* Town Meeting, Dec. 16, 1747. Put to vote whether the town will join Mr. Pratt in calling together the consociation of New Haven county, upon Mr. Pratt's cost and charge, to see whether they will take off the suspension and prohibition laid upon Mr. Pratt by the consociation convened at Westbury in Waterbury in October last past. This vote passed in the negative.

† The following bill of sale executed by Mr. Pratt is copied from the first volume of Sharon records :—" To all people to whom these presents shall come, greetings : Know ye that, I Peter Pratt, of Sharon, in the county of New Haven, in the colony of Connecticut, in New England, for the consideration of two hundred pounds in Bills of Public Credit of the Old Tenor, received to my full satisfaction of Messrs Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister, both of Dutchess county, in the Province of New York. do sell and convey to them the said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister, their and each of their heirs and assigns, my negro wench, called by the name of Pegg, to be to their use and service, and to the use and service of their and each of their heirs and assigns forever, that is during the life of said negro wench. However, it is to be understood and is hereby provided that whereas the said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister have by an obligatory bond, under their hands and seals, well executed, dated May the 24th, 1748, with the said Peter Pratt, and at the desire and for the debt of said Peter Pratt, jointly and severally bound



to *Samuel Hutchinson*, Esq., and it is not now known where he afterwards lived during his stay in town. His wife died on the 10th day of December, 1755. It appears that he was the first clerk of the court of probate for the district of Sharon, which was established in 1755. He held the office but a short time, and he then returned to Lebanon where he died. He was undoubtedly a man of superior talents, and would probably have attained a high standing in the ministry had it not been for his unfortunate propensity. He left one son, who was a shoemaker and tanner, and who resided in different parts of the town, but there are none of his descendants remaining among us.\*

After Mr. Pratt was dismissed, a considerable time elapsed before the town was again supplied with an ordained minister. Various committees were employed and different candidates were applied to, but much difficulty was experienced in obtaining a suitable man. A Mr. Camp was first employed, and afterwards a Mr. Richards, and on the 25th day of July, 1748, it was voted "that *Jonathan Elmer*,† *Daniel Brinsmade*,‡ *Aaron Hutchinson* and *Elijah Mason* be the candidates to be

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themselves to Major Martin Hoffman of Dutchess county aforesaid, in the penal sum of two hundred pounds, current money of the Province of New York, conditioned for the payment of one hundred pounds, money of New York, upon the 21st day of May, which will be A. D. 1750, with the lawful interest of the Province of New York, which is seven pounds per cent. from the date of said bond till paid; if therefore, the said Peter Pratt, or his heirs shall procure good and sufficient security, and deliver to said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister, or their heirs, so as to indemnify and save harmless the said De La Matter and Hollister, their heirs, &c., from the aforesaid obligation, upon or before the said 21st day of May, which will be A. D. 1750, then the above conveyance to be void, otherwise to be a good and ample bill of sale of said negro wench, to all intents and purposes in the law. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 25th of May, A. D. 1748.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of  
Samuel Hutchinson,  
Nathaniel Richards."

PETER PRATT.

\* In 1842, Captain John Wilson, then an aged and respectable citizen of the town, informed the author that in the year 1770 he went to school to Mr. Pratt, at Greenwich in Fairfield County. He remembers hearing him speak of his ministry in Sharon, and the reason he gave for his dismissal was that the people complained of his being engaged in speculations. He was then somewhat advanced in life, and somewhat addicted to intemperate drinking.

† Mr. Elmer was a son of Deacon Jonathan Elmer, of Sharon, and was afterwards a distinguished minister at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

‡ Mr. Brinsmade was afterwards minister at Washington Conn., and was grandfather to Daniel B. Brinsmade of that place.

applied to in the order in which they stand. Neither of the candidates above named could be procured, but in the early part of the year 1749, Mr. *John Searl*, of *Simsbury*, was employed as a candidate. Mr. Searl was a graduate of Yale College, of the class of 1745, and it seems that his ministrations were acceptable to the people of Sharon. On the 3d day of April, he was formally invited to become the minister of the town, and an offer made of 220 ounces of silver as a salary, and 420 ounces of silver for a settlement. The ecclesiastical constitution of the colony required, that before a minister could be settled, he must be examined and approved of by the association of the county, touching his qualifications for the ministry, and as a meeting of that reverend body was soon to be holden at Old Milford, it was voted that Mr. Searl should be sent there at the expense of the town, and *John Gay* was appointed to accompany him. The first Wednesday in August, 1749, was fixed upon for the ordination, and a large committee was appointed to make provision for the ordaining council, which met at Mr. *Pardee's*. Mr. Searl purchased the 23d home-lot, being the place now owned and lately occupied by Dr. Robert W. Smith, and lived upon it during his ministry in the town.

The first vote on the subject of seating the meeting house was passed soon after the settlement of Mr. Searl. The ancient method of constructing churches was, to build pews around by the walls, and slips in the centre, and in all cases the gentlemen sat on the right hand of the minister, and the ladies on the left. An innovation was made upon this manner of seating by a vote passed on the 19th day of December, 1749. A committee was appointed who were directed to seat the meeting house by *dignity*, *age* and *list*, and it was further ordered that men and their wives should be seated together. Similar votes were passed from time to time, as changes in the condition of the society rendered a new seating necessary. In one instance the committee were directed to seat the meeting house according to *age*, *list* and *quality*.

Up to the year 1751, the towns on the west side of the Ousatonie River had belonged to the county of New Haven. About this time measures were taken to form a new county in this part of the colony, and much contention was had in respect to its extent, and in respect to the location of the county seat. The people of this town were in favor of a small county, with a view to bringing the court house nearer to them than they could expect if a large county were formed. Many town meetings were had on the subject\* and much zeal was manifested. All contention ceased, however, upon the formation of the county of Litchfield, with its present limits.

After it was determined, in 1739, to establish the *town plot*, at a place so far distant from the centre of the township, it was foreseen that those living in the southeast part of the town would be taking early measures to enjoy the benefit of religious institutions among themselves. At one of the earliest meetings of the proprietors, a vote was passed, directing their committee to lay out highways and lots in that part of the town with a view to the establishment of a distinct religious society. The town voted, as early as 1753, to set off a new society, with nearly the same limits as the present society of Ellsworth occupies.†

\* Town Meeting, Sept. 2, 1751. Voted that we do desire a new county in this part of the government.

Voted that we apply to the honorable assembly in May next for that end.

Voted that we do desire, with submission to the pleasure of the assembly, that the limits or bounds may be, on the south, the south bound of the government's land on the west side of Ousatonie river, the north bounds of New Milford and the south bounds of Litchfield. The east line, the east bounds of Litchfield and of Torrington, and from thence northward to the Massachusetts line; the north line, the line between us and the Massachusetts; the west line, the line between this government and the government of New York and that Cornwall be the county town.

Voted that John Williams, Esq., be our agent to go to the Honorable General Assembly upon said business in October next.

Town Meeting, Dec. 17, 1751. Put to vote whether we will send an agent or agents to Kent, to meet some gentlemen from Woodbury to consult upon the affairs of the county Voted in the negative.

† Town Meeting, April 8, 1753. Upon the motion made by the people in the easterly part of the town for a new society, voted that we are willing a society should be set off by a line agreed upon by a committee that shall be chosen to make such a line. Messrs. Samuel Hutchinson, David Hamilton, and John Marvin, chosen to be a committee for the purpose aforesaid. Voted that this meeting be adjourned for the space of one hour, and then the meeting opened again according to adjournment, and the aforesaid committee made a re-

The reason why the division of the ecclesiastical corporation was so long postponed was, that the parties could never agree as to the limits of the new society. Those who petitioned that a new society should be formed, required that the dividing line should run north and south, through the whole length of the township. The majority of the town, on the other hand, would never consent to this arrangement, and thus the controversy was continued for near half a century. In 1767, a committee of the General Assembly was sent out to examine the situation of the town with reference to a new society, and *John Williams, Simeon Smith, John Canfield, Ebenezer Gay* and *Samuel Elmer*, were appointed a committee to wait upon them, but nothing was done. The people on the mountain were allowed some privileges from time to time, to enable them to hire preaching in the Winter season. A part of their ministerial taxes were abated, and for a number of years an annual vote of the town was passed, authorizing the minister to preach one Sabbath in each of the three Winter months, in that part of the town. By this assistance from the town, and by individual subscription they were generally supplied with preaching four months in the year. The meetings in olden times were holden at the house now occupied by *Charles Dean*, known in tradition as the Esq. St. John place.

The subject of the formation of an Ecclesiastical Society in the southeasterly part of the town was agitated, without favorable result till May 1800, when the Legislature incorpo-

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port to the meeting of a line, by them agreed upon, for a new society, and it is as follows, viz., beginning at the southeast corner of the lot on which Woolstone Brockway lives, being in the south line of the township, from thence the line runs northerly straight to the northeast corner of Deacon Frisbie's land, where he now lives, thence running according as the highway runs that comes out easterly of and near to Jehiel Pardee's house, where he now dwells, and then a straight line northerly to the middle of the north line of Caleb Strong's lot on which he now dwells, and then easterly, as the highway runs, to the Deacon Ebenezer Jackson's, then northerly and then turning easterly as the highway runs by John Gray's till it comes to where the road crosses the Great Hollow Brook, and from thence a due east line till it comes to Ousatonie river.

Voted that the above said report of the Committee is accepted.

May 3, 1753. It was put to vote whether we will grant the request of those who move for a new line, for a new society different from what was before granted and it was universally negatived.

rated a new society, embracing part of Sharon and a small part of Kent, by the name of *Ellsworth*. The Act of Incorporation defines its boundaries as follows: "Beginning at *Hart's Bridge*, which lies across the Ousatonic River, and then southerly, as the river runs, to the southeast corner of Sharon, then westerly on the south line of the town of Sharon about one mile, to the summit of the mountain, and supposed to be the northeast corner of Nathan Skiff's land, then south two hundred and forty rods, then a parallel line with the south line of the town of Sharon to the line of the State of New York, then northward on the line of said State of New York to the dwelling house of Perez Doty, then northeasterly to the northeast corner of Samuel Peet's land, then northeasterly to a maple tree in the fork of the road, near Daniel Ackly's, then easterly still to the north part of the Stephen Parsons dwelling house, from thence northeasterly to said Harts Bridge." The first meeting house erected for the use of this society was located near the cemetery on the Ellsworth turnpike, but it was removed to its present location, and the vote of the parish has kept it there, although the subject of its return to the former site, was once seriously agitated. A new meeting house was erected in 1838, which was occupied by the society until the 17th of January, 1847, when in the night season it was consumed by fire—Sabbath worship had been held in it the previous day, and it is supposed that it took fire from want of proper care in the person having charge of the building. A new meeting house was built the next year, which is still occupied by the society as its place of public worship. The Congregational Church in Ellsworth was organized on the 15th day of March, 1802, by an Ecclesiastical Council of which the Rev. Peter Starr, of Warren was Moderator. The following is a list of the members embraced in the original organization, and of the churches from which they were received into the newly-organized church:

Samuel Young, from Church in Sharon.  
Martha Young, from Church in Sharon.  
Ebenezer Everett, from Church in Sharon.



Lucy Everett, from Church in Sharon.  
 Timothy St. John, from Church in Sharon.  
 Anna Rice, from Church in Sharon.  
 Silas Newton, from Church in Kent.  
 Bathsheba Newton, from Church in Kent.  
 Enoch Parsons, from Church in Sharon.  
 Abigail Parsons, from Church in Sharon.  
 Stephen Skiff, from Church in Kent.  
 Dennis Skiff, from Church in Kent.  
 Mary Chaffee, from Church in Sharon.  
 Anna Studley, from Church in Sharon.  
 Phinehas Benjamin, from Church in Sharon.  
 Jemimah Benjamin, from Church in Sharon.  
 Benjamin Young, from Church in Sharon.  
 Mehitable Young, from Church in Sharon.  
 Joel Chaffee, from Church in Sharon.  
 Dolly Chaffee, from Church in Sharon.  
 Calvin Peck, from Church in Greenwich.  
 Betty Peck, from Church in Greenwich.  
 Rebecca Foster, from Church in Sharon.  
 Prudence Frink, from Church in Sharon.  
 Hepsibah Swift, from Church in Kent.  
 Esther Skiff, from Church in Kent.  
 Silas St. John, from Church in Sharon.  
 Abigail St. John, from Church in Sharon.

The following named clergymen have been pastors of the Church:—

Daniel Parker, ordained May 26, 1802.  
 Orange Lyman, ordained August 26, 1813.  
 Frederick Gridley, ordained June 7, 1820.  
 John W. Beecher, installed Dec. 1, 1841.  
 Wm. J. Alger, ordained Feb. 4, 1852.  
 Robt. D. Gardner, installed June 9, 1858.  
 John D. Stevenson, ordained Oct. 26, 1875.

The following is a list of the Deacons:—

Silas St. John, chosen July 1, 1802.  
 Abel Woodward, chosen May 3, 1805.  
 Amos Seymour, chosen Sept. 6, 1806.  
 Jabez Swift, chosen Jan. 17, 1812.  
 Calvin Peck, chosen July 3, 1829.  
 Nathan Dunbar, chosen June 2, 1839.  
 Abel C. Woodward, chosen June 2, 1839.



William Everett, chosen June 2, 1839.  
Gibbs W. Skiff, chosen March 4, 1859.

Another religious society was formed at an early day at the south part of the town, embracing inhabitants of both colonies. The meeting house stood near the colony line, and was known for many years by the name of the *Round Top Meeting House*. The Rev. *Ebenezer Knibloe* was its minister for more than twenty-five years. This gentleman was from Scotland. During the rebellion in that country, in the year 1745, he favored the interests of the *Pretender*, and upon the defeat of the forces of that unfortunate prince, Mr. Knibloe removed to this country. He first settled on the west part of *Phillip's Patent*, in Putnam county, New York, but after a stay there of about two years, he removed to this town and gathered the church and society at the *Corner*. He lived at the place formerly occupied by his grandson, *Philo Knibloe*. He was a sound, sensible man, a good preacher, and apparently a sincere Christian. At the commencement of the revolutionary war, he rather favored the pretensions of the British king, for which reason his congregation became disaffected, and he relinquished ministerial performances. He died of consumption on the 20th day of December, 1785, at the age of fifty-six. The Round Top Meeting House was built previous to 1755, and in 1786 was removed to the present site of the Oblong Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Mr. Searl possessed in a good degree, the confidence and affection of his people. He had been settled over them but a short time, however, before his health began to fail, and early in the second year of his ministry he was absent a part of the time on that account. The town employed other preachers to supply the pulpit during the interruption of his labors, in the hope that his health might be restored and his ministry continued. His health, however, continued to decline to such a degree, that he deemed it his duty to withdraw from pastoral performances, and on the 4th day of June, 1754, he

was dismissed with the reluctant consent of the town.\* Thus in the short space of fifteen years the ministry in the town was twice made vacant. Mr. Searl soon after left the town, believing that his usefulness as a minister of the gospel was at an end, and under the apprehension that his days on earth would be few. He returned to Simsbury, and contrary to the anticipations which were entertained at the time of his dismissal from Sharon, he recovered his health, and on the 17th day of January, 1758, he was installed minister of *Stoneham, Mass.*, in the vicinity of Boston. He remained in the ministry there, until

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\* Town Meeting, Sept. 6, 1753. Deacon Ebenezer Jackson and Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie chosen a committee to endeavor to obtain preaching among us for the space of two months from this time. Mr. Searl having agreed to relinquish his salary for that purpose. Voted that said committee advise with the Rev. Mr. Searl to whom to apply.

Town Meeting, April 8, 1754. Put to vote whether, considering Mr. Searl's infirm state of health, we are willing that he should be absent from us for the space of half a year from this time, the whole or such part of the time as he shall think best, in order to use means to recover his health, and to pay him a salary for the same time, upon his endeavoring to procure for us as much assistance from the neighboring ministers as they shall be willing to afford. Passed in the negative.

Voted that Capt. Matthew St. John, Messrs. Nathaniel Skinner, Jonathan Hunter, Thomas Barnes, and David Hamilton be a committee to go and discourse with Mr. Searl, and see if he will make some abatement of some part of his salary for that time when he shall be absent, and to make report to this meeting at such time as it may be adjourned to.

Town Meeting, April 18, 1754. Upon a motion made by the Rev. Mr. Searl to the town in town meeting, that considering his low and infirm state of health he has had thoughts of applying to the consociation in May next for advice whether it be not best for him to be dismissed from his pastoral relation to this church and people, and also to apply to said consociation for a dismission upon condition they judge it best. Voted that if Mr. Searl does make up his mind as abovesaid, that Lieut. John Pardee be a committee to accompany him, and to represent and act for this town at said consociation and to hear their determination.

Town Meeting, June 7, 1754. Whereas, the Reverend Moderator of the said Consociation of this county has sent us a notification to appear before said consociation at their meeting at our meeting house, on the fourth Tuesday of June instant, to offer reasons, if any we have, why the Rev. Mr. Searl, considering his want of bodily health, &c., should not be dismissed from his pastoral relation to this town, according to his desire.

Voted that Messrs. John Williams, John Pardee, John Gay, John Marvine, and Jonathan Hunter be a committee to represent this town before said consociation at their meeting and to inform them that we have a dear regard for the Rev. Mr. Searl, and the thoughts of his being dismissed from us lie with great weight on our minds, yet considering his great weakness and long continued bodily indisposition, we know not what to say otherwise than to entreat the venerable consociation to take the matter under their consideration and to determine what they think is duty in present circumstances, that is what they judge is like to be most for the glory of God, and the greatest interest both of the Rev. Mr. Searl and of this people,

Town meeting, June 25, 1754. Voted that Messrs. John Williams, Ebenezer Jackson and Ebenezer Frisbie be a committee to apply to the Reverend Elders present, for advice whom to apply to, to preach with us, either for present occasional preaching, or to settle with us, and also to act upon said advice.

the 24th day of April, 1776, when he was dismissed.\* The reasons for his second dismissal were assigned in the following words: "The difficulty of the times, whereby there was not a probable prospect for the support for his family, but more especially on account of his *ill health* occasioned by easterly winds." He afterwards removed to *Stoughton, Mass.*, where he died in 1787. He had one son of the name of *Samuel*, who graduated at Yale College, in 1781, and who was a young man of extraordinary talents and high promise, but who died at an early age. Mr. Searl, himself, was a man of respectable abilities and of an elevated standing in the ministry. He was a member of an important ecclesiastical council, which assembled at New Haven, in October, 1751, to settle some disputes which had arisen in one of the churches in that town, and which consisted of some of the most eminent clergymen in the colony, to wit: *John Graham, Jedediah Mills, Philemon Robbins, Daniel Humphreys, Ebenezer White, Eleazer Wheelock, Benjamin Pomeroy, Benajah Case, Joseph Bellamy, Samuel Hopkins, James Sproat, Jonathan Lee, and John Searl.*

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\* A correspondent near Stoneham writes as follows—"From widow Rebecca Hays, aged 85, a native of Stoughton, and the oldest person in town, I learn that Mr. Searl married Hepsibah Duncan, of Stoughton, Mass.; that he had two sons, Samuel and John, and two daughters, Betsey and Fanny. Mrs. Hays says he was a learned man, very orthodox, wrote very good sermons, and was grand for telling stories. His delivery was very dull. She thinks he was not very active in relation to pastoral labors, and is of opinion that some of his discourses were printed, but is not certain. She says that it was the opinion at the time that he left Stoneham for fear of the British. He was not settled in Stoughton, but used to go out on preaching and missionary tours for a few weeks or a month at a time." It is stated by Dr. Dwight, in his travels, that Mr. Searl and the late Judge Noble of Williamstown, Mass., were the first persons that ever ascended Saddle Mountain, in Williamstown, the highest peak in Massachusetts.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### A HISTORY OF THE MORAVIAN MISSIONS IN SHARON.

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THE diligent and successful labors of the Moravians for the conversion to Christianity of the Indians in Sharon, is an item in the history of the town well worthy of record. This body of Christians established a mission among the Indians in this region as early as 1740. Their special fields of labor were at Shekomeko (*Pine Plains*), in New York, and at Wequagnock (*Sharon*) and Schaticook (*Kent*), in Connecticut. The first minister who labored here and established the Mission was the *Rev. Christian Henry Rauch*. He was succeeded in 1742 by the Rev. Gotlieb Buetner, who labored in the Mission until his death, in 1745, at the age of twenty-eight years. He was buried in the field of his labors, and his memory is well preserved by an enduring monument and an appropriate epitaph. If the fact were not well authenticated as a matter of history, it would scarcely be credited now, that the Mission was broken up in 1745 by the government of New York, from the belief that the missionaries were Jesuits and Papists, and emissaries of the Pope and the French King. On the occurrence of this event many of the Christian Indians of Shekomeko joined the tribes of

Sharon. Several clergymen labored here at stated periods, up to 1749. In that year David Bruce, then the missionary here, died and was buried in the beautiful field of his labor, on the eastern shore of the Indian Pond. He was a Scotchman from Edinburgh. He was not a clergyman in the Moravian sense, but an assistant. He acted rather as a teacher or catechist. He labored in the Mission at Sharon but a few months. As everything relating to his history is interesting, a more extended notice of him is copied from Loskiel's History of Moravian Missioners.

“Brother David Bruce was now appointed to the care of the Christian Indians at Schaticook and Wequagnock, who since the forementioned visit of the bishop had formed a regular settlement. He resided chiefly in a house at Wequagnock, belonging to the brethren called Gnadensee (Lake of Grace), but sometimes resided at Scaticook, whence he paid visits to Westenhunk by invitation of the head chief of the Mohikan Nation, sowing the seeds of the gospel wherever he came, but as he was not ordained, Bishop Camerhoff, with brother Beyold went again to Wequagnock to strengthen the brethren and to administer the sacraments there. Twenty Indians were added to the church by baptism. Brother Bruce remained in this station till his happy departure out of time, which, to the great grief of the Indian congregation, took place this year. He was remarkably cheerful during his illness, and his conversation edified all who saw him. Perceiving that his end approached, he called the Indian brethren present to his bedside, and pressing their hands to his breast, besought them fervently to remain faithful unto the end, and immediately fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral was committed to one of the assistants, who delivered a powerful discourse upon the solemn occasion to the company present, among whom were many white people, who had often heard our late brother's testimony of the truth, with blessing.”

So reads the book, and so died the missionary. The exact date of his death was July 9, 1749. The Missionary at Scati-



cook, in 1752, wrote as follows: "They have permitted me to put a stone on Brother David's grave, and then enclose it with a fence." The stone was in good preservation in 1825, but has since been broken into many fragments. What remains of it is in the possession of the Moravian Historical Society of Nazareth, Penn. It contained the following epitaph:—

DAVID BRUCE,  
From Edinburgh in Scotland.  
Minister of  
The Brethren's Church,  
Among the Indians.  
Departed 1749.

The Indians of Sharon having sold their lands in 1755 and dispersed to different parts of the country, the Mission was then abandoned by the brethren; but a congregation of white people built a meeting house on the western border of the Indian Pond, on land now owned by Col. Hiram Clark, and retained the services of one of the Missionaries, the Rev. Joseph Powell, until his death in 1774.

It will be observed that all the missionaries who labored here were under the direction of the Moravian authorities at Bethany, Penn., from whom they received their appointments. After the breaking up of the Mission here, and the death or removal of the missionaries, missionary stations were established in parts of the country west of Bethany, and for nearly a century the scene of the labors and place of the graves of the faithful and devoted missionaries in this region had passed from the knowledge of the Moravians at Bethany; and it was owing to investigations made by the Rev. William J. McCord, and the Rev. Sheldon Davis, of Dutchess county, that this field of missionary labor, so interesting in Moravian history was brought to their knowledge. The Moravian Historical Society, at Nazareth, Penn., on the 11th day of July, 1859, determined to mark the resting places of the missionaries, by the erection of suitable monuments, and thus to revive and perpetuate their memories, so long neglected and forgotten. These monu-



ments were set up under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Davis, and of Benson J. Lossing, Esq., and a single monument over the remains of David Bruce is for a memorial of him and of the Rev. Joseph Powel. The inscriptions on that monument were as follows :—

(On the north side.)

JOSEPH POWEL,  
A Minister of the Gospel,  
in the  
Church of the United Brethren.  
Born in 1710,  
Near White Church, Shropshire, England.  
Died Sept. 23, 1774,  
At Sichem in the Oblong,  
Duchess Co., N. Y.

(On the south side.)

DAVID BRUCE,  
A Minister of the Gospel,  
in the  
Church of the United Brethren,  
from  
Edinburgh, in Scotland.  
Died July 9, 1749,  
At the Wechquadnock Mission,  
Duchess Co., N. Y.

(On the east side.)

How beautiful upon the mountains  
Are the feet of him that bringeth  
good tidings, that publisheth peace,  
That bringeth good tidings of good,  
That publisheth salvation.

Isaiah lii, 7.

(On the west side.)

Erected by the  
Moravian Historical Society,  
October 6, 1859.

Solemn and impressive, as well as instructive services, performed by the Moravians from Bethany, were rendered at the dedication of that monument, on the 6th day of October, 1859. As the remains of the missionaries had been committed

to the grave without the performance of the cherished rites of that body of Christians, it was deemed appropriate that those portions of the Moravian ritual which relate to death and the resurrection should be employed in the ceremonies. For the same reason the Easter Morning Litany which is prayed annually on Moravian burying grounds, and the choral music of trombonists, a characteristic element of Moravian obsequies, were added to the programme of religious exercises. The services were held in the open field in which the monument stands, and were performed by the Bishop and several Moravian clergymen, with a select band of trombonists and choir of singers in the presence of some seventeen hundred people. The venerable Bishop Wolle had the principal charge, and his white locks, his clerical costume and his solemn and deliberate utterances, with a slight German accent, of the various portions of the Moravian funeral ritual, with the earnest and solemn responses from the people and from the trombonists gave an indescribable interest to the ceremonies. After an historical discourse by the Rev. Mr. DeSchweinitz, in which a minute history of the Mission and missionaries was given, the following stanzas from the Moravian Hymnal were sung by the congregation :—

How sweetly these our brethren sleep,  
Enjoying endless peace,  
The grave in which their Saviour lay  
Is now their resting place.

Naught can disturb these heirs of life,  
All earthly cares are fled,  
To be with Christ was their desire,  
And now they're perfected,

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
One God, whom we adore,  
Be glory as it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

And thus ended the solemn burial services.

## CHAPTER VII.

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REV. COTTON MATHER SMITH—CENSUS—CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
MISSIONS—ORGANIZATION OF THE EPISCOPAL PARISH—NEW  
MEETING HOUSE—REV. GEORGE WHITFIELD.

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IN the course of the summer of 1754, the Reverend *Cotton Mather Smith*, of Suffield, was employed by the town to preach as a candidate for settlement. He came upon the recommendation of *Matthew St. John*, who had been an inhabitant of Sharon, but who had now removed to Suffield, where he became acquainted with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was a descendant of the Rev. *Henry Smith*, the first minister of Wethersfield, who came from England in 1638.\* The mother of Mr. Smith was a daughter of *Atherton Mather*, a cousin of the celebrated *Cotton Mather*, and she died in this town at a very advanced age. Mr. Smith was born at Suffield, October 16th, 1731, and graduated at Yale College in 1751. He spent the year previous to his visit-

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\* In a record of Daniel Cushing, the third town clerk of Hingham, Massachusetts, is this entry :—"Mr. Henry Smith and his wife and three sons, and two daughters, and three men servants and two maid servants, and Thomas Mayer, came from H\*\*er Hall, in Norfolk, and settled in New Hingham 1638." Henry Smith had a son Ichabod, who was the father of Samuel Smith, and this last named gentleman was the father of Rev. Cotton Mather Smith.

ing Sharon, at *Stockbridge*, Massachusetts, with the very celebrated *Jonathan Edwards*, engaged in the benevolent duties of instructing the Indians. Mr. Smith preached as a candidate for more than a year, and in the mean time boarded with *John Gay*, Esq., at the north part of the town. He was ordained minister of Sharon on the 28th day of August, 1755.\*

\* Town Meeting, Dec. 13, 1754. Voted, That Deacon Ebenezer Jackson, Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie and John Williams, be a committee to see if they can agree with Mr. Smith to preach with us some time longer, and in the meantime to advise with the committee of the Association respecting giving him a call to settle in the ministry with us, and to make report to the meeting at such time to which it may be adjourned.

Town Meeting, January 8, 1755. Voted that we will give Mr. Cotton Mather Smith a call to settle in the work of the gospel ministry with us.

Voted, That our former committee, viz., the two deacons and John Williams, Esq. be continued to be our committee and that they inform Mr. Smith that the town have voted to give him a call.

Voted, That said Committee confer with Mr. Smith, and know which will be the most acceptable to him to have a larger settlement and a smaller salary, or a larger salary and smaller settlement, and make report to this meeting.

Voted, That we desire, and will make application to the General Assembly in May next, for a Probate District in this northwest part of this county.

Town Meeting, January 15, 1755. Voted, That we will make such proposals to Mr. Cotton Mather Smith, to encourage him to settle with us in the gospel ministry, as shall be equivalent to the terms on which Mr. Searl settled with us, in such form as we shall afterward conclude upon.

Voted, That we will give to Mr. Smith 420 ounces of silver, or equivalent in old tenor Bills, for a settlement, to be paid in three years after settlement; viz., 140 ounces, or an equivalent in old tenor bills, annually for three years.

Voted, That we will give to said Mr. Smith 220 Spanish dollars, or an equivalent in old tenor bills, for his yearly salary

Voted, That the committee last chose to treat with Mr. Smith, be continued to be a committee to make the aforesaid proposals to him in the name of the town and desire his answer.

Town Meeting, May 23, 1755. Voted, That we persevere in our desire to have Mr. Smith settle with us in the work of the Gospel ministry, and would have this our desire manifested again to him, and also that he be informed that we take a grateful notice of what he has now offered to this meeting, and also that the Reverend Association of this county be informed of this our desire, and therefore chose John Williams, Esq., as our agent or representative to go to said Reverend Association, at their meeting in New Milford, on Tuesday next, to inform them of it, and to ask their farther advice in this matter.

That part of Mr. Cotton Mather Smith's answer to the town's call, given in town meeting, and signed with his hand, May 23d, 1755, respecting our proposals for his settlement and salary, was in the words following: viz., "as to the settlement and salary you have voted me, I have nothing to object against 'em, but esteem the offer generous and honorable, and as it will come heavy upon some, perhaps, to pay salary and settlement together, so I have thought of releasing part of the payment of my salary for a time, to be paid to me again when you have finished the payment of the settlement, and this I propose to have done in the following manner: the first year I shall allow you out of the salary you have voted me, 40 dollars, the 2d, 30 dollars, the 3d year 15, the 4th year 20, to be repaid to me again, the 5th year 20 more, the 6th year 20 more, and the 25 dollars that remain I am willing that the town should keep 'em for their own use.—From the original. Entered per John Williams, Register.

He purchased the place which was owned by his predecessor, Mr. Searl, the same which is now owned by his great-grandson, Dr. Robert W. Smith. He was married, soon after his settlement, to Mrs. Temperance Gale, widow of Dr. Moses Gale, of Goshen, N. York, and daughter of *Rev. William Worthington*, of the parish of *Westbrook*, in *Saybrook*. Mr. Smith was the minister of Sharon for more than fifty years, and during the whole of that period occupied a large space in public affairs. Probably no minister ever had, in a greater degree, the confidence and affection of his people. He was never spoken of by those who knew him, but with the most unqualified respect and veneration.

A census of the colony was taken in 1756, and the population of Sharon was found to be 1196, about one-half of the present number of inhabitants.

From the first settlement of the town, there had been several families of the *Communion of the Church of England*, as it was called, before the Revolutionary war, but they were never sufficiently numerous to form a separate congregation, or to maintain public worship, until about the year 1755. On the 14th day of April, of that year, leave was given, by the town, to those of that communion, "to erect a church at the corner of the highways that come from the upper end of the town and the *Iron Works Hollow*." This was at the head of the street, near Captain King's. This building was erected, and stood for nearly forty years. It is mentioned as a singular circumstance in regard to its construction, that its external cover-

Town Meeting, June 12, 1755. Voted, That we comply with the advice of the Reverend Association, respecting the day of the ordination of Mr. Cotton Mather Smith to be the Pastor of this church and people, and accordingly appoint the 28th day of August next for that purpose.

Voted, That Messrs. John Gay, John Pardee, and John Marvin be a committee to make needful provisions for the ordaining council, and such other gentlemen as shall be thought best to have entertained at the cost of the town:

Voted that the same committee take care to prop and well brace up the galleries before said day of ordination.

Town Meeting, August 20, 1755. Voted that Lieut. Caleb Jewitt, Lieut. Stephen Calkin, and Jonathan Gillett be a committee to procure materials for, and to erect a scaffold at the north end of the meeting house, for the ordaining council to ordain Mr. Smith upon, or if it should be wet weather, to prop and well secure the galleries.

ing was a coat of mortar. Public worship was maintained in it for a number of years; the desk being supplied by missionaries sent out by the "*Honorable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.*" The first of the missionaries who labored here was the Rev. *Ebenezer Dibble*, whose permanent residence was at *Stamford*, but who had the care of many of the churches in the western part of the colony. After Mr. Dibble, the Rev. Solomon Palmer and the Rev. Thomas Davies had the charge of the church, in connection with those at New Milford, Roxbury, New Preston, and New Fairfield.\* The leading churchmen in the town were Messrs. Joel Harvey, Job Gould, Elnathan Goodrich, John Pennoyer, Simeon Rowley, Samuel Hitchcock, Solomon Goodrich, and perhaps some others. At one time during his ministry, Mr. Davies reported the number of families belonging to the parish to be twenty-two, and the number of communicants to be nineteen. During the Revolutionary war, the church building was deserted, turned into a barrack, and never afterwards occupied as a place

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\* Mr. Davies was born in Herefordshire, England, on the 21st of December 1736. His father removed to this country in 1745, and settled in what is now called Davies Hollow, in the town of Washington, then a part of Litchfield. He graduated at Yale College in September, 1758, and in 1761 sailed for England for holy orders. He was ordained Deacon by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 23d of August and on the following day was ordained Priest by the same Prelate. The following is a copy of the records of his appointment as a missionary as taken from the Records of the Society:—"Agreed, the 18th of September, 1761, that Mr. Davies be appointed missionary to the churches at New Milford, Roxbury, Sharon, Preston, and New Fairfield in Litchfield county, Conn." Mr. Davies embarked immediately after this, for this country, and entered immediately on his ministry to the above named churches. On the 1st day of April, 1762, he was married to Miss Mary Harvey, daughter of Mr. Joel Harvey, of Sharon, by whom he had two children, one of whom, William Davies, Esq., lived at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The other was the wife of Jonathan Burrall, Esq., of Canaan, Conn. Mr. Davies died suddenly at New Milford, on the 12th day of May, 1766, in the 30th year of his age. The following is a copy of his epitaph:—

In memory of the Rev. Thomas Davies,  
 A faithful servant of Jesus Christ,  
 An active, worthy Missionary,  
 From the venerable society in England,  
 Who departed this life May 12, 1766,  
 In the 30th year of his age.  
 He met death with the greatest Christian fortitude.  
 Being supported by the rational hope  
 Of a blessed immortality.  
 The sweet remembrance of the just  
 Does flourish, now he sleeps in dust.  
 "Vita bene acta, jucundissima est recordatio."



of worship. Mr. Richard Clark succeeded Mr. Davies in the mission, and resided in New Milford until the close of the war. It would seem that there was perfect harmony and good feeling between the two denominations. At the annual town-meetings, for a great number of years, Charles Gillet was appointed key keeper to the meeting house, and John Pennoyer key keeper to the church, and this practice was continued as long as the church was used for public worship. For many years after the Revolutionary war, the Episcopalians in Sharon had no regular stated worship. There was no clergyman of that faith in the country, except such as had been ordained in England, and the few of them who had remained here, and cherished attachment to the cause of independence, were unable to meet the wants of the many congregations scattered over the country. The operations of the Venerable Society in England, of course, ceased in this country on the establishment of independence, and it was many years before measures could be adopted for the supply of clerical services to the congregations of that faith. There is no known record or tradition that Episcopal worship was celebrated in Sharon for twenty years after the Revolution. The nearest places of worship were at Litchfield and New Milford. There were several families in the town who conformed to that church, but they were never organized as a legal ecclesiastical corporation, until the formation of the present society in 1809. The missionaries from the society in England seemed to have had and maintained a very careful ecclesiastical organization in each parish, as their reports to the parent society detailed with great accuracy the number of families, births, deaths, baptisms, marriages and membership in the different parishes under their care, and in fact, every memorial they have left is a testimony to their great fidelity in their several callings. In 1809 the number of Episcopal families in Sharon had increased to about twenty, and it was deemed expedient that they should be organized into a legal corporation under the laws of the State, so that they could be empowered to hold property, lay tax, and enforce

other legal rights. A legal warrant was issued on the 18th day of May, 1809, by General Augustine Taylor, a Justice of the Peace, commanding him to summon sundry persons, named in the warrant, to meet at the Academy in Sharon, on the 27th day of the same month, "to form and regularly organize themselves, as an ecclesiastical society of the order and denomination called Episcopal, and to choose the proper officers for the society."

At the meeting thus warned, the society was duly organized according to the ritual of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. The following named persons were the first members of the society:—

David Lambert,	Simon Blackman,
Samuel Jarvis, Jr.	David Parsons,
Asa Hitchcock,	Israel Camp,
Barnabas Tobey,	William Chapman,
Luther Gay,	Daniel Patchen,
Thomas S. Barnum,	Peter W. Smith,
Simon Beebe,	Abel Hall,
Isaac Daw,	John Griswold,
Samuel R. Gager,	Rufus Wright.

The first full board of church officers was elected at an adjourned meeting, held May 5th, 1810. That board was constituted as follows:—

Israel Camp,	<i>Clerk.</i>	
Thomas S. Barnum,	} <i>Wardens.</i>	
David Lambert,		
Thomas S. Barnum,	<i>Treasurer.</i>	
Dr. John Sears,	<i>Collector.</i>	
Samuel R. Gager,	} <i>Vestrymen.</i>	
Isaac Daw,		
Asa Hitchcock,		
Samuel Jarvis,		
David Lambert,	<i>Delegate to Conventions.</i>	

The Rev. Sturges Gilbert was employed soon after the society was organized to perform clerical services, in connection with a like engagement at Kent, where he resided, he con-

ducting public worship at each place on alternate Sundays. The place of worship here for two or three years was at the Academy, which stood on the present site of the Sharon hotel. The upper room of the building was fitted up for the purpose, and was sufficiently large to accommodate the worshipers.

In 1812 the first steps were taken towards the erection of a church building. Ebenezer Dibble, of Pine Plains, N. Y., Col. Reuben Warner, of New Milford, and Moses Seymour, Esq., of Litchfield, were chosen by this society to establish the site, and such progress was made, in raising funds, that at the close of 1813, the present commodious building had been erected, and temporary interior accommodations furnished, so that public worship was celebrated in the church early in 1814. It was not furnished within until 1819, when it was completed in a neat and comfortable state. It has undergone several modifications since, to conform to the conditions of public taste in regard to church architecture. It was dedicated by Bishop Brownell, with solemn ceremonies, on the 24th day of November, A. D. 1819.

Rev. Ebenezer Dibble served here as a missionary from the Venerable Society in England, commencing in 1754.

Rev. Thomas Davies, from 1763. The following clergymen have served as rectors of the Church in Sharon from the dates indicated below:—

—	Rev. Sturges Gilbert.
1818	“ George B. Andrews.
1833	“ Lucius M. Purdy.
1837	“ Chas. W. Bradley.
1839	“ S. T. Carpenter.
1844	“ Martin Moody.
1849	“ Alonzo G. Shears.
1852	“ Ezra Jones.
1856	“ Louis French.
1857	“ John V. Striker.
1866	“ Henry R. Howard.
—	“ David N. MacDonald.
1871	“ Joseph W. Hyde.
1873	“ Edwin J. K. Lassell.

In 1866, the parish erected a commodious parsonage, and its close contiguity to the church makes it a very convenient residence for the rector.

After the town had been settled between twenty and thirty years, the population had increased to such an extent, that it became necessary to provide a more commodious place of public worship than the meeting house then in use afforded. As early as the year 1763, the subject was agitated in the town. It was the practice through the colony, at that time, to raise money for all public purposes, and especially for building meeting houses, by taxation. But it was found to be impossible to procure a vote of the town to lay such a tax in this instance, on account of the difficulty with the people in the east part of the town, touching the establishment of a new society. After several efforts to lay a tax had failed, it was determined to make the attempt to raise the money by subscription, and such was the success of the undertaking, that it was thought advisable to proceed with the building in the spring of 1767. It was framed, raised and covered, during that season, but it was not finished and fitted for public use until the next year. The master workman of the building was Capt. Stephen Sears, a builder of some celebrity, and who was active in bringing forward the project of building a new house of worship. It was a number of years before all the expenses of the building were paid. When it was completed, it was one of the largest and most commodious churches in the county, and for a great many years the congregation which worshiped in it filled it to overflowing. The committee appointed by the County Court to fix the site of the new meeting house were John Hutchinson and Joshua Porter, of Salisbury, and Joshua Pierce, of Cornwall, who reported to the Court that they "*had located the place about 29 rods northerly from the old meeting house, near the middle of the street, and nigh the dwelling house of Jonathan Gillett, in said Sharon.*" It stood upon a ledge of rocks, now removed, and was used as a house of worship for nearly

sixty years.\* In the year 1824 it was taken down, and the present brick church was erected in its place.

On the 18th day of June, 1770, the Rev. George Whitfield, a celebrated itinerant minister of the church of England, passed through the town on a preaching tour. He had proceeded up the North River as far as Albany and Schenectady, preaching in all the towns and villages on the route, and returning, preached at Great Barrington, Norfolk, Salisbury† and Sharon. There was considerable opposition to his being permitted to preach in the meeting house, but the influence of

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\* Town Meeting, Dec. 30, 1763. Voted, that in order to consider of a motion for building a new meeting house, and for some other business not finished, this meeting be adjourned to the third Tuesday in January next.

Town Meeting, Sept. 16, 1766. Voted, that we will build a meeting house near the present meeting house, the precise spot to be afterwards determined, only that it be not thirty rods from the present house; said house not to be under the following dimensions, viz., 60 feet in length, 40 in width, and 25 feet post, the whole to be under the direction of a committee hereafter to be chosen; said committee not to begin to build it till in their judgment they have got enough subscribed to finish it.

Voted, that if any person or persons shall subscribe who may within the space of twenty years next coming be made a distinct ecclesiastical society, or be added to any other ecclesiastical society, he or they shall be refunded their proper proportion of what they shall so subscribe, by those who shall remain in the possession of said meeting house, which proportion shall be after a deduction of a fiftieth part for every year before they are set off, then the remainder to be paid back as aforesaid.

Voted, that Doct. Simeon Smith, Messrs. Ebenezer Gay and Stephen Sears be a committee for the purposes aforesaid.

Town Meeting, Dec. 9, 1767. Voted, that the old meeting house is granted to the committee who are appointed to erect and finish the new meeting house, to be improved or disposed of towards finishing the new meeting house, so as not to deprive us of meeting in until the new one is fit to meet in.

December 19, 1768. It being represented to this meeting that stoves are frequently left in this meeting house with fire in them, whereby it is much exposed to be burnt; the town taking this matter into consideration, agree and vote that no stove shall be left in the meeting house, with or without fire in it, and suffered to remain there after the meeting shall be dismissed at night, or through the night, on the penalty of ten shillings for a stove so left, to be recovered of the person or persons that shall leave the same according to law.

Voted, That young people should not sit together, males and females in the same pew or seats in the galleries, and that our informing officers shall be allowed to sit where they choose in the galleries, for their observation of their behavior who sit there.

Voted, That we will now proceed to choose a committee to seat our meeting house, when the seats shall be made in the body of our house, Doct. Simeon Smith, Stephen Sears, Ebenezer Gay, Joseph Landers, Jr., John St. John, Charles Gillett, and Samuel Elmer were chosen a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

† The meeting house in Salisbury, at that time, was small, and to accommodate the immense number of hearers which came together on the occasion. Mr. Whitfield preached in the open air. The meeting was holden on the public square near the meeting house. The late Dr. Hamilton informed Governor Smith that, on his way to this meeting, while descending the hill nearly half a mile from the meeting, he heard the preacher distinctly announce his text, "Turn ye to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope."



Parson Smith prevailed, and the doors were opened. An arrangement had been made for him to preach in the orchard of Mr. Jonathan Gillet, directly opposite the meeting house, and now owned by Charles Skinner, in case he should be refused admission to the usual place of worship. An immense congregation, from this and the neighboring towns, assembled on the occasion, and that all the hearers might be well accommodated with seats, extensive scaffolds were erected around the house. His text was the words of our Saviour addressed to Nicodemus,—“Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.” He discoursed upon the doctrine of the new birth with the most astonishing power and eloquence. The concluding words of the sermon were a quotation, with a little variation, from the last verse of the fourth chapter of Solomon’s Songs: “Awake O north wind, and come thou south, blow upon *this* garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my Beloved come into *this* garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.” Many from this town went, the next day, to hear him preach at the Red Meeting House, in Amenia, N. Y., and some followed him for two or three days in succession, to hear the word of life from this devoted minister of the cross.\*

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\* These were among the last labors of Whitfield. While on this tour he suffered much from the asthma, the disease which very soon after terminated his life. He spent the night previous to his preaching here with Parson Smith, and such was the alarming severity of the disorder then upon him, that it was thought very doubtful by those who watched with him whether he could survive the night. He attributed his restoration to such a comfortable state of health as that he was able to preach the next day, to the kind nursing of Madam Smith, for which he expressed the most deep-felt gratitude. It was, probably, in allusion to his own precarious situation, that he opened the public exercises on the following day by reading the following version on the third psalm by Dr. Watts. Its appropriate bearing upon his own feeble condition will be readily seen:—

Oh, Lord, how many are my foes,  
In this weak state of flesh and blood;  
My peace they daily discompose,  
But my defence and hope is God.

Tired with the burdens of the day,  
To thee I rais’d an evening cry;  
Thou heardest when I began to pray,  
And thine almighty help was nigh.

Supported by thine heavenly aid,  
I laid me down and slept secure;  
Not death should make my heart afraid,  
Though I should wake and rise no more.

But God sustained me all the night;  
Salvation doth to God belong;  
He raised my head to see the light,  
And makes his praise my morning song.

Mr. Whitfield died in about three months from this time, at Newburyport, Mass.



## CHAPTER VIII.

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### EVENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

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WE have now arrived at the period of the commencement of the Revolutionary War. The citizens of Sharon, almost without exception, partook largely of the feeling which pervaded the whole country, at the commencement of the struggle. Parson Smith, like the other clergymen of the day, was a most ardent and decided whig; and his personal influence contributed, not a little, to lead the public mind in the right channel. In his public ministrations, too, there was mingled much of the stirring patriotism of the times. In the prayers which were offered, and in the praises which were sung, there were interspersed many allusions to the tyrannical edicts of the British King, and to the degraded and suffering condition of the colonies. Hymns were written, and music was composed, which were used for public worship on the Sabbath, the effect of which would seem to be, to stir up *martial*, rather than devotional feelings, and to excite in the worshipers the deepest hatred of their oppressors. The following stanza was

the commencement of one of the hymns which was frequently sung for Sabbath worship:—

“ Let tyrants shake their iron rod,  
And slavery clank their galling chains,  
We fear them not, we trust in God,  
New England's God forever reigns.”

The intelligence of the battle of Lexington was brought to Sharon on the Sabbath, and Mr. Smith, at the close of the morning exercises, announced it from the pulpit, and made some remarks tending to arouse the spirit of the congregation to firmness and to resistance. Immediately after the congregation was dismissed, the militia and volunteers, to the number of one hundred men, paraded on the west side of the street, south of the meeting house, and prepared to march immediately to the scene of action. David Downs, Esq., was Captain, James Brewster, Lieutenant, and David Gould, Ensign. After further deliberation, however, it was determined to send Lieutenant Brewster to Litchfield, to enquire more fully into the accuracy of the intelligence, and whether the service of the militia would be required immediately. Lieut. Brewster\* performed this mission, and learning that the British had returned to Boston, and that no pressing necessity existed for further military aid, it was determined not to march, until further hostile movements on the part of the enemy should render it necessary.

The General Assembly was forthwith convened, and a large military force raised. One company was raised in Sharon and its vicinity. Samuel Elmore received a Major's commission, and also had the command of this company. Amos Chappell was the Lieutenant.

The last survivors of this company were Thomas Heath and Adonijah Maxam. Deacon Isaac Chamberlain, Capt. Sylvanus Gibbs, and Mr. Ebe Everitt, lately deceased, were

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\* This young gentleman was at this time a clerk in Colonel Gay's store. He was originally from Windham, and came to Sharon in A. D. 1770, with his mother, who was the second wife of Captain Caleb Jewitt. He died, much lamented, of a consumption, on the 22d day of February, 1777.

also members of this company, as were William Gray, Samuel Lewis, Jr., and David Goff. This company was attached to a regiment which marched to the northward in 1775, for the conquest of Canada, under General Montgomery. Before St. Johns was taken, it was determined, by Colonels Allen and Brown, to make an attempt upon the city of Montreal with a few volunteers, if they could be obtained. The troops were paraded, and Allen marched in front of the Connecticut line, and invited volunteers to join him. Of the soldiers who belonged to Sharon, Adonijah Maxam, David Goff, William Gray and Samuel Lewis, stepped forward, and offered to share in the perils of the expedition. It was arranged between Allen and Brown, that the latter should land on the island, below the city, while Allen, with about eighty men, should land above the city, and there wait until they should hear the firing from Brown's party, when they were to rush on to the attack. Allen crossed the river St. Lawrence with his detachment on the evening of the 24th of September; on a raft, and waited in the expectation of hearing the firing from Brown's party through the whole night, but he waited in vain. For some reason the expedition on Brown's part had failed, and the morning light found Allen altogether in the power of the enemy. This rash adventurer, however, determined to defend himself to the last extremity against the seven or eight hundred men that were brought against him, and he fought until twenty-five of his men were killed, and seven wounded, when he and his brave associates, including Maxam, Goff, Gray and Lewis, from Sharon, and one Roger Moore, of Salisbury, were compelled to surrender. They were loaded with irons, and sent to England, for the avowed object of receiving the sentence and punishment of traitors. The threat of retaliatory measures, however, on the part of the Americans, prevented such summary proceedings against them, and after being kept in close confinement, in England and Ireland, during the winter, the prisoners just named were brought back to New York in the spring of 1776. They were confined, in an old church,

with a large number of others, who had been taken during the campaign, at Fort Washington, and other places. From this place the persons above named contrived to make their escape within a few days after they were put into confinement. The old church in which they were confined was surrounded by a high fence, and thus a little daily out-door exercise was allowed the prisoners. While enjoying this liberty, William Gray managed to loosen one of the long planks of which the fence was made, but did not remove it, and the appearance of things were so little disturbed by the act of Gray, that it escaped the observation of the officers in charge of the prisoners. Through the opening in the fence, thus made practicable, the five soldiers above named made their escape as soon as it was sufficiently dark to conceal their operations. They had been habited in sailor's clothes during their captivity, and on this account they were less liable to be detected. They divided into two parties, Maxam and Moore forming the one, and Gray, Goff and Lewis the other. The three latter very soon found means to land on Long Island, and from thence passed over the Sound to the Continent, and returned to their friends in Sharon. Maxam and Moore had more difficulty. They were two or three days in the city before they found it possible to leave it, and after landing on Long Island they suffered much from hunger. After travelling several days, they found means to embark in a boat on the Sound, and to reach Saybrook. Their return to Sharon astonished their friends, who having learned from Gray and his comrades the circumstance of their escape from confinement, and having heard nothing further from them, had concluded that they had been retaken by the British. The last survivor of this band of sufferers was Mr. Adonijah Maxam, who died at the age of 97 years.

In the campaign of 1775, Parson Smith went with the army to the northward, as Chaplain to Col. Hinman's regiment, and spent several months in the service.

There was one soldier from Sharon, who joined the expedition led by General Arnold through the wilderness of Kenne-

bec, to Canada, whose name was Alexander Spencer. He died, however, on the march, from sickness.

The exigencies of the times calling for a large army at the commencement of 1776, a large number of men, more than one hundred, enlisted from the town of Sharon. One company marched for Canada. It was commanded by Captain David Downs, already mentioned. The first lieutenant was Adonijah Griswold, and the second lieutenant was David Doty. The last survivors of this company, which was a large one, were Joel Chaffee and Adonijah Pangman, of Cornwall. Charles Gillet, another member of the company, was killed near The Cedars, so called, by a party of Indians in ambush, as he was riding along the road, having gone on some business connected with his duty as commissary. The other soldiers raised in Sharon for the campaign of 1776, were distributed among three other companies, and all marched for New York, against which an attack by the British was now apprehended. Of one company, Dr. Simeon Smith, was captain; of another, Elijah Foster was captain; and of the third, Nathaniel Hamlin was lieutenant. These companies were in the campaign of 1776, under General Washington on Long Island and in the vicinity of New York, and shared in the fatigues and perils of that disastrous period. David Wood, Nathaniel Buel, Josiah Coleman, Jabez Jennings, Asahel Somers, John Randall, Jr., and Thomas Ackley were taken prisoners at Fort Washington, of whom Wood and Ackley died during their captivity, and Buel and Coleman on their return. The British having obtained possession of New York, General Washington determined to make an effort to dislodge them during the winter which followed the unfortunate campaign of 1776. For this purpose a large military force was raised in the fall of that year for two months service, and one company was enlisted in Sharon. William Boland was captain, Hezekiah Frisbie, lieutenant, and Azariah Griswold, ensign. As the period enlistment was so short, there was no difficulty in filling the company. The survivors of this company were Messrs.

Adonijah Maxam and Thomas Heath. New York was not attacked, and the company was discharged at Kingsbridge, at the expiration of their term of service.

The forces that had hitherto been called into the service were raised on the authority of the State. To provide for the campaign of 1777, Congress undertook to raise an army, which was called the Continental army; and of this army, two regiments, Swift's and Bradley's, were raised in the western part of Connecticut. Of one company, David Strong was appointed lieutenant, and he enlisted a number of recruits, one of whom, David Goodrich, was killed at the battle of Brandywine, in the subsequent campaign. Of another company, Reuben Calkin was lieutenant, and a number of men enlisted under him. There are none now remaining of either company.

A large depot of provisions and military stores had been established at Danbury, and in the month of April, an expedition was sent out from New York to destroy them. It was commanded by Major General Tryon, of the British army, and consisted of two thousand men. They landed at a place called Compo, in the south-west part of the town of Fairfield, and proceeding through the towns of Weston and Redding, reached Danbury, and effected their object, which was the destruction of the stores. The most active measures were taken to spread the alarm through the adjacent country, and to collect the militia to repel the invaders. On the evening of the 26th of April, a messenger arrived in this town bringing the intelligence, and requiring the immediate marching of such forces as could be collected, to meet the enemy. The bell commenced tolling, and it was kept tolling through the night, and it was a night of great terror and solemnity. Colonel Ebenezer Gay, who then commanded the militia in this vicinity, gathered together as many troops as could be collected on so short notice, and marched for the scene of action; and on the morning of the 28th reached Danbury, and finding that the British had retreated, pursued them. The route which the British had taken on their retreat, brought them on the west



side of the Saugatuck River, which empties into the Sound a mile or two west of Compo, where their fleet lay. They were intercepted in their attempt to reach the bridge over this stream, by General Arnold, who was then in command of a few regular troops, and were guided by some tories to a fording place, a little higher up,—and it was while they were marching up on the west side of the stream to reach this fording place, that they were first observed by the troops from Sharon, who were endeavoring to reach the bridge, and to join the corps under Arnold. As the British marched by them on the low grounds which bordered on the river, Adonijah Maxam, who had not forgotten the injuries which were heaped upon him while a prisoner in England, begged permission of the commanding officer to steal down the hill from the left flank and shoot a few of them. He was strictly forbidden, however, to execute this perilous undertaking. The British marched by unmolested, and our troops took undisputed possession of the bridge. The enemy came down on the east side of the river, and having taken ground a little to the east of the bridge, fired upon our men who were stationed there. Arnold, perceiving the danger to which his men were exposed, brought his artillery to bear upon the new position of the enemy, and firing upon them over the heads of such of his men as were upon the bridge, soon drove them beyond the reach of his cannon. They took new ground a little to the south-east of their first position, and it was determined to attack them there with small arms. A few regular troops under Arnold, commenced the action with great bravery, and our men at the bridge were ordered to join them. They marched up the hill with a good degree of resolution, to sustain the regular troops. As they came within the reach of the enemy's musketry, however, some one, and it was never known who, cried out *retreat*. As this word was uttered, Lieutenant Samuel Elmer, Jr.,\* perceiving

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\* This brave young officer was a son of Colonel Samuel Elmer, and a lieutenant in the New York line of the continental army. He had returned home on a short furlough the very day the intelligence of the invasion of Danbury was received in Sharon, and was one of the first to volunteer to drive off the enemy. He was buried on the spot where he

the effect it was producing, and the trepidation which was taking hold of his comrades, stepped up on a stone wall, and cried out, "*for God's sake, men, don't retreat, don't run, march up the hill and drive them off.*" He had barely uttered these words, when he was shot through the body. The only words he spoke afterwards, were addressed to his uncle, Mr. George Pardee, who was near him: "Uncle George," said he, "I am a dead man." A general retreat of our men then followed; and the British, being left unmolested, marched to their shipping, and sailed for New York.

A large depot of provisions had been established in this town early in the war. The store-house stood a little west of the Messrs. Goodwins, on the old road that formerly ran through their land, before the present turnpike road was established, and a guard was constantly kept at the depot during the war. The fate of the stores at Danbury caused much apprehension for the safety of those here. There were frequent alarms, and the citizens frequently collected in arms to defend the public property at the store-house. On one Sabbath day, during the sermon, Jonathan Gillett, who lived directly opposite the meeting house, came out of his house during the public service, and proclaimed with a loud voice that the British were coming. A dense smoke was seen rising beyond Tower Hill, a mountain in the State of New York, a few miles southwest of Sharon, and the belief was general that the enemy was at hand. Parson Smith was foremost in exhorting the people to firmness and resistance, and he entreated them to stand firm, not only as soldiers of the cross, but as soldiers of their country

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was killed, by two of his comrades soon after the battle. His body was afterwards removed to the burying yard at Green's Farms where it reposes to this day.

#### EPITAPH.

"Lieut. Samuel Elmer, son to Col. Samuel Elmer of Sharon, was killed at Fairfield, fighting for the liberties of his country, April 28th, 1777. in the 25th year of his age.

Our youthful hero, bold in arms,  
His country's cause his bosom warms;  
To save her rights fond to engage,  
And guard her from a tyrant's rage,  
Flies to ye field of blood and death,  
And gloriously resigns his breath.

and of liberty. The alarm, however, proved to be groundless.

The approach of a large British army from Canada, under General Burgoyne, and the expedition up the North River, under General Vaughan, filled the whole country with terror and despondency, and frequent alarms were spread, requiring the constant and active duty of the militia. The tories, too, in Dutchess county, New York, where they were numerous, took courage from the prospect of success which the progress of the British arms afforded, and embodied themselves into a formidable force. Information was brought to this town during the summer that four hundred of them had assembled at Carpenter's, as it was then called, now Washington Hollow, and that they were threatening destruction to all the whigs in the neighborhood. An expedition was immediately set on foot to break up the gang. Volunteers to the number of fifty or sixty immediately assembled.—They marched immediately for the Hollow, and were joined by others in their progress, so that when they arrived at Bloom's Mills, which is about four miles north of the Hollow, their numbers amounted to two hundred men. There they encamped for the night, and marched the next morning to attack the tories. They found them paraded in the meadow just north of the public house, and marching up with spirit, fired upon them. The tories fled immediately and as many as could made their escape. About thirty or forty of them, however, were made prisoners, and brought to this town, and locked up in the old church at the head of the street. They were taken to Exeter, in New Hampshire, where they were kept in close confinement for two years. This proceeding broke up the gang, and no further trouble was had from this class of persons during the war.

A company of light horse, which belonged to Sharon and its vicinity, were kept on duty during the whole summer of 1777, on the North River, watching the motions of the enemy in that quarter. It was commanded by Captain Dutcher, of Salisbury, and David Boland, of Sharon, was the cornet of the company. The smoke of burning Kingston was distinctly

seen from our mountain when it was destroyed by the Hessian troops. Adonijah Maxam belonged to this company.

A large number of men marched from this town under the command of Colonel Gay to the northward, to oppose the progress of Burgoyne's army, and shared in all the conflicts which preceded its surrender.\* John Hollister, one of the soldiers from this town, was killed at the battle of Stillwater, on the 7th of October.

The intelligence of the surrender of Burgoyne's army was received here under circumstances which produced a deep impression. Nothing had been heard respecting the state of affairs at Saratoga excepting that two severe battles had been fought without any very decisive result. This state of uncertainty produced extreme anxiety regarding the issue of the campaign, and many trembled at the prospect of defeat and disgrace to the American arms. The firmness and confidence of Parson Smith, however, never forsook him, and he did everything in his power to rouse the drooping spirits of his people. On Sabbath, the —— day of October, he preached a sermon from Isaiah xxi. 11:—“*Watchman, what of the night? the watchman saith the morning cometh.*” The discourse was entirely adapted to the condition of public affairs. He dwelt much upon the indications, which the dealings of Providence afforded, that a bright and glorious morning was about to dawn upon a long night of defeat and disaster. He told the congregation that he believed they would soon hear of a signal victory crowning the arms of America, and exhorted them to trust with an unshaken and fearless confidence in that God who he doubted not would soon appear for the deliverance of his people, and crown with success the efforts of the friends of liberty in this country. Before the congregation was dismissed, a messenger arrived, bringing the intelligence of the surrender of Burgoyne's

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\* The following is the record of an adjourned church meeting, holden on the 23d of September, 1777, “Met according to adjournment, but by reason of a great number being called off into ye service of their country and but a few members met, adjourned to the 4th Tuesday of November next ensuing.

army. Parson Smith read the letter from the pulpit, and a flood of joy burst upon the assembly.

During the next year a large part of Burgoyne's army was marched through this town on their way to the south. They were met here by a regiment of continental troops under the command of Lieut. Colonel Jameson, who was afterwards somewhat conspicuous in the affairs connected with the capture of Major Andre, and who here took charge of the prisoners.\* One of Burgoyne's soldiers, by the name of Robert Gibbs, a Scotchman from Dundee, who was wounded and taken in the battle immediately preceding Burgoyne's surrender, was here left by his comrades. He died at the age of 94.

After the campaign, of 1777, the seat of the war was removed to so great a distance that no further call was made for the militia of the town, except for the purpose of keeping guard on the sea coast. The burdens and privations of a pecuniary kind, however, which are incident to a state of war, were borne by the people of this town without a murmur, and the almost unanimous feeling in favor of the cause which marked the commencement of the war, continued with unabated ardor to the close of it.

The records of the County Court show that several of the citizens of Sharon were delinquent in responding to the calls for temporary service in the army, but it does not appear that their neglect was owing to any want of fidelity to the cause of the country, but it was probably for some reasons which were deemed satisfactory to themselves, but which were not deemed sufficient by the Court. Abner Curtice, David Hollister, Elijah Pardee, and Apollos Smith were each fined £10 and costs of prosecution "for refusing to muster and march to the assistance of the continental army," about the time of the apprehended invasion of this part of the country by Burgoyne's army.

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\* A large proportion of the prisoners of this detachment were Hessians. They were subjected to the most severe discipline, and were entirely offensive. Each regiment was furnished with a chaplain and divine service was frequently performed. They encamped here over night, and when they started in the morning, the whole body sang devotional music on the march. Governor Smith informed the author that he, then a lad, followed them some miles to hear their singing.

Stephen Sears was fined £10 for not marching to the relief of Peekskill. Theodore Elmer, Thomas Hamlin, Jun., Joseph Barrows, Jesse Goodrich, Amasa Hamlin, Robert Whitcomb, David Hollister, James Henry, Nathaniel Curtis, were prosecuted for the same offences, but were able to show good reasons why they had not reported for muster, and were discharged.



## CHAPTER IX.

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INCIDENTAL EVENTS—DISASTROUS FIRE IN SHARON VALLEY—  
SMALL POX—CASUALTIES—SHAYS' REBELLION—EXCISE DUTIES.

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ON the night of January 27, 1775, a disastrous incendiary fire occurred on the premises of Joel Hervey, in Sharon Valley, which destroyed two barns and a threshing mill, with a large quantity of grain and hay, with seven good horses. Suspicion attached to one John Thomas, a transient person, as the perpetrator of the offence, and at the February term of the Superior Court, 1776, sufficient proof had been brought to light to bring him to trial. He was convicted, and the following warrant for the execution of the sentence passed upon him by the court, will show the particulars of the crime laid to his charge, and the form of prosecution in those early days. Independence not then having been declared the proceedings were in the name of the King.

*To Litchfield County Sherif or his Deputy Greeting*

WHEREAS the Grandjurors of our Soverign Lord the King for the County of Litchfield upon their oath present that one John Thomas a Transient person now Confined in the Com-

mon Goal in said Litchfield not having the fear of God before his eyes but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devil did at Sharon in said County in the night season next after the 27th day of January 1775 Voluntarily feloniously and of his malice forethought with force and arms carry a Quantity of Fire into and therewith inkindle and set on fire two Certain Barns and one Threshing Mill in which there was then and there Contained Seven good horses and a large quantity Wheat Rye and Hay all being in said Sharon to the Value of four Hundred pounds lawfull money, all being the property of Joel Hervey of said Sharon, and that by means of the said Johns Siting fire as aforesaid the said Buildings, Horses Wheat Rye and Hay were Consumed and utterly destroyed contrary to the Law of this Colony and the Rights of mankind, and Said John Thomas being brought before this Court and arraigned for Tryal and by a Verdict of the Jury was found Guilty. Whereupon this Court gave judgment that the said John Thomas sit upon a Gallows for the space of one hour with a Rope round his neck, and Tyed to a Cart and be whipt on the naked body in four of the most public places in the Town of Litchfield to the number of Thirty nine Stripes and find sureties for his good behavior with one Surety in the penal Sum of one Hundred pound lawfull money for his future good behavior and pay the cost of prosecution Taxed at, £26,15,8 and stand committed till this judgment is fullfilled Whereof Execution remains to be done.

These are therefore in his majestys name to command you that you have the sd. John Thomas forth from the Common Goal to the place of Execution and cause him to set upon a Gallows for the space of one hour and also cause him to be whipt on the naked body Thirty nine stripes at four publick places in the Town of Litchfield at the Tail of a Cart and then commit him to said Goal and him there safely keep until the whole of said Judgment be fulfilled, fail but make due Return with your doings thereon according to Law.

Dated Litchfield February the 18th 1776.

per Order of Court

WM. PITKIN *Clerk P. T.*

LITCHFIELD 21st February 1776.

Then by virtue of the within Execution I caused the within named John Thomas to be taken from the common Goal in Litchfield to the place of Execution and there set upon a Gallows with a Rope Round his neck for the full term of one

hour and Then tied to the Tail of a Cart and Transported to four of the most public places in the Town of Litchfield and there whipped on his naked body Thirty nine stripes in the whole according to the within Directions.

Fees 40s.

Test LYNDE LORD *Sheriff*.

In the winter season of 1770, Isaac Corbee and his wife, two aged, indigent people, were supported by the town, and were boarded in the family of John Randall, who lived where William E. Marsh now lives. They retired to bed of an evening, in apparent good health, the weather being very cold, and in the morning were both found dead in their bed, the current of life in both having ceased to flow at the same time.

From the Connecticut *Journal* published at New Haven :

SHARON, Feb. 15, 1781.

This morning the wife of William Hendrick Levo was found dead in the street, a sucking child about three months old, lying dead by her side. Being under straightened circumstances, she went to town, about three miles, in order to procure something for the comfort of her family, and carried her little infant in her arms. On her return, the evening before, she went into a house to warm ; the weather being extreme cold, she was prevailed on to tarry, though very much against her inclination, being greatly exercised for her children she had left at home, the eldest not being above ten years, her husband gone to mill, and she was doubtful of his return. In the night she arose, unbeknown to any of the family. She had travelled homeward about three-quarters of a mile, and was found dead in the manner described, within about ten rods of an house. Some were ready to conclude she had made too free use of strong drink, which occasioned her perishing in this manner ; but upon a careful enquiry it appears to be without foundation, and that her death was occasioned by the extremity of the season.

The place where the body of the woman referred to was found was within about ten rods of the house of Merills McLean, on the highway leading west from his house over the hill to Sharon Street.

In the month of November, 1784, the wife of Joseph Marchant, who lived where George Gay now lives, visited some

friends in the state of Massachusetts. Soon after her return she was taken sick, and died after a short illness. The physicians differed as to the nature of the disorder. There is a tradition that the first person to pronounce the case to be one of small pox was Mrs. Cynthia Deming, the mother of Doctor Ralph Deming, who had seen several patients while suffering under that malady, and who gave kind ministries to Mrs. Marchant during her illness, but the attending physician decided that it was a severe case of fever. Her funeral was attended on the Sabbath, and a large number of the inhabitants were present. It was soon rumored that one of the physicians had intimated an opinion that she had died of the small pox, and the most intense anxiety was felt on the subject. All doubt, however, was soon dissipated by the breaking out of the disorder in various parts of the town. A time of great and overwhelming distress followed, and nearly thirty persons died within a month or two. Such a scene of distress and mortality had never before been experienced in the town, and the terrors which the pestilence excited were long remembered.

The following are the names of some of the victims of that terrible scourge. In the up-town neighborhood, Amos Marchant, Perez Gay, Lydia Waldo, Mr. David Elmer, Eunice Jennings, and her sister. On the mountain, Mrs. Nathaniel Hamlin, Betsey Downs, and Erastus Downs. In the down-town neighborhood, Samuel Doty and wife, and John Bates and wife, and besides these there were a large number of children who died of the disorder.

The spirit of dissatisfaction with the existing state of things which prevailed through a portion of New England, soon after the close of the revolutionary war, and which finally resulted in open resistance to the constituted authorities in the western part of Massachusetts, affected, in some degree, the public mind in Sharon. Many things conspired to produce discontent and uneasiness, and the records of the town give a clue to some of the causes which agitated the community.

At a town meeting legally warned and held in Sharon, on

the 9th day of October, 1785, for the purpose of instructing the representatives, it was voted:—1. That it is the mind of the town that a paper currency be struck. 2. That the table of fees be reduced to the old standard. 3. That there be no *deputy sheriffs* in the state.

At a town meeting legally warned and held in Sharon on the 22d day of February, 1787, for the purpose of presenting a petition to the General Assembly for the emission of a *paper currency*, voted—1. Whether they would do anything about it? Voted in the affirmative. 2. Voted that the draught laid before the town relating to the premises, is accepted and approved, as the mind of the town, and that the same be put in the public prints.

In the spring of 1787, during the existence of the insurrection under Shays, in Massachusetts, Doctor John Hulbert, who resided in the town of Alford, Berkshire county, Mass., and who was an active partisan of Shays, came to Sharon for the purpose of awakening a similar spirit in this vicinity, and of producing an efficient co-operation. Having received his medical education here, and possessing qualities calculated to give effect to his representations, Hulbert soon succeeded in organizing a considerable number of men under the guidance of one William Mitchell, who was constituted their captain, and who, in as private a manner as possible, and chiefly in the night season, trained and drilled them for service.

Dr. Hulbert was the father of the late Hon. John W. Hulbert, a counsellor of much eminence, and a distinguished member of congress from the Berkshire district, Mass., and who, after a splendid professional and political career, died suddenly, in 1831, at Auburn, N. Y., where he then resided. Capt. Mitchell was a clothier by trade. He came to Sharon from Farmington, now Bristol, in the spring of 1783. He owned and improved the clothier's works lately owned by Capt. James Gay, one mile south-east of the meeting house in the first society.

The rebellion had been thoroughly suppressed in the eastern



part of Massachusetts in 1786, but early in 1787, the spirit of insubordination was very prevalent in Berkshire county. It does not appear that it was very prevalent in Connecticut except here in Sharon. The Hon. Theodore Sedgwick, of Stockbridge, then a member of the Continental Congress, was a firm friend of the government, and watched with constant vigilance the movements of the rebels. Being made aware of the movements of Dr. Hulbert, in Sharon, he sent the following letter by express to his brother, the late General John Sedgwick, of Cornwall, who then commanded the Fourteenth Regiment of Connecticut Militia :—

GREAT BARRINGTON, 13 May 1787.

*My Dear Sir :—*

I am here this morning in consequence of the desire of Col. Newell. The scoundrels, confiding in the strength which they possess in the States of Connecticut, N. York and Vermont are meditating an invasion of this county, and publicly threaten ruin and desolation to the friends of Government. They boast much of the aid they expect from your quarter. Mr. Bliss is dispatched, he can relate to you our circumstances and the information we have received, and the means of procuring it. Our situation is critical and we must be greatly distressed if the other governments permit the rebels to machinate, while *they* are idle spectators of their practices.

We are here informed that men are openly enlisting in your county particularly in Sharon. This is beyond a doubt the case in the State of New York.

Is there no mean of calling such daring aggressors to account? Is Government indeed incapable of making resistance or indifferent to the ruin and distress of their neighbors? I know you will do everything in your power, let me know what is so.

I should have wrote to General Wolcott, but suppose him in Hartford. I pray you to take such measures as your prudence will dictate—make my duty to my mother and love to the family—Mrs. S. is pretty well.

I am dear Br. your affec.

THEODORE SEDGWICK.

JOHN SEDGWICK, Esq., Cornwall.



On the receipt of the foregoing on the day of its date, Colonel Sedgwick issued the following order:—

REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

CORNWALL, May, 13, 1787.

*To the Commanding Officers of Companies of the 14th Militia Regiment, State of Connecticut.*

GENTLEMEN:—I have this moment rec'd by express from Great Barrington that Parsons & Day, two principals under Shays, are returned and now publicly inlisting men in the State of New York, where, with the States of Vermont and Connecticut, their dependance lies—and that they are now inlisting men for the same purpose in Sharon in this County.

We must not be tame spectators of introducing civil discord into this State, which must be the case if we suffer our citizens to assist the rebels there: Should any attempt to march, you and every citizen of this State will be justified both in the sight of God and man to repel with force any such attempts by seizing and securing the perpetrators thereof and any who may be assisting therein. You will also hold yourselves and men in readiness to march well equipt, on the shortest notice. Should any considerable number march from this State to join the Rebels in Massachusetts, I shall undoubtedly soon have orders in a short time to march the Regiment to the support of government there. You must be determined in this matter, suppress the first eruption. In this perhaps Massachusetts has failed more than anything else.

I will be answerable for any consequences in executing this order. If anything material transpires pray give me notice.

JOHN SEDGWICK,

*Lt-Col. Comdt.*

The Legislature being then in session, and being advised of these proceedings, immediately took measures to suppress the rebellion as appears by the following record of its proceedings:—

WHEREAS this Assembly has received information that one Mitchell of Sharon and one Tanner of the State of New York have been and now are attempting to stir up and excite the people in some parts of the county of Litchfield to join the Insurgents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and have actually enlisted a number of men for that purpose in the town of Sharon, and that said Mitchell receives his advice and orders

from a Doct. Hurlbutt and Doct. Barnes late inhabitants of sd. commonwealth now resident in sd. Sharon, and that sundry persons in sd. Sharon and also in the town of Norfolk are endeavouring to raise insurrections and disturbance among the people: Thereupon, *Resolved* by this Assembly, That Col. Sam'l Canfield be and he is hereby appointed and directed immediately to repair to the county of Litchfield and confer with Gen'l Swift and such other gentlemen as he shall judge proper, and having gained such information and advice as may be in his power, thereupon to cause to be apprehended and brought before proper authority to be examined in the premises and dealt with according to law the aforesaid Mitchell, Tanner, Hurlbutt and Barnes, and such other persons as shall be thought necessary; and also to take every other legal and prudent measure as may be judged expedient to quiet the disorders that appear to be prevalent among the people, and for the establishment of government and good order in the most effectual manner.

And it is further *resolved*, That his Excellency the governor be and he is hereby requested to issue orders to Brigadier Gen'l Swift to call forth the whole or part of the military force under his command (in case the same shall be necessary) in order to stop or prevent any insurrections of the people and also prevent their joining said insurgents.

The committee on their way hither called on the State's Attorney, at Litchfield, took warrants grounded on his official information, and with the Sheriff of the county, made their appearance here before any one was apprized of their mission, much less of their approach. Hulbert, Mitchell, and two others were arrested and taken to Litchfield, for examination. Hulbert was prosecuted under the act against "vagrants, vagabonds, and common beggars," but on his solemn promise to leave the state forthwith, he was suffered to depart. The others being charged with treasonable practices were bound over to the next term of the superior court. Thus, by the seasonable measure of the government, the spirit of insubordination was effectually quelled, and as the suppression of the insurrection in Massachusetts followed not long after, the prosecutions against Mitchell and others were discontinued.

The following account of these proceedings is copied from a Litchfield paper of May 21, 1788.

"Last Thursday evening arrived in this town from Hartford, Colonel Samuel Canfield and Uriah Tracy, Esq., with orders from the General Assembly to repair to the town of Sharon, and put a stop to the insurrection that appeared to be raising in that town. The same evening they set off, accompanied by the sheriff and one of his deputies, and arrived at Sharon about daybreak, and soon after arrested five persons who were supposed to be the principal actors and abettors in the insurrection. They were conducted to and safely lodged in our gaol on Saturday last, in order for examination. It is hoped the early and spirited exertion of our Assembly will prevent any further disturbance in that town. Much praise is due to the gentlemen employed on that occasion for their prudence, humanity and judicious proceedings."

There was a decided majority of the voters in this town who were opposed to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Josiah Coleman and Jonathan Gillett were the delegates from this town to the convention which was called to pass upon the question of its ratification in January, 1788. Those gentlemen voted against its adoption and when it was acted upon in a subsequent town meeting, the majority was large against it.

From July 1, 1786, to January 1, 1787, Sharon	
paid excise duties to Abraham Bradley,	
Collector,.....	£40. 16. 1½
From January 1, 1787, to July 1, 1787,.....	38. 4. 7
From January 1, 1788, to July 1, 1788,.....	20. 3. 4
George King paid the largest amount of any	
one person at any one time being.....	19. 9. 4
Nathaniel Hamlin paid.....	19. 4. 2

At a regimental training in Sharon, on the 20th day of September, A. D. 1805, an altercation occurred between Zenas Beebe, of Sharon, and Aner Ives, of Kent, which was consummated by the stabbing of Ives by Beebe with a bayonet, inflicting a mortal wound, of which Ives died at the end of a

week. There were mitigating circumstances in the case which relieved Beebe from the charge of willful murder, but it was a clear case of manslaughter. By a singular blunder of the foreman of the jury, he was pronounced not guilty of any offence. The jury had agreed upon the verdict to be recorded to be—"Not guilty of murder ; but guilty of manslaughter." The foreman rendered the first part of the verdict, but stopped there. The subsequent proceedings in the matter are copied from the Records of the Court.

"After the verdict was rendered the foreman informed the court that the verdict which the jury had intended to return and had agreed on was—that the said Beebe was not guilty of murder, but by mistake he had omitted to return and state the whole finding of the jury, and desired to be directed by the court, whether the verdict and whole finding of the jury as agreed upon by them, and as he designed at first to have stated the same, would then be made and returned.

On consideration it was adjudged by the court, that the verdict of the jury as returned and recorded by them could not be explained or altered."

Beebe was defended by two of the ablest lawyers in the state, Nathaniel Smith, of Woodbury, and David Daggett, of New Haven.

At the term of the Superior Court holden February, A. D. 1820, Beebe was tried for an assault, with intent to kill Amasa Maxam, and found guilty. He was sentenced to confinement in the old Newgate prison for two years, but died before the expiration of his sentence.

## CHAPTER X.

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### METHODIST SOCIETY IN SHARON.

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THE first preaching in Sharon by clergymen of the Methodist connection was in 1788. A Mr. Cook, an Englishman, preached once or twice at Samuel Hitchcock's, in the south part of the town, and attracted considerable attention by his bold and stirring appeals to the conscience of his hearers. He also preached once or twice in the ball-room in Gallow's tavern, which stood on the lot now owned by Robert S. Noyes, Esq. It was said that some of the authorities of the town intimated to the tavern-keeper that another license would not be granted to him, if he opened his doors again to the preacher. Very soon Freeborn Garretson, who was the Presiding Elder in an adjoining district, in the State of New York, was invited by Mr. Sylvanus Hanchett, who then lived where Alden Bryan now lives, to hold meetings at his house. An interesting discussion took place, at one of these meetings, between Parson Smith and Mr. Garretson, which excited much attention at the time. It related to the disputed points which divided the two denominations of which they were ministers. It is not supposed, however, that any good results followed the controversy.

The Rev. Fitch Reed collected some facts and published the result of his investigations many years ago, relating to the introduction of Methodism into Sharon, which are undoubtedly authentic, as they were obtained from living witnesses, and which are of much interest to the present generation of that denomination in the town. The following is copied from Mr. Reed's statements :—

“Mr. Alpheus Jewett, father of the late Rev. William Jewett, of the New York Conference, and of the late Hon. Judge Jewett, of Skaneateles, New York, and his wife were the first persons who joined the Methodist church in Connecticut. Freeborn Garretson was the first Methodist preacher who visited that section. Jesse Lee soon after formed a Society in the south part of the State. These facts I learned from Rev. William Jewett, and they were afterwards confirmed to me by his father and mother.

The young Society in Sharon was supplied with preaching once in two weeks in the afternoon of a week day. Mr. Jewett was a farmer, and in the season of haying and harvest employed a number of extra laborers. He always invited his workmen to accompany him to the preaching, and they usually went. One day a Mr. Maxam, a poor man, declined thus going for the reason that he was poor and could not afford to lose the time. On Mr. Jewett's offering to pay him for the time thus spent, he went, was awakened and converted and lived to extreme old age, a faithful and useful member of the church.

A colored man, Black Harry, as he was called, a local preacher, often accompanied Mr. Garretson in his travels. Harry once spent two or three weeks in Sharon, and made himself very useful in preaching. Some unprincipled person invented and circulated an infamous story about him, and as it involved an alleged crime against the peace and good order of society, he was arrested and brought to trial before the civil authorities. The crowd assembled to witness the proceedings was so great that the Court was held in the Congregational Church on



the public green. The result was that *not a shadow of criminality was proved against him*, and he was honorably discharged. Andrew Harpending, a traveling preacher of some note, happened to be present, and as the people began to leave the church, he procured a table and taking his stand upon it in the open air, preached one of his characteristic sermons, loud, fearless and earnest. A young lady, living half a mile south, not being permitted to attend the meetings, stood at an open upper window, and there distinctly heard the preaching, and under its influence was brought to a saving knowledge of God. So God often works in unexpected ways and "makes the wrath of man to praise him."

As the Methodist Society in Sharon is located contiguous to the State of New York, it has always been connected with circuits and districts in that State. The circuits for many years extended into the counties of Dutchess and Columbia, and rendered necessary a tri-weekly travel of some two hundred miles for the preachers. As the preachers increased in numbers, and the means of their support were multiplied, the circuits were diminished in extent, and the appointments for preaching were more frequent. Meetings were held at private houses, and the preaching place in Sharon was at Mr. Jewett's. The old gentleman used to speak with great satisfaction of the large numbers of Methodist ministers, including Bishop Asbury, whom he had entertained at his house. The society has never been destitute of regular preaching since its formation.

The first camp meeting in Connecticut was holden in the summer of 1805, in a grove near the road leading north from Austin Cartwright's, and such success attended the proceedings that another was holden the next year near the house of Mr. Jewett. The exercises on both occasions were marked by the intensely earnest preaching, the fervent prayers, and the loud and lofty singing of God's praise, which characterized the early worship of that most remarkable body of Christians. Mr. Garretson had the charge of both meetings as Presiding Elder of

the district. The camp meetings for the two succeeding years were held in Goshen.

The society erected, in 1808, a meeting house, in Calkinstown so called. It stood facing the termination of the highway leading from Mr. Jewett's north to that locality, and it was their place of worship for nearly thirty years. And when in subsequent years, the progress of the society and the wants of the church demanded more enlarged accommodations, it was interesting to observe the lingering fondness with which the older members of the society cherished the memory of the scenes of spiritual joy and growth in grace, which religious exercises in that old tabernacle of the Lord had promoted and cherished. It had become *amiable* in their cherished recollections.

When, in 1835, it was deemed advisable to erect a new house of worship, it was found necessary to organize the society according the existing statute of the state. The law in that respect has since been altered, so that the ecclesiastical organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church becomes a legal organization, under the laws of the state. An enrollment of members was had, which was afterwards organized into a legal Ecclesiastical Society, in due form of law.

The following is a copy of the Article of enrollment and the appended names of the members, which must be deemed well worthy of preservation by their successors in all time to come.

We, the subscribers, for the purpose of availing ourselves of the rights, powers and privileges of a certain statute law of the state of Connecticut, entitled "An Act relating to religious societies and congregations," and for the maintenance of public religious worship in the town of Sharon, in the county of Litchfield and State aforesaid, according to the forms and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church, do, by voluntary Association of ourselves, for the purposes aforesaid, hereby institute and establish a religious society or congregation to be known and called by the name of the Methodist Episcopal Society in Sharon, and do hereby enroll ourselves as members of said Society, to be governed by all the laws regulating said societies except that of taxation.—Witness our hands—

Zaccheus W. Bissell,  
 Ira Williams,  
 Elijah H. Williams,  
 John Williams,  
 Daniel G. Miller,  
 Samuel Roberts, Jr.  
 Samuel Fenn,  
 John Senigo,  
 Ely Rowley,  
 Frederick A. Hotchkiss,  
 Henry Williams,  
 David H. Cole,

James Calkin,  
 Horace Reed,  
 Merrills McLean,  
 James R. Jenkins,  
 Ezra H. Bartram,  
 Hector W. Roberts,  
 Edgar J. Reed, Jr.  
 Miles B. Lewis,  
 Alden Bryan,  
 Dennis Brusie,  
 Gilbert Bryan,  
 D. Gibson.

The following is a record of the proceedings of the first meeting of the Society :—

“At a meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Society of Sharon, holden on the 13th day of January, A. D. 1835, in pursuance of a warrant under the hand of Charles F. Sedgwick, Justice of the Peace for the County of Litchfield—

“Rev. Julius Field was chosen moderator.

“Zaccheus W. Bissell chosen clerk *pro tem.* and duly sworn.

“Horace Reed was chosen clerk for the year ensuing of the Society.

“Elijah H. Williams was chosen treasurer for the year ensuing.

“Zaccheus W. Bissell, Ira Williams, Richard Clark were appointed a Society committee for the year ensuing.

“Richard Clark, Ira Williams, Zaccheus W. Bissell were appointed trustees of the Society.

“Virgil B. Roberts, Horace Reed, Zaccheus W. Bissell Ira Williams and Elijah H. Williams were appointed a building committee.

“Voted, that the church about to be erected by this Society shall be located in Sharon Village, on such piece of land as may be purchased by this Society for the erection of said church, and of which a deed shall be executed by the owner of said land to the Society, for the purpose aforesaid.”

The new church building was erected and finished in 1836.

In the subsequent Spring it was dedicated to religious use and worship, with appropriate ceremonies, by the Rev. Nathan Bangs, D.D., an eminent clergyman of the denomination, whose family in the early years of his ministry had lived in the town while he was fulfilling his appointment as preacher on this circuit. The house has been altered and improved in many respects since its first erection, and is now, probably, the most costly and tasteful church of that denomination in the county of Litchfield.

The following is a list of the preachers who have supplied the pulpit in Sharon since 1828 :

David Miller,  
Phineas Cook,  
Billy Hibbard,  
Aaron Pearce,  
Theodore Clark,  
T. Sparks,  
Julius Fields,  
J. B. Wakely,  
Richard Wymond,  
Sanford Washburn,  
George D. Sutton,  
Fitch Reed,  
D. Holmes,  
Wm. K. Stopford,  
Hart F. Pease,  
Fitch Reed,  
S. N. Vail,

Wm. S. Stillwell,  
Lucius H. King,  
M. R. Lent,  
D. B. Turner,  
Benj. M. Adams,  
Elbert Osborne,  
Joel Croft,  
Jason Wells,  
Clark Fuller,  
D. Gibson,  
Wm. S. Stillwell,  
G. Daniels,  
H. B. Mead,  
Ira Ferris,  
Wm. Stevens,  
Clark Eggleston,  
S. J. McCutcheon.

## CHAPTER XI.

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### HISTORY OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY CONTINUED.

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IT will have been observed that during the early years of the history of the town, ecclesiastical affairs were the subject of business in the town meetings. Churches were built, pastors settled, and taxes laid for their support in the same manner that all other public expenses were provided for. This method of the support of religious institutions was continued long after the dissenters had become numerous, and after they had been relieved from taxes levied for the support of the Standing Order. Before the close of the last century, the inconvenience of conducting ecclesiastical and civil business by one organization had become so great, that a law was passed, authorizing the formation of ecclesiastical societies in the different towns, from which all secular business was to be excluded, and turned over to the towns in their corporate capacity. The law required, that on the application of a certain number of the principal inhabitants of a society thus proposed to be organized, a warrant might be issued by a Justice of the Peace, summoning the members to meet at the place of holding town

meetings, to organize the society, and assume the charge of ecclesiastical affairs in the town. The warrant in this case was issued by David Downs, Esq., a Justice of the Peace on the application of—

Pelataiah Pierce,  
Paul Smith, Jr.  
Nathaniel Lowrey,  
David Gay,

Silas St. John,  
Thomas St. John,  
Eliphalet Martin,  
Edmund Bennett.

At this first meeting of the society, Deacon Isaac Chamberlain, Mr. Pelataiah Pierce and David Downs, Esq., were chosen Society's Committee, to act in society matters in the same capacity as selectmen act in the town affairs. Colonel Samuel Canfield was chosen society's clerk, which office he held till 1805, when Dr. Samuel Rockwell was chosen clerk, which office he held till 1836. Richard Smith, Esq., was then chosen clerk and has held the office till the present time. Parson Smith, when in the maturity of his powers, was deemed one of the best preachers of his time, in the ministerial circle with which he was connected. Other elements of character combined to make him very strong in the affection and respect of his people, and when old age with its attendant infirmities came upon him, it does not appear that the parish entertained any desire for a change of its clerical relations. The first movement in that direction was from Parson Smith himself. At a meeting of the society, holden on the 1st Monday of March, 1802, the following communication, from the minister, was laid before the meeting :—

*To the Church and first Society in Sharon—Beloved brethren and friends :—*

The fifth of October last completed a period of seven and forty years since I first came into this town to labor with you in the work of the gospel ministry; however I was not ordained to that sacred work until the 28th of August following. During this length of time, I have labored with you by night and by day, in season and out of season. I could have wished that my labors might have proved more successful, but this was not in my power to command, however sincerely de-



sired and ardently prayed for ; and now, at length, worn down with age and bodily infirmities, I find myself unable to discharge the duties of that sacred office in such a manner as would be most useful and beneficial to you. The support of the gospel ministry will richly compensate for the good derived to Society, as it respects the life that now is, but if we take eternity into view, it becomes an object of infinite magnitude and importance.

It is therefore, Brethren, my sincere desire, that you would invite and call in some suitable person to take part with me in the evangelical ministry, as a colleague, and fellow laborer in this vineyard of our common Lord ; and I shall always be ready to afford you my assistance, so far as my strength and abilities will permit. And that the burden of support might not be too great, I offer to resign my salary except the parsonage money which is about twenty pounds ten shillings, and nine pounds ten shillings in addition, which will amount to one hundred dollars, whenever another minister shall be settled in this place.

This small compensation you will not think unreasonable to grant towards my support and comfort during the remainder of my days, which in all probability will be but of short continuance. And if any other method can be devised which will be more agreeable to the church and society, it shall meet with my hearty concurrence.

May the great Head of the Church guide and direct you in this important affair, and that the result may be for the honor of God, the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom, your present peace and future tranquility and happiness, is the most devout wish and fervent prayer of your sincere friend and aged pastor and teacher.

COTTON M. SMITH.

Sharon, Feb. 9, 1802.

The only action taken by the society at its first meeting called to consider the application of Parson Smith, was a vote directing the committee to hire some person to assist him in preaching, but at a subsequent meeting held April 12, 1802, the society voted to comply with his request. During the two years which elapsed before the settlement of a colleague, Mr. Smith must have preached for a considerable portion of the time, as the society paid him two hundred and twenty dollars for his services for the first year, and two hundred and eighty-seven dollars for the second.

At a meeting of the society, holden on the 3d day of October, 1803, it was voted that a committee be directed to hire the Rev. David L. Perry, or some other person, if he is not to be obtained, till further orders from the society, and to give more importance to the measure, it was voted that Deacon Paul Smith, Capt. Samuel Pardee and Deacon Benjamin Hamlin be appointed a committee to assist the present committee to hire some person to assist in preaching.

At a meeting holden on the 3d day of January, 1804, Mr. Abraham Beecher moved, *that the society wish Mr. David L. Perry to settle as colleague with the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith in the work of the ministry.* This motion was postponed to a future meeting, and the committee were directed to hire Mr. Perry for six Sabbaths. At an adjourned meeting, holden on the 16th day of January, A. D. 1804, the motion was unanimously passed, with an offer of a yearly salary of five hundred dollars. This was then as large a salary as was paid to any minister in the consociation. Mr. Perry signified his acceptance of the call, and the first Wednesday in June, 1804, being the 6th day of the month, was appointed for the ordination. It took place according to the appointment, and the following is the order of exercises:—

Moderator of the Consociation—Rev. Amaria R. Robbins, of Norfolk.

Introductory prayer—By the Rev. Samuel J. Mills, of Tarringford.

Sermon—Rev. David Perry, of Richmond, Mass., father of the candidate.

Consecrating prayer—Rev. Joel Bordwell, of Kent; Revs. Smith, Perry, Robbins and Mills, imposing hands.

Charge to the Pastor—By Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, his colleague.

Right hand of fellowship—Rev. Joseph W. Crossman, of Salisbury.

Concluding prayer—Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, of Canton.

The Rev. Mr. Smith continued in the ministry in Sharon until the 27th day of November, 1806, when the venerable

and beloved pastor went down to the grave. After the settlement of Mr. Perry he preached but seldom. He however delivered a sermon on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, which made the occasion one of the most tender and affecting interest. The character of this excellent man is well and very truly summed up in the epitaph inscribed upon his monument, which is as follows :—

The REV. COTTON MATHER SMITH,  
Born in Suffield, Oct. 16, 1731, ordained in Sharon,  
August 28, 1755, died Nov. 27, 1806, in the 76th year of  
his age and 52d of his ministry.

Sound in the faith, in life and conversation as becometh the  
Gospel, in doctrine incorrupt; in manner forcible and persuasive;

A fond husband; a tender father; an unvarying friend;

Having for more than *fifty years*, earnestly contended for the  
faith once delivered to the saints, he is gone to render his  
final account to the great captain of his salvation.

People of his charge, he still speaks to you in a voice  
awful as death, solemn as the grave,

Prepare to meet your God.

The Rev. David L. Perry was born at Harwinton, Conn., on the 21st of June, 1777. He was the son of the Rev. David Perry, who was then the minister of Harwinton, but who was afterwards and for many years settled at Richmond, Mass. He was a graduate of Williams College of the class of 1798, and for three years commencing in October, 1800, was a tutor in that institution. He studied divinity with the Rev. Dr. Backus, of Somers, Conn., and upon the unanimous invitation of the church and society in this town, he settled here in the ministry as before stated. Soon after his settlement, he married the only daughter of the Rev. Dr. Strong, minister of the first church in Hartford, by whom he had ten children.

Soon after his settlement in Sharon, he purchased of Deacon Paul Smith forty acres of land lying on the east side of the town street, including that now owned by Mr. Henry J. Taylor. On this he erected a very neat and commodious brick dwelling house, which has been very much enlarged by subse-

quent owners, and which was his home during his life. The good taste of Mr. Perry in improving the grounds and beautifying the adjoining appurtenances have made it one of the most admired and desirable family residences in Sharon. He continued in the ministry here until his death on the 25th day of October, 1835, having been suddenly cut off by a stroke of apoplexy. He was a man of very pure character and of respectable talents, and he died much lamented by the people of his charge and his brethren in the ministry.

Up to the year 1807 all the expenses of the Society had been provided for by the levy of a tax on the polls and property real and personal of the members, except the income of the small fund arising from the sale of the original parsonage right. At the annual meeting of the Society in 1807, an important change in the method of providing funds was adopted. It was voted to rent the pews for one year to the highest bidder. This was so great an innovation that there were serious fears of its failure. The first committee appointed to sell the pews were Isaac Hunt, George King, Isaac Chamberlain, Samuel Rockwell, and Paul Smith, Jun. The proceedings were a success, and that method of raising money for the expenses of the Society has been continued with a few temporary exceptions to the present time.

In the year 1813, it had become apparent that the society was growing weaker in its means of supporting the necessary expenses of its institutions, and that the congregation was growing less in numbers. The emigration of its members and the increase of dissenters contributed largely to that result. Anxious for the maintenance of the Puritan system and for the continuance of the administration of gospel ordinances in their time-honored method in Sharon, the men of property in the parish undertook to raise, by subscription, a permanent fund, to be safely invested in securities by real estate, the income of which was to be applied to the payment of the expenses of the society. The whole sum was subscribed before the matter was brought before the society for its acceptance.

The articles of subscription were drawn up in the most careful manner, to insure the safety of the investments, and to direct the use of the fund to the purposes intended by the donors. The church is allowed to change its form of administration from Congregational to Presbyterian, but in other respects all deviations from the strictest rules of old New England Puritanism are forbidden. At a society's meeting holden on the first day of November, 1813, the fund was transferred to the society and accepted by it upon the terms and conditions specified in the article of subscription. It was placed in the care of the committee of the society. The amount subscribed in the first instance was over four thousand dollars. The old parsonage fund amounted to a little more than one thousand dollars, and several subscriptions, legacies and donations have been added since, so that the present amount of the fund is about seven thousand dollars. Of this sum, two thousand dollars has been invested in the parsonage. There were forty subscribers to the fund article, and the following is a list of the names of those who subscribed fifty dollars and over :—

John Cotton Smith and son,.....	\$700.00
Paul Smith, Jr., and sons,.....	300.00
Calvin Noyes,.....	300.00
Cyrus Swan,.....	200.00
Benj. Hamlin and sons,.....	200.00
Isaac Chamberlain,.....	150.00
Edmund Bennett,.....	150.00
Samuel Rockwell and sons,.....	150.00
Samuel Pardee and son,.....	160.00
George King,.....	150.00
Joseph Orton,.....	100.00
David Gould,.....	100.00
Hezekiah Goodwin,.....	100.00
Nathaniel Hamlin,.....	140.00
Aunt Sterling,.....	100.00
Abraham Beecher, for son Amos,.....	100.00
David Gould, Jr.,.....	200.00
Abraham Pratt,.....	100.00
John W. Smith,.....	80.00

Abner Burnham,.....	\$70.00
Samuel Beecher and sons,.....	60.00
Simeon Lyman,.....	80.00
Benj. Reid,.....	60.00
Mary Noyes,.....	50.00
Chas. Elliott,.....	50.00
Rebecca Patchin,.....	50.00
Israel White,.....	50.00
Silas A. Gray,.....	50.00
Chas. F. Sedgwick,.....	50.00
Prudence Reid,.....	50.00
Jacob Chamberlain,.....	50.00

This fund has been of very great utility to the society, giving stability to its proceedings and encouraging accession to its membership.

A stove was first set up in the meeting house in 1818, against a strong opposition from some of the older members of the congregation.

The first twenty years of Mr. Perry's ministry passed without any thing to mark it with any peculiarities. Several revivals of religion attended the faithfulness of his ministry, and added to the membership of the church. Times had so changed, that those who disliked the ministry, instead of making their dislike known through their votes in the meetings of the society, would leave it without reproach, and unite with some other denomination of Christians, and the society thus left, though weakened in numbers by their secession, was strengthened by the unity which it occasioned. Emigration, too, had caused the withdrawal of much strength from the parish. A revival of religion in 1823 added some one hundred members to the church, which gave it unwonted stability, and encouraged efforts to build up the society.

The great want of the society had been for many years a new place of worship. The old church, standing in the main street was out of repair, and in no way conformed with the requirements of modern taste or convenience.

Encouraged by the smiles of the Divine favor, and by the



unity of sentiment in favor of the measure, the society undertook, in 1823, to erect a substantial and costly edifice for the worship of God. At a society's meeting, holden on the 20th day of October of that year, it was voted that John Cotton Smith, Edmund Bennett, Samuel Rockwell, Isaac Chamberlain, and Charles F. Sedgwick be a committee to enquire into the expediency to prepare a plan and furnish an estimate of the probable expense of building a new house of worship, and report to the next adjourned meeting. On the 18th of November following, the committee reported to an adjourned meeting of the society that it was inexpedient to repair the old church. They also recommended to the society to instruct the society's committee to collect such information and make such estimates of the expense necessary to build a new church, as shall be necessary, and report to a future meeting of the society.

At the annual meeting of the society, in October 13, 1823, the following resolution was adopted, two-thirds of the voters being in the vote :—

*Resolved*, That whereas the present House of Worship in this Society is so far decayed as to be unfit for use or repair, it is expedient to erect by subscription, a new edifice for the worship of God.

*Resolved*, That Samuel Rockwell, Henry Reed, William M. Smith and Charles F. Sedgwick be a committee to solicit subscriptions for a sum not less than four thousand dollars, for the foregoing object.

This meeting was adjourned for two weeks, and at the adjourned meeting, the committee for obtaining subscriptions reported such success that a very strong vote was passed to proceed in the erection of a new house of worship without further delay. It was further voted that a committee be appointed to adopt a place for this proposed building, to determine whether it should be constructed of brick or stone ; to make the necessary contracts for the erection and completion thereof, and to dispose of the old meeting house so as best to subserve the interests of the society in building another ; the

committee to consist of nine members, to be chosen by ballot, a majority of whom were to be competent for the transaction of business. The following named persons were appointed upon this committee :—

John Cotton Smith,  
Samuel Rockwell,  
Hezekiah Goodwin,  
Cyrus Swan,  
William M. Smith.

Isaac Chamberlain,  
Edmund Bennett,  
Charles F. Sedgwick,  
Aaron Read,

It was further provided that the committee should select three of their number, to superintend the building of the house, and to collect and pay over to the treasurer of the society the monies subscribed for that purpose. The persons selected as this sub-committee were Hezekiah Goodwin, William M. Smith and Charles F. Sedgwick. It was determined to build the walls of the house of brick, on a stone underpinning, and a contract was made with William Watson, of New Milford, a builder of high repute and long experience, to do the mason work of the house. The woodwork was contracted to be done by James Jennings, of Weston, in New Fairfield county, who had been known here as a builder of churches by his having been employed in such service in North Canaan and Warren a short time before. Both these gentlemen fulfilled their contracts to the entire satisfaction of the committee and of the society, and all the expenses of the building were promptly met by the parish.

The following is a copy of the subscription paper to raise the money to build the meeting house, with the names of those who subscribed to the amount of fifty dollars or over :—

SHARON, October 13th, 1822.

*Whereas*, the house dedicated to divine worship in the first Ecclesiastical Society in Sharon is so far destroyed as to be unfit for use or repair,

*Therefore*, to erect a suitable edifice for the service of Almighty God, according to the Congregational or Presbyterian system of faith and worship, the walls to be constructed of brick or stone, under the direction of the committee of said society, and to be located on land now owned by Samuel Rockwell,

Esq., near the site of the present house ; we, the subscribers, do severally engage to pay to such committee the sums annexed to our respective names ; one-half part thereof on the first of May next, and the remainder on the first day of November then following. Provided nevertheless that unless the amount of four thousand dollars shall be subscribed for the foregoing object, the present article shall not be obligatory on the subscribers, but shall be deemed of no effect.

John Cotton Smith and son,.....	\$1100.00
Calvin Noyes,.....	300.00
Paul Smith and son,.....	210.00
Samuel Rockwell, for site and expenses,...	262.00
David Gould, Jr.,.....	125.00
Aaron Reed,.....	125.00
Alanson Wheeler,.....	110.00
Isaac Chamberlain and son, ...	100.00
Samuel Beecher,.....	100.00
Cyrus Swan,.....	115.00
David Gould,.....	100.00
Hezekiah Goodwin,.....	120.00
Amy Chapman,.....	100.00
Simeon Lyman,.....	100.00
Edmund Bennett,.....	100.00
George King,.....	100.00
Benjamin Reed,.....	95.00
Chas. Elliott,.....	87.00
Benj. and Ebenezer Hamlin,.....	70.00
Joshua Lovell,.....	75.00
Henry Reed,.....	62.00
Calvin Gay,.....	60.00
Daniel Lowrey,.....	60.00
Abraham Pratt,.....	60.00
Israel Cowles and son,.....	50.00
Joseph Orton,.....	50.00
Lois Sears and children,.....	50.00
Isaac Lyman,.....	50.00
Charles Van Dusen,.....	50.00
Mary Noyes and son,.....	50.00
Geo. King, Jr.,.....	50.00
Robert R. Beecher,.....	50.00
C. and R. B. Cole,.....	50.00
Tarsus Botsford,.....	50.00
Benj. Lines,.....	50.00

In the Spring of 1863 the subject of a thorough repair and alteration of the church was agitated, and received the approval of nearly all the members of the society. At a meeting holden on May 29, 1863, Charles Sears, John C. Terrett, Aaron R. Smith, Asahel A. Hotchkiss and Henry M. Gillette were appointed a committee to adopt a plan of the proposed repairs, and in their report made to a subsequent meeting they, or a majority of them, were authorized to proceed with such repairs and improvements, both inside and outside, wherein the subscriptions for that purpose should become binding, and also to construct a lecture room, whenever a subscription of sufficient funds could be obtained.

While the church was being repaired, the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church was kindly offered for congregational Sabbath worship in the afternoon. Both congregations were every way well accommodated, and were much enlarged during the continuance of the arrangement, and friendly feelings between them prevailed throughout the whole time thus occupied.

The proceedings of the committee in repairing the church were prosecuted with so much vigor, that it was occupied by the society, for public worship, on the 6th day of March, 1864. It was dedicated by appropriate ceremonies on the 2d of March, 1864, an historical sermon being preached by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. McLaughlin. The whole expense of repairing, painting and furnishing the house was four thousand and fifty-four dollars, and provision was made to meet that whole sum before the house was occupied.

The next indispensable item in the supply of the wants of the society was a parsonage, and on the 18th day of June, 1866, it was voted, notwithstanding the great expense incurred in repairing and improving the church, to incur the greater expense of building a costly and beautiful parsonage. Joseph Bostwick, Aaron R. Smith, William W. Knight, Gilbert L. Smith and Hiram Weed were appointed a committee, *to examine sites and raise money by subscriptions, to procure a parson-*

*age and other appropriate buildings.* This committee selected the site now occupied by the building, and on the 16th day of July Henry M. Gillette, Joseph Bostwick, Aaron R. Smith, Gilbert L. Smith and Charles Sears were appointed a committee to go forward and erect the building. Some dissatisfaction with the choice of a site and other matters pertaining to the erection of the building exhibited itself, and another meeting was called to review, and perhaps reverse the proceedings of the last one; but the young and enterprising men of the parish had the matter in hand, and the society sustained their movement by a large majority. The whole expense of the building was \$5,784, which was promptly met by the parish. It has also expended more than one thousand dollars in the purchase and improvement of their organ, but it is now entirely free from debt.

The following named gentlemen have been pastors of the church since Mr. Perry's death, for the times indicated:

Rev. Mason Grosvenor, installed Sept. 28, 1836; dismissed May 14, 1839.

Rev. Grove L. Brownell, installed May 20, 1840; dismissed August 1, 1848.

Rev. Thomas G. Carver, installed Oct. 1, 1851; dismissed August 6, 1853.

Rev. Leonard E. Lathrop, installed July 18, 1854; died August 20, 1857.

Rev. Daniel D. T. McLaughlin, installed January 18, 1859; dismissed June 7, 1865.

Rev. Alexander B. Bullions, D. D., the present incumbent, was installed May 28, 1868.

The following named persons have held the office of deacon in the church.

Nathaniel Skinner, elected in 1739.

Ebenezer Jackson, elected in 1739.

Matthew St. John, elected in 1745.

Jonathan Elmer, elected in 1746.

Ebenezer Frisbie, elected in 1755.

John Williams, elected in 1766.

Timothy Carvier, elected in 1766.

Daniel Griswold, elected in 1774.  
Gain Miller, elected in 1781.  
Joseph Landon, elected in 1781.  
Benjamin Hamlin, elected in 1793.  
Paul Smith, Jr., elected in 1793.  
Isaac Chamberlain, elected in 1799.  
Aaron Read, elected in 1812,  
William Mather Smith, elected in 1828.  
Charles Sears, elected in 1854.  
John Cotton Terrett, elected in 1864.  
Abel C. Woodward, elected in 1874.  
Edward F. Gillette, elected in 1874.



## CHAPTER XII.

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### THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

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THE feeling in favor of sustaining the government in putting down the rebellion of 1861, was very strong in Sharon. If there were any who favored weak measures and a vacillating policy, in dealing with the insurgents, they were very few and scarcely known to the great body of the people. During the first year of the war, volunteering was very prompt to the full number required to answer the calls of the government. When in 1862 the government found it necessary to require of the volunteers a longer term of service, a draft from the military subjects was resorted to to supply the demand, and the following named persons were the first conscripts from Sharon :—

Gordon J. Peet,  
Cyrenus Hunter,  
Albert F. Roberts,  
William E. Brown,  
Albert Scott,  
Don P. Griswold,  
Newton Bump,  
Aaron H. Dunbar,  
George W. Birdsell,  
William E. Marsh,

Frederick Northrup,  
Charles P. St. John,  
Charles B. Everitt,  
Joshua B. Chaffee,  
Ezekiel S. Whitney,  
John VanDusen,  
George D. Williams,  
Charles W. Reed,  
Richard Woodward,  
Asa Smith,

Chesterfield Chapman,  
 Hilan B. Eggleston,  
 Richard F. Everitt,  
 Elias B. Reed,  
 Henry Bush,

Wm. Bush,  
 William Chapman,  
 Baldwin Reed, 2d.  
 James Kelly,  
 Charles Hotchkiss.

All of the above named procured substitutes, except William Chapman, who was a son of the late Lovell W. Chapman, and who died in the hospital in Washington within a few weeks after being mustered into the service.

The town of Sharon had in the field, at different times, during the war, more than two hundred of its citizens or their substitutes, and her quota of soldiers was never deficient.

The following is a roll of the soldiers who served in the army, and were credited to Sharon in the Adjutant General's office. Many of the names are familiar to the citizens, and most of the strange names were borne by substitutes.

John Anderson,  
 Thos. R. Albro,  
 Stephen B. Allen,  
 Paul August,  
 Wm. Abbott,  
 Lewis R. Ashman,  
 Samuel J. Alexander,  
 Bradford B. Brown,  
 Geo. M. Bennett,  
 Wm. H. Bowen,  
 Daniel Buxton,  
 Rich. Beebe, killed in battle.  
 Chas. Barley,  
 Myron Buttolph,  
 Samuel Beeman,  
 Chas. Bayard,  
 Harry Belmont,  
 George Brown,  
 Edward Baker,  
 Nelson Bush,  
 William Bush,  
 Henry Bush,  
 E. J. Brazee,  
 Seymour Buckley,

John Brown,  
 Henry Burke,  
 Enoch B. Benedict,  
 Frederick S. Beebe,  
 Lorenzo C. Buttolph,  
 Wm. Brazee,  
 John Bates,  
 Richard Booth,  
 Joseph Belore,  
 Chas. Brown,  
 Wm. Bartlett,  
 Newton Bowen,  
 N. Chapman,  
 Edward H. Cross,  
 John Chase,  
 John Curtin,  
 Michael Curley,  
 Wm. Clinton,  
 Jas. B. Capron,  
 Chas. F. Cain,  
 George I. Conklin,  
 Henry Cain,  
 Jerome Chapman,  
 Edwin Cain,

John Colder,	Michael Henry,
Angevme Cook,	John Hevley,
Henry A. Chapman,	Chas. H. Hamlin,
George Clinton,	David Hector,
James Carl,	Geo. W. Hall,
Joshua B. Chaffee,	Joshua B. Hoxie,
Chas. E. Cole,	Peter Honey,
Wm. Chapman, died in hos-	Wm. H. Ingraham,
Julius N. Cole,	Chas. Ingersoll,
Wm. Clark,	Nathan H. Jewitt,
Gustin Champlin,	William Johnson,
Charles Chapman,	Henry Johns,
Michael Cullen,	Harvey Johns,
Geo. Cook,	Gilbert Ingraham, [battle.
Thomas Coliby,	Andrew Jackson, killed in
Henry S. Dean,	Jas. B. Johnson,
Jas. Doyle,	Thos. Jones,
Jas. H. Divine,	Wm. C. Jacobs,
Edmund Divine,	Jas. R. Jenkins,
John Dunbar,	Galls Juans,
John B. Derich,	Elijah Johns,
Thomas Doty,	Elmore F. Jenks,
Edmund Dean,	Martin B. Jenkins,
Everitt Dunbar,	Michael Kelly,
Garrett Dean,	Chas. King,
Jas. Doty,	Fred'k King,
William Frazier,	Patrick Kinney,
Peter Foster,	John Kelly,
Newell P. Foot,	Henry Kelly,
John Frawley,	Gilbert E. Lake,
Carl Freidland,	Walstein Loundsbury,
Michael Frawley,	William H. Logan,
Wm. Fitzgerald,	John Lynch,
Peter Gimlet,	Chas. Loretta,
Thomas Garvin,	Jos. B. Loper,
Wm. H. Gaul,	Stephen McIntyre,
Chauncey Griffin,	Oakley Middlebrooks,
Geo. Gaston,	Wm. Mooney,
Horace R. Griswold,	Joseph Marline,
John Grady,	James McMaster,
Fred'k D. Holmes,	Christopher Muller,
Charles F. Hinman,	Cyrus Mitchell,
Edward E. Hoffman,	John H. Mitchell,
N. L. Holmes,	Andrew Morehouse,

Carlo Mosier,  
 Jose Mayor,  
 August Mitjen,  
 John Mentin,  
 Wm. H. Norton,  
 Smith Olaw,  
 Geo. D. Palmer,  
 John F. Peck,  
 John Palmer,  
 Miles Pedro,  
 Shephard Packhard,  
 Sanford B. Palmer,  
 Sheldon F. Prout,  
 John Quinn,  
 Albert Robinson,  
 Dayton Reed,  
 Chas. J. Reed,  
 Isaac L. Reed,  
 Ralph Rowley,  
 Chas. E. Reea,  
 John Rogers,  
 John Ryan,  
 Thos. Redding,  
 Milo Reynolds,  
 John Rowley,  
 Robert A. Sedgwick,  
 Wm. Shephard,  
 Dwight D. Studley,  
 Geo. W. Studley,  
 Elisha Soule,  
 John Stevenson,  
 Edward Saunders,  
 Josiah Starr,  
 Lewis H. Starr,  
 Jas. Sullivan,  
 Jas. Sinton,

Geo. C. Skiff,  
 James Savoy,  
 Chester Slover,  
 Wm. A. Smith,  
 Wm. Smith,  
 Almond Slover,  
 Robert Shea,  
 Wm. Smith,  
 Lyman Teator,  
 Chas. P. Traver,  
 Chas. H. Treadway,  
 John Tuttle,  
 David Taylor,  
 John Taylor,  
 John Thompson,  
 John Tracy,  
 Henry Tohoff,  
 Henry Valentine,  
 Wm. Waldron,  
 Elmore E. Waldron,  
 Henry Wheeler,  
 Joseph Wheeler,  
 Benj. Wilson,  
 Peter Welch,  
 Wm. Waters,  
 Chas. Witham,  
 Ransom Welton,  
 Lockwood Waldron,  
 Thomas Wilson,  
 Horace C. Warner,  
 Chas. L. Wardwell,  
 Edmund Whitney,  
 James Wilton,  
 Geo. Williams,  
 Fred'k White,  
 Napoleon Wilson.

At a town meeting, held at the Town Hall in Sharon July 26, 1862, Samuel Roberts, Esq., Moderator, the following preamble and votes were passed :—

*Whereas*, Under the late call of the President of the United States for the additional force of three hundred thousand volunteers to put down the unrighteous and wicked rebellion, to

restore the supremacy of law and order in our land, and happiness to our beloved country ; it becomes the duty of this town to raise about thirty volunteers as her quota ; and whereas it is desirable and necessary that said number shall be put into the field without delay—

*Therefore*, as an expression of the loyalty of the citizens of this town and of their willingness and determination to meet this and all other demands made upon them either by the chief magistrate of the Republic, or the executive of our State, to support and sustain our government in this the hour of its peril, and to enable the government (so far as it is our duty) to prosecute the war to a speedy and triumphant issue—to expedite volunteering to the number aforesaid,

*Voted*, 1. That the selectmen of Sharon be and are hereby authorized to pay to each volunteer, who shall enlist to make the quota of Sharon, under the late call of the President the sum of one hundred dollars, and to pay the same as soon as they are mustered and accepted by the United States, and that the selectmen draw their orders on the town treasurer for such sums.

*Voted*, 2d, That in case the Secretary of War, or the Executive of the United States, or of this State, shall fix or recommend a sum to be uniformly paid to volunteers, as bounty, through this State, or the United States, the selectmen are hereby directed to comply with such request, provided that the bounty of any volunteer in this town shall not be reduced after he has enrolled his name.

*Voted*, 3d. That, if there shall not be sufficient money in the town treasury for the aforesaid purpose, the treasurer be and is hereby authorized to borrow, on account of said town, so much as will make up such deficiency for the period of one year.

*Voted*, 4th. That the selectmen and the town clerk elect some person who shall be an inhabitant of this town, and recommend him to the Governor of this State as a suitable person to be appointed as a recruiting officer in this town, and a commissioned officer in such company as the Sharon quota may be placed ; and in making such choice they shall consider his efficiency as a recruiting officer, his ability to command and his probable acceptance by such company.

*Voted*, 5th. That our representatives, Asahel A. Hotchkiss and John Henry PerLee, be and are hereby appointed a committee to co-operate with and assist said recruiting officer.

*Voted*, 6th. That the selectmen make a written report of their doings in the premises at the next annual town meeting.

The following resolutions were adopted, as expressive of the sense of the meeting:—

*Resolved*, That we look upon the present as the the crisis of the rebellion, a crisis from which we see no deliverance other than in the most prompt and energetic action.

*Resolved*, That every person and every community of doubtful loyalty should be regarded as disloyal, and the announcement should be made that we rely on no qualified Unionists to aid in this contest for great principles, but must only in the truly loyal, who will sacrifice property, life and even opinion for the common good.

*Resolved*, That the time has fully come when we must strike for our national life, using every weapon God hath given us, and calling to our aid every person who can be drawn from the rebels or added to our cause. That a proclamation of the commander-in-chief declaring the provisions of the recent law of Congress to be the sentiments of the government, and that they will be enforced, would secure to the Union cause thousands of laborers, thousands of fighting men, and millions of co-operating well-wishers, that the welfare of our country, the lives of loyal soldiers, and the happiness of loyal families all over the free States, demand the proclamation.

*Resolved*, That every day's delay complicates our relations, both foreign and domestic, gives the rebels strength, and is wasting hundreds of good and true men, and it is far better that every rebel should perish than that one more loyal soldier should die.

And, therefore, it is that we, with entire unanimity, most respectfully and earnestly call upon the President to act in his capacity as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and immediately issue the order which will take from the rebels their great source of strength, while it will diminish their army by calling to the defence of their homes large numbers of rebel officers and men, and to assure the President that in this, as in every act of his administration, the people of the free States will sustain the policy, while the whole civilized world will applaud the Proclamation of Emancipation.

Recorded by HARRY LOCKWOOD.

*Town Clerk.*



## CHAPTER XIII.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES—FAMILY SKETCHES, GENEALOGIES, ETC.

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ABEL, David, was from Lebanon, and came to Sharon in 1760. He purchased of John Roberts the lot of land on which Earl M. Cartwright now resides. He had five sons, Sluman, David, William, John and Andrew. William was a soldier in the revolutionary war and a pensioner. Mr. Abel died June 23, 1781, at the age of 60. The name of the neighborhood called Abel street was derived from him.

Ackley, Thomas, from Chatham, came to Sharon, in 1768. He purchased of Phineas Post, of Lebanon, the thirty-second lot in the first hundred acre division. He lived on the Ellsworth turnpike, where William Whitney now lives. He had three sons, Thomas, David and Abraham. Thomas entered the revolutionary army in 1776, and was taken prisoner at capture of Fort Washington. He died during his captivity. Mr. Ackley, the father, died Nov. 6th, 1792, at the age of 67.

Atherton, James, was an early settler from Coventry. He lived near the place now owned by Zalmon S. Hunt, Esq., south of Hitchcock's Corner. He had five sons, John, David, James,

Simon and Moses. The family removed from the town in the course of a few years to Newton, N. J.

Avery, William, was from Lyme, in 1777. He was a hatter by trade, and lived in Ellsworth, on the Perkins place, so called. He married a sister of Captain Isaiah Everett. He removed to Duaneburgh, N. Y., early in the present century, where he died.

Bacon, Jacob, was from Canaan, in 1741, and lived where Charles Benton now lives. He was a large landholder; he removed to Salisbury in 1748.

Badcock, Zebulon, was from Coventry, and came to Sharon in 1745. He settled near where Dwight St. John now lives, but in 1747 he bought the seventeenth home-lot, known as the Patchen place, now occupied by George H. Chase, Esq., and lived there nearly forty years. He afterwards returned to Coventry.

Bailey, Joseph, was from Lebanon, and came to Sharon in 1774. He purchased of Samuel Chapman, the farm on which his son, the late Deacon Joseph Bailey resided, in Ellsworth. He died Sept. 15, 1802, at the age of 69. He had three sons, Joseph, Pelatiah and Benjamin, who resided in the town and died there.

Barnes, Thomas, was an early settler in the northwest part of the town, and lived near the present residence of Mr. Roswell H. Hazzard. He came into the town in 1750. He had three sons, Thomas, Dan and Jonah. He died in 1760. Thomas, the oldest son, lived on the same place until his death, March 7, 1807, at the age of 74. Dan lived in the town of Amenia, N. Y. Jonah, the youngest son, was a physician, and a man of great wit and shrewdness. He lived at what is now called the Evertson place, west of the Governor house.

Barrows, David, came from Mansfield, before the revolutionary war. He lived where Adonijah Maxam lived. He had no children. He died on the 6th day of January, 1815, at the age of 83.

Barrows, Amos, was a brother of the preceding, and lived many years where Stephen White lately lived, in the Great Hollow. He kept a tavern, and was accidentally killed, by falling from the hay-loft in his barn, on the 5th day of December, 1779, at the age of 50 years.

Barstow, Seth, was from Rochester, Mass., in 1771. He lived at the lower end of Abel street, where his grandson, Seth B. St. John now lives. He had five sons, Allen, Samuel, Seth, Gamaliel and Charles. Samuel was a physician, who formerly lived in Great Barrington, Mass., and who died there in 1813. Gamaliel was also a physician, residing in Broome county, N. Y. He was a member of Congress, and a member of the Senate and Treasurer of the State of New York. Mr. Barstow, the father, died in 1822.

Bates, John, was one of the first settlers of the town. He lived a little below Henry Reed's present residence. His daughter, Sarah, who was born on the 25th day of February, 1739, was the first white child born in Sharon, except Jehiel Jackson. She was afterwards the wife of John Randall. Mr. Bates and his wife both died of the small-pox, when it prevailed in the town in December, 1784.

Beard, Nathan, was from Milton, in Litchfield. He came to Sharon in 1779. He purchased of the administrators of Charles Gillet, the farm on which the late John Jackson lived, and there resided. He for several years carried on the forge in Hutchinson Hollow. He died in 1792. He had a large family, of whom James Beard was the youngest son.

Beardslee, John, was from Newtown, in 1760. He married a daughter of Cornelius Knickerbacker, and lived many years at the Sprague place, where the late Charles Prindle resided.

Bennet, Capt. Edmund, was from the parish of Columbia, in Lebanon, and came to Sharon soon after the revolutionary war. He was a blacksmith by trade, and by his industry and economy accumulated a handsome estate. He lived on the mountain, two miles east of the meeting house. His wife was

a daughter of Charles Gillet, who was killed in Canada, in the revolutionary war. He was for many years town treasurer and held many important offices in the town. He died on the 1st of December, 1829, at the age of seventy-four. One of his sons, Hon. Milo L. Bennett, was a judge of the supreme court of Vermont.

Betts, James, was from Norwalk and came to Sharon at an early day. He lived near the Sprague place, in the Gay district. He died in 1758. He had two sons, Ezekiel and Zophar, the latter of whom officiated for many years as chorister in Mr. Smith's congregation. Zophar Betts died the 2d day of May, 1778, at the aged of forty four.

Blackman, Dr. Simeon, was from Newtown, and came to Sharon in 1789, and settled on the mountain, where John Jackson, Sr., lives. He studied medicine with Dr. Shepherd, of Newtown, and here acquired eminence and distinction in his professional career. He enjoyed a large share of the public confidence, and represented the town in the legislature at five sessions. He was an Episcopalian by religious profession, and in his last will bequeathed to the society in Sharon, of which he was a member, the sum of two hundred dollars as a fund for the support of preaching. He died of dropsy on the 16th of August, 1812, at the age of fifty-three. He left no children.

Boardman, Benjamin, came to Sharon in 1742, and settled where Edwin N. Hartwell now lives. He sold the place to James Warren, in 1748, and built on the spot where Dwight Hotchkiss now lives. He had one son, Thaddeus Boardman, who lived on the west border of Mudge Pond. In 1786 the elder and younger Boardman sold their real estate to Frederick Lord, of Hartford, and removed to the west.

Bogardus, Jacob, merchant, came to Sharon from Amenia, N. Y., in 1764. He lived in the old brick house, known as the Taylor house, a little north of Gov. Smith's. He was a Dutchman, and built the large Dutch barn, which within a few years stood in close contiguity with the town street, near his dwelling-house. He sold his place in 1775, to Ebenezer Dibble, and

again returned to the State of New York. He built the large brick house, one mile west of the village, now owned by Mr. Morehouse.

Boland, David, was from Woodbury, in 1767. He was a Scotchman by birth, and purchased of Samuel Dunham, the tenth home-lot, originally Samuel Hutchinson's, being the same on which the old stone house owned by Anson Boland stood. He had two sons, William and David, both of whom were officers in the revolutionary army. He was possessed of a valuable real estate, which by his last will he gave to his grandsons, Reuben and John Boland, during their lives, remainder to their eldest male heirs.

#### His Epitaph.

In memory of David Boland, who died Aug. 31, 1789.  
aged seventy-nine.

The stage of life when once passed o'er,  
Fixes our state to change no more,  
Our work is great and must be done,  
An heaven to win, an hell to shun,  
Then seize the promise while you may,  
Nor lose one moment by delay.

Botsford, Ephraim, was from Newtown, and came to Sharon in 1765. He purchased of Daniel Baldwin a tract of land in the north part of the town, opposite Homer Pardee's, and lived there until his death in 1795. He had two sons, Elnathan and Ephraim, the former of whom died in 1782, and the latter in 1821.

#### His Epitaph.

In memory of Mr. Ephraim Botsford,  
Who departed this life Dec. 5, 1795, aged seventy-four.

When you, my friends, this tomb draw near,  
Bedew my urn with one kind tear ;  
Then look by faith to realms above,  
Where all is harmony and love.

- Epitaph on Wolcott, son of Ephraim Botsford, who died Sept. 1, 1785, aged eleven.

The youth who late with vigor shone,  
Now lies interred beneath this stone,  
From death's arrest no age is free,  
Prepare, my friends to follow me.

Bouton, Daniel, was from Stamford, and was the first settler on the lot owned by the late Cyrus Swan, Esq. He died Nov. 14, 1740, at an early age. His widow, Elizabeth, afterwards married Abel Munn, who died in 1758. She continued to occupy the house of her first husband long after she became a widow the second time. She was often spoken of by aged people as old Mother Munn.

Brockway, Walston, the first of the Brockway family in Sharon, came from Branford in 1752. He settled in the south-west part of the town, near the line of Kent, and died there in 1813, at the age of ninety. His son, the late Asa Brockway, was a soldier of the revolution and a pensioner.

Buel, Eliphalet, was from Salisbury, and was brother of the late Col. Nathaniel Buel, of that town. He came to Sharon in 1767, and settled where Homer Pardee lived. He died of the small-pox, on the 5th of February, 1777, aged forty-nine. His only son, Nathaniel, died a prisoner in New York, a short time before, and his wife soon after, of the same disease. Their common fate is commemorated in the following

#### Epitaph.

The only son is gone but twenty days,  
The indulgent father follows him to ye grave  
Where we must all repair ; alas, how soon  
Our morning sun goes down at noon.  
The son and husband both are gone,  
The mother and the wife, how soon  
Must yield to death, and here to lie  
To tell the living they must die.

Burr, Walter, was from Fairfield. He lived at what is called the Burr place, in the valley, now owned by the Malleable Iron Company, and owned a very valuable farm, a great



portion of which is in the State of New York. He died in 1802.

Calkin, Lieut. Stephen, was from Lebanon, and was an original proprietor of the town. He drew the thirty-first homelot and lived where Abraham Weed lately lived. He had seven sons, Stephen, Joseph, Elijah, Timothy, Amos, Justus and David, all of whom settled in the town, and most of them in the same neighborhood with their father. The neighborhood which is called Calkinstown, perpetuates their name. Mr. Calkin died in 1781. He was the grand-father of the late James Calkin and Justus Calkin.

Camp, Abel, from New Milford, came to Sharon in 1769. He lived on the mountain where the late Capt. Bennett resided, and remained in town about twenty years.

Canfield, Hon. John, was a son of Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, who was one of the judges of the county court, for Litchfield county, and a deacon of the church in New Milford. Mr. Canfield was born at New Milford in 1740, and graduated at Yale College in 1762. He studied law and established himself in the practice of his profession in this town, in 1765, being the first lawyer that lived here. He purchased of Parson Smith, the lot next south of Judge Sterling's, and built the old brick house owned by that gentleman. Mr. Canfield enjoyed an enviable reputation and was holden in high estimation by his fellow citizens. He represented the town in the legislature at ten different sessions. He was a professor of religion and enjoyed the reputation of a sincere and humble Christian. In 1786 he was elected a member of the Continental Congress, and had he lived to take his seat in that body, would probably have been a distinguished member. He died, however, on the 26th day of October, 1786, at the age of forty-six. The grief of the community at his death was general and deep, and the old men in after years spoke of him with unbounded confidence and attachment. He left but one son, John M. Canfield, Esq., who resided at Sacket's Harbor, N. Y., and a number of daughters. The Hon. John C. Spencer, Secretary of War, was his grandson.

## His Epitaph.

Sacred to the memory of the Hon. John Canfield,  
A member of Congress from this State,  
who died the 26th day of October, A. D. 1786,  
in the forty-sixth year of his age.

'Tis not for lifeless stone to tell thy worth,  
A partner's heart the deep impression wears,  
Thy orphans oft, around this hallowed earth,  
Shall tell a father's love with speaking tears,  
And numerous friends who swelled the tide of grief,  
Thy great and generous deeds shall oft relate,  
Thus through revolving years thy name shall live,  
'Till to immortal life, this slumbering dust shall wake.

Canfield, Hon. Judson, was a son of Col. Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, and a nephew of Hon. John Canfield. He graduated at Yale College in 1782. He came to Sharon in 1787, and commenced the practice of law. He built the house now occupied by J. P. and G. D. Goodwin and lived there. He was a member of the house of representatives at seventeen sessions, and for several years a member of the council. He was also a judge of the court of common pleas. He left Sharon in 1815, and removed to the State of Ohio, where he died in 1839, at the age of more than eighty years.

Canfield, Col. Samuel, was a brother of the preceding, and came to Sharon in early life. He was an assistant commissary of issues in the war of the revolution, and towards the close of his life drew a handsome pension. He was for many years a merchant of extensive business, and was town clerk from 1792 to 1815, having succeeded Daniel Griswold, Esq., in that office. He was a member of the assembly at several sessions. He died while on a visit at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on the first day of October, 1837, at the age of eighty-three.

Carrier, Deacon Timothy, was from Colchester, in 1747. He bought of Jacob Bacon a part of the twelfth home lot, where Charles Benton now lives. He was appointed a deacon of the church in 1766, which office he held until his death. He had but one son who survived him, and he removed from

the town soon after the decease of his father. He died on the 22d of February, 1781, at the age of eighty-two. His wife died about the same time, and the stone which marks their resting place has upon it the following

Epitaph.

Here man and wife, secure from strife,  
Lie slumbering side by side,  
Though death's cold hands dissolved the bands,  
It could not them divide.  
This tomb shall burst and yield its trust,  
This pair will live again,  
With purer love to soar above,  
Where joys immortal reign.

Cartwright, Nicholas, was the common ancestor of the Cartwright family, which have been numerous in the town. He was originally from Barnstable, Massachusetts, and lived a short time on Philip's Patent, now South-East, N. Y. He came to Sharon in 1756, and settled near the place where Austin Cartwright now lives. He was baptized in September, 1781, when he was nearly eighty years of age. He died in May, 1782. He had three sons, Reuben, Christopher and Samuel. Reuben lived where George W. Peck lived. He died, leaving a numerous family, in May, 1790, aged forty. Christopher lived near David Curtis's late residence, and before the revolutionary war he removed to Shaftsbury, Vermont. In 1775, he joined the army under General Montgomery, and was in the battle of Quebec, in which Montgomery fell. He died of the small-pox, in the American camp, on the island of Orleans, before the retreat from Canada. Samuel lived where Austin Cartwright now lives. He was also in the army with his brother Christopher, but escaped his untimely end. He lived to a good old age, and died January 17th, 1819, aged seventy-eight. He left two sons, Nicholas and Auson, who are both now deceased.

Chaffee, Joshua, was from Mansfield, and came to Sharon in 1755. He married the only child of Matthew St. John, Jr.,

and first settled where John B. Smith now lives. In 1760 he removed to Ellsworth, where his son Joel S. Chaffee lived. He died in 1789, aged fifty-six. He left three sons, Joel, Matthew and Joshua B. Matthew died soon after the death of his father. Joshua B. died in 1832. He was at the time of his death one of the magistrates of the town.

Chamberlain, Deacon Isaac, was born in New Marlborough, Mass., and came to Sharon with his step-father, Mr. John Hollister, in 1756. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He married a daughter of Jonathan Sprague, and had several children. He entered the army early in the revolutionary war, and was sergeant of artificers. He was appointed deacon of the Congregational Church in 1799, which office he held till his death. He was a man of strong mind, of great decision of character, and for many years was one of the pillars of the town.

His Epitaph.

Deacon Isaac Chamberlain, a patriot of '76,  
A soldier of the revolution, and for many  
years of his subsequent life an  
officer of the first church in Sharon.  
Born in New Marlborough, Mass., Oct. 24, 1756,  
died at Sharon, July 14, 1833.  
Grounded and settled in the faith.—*St. Paul.*

Chapman, Obadiah, was from Colchester, and came to Sharon in 1741. He settled in the south part of the town, opposite Frederick Carter's present residence. He was the owner of a large real estate. He died in 1761. He left four sons, Obadiah, Pelatiah, Matthias and Robert. Obadiah died in 1763. Pelatiah was the father of the late William Chapman, and he died in 1759. His widow afterwards married Dr. Ashbel Goodrich. Robert, the youngest son, and the survivor of them all, was a soldier in the old French war, and after his return from the service settled in the south west part of the town, where his son, the late Elijah Chapman lived. He died in 1814, at the age of eighty. He was the father of the late Obadiah Chapman.

Chapman, Samuel, was from Colchester. He came with the first settlers. He settled on the forty-sixth home-lot, near John Jackson's. He afterwards removed to the lower end of Abel street where his grandson, Caleb Chapman, lived. He had three son, Samuel, Ezekiel and Nehemiah. Caleb Chapman is a son of the last named. Ezekiel died a soldier in the French war.

Chappel, Amos, was a son of Caleb Chappel, of Lebanon, one of the original proprietors. He came to Sharon in 1760, and settled in Ellsworth, where Charles B. Everett lives.

Church, Jehiel, was from Great Barrington, Mass., and lived a little north of the late Adolphus Everett's. He died May 1, 1819, at the age of seventy-seven. He had nine children.

Cluxton, Samuel, was originally from the old Plymouth colony. He came to Sharon in early life. He lived where Ansel Cartwright lived. He was a faithful soldier in the revolutionary war and died in 1820.

Cole, Caleb, was from Norwalk, and came to Sharon in 1748. He settled on the place now owned by his great grandson, Albert Cole. He had sons, Zebulon, Matthew and David, which last named was the father of Caleb Cole and Richard B. Cole. He died in 1780.

Coleman, Josiah, came from Hebron in 1771. He lived near where Austin Cartwright lives. He was a son of Noah Coleman, of Colchester, one of the original proprietors of the township. He was a practical surveyor, and was considerably employed in that business. He was a member of the General Assembly in October, 1783, and in May, 1784, and again in May, 1788. He was also a delegate to the convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States, to the adoption of which he was very strongly opposed. One of his sons, Josiah, was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, in 1776, and on his return from captivity died at Milford, January 8th, 1777, of disease contracted in the British prison-ships. He had four other sons, Aaron, Elihu, Jesse and Amasa. The



eldest, Dr. Aaron Coleman, lived at Warren, to a very advanced age. Mr. Coleman died February 23, 1813, aged eighty.

Epitaph.

When rocks dissolve and skies in smoke decay,  
Rise, sleeping dust, to an unclouded day.

Comstock, Samuel, was from Lyme, and came into Sharon with the first settlers. He built a log house directly opposite John B. Smith's dwelling house, and a cluster of apple-trees which he planted the first year, is still standing. He was the first collector of taxes in the town, and was a highly respectable man. He sold his place in 1748 to Deacon Matthew St. John, of Norwalk, and himself removed to New Fairfield. His home-lot was the thirty-second.

Conkling, Capt. Benjamin, was from Norwalk, and lived for many years where Charles VanDeusen lived, in the Valley. He was often appointed selectman of the town, as well as to other offices. He afterwards lived in Vermont for several years, but towards the close of life returned to Hitchcock's Corner, where he died on the 1st of October, 1823, at the age of eighty-six. He was the father of Dr. Ebenezer H. Conkling, who formerly lived at Hitchcock's Corner.

Corbet, John, was the first settler at the place where the late Samuel Petit lived, in the north part of the town, now owned by George Lamb. He was from Lebanon in 1743. He built a saw-mill, at an early day, near Abel Benedict's. He afterwards lived on the mountain at the Elderkin place, so called, near Elijah Marsh's former residence.

Crippen, Jabez, was from Colchester, and was an original proprietor of the township. He drew the twenty-first home-lot, and his house stood on the ground now occupied by the Grosvenor house, so called, nearly opposite Governor Smith's. He was the first selectman ever chosen in the town. He had sons, Jabez, John, Samuel, Thomas and Joseph. His son Thomas lived where Milo R. Calkin now lives. About the year 1752, the father removed with several of his sons, into Amenia, N. Y., near where the late Jonathan Pennoyer lived;



and that neighborhood was formerly called Crippentown. Mr. Crippen died at Manchester, Vermont, about 1785.

Crocker, Oliver, was from Lebanon, before the revolutionary war. He settled where Philander Abel now lives, and died April 12, 1812, at the age of eighty-one. His widow died recently, at the age of more than ninety years. He left no son.

Curtice, Caleb, was from Hebron and was an original proprietor. He drew the thirtieth home-lot, and lived where Ezra H. Bartram, Esq., now lives. He had sons, Caleb, Jeremiah, Daniel and Nathaniel. Caleb lived at the Lockwood place, near John S. Jewett's. Jeremiah lived at the Hanchet place, now occupied by A. Bryan, and Daniel at the place owned by the late Capt. Gibbs. Nathaniel lived on the home-lot. He was killed by the kick of a horse, October 19, 1802. Mr. Curtice, the elder, died November 20, 1777, at the age of seventy-four.

Curtis, Seth, was from Danbury, and came to Sharon in 1782. He lived where Geo. W. Peck formerly lived. He was the father of the late Noah Curtis, and of the late David Curtis. He died March 27, 1804, at the age of sixty-seven.

Day, Thomas, was from Colchester and came to Sharon in 1755. He lived where Thomas N. Lucas, Esq., now lives on the mountain. He had two sons, Jonathan and Jeremiah, the former of whom died in early life. His younger son, Jeremiah, was educated at Yale College and graduated in 1756. Soon after he left college he was married, and settled in town as a farmer. He was constable in 1765, and 1766, and selectman the latter year. He was representative to the Assembly in October, 1766, and in May, 1767. His wife died in August, 1767, and soon after that event he turned his attention to the ministry. He was, for many years, the minister of the parish of New Preston, in Washington. He was the father of the Rev. Jeremiah Day, D. D., President of Yale College and the Hon. Thomas Day, for many years Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

## Epitaph.

In memory of Mr. Jonathan Day, who departed  
this life January 8, 1763.

Spectator ! here you see  
Exemplified in me,  
What you must shortly be.

In memory of Mrs. Sarah Day, the late  
amiable consort of the Rev.

Jeremiah Day, who  
departed this life Aug. 25, 1767.

She gives life, but O, pitiable consideration !  
gives it at the expense of her own, and at  
once becomes a mother and a corpse.

*Flere et meminisse relictum est.*

In memory of Mr. Thomas Day,  
Died February 28, 1772, aged eighty-two.

Life how short,  
Eternity how long !

Davis, Jonathan, was from Rutland, Mass., and came to Sharon in 1746. He purchased of Jacob Bacon, the sixth home-lot, opposite the stone house formerly owned by Anson Boland. He sold this property in 1750, and purchased a large tract of land below Hitchcock's Corner. He had one son, Ezra, who died in early life, leaving a widow and three children. Mr. Davis afterward lived over the line, in Oblong, but where he died is not known.

Delano, Deacon Thomas, was from Wareham, Mass. He lived a short time in Tolland, and came to Sharon in 1759. He settled in the southwest part of the town. The name was originally spelt De La Noy. Mr. Delano was chosen deacon of Mr. Knibloe's church in 1767. He died September 8th, 1803, aged seventy-seven. He had two sons, Jethro and Stephen, the latter of whom died in 1840, at the age of more than ninety years.

## Epitaph.

In memory of Jethro Delano, who died  
July 17, 1787, aged twenty-nine.

Virtue alone to him did give,  
The gift of knowing how to live ;  
A pattern to the growing youth,  
A never failing friend of truth.

Deming, Daniel, was from Saybrook, and came to Sharon in 1782. He purchased of Amos Tyler, the place where his widow afterwards lived. He was the father of Stephen Deming, Esq., late of Litchfield, and Dr. Ralph Deming of Sharon. He died May 15, 1816, at the age of sixty-six.

Dibble, Capt. Ebenezer, was from Salisbury in 1776. He lived in the Great Hollow, near the watering place. He sold his farm to Adonijah Maxam in 1795, and removed to Saratoga county, N. Y.

Dibble, Ebenezer, was a son of Rev. Ebenezer Dibble, of Stamford, formerly Episcopal missionary in Sharon. He was a merchant and owned the brick house now known as the Taylor house. In 1781 he sold out to Robert G. Livingston, Esq., of New York, and removed to Pine Plains, N. Y., where he died. He was the father of the late Fyler Dibble, Esq.

Dotey, Capt. Samuel, was the ancestor of the Dotey family. He was from the old Plymouth colony, and came to Sharon in 1747. He lived a little south of Dwight St. John's. He practised surveying. He and his wife were both cut off by the small-pox in 1784. He had a son, David, who was a physician, and lived near Hitchcock's Corner, and was for a while a captain in the revolutionary service. He died February 9, 1817, at the age of seventy-six.

Downs, David, Esq., was from New Haven, and came to Sharon about the year 1768. He married a daughter of Mr. Thomas Day, and settled on the mountain near John Jackson, Jr. He was a tailor by trade. He was captain of a company in the revolutionary service, and was, with his company, taken prisoner at the Cedars in Canada, in 1776. He was for many years one of the magistrates of the town, and one of its representatives in the Assembly at eleven sessions. He had several sons who maintained a highly respectable character, but

there are none of his descendants remaining in the town. He died December 13, 1813, at the age of seventy-seven.

Dunham, Capt. Jonathan, was from Colchester, and was a leading man in the first settlement of the town. He lived opposite Richard Smith's, and there kept the first tavern in the town. He was the agent to the Assembly to procure the incorporation of the township, and was appointed to call the first town meeting. He was standing moderator of all the town meetings holden during his life time, and selectman of the town during the same period. His race, however, was a short one, as he died on the 28th day of February, 1745, at the age of fifty-nine. He had several sons, one of whom, Samuel, built the stone house, formerly owned by Anson Bolland. Capt. Dunham's grave stone is the oldest one in our church yard.

Elliott, Samuel S., was from Killingworth and came to Sharon in 1780. He purchased of his brother-in-law, Reuben Hopkins, the place where Henry Reed now lives. His wife was the daughter of Col. John Williams. He was the father of John A. Elliott, formerly a very worthy citizen of the town. He died on the 22d day of April, 1812, at the age of sixty.

Elmer, Deacon Jonathan, was from Norwalk, and came to Sharon in 1746. He first purchased of Caleb Jewett, the lot on which Gov. Smith lived, and there resided till 1751, when he sold it to Jonathan Gillet, and removed to what is now called the Martin place, near the stone bridge. There he lived till his death, January 5, 1758, at the age of seventy-three. He was highly respected as an officer in the church, and as a member of society. He had several sons, who lived in town, but there are none of his descendants bearing his name, remaining among us.

Elmer, Martin, was a son of the preceding, and was a cooper by trade, and a Baptist by religious profession. He lived a bachelor, and died on the 8th day of August, 1778, at the age of seventy-three. The following epitaph is said to be highly expressive of his character :

In silent shade,  
Here lies the dust  
Of him who made,  
The Lord his trust.

Elmer, Colonel Samuel, was a son of Deacon J. Elmer, and was a brave officer in the revolutionary war. He was appointed a major in Colonel Hinman's regiment, in 1775, and was engaged in active duty in the campaign of that year. The next year he was appointed a colonel in the New York line, and continued in command of a regiment while he remained in the army. He lived in the town until about 1801, when he removed to the town of Elmore, in Vermont, where he remained until his death. He was the father of John Elmore, Esq., of Canaan.\*

Everett, Ebenezer, was from Hebron, in 1745, and settled where Adolphus Everett lived. He had three sons, Isaiah, Ebe and Eliphalet, the two latter of whom were revolutionary soldiers. Eliphalet was for several years the steward of General Washington's military family. He lived many years where Everitt Dunbar now lives, in Ellsworth, but spent the latter part of his life in Watertown, N. Y. Isaiah Everett died August 4, 1834, at the age of eighty-two, leaving sons Adolphus, Asa, Gamaliel, Russell and William. Ebe Everett died January 5, 1840, at the age of eighty-six, leaving sons, Samuel E., Augustus, Elmore and John.

Everett, John, was a brother of Ebenezer Everett, and came to Sharon from Windham in 1757. He was a blacksmith by trade, and lived on the road which formerly led north from Joel Whitford's, now discontinued. He had but one child, a daughter, who married Ebenezer Sprague. Mr. Everett went to Ohio, in the early settlement of that state, and died there.

Foster, David, was from Lebanon in 1750. He lived on the place which was occupied by the late John Jackson, who was his son-in-law. He was a leading man in the affairs of the

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\* Colonel Elmer's name was by mistake spelt Elmore, in the commission he received from Congress, and from that circumstance, he adopted the latter method of spelling it, and it has been continued by the family till the present time.



town for many years. He was a member of the Assembly at the October sessions in 1763 and 1764, and selectman eight years. He died in 1793.

Foster, Elijah, was a son of the preceding, and was a highly respectable man. He lived where John Jackson now lives, and was an early favorite of the town. He was for many years a constable. He entered the continental army as a lieutenant in the campaign of 1776, and was in active service till the close of the year.

His Epitaph.

Here lies the body of Lieut. Elijah Foster,  
who died of the small-pox, January 14, 1777.  
in the forty-second year of his age,  
on his return from the army.

Inspired with freedom and her virtuous cause,  
To save his country from a tyrant's laws,  
Resolved an end to the unnatural strife,  
And in the glorious conflict, lost his life.

Frisbie, Deacon Ebenezer, was from Branford, and was the first settler at the place occupied by the late Benjamin Bailey, on the Ellsworth turnpike. He came to Sharon with the first settlers, and being a surveyor, he was much employed in laying out lands in the early location of the township. He was town clerk from December, 1743, to January, 1746, and one of the deacons of the church nearly the whole of the time of his residence in the town. He had one son, Capt. Hezekiah Frisbie, who settled where Aaron Dunbar now lives, in Ellsworth. He died October 20, 1793, aged eighty-nine.

Epitaph.

How short is life we mortals see,  
How long is vast eternity,  
In time prepare for death and be  
Happy to all eternity.

Deacon Frisbie was buried in the Ellsworth grave yard.

Fuller, Benjamin, was from Colchester, and came with the first settlers. He lived on the next lot below Governor Smith's.



He was among the first who died in the town, having departed this life in December, 1740. His widow afterwards married Nathaniel Skinner, Esq. He had three sons, Matthew, Josiah and Benjamin, the latter of whom was father of the late Capt. John Fuller.

Gager, Dr. Samuel R., was born at Norwich, May 23, 1763, and was an assistant surgeon in the navy in the revolutionary war. Soon after the close of the war he visited England. He established himself in Sharon in the practice of surgery in 1788. He was long celebrated in his profession, and was much respected as a citizen. He represented the town in the Assembly in the years 1821, 1822 and 1829. He was also for many years a justice of the peace. He died August 4th, 1835.\*

Gallow, Joseph, was from Hudson, N. Y., in 1785. He owned and occupied the place where R. W. Noyes now lives, and kept a tavern there for many years. He finally returned to Hudson, where he died.

Gay, John, Esq., was born in Dedham, Mass., and in early life settled in Litchfield, and was among the first white inhabitants of that town. In 1743 he came to Sharon, and purchased of Israel Holley, the thirty-ninth home-lot, which was in the north part of the town. His house stood nearly opposite the present residence of his great-great-grandson, George Gay, Esq., and was standing till within a few years. Mr. Gay was a highly respectable man, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-four. He died on the 6th of August, 1792. He had sons, John, Ebenezer, Fisher and Perez. John was the father of the late Capt. Daniel Gay. He died January 1, 1776, at the age of forty-eight. Ebenezer was a merchant, and built the brick house lately owned by Reuben K. Hunt. He was a colonel in the militia, and frequently commanded detachments in the revolutionary war. He was the father of the late Mr.

\* It is worthy of remark that William Gager, the ancestor of the Gager family in this State, was of the same profession as his descendant here noticed. Gov. Dudley calls him a "right godly man and a skillful chyrurgeon." His son John came to Connecticut with the younger Gov. Winthrop, and settled in New London, and from him Dr. Gager descended,

David Gay. He died July 16, 1787, at the age of sixty-one. Fisher Gay settled in Farmington, where his descendants now reside. He died in the city of New York, early in the revolutionary war. Perez Gay died of the small-pox in 1784. He was the father of Calvin Gay, Esq.

Gibbs, Job, was from Wareham, Mass., and came to Sharon in 1747. His house was the one next south of the Governor's mansion. Mr. Gibbs was a merchant and did a large business for those times. He had three sons, Sylvanus, Herman and Job. Capt. Sylvanus Gibbs, the eldest, was an officer in the revolutionary war, and died on the 19th of June, 1834, at the age of eighty-one.

#### Epitaph.

Here lies interred ye body of Job Gibbs. He died of ye small-pox, Dec. in ye 18th, 1760, in ye 37th year of his age.

I'm here confined, as you must be,  
Oh then prepare to follow me,  
Because from death no age is free,  
Get faith in God's eternal Son,  
In him there is salvation,  
Boast not thyself of coming time,  
Because to morrow is not thine,  
Seek then, to-day, that you may find.

Gillett, Jonathan, was from Colchester, in 1745. He lived in several places during his early years, but finally established himself, in 1753, where George Skinner now lives. Here he resided thirty years, and kept a tavern. He sold his place in 1783, and purchased of Timothy Carrier, Jun., the place where Charles Benton now lives, where he resided till his death. He was representative to the Assembly at the May and October sessions in 1788, and a delegate to the convention called to ratify the constitution of the United States. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Day, and sister of Rev. Jeremiah Day, of New Preston. Mr. Gillett died December 31, 1814, at the age of eighty-nine.

Gillett, Charles, was a brother of the preceding, and came

to Sharon from Colchester, in 1755. He was a blacksmith by trade, and settled where John C. Loucks now lives. He was town treasurer from 1760 to 1771, when he removed to the mountain, having purchased of Rev. Jeremiah Day, of New Preston, the place lately owned by John Jackson. He enlisted into Capt. Downs' company, and marched to the northward in 1776. While the army lay at the Cedars, in Canada, he was killed by a party of Indians, lying in ambush, as he was riding out on business connected with his duty as commissary. He left several children, one of whom was the wife of the late Capt. Edmund Bennett.

Gillson, Eleazer, was from Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., and came to Sharon in 1784. He had been a soldier in the revolutionary war, and settled a little north of Elijah Juckett's. He was one of the first emigrants to Ohio, and the first mail carrier on the post road between Pittsburgh and Cleaveland. He carried the whole mail in his pocket on foot. He died at the age of nearly ninety years.

Goodrich, William, was the ancestor of the Goodrich family, which has been quite numerous in the town. He was originally from Wethersfield, and first moved to Litchfield, where he remained ten years. He afterwards removed to Sheffield, Mass., and when the township of Sharon was sold, he became the purchaser of two rights. He brought his family to the town in the fall of 1738, and built a hut near the outlet of Mudge Pond. Here he spent the winter, with, no neighbors except Indians, nearer than the Dutch settlements at Leedsville. He went to mill on foot, during the winter, once to New Milford, and once to Red Hook, N. Y., on snow shoes, and carried his wheat on his back. That he was a sincere christian we may well believe from the introductory clause in his last will and testament, the first recorded on the probate records for the district of Litchfield. After speaking of the uncertainty of life as a reason for making his will, he says:—"wherefore, committing my body to the dust, from whence it was taken, and my soul to the bosom of my dear Lord Jesus

Christ, hoping and believing that he will raise me up with all his saints at the glorious morning of the resurrection, I give, &c." Mr. Goodrich died on the 31st day of March, 1743, at the age of fifty-six. He had sons, Samuel, Jared, William, Elnathan, David, Elisha, and Solomon, and their descendants have been very numerous. His wife survived him about seven years, and one tombstone mark the resting place of both, on which is inscribed the following

Epitaph.

Here lies the husband and the wife,  
Interred beneath this double tomb,  
This double witness may suffice  
To prove that death will be our doom.

Goodwin, John P., was from Hartford, and came to Sharon in 1784. He lived where Myron Dakin now lives, and died on the 5th of May, 1807, aged eighty-two. He had three sons, William, John P., and Hezekiah, the last of whom was a man much respected and beloved. He was a corporal in the continental army, and was eight years in the service. His discharge, under the hand of General Washington, spoke highly of his merits. He was a representative to the Assembly in May, 1818. He was killed at the raising of a small building, belonging to Benjamin Hollister, Esq., on the 15th of May 1833, and his untimely end was deeply lamented. He died at the age of seventy-two. John P. Goodwin and George D. Goodwin are his surviving sons.

Gould, John, was an original proprietor, from Hebron, and drew the thirty-fourth home-lot, the same on which Jacob Benson now lives. His house stood on the hill west of Benson's present dwelling house. He appears to have been at one time a man of handsome estate, but in his old age became poor, and was supported by the town. He was grave digger for many years. He died about 1782.

Gould, Job, was from New Milford, in 1763, and purchased of Deacon Jackson, the place on the mountain lately owned by his grandson, Major David Gould—now by John Jackson. He

had two sons, Job and David, the former of whom settled in Mudgetown, near Baldwin Reed's, and the latter remained on the mountain. Mr. Gould, the elder, died February 27, 1795, at the age of ninety-five. His son, David, died April 19, 1824 at the age of seventy-seven. Job, Jun., died at the time indicated in the following

Epitaph.

Sacred to the memory of JOB GOULD, Jun.,  
 Who died April 19, 1794, aged fifty-nine.  
 O painful thought, yet we must know,  
 The grave's the place where all must go,  
 If dear, good, wise and just they be,  
 Yet death's their lot, as here we see.

Gray, John, was from Scotland, and came to Sharon in 1743. He first settled in the valley, and his house stood on the bank, a little east of the Valley store. In 1748, he sold this place to Abel Wood, and removed to the mountain, a little east of the Gould place where he died in 1761. He left sons John, Silas, Darius and William. Darius was the father of the late Silas A. Gray, Esq. The revolutionary services of William have been described in a former page.

Gregory, Joseph, was from Norwalk, in 1759. He lived where Joel C. Whitford now lives. He was a merchant for many years. He removed to Catskill, N. Y., where he died. He had sons, Stephen, Justus, Ebenezer, Uriah, Elias and Daniel.

Griswold, Ephraim, was an early settler, and lived where Richard Woodward now lives. He had three sons, Azariah, David and Jabez. He removed to Spencertown, N. Y., before the revolution. Azariah Griswold was a subaltern officer in the revolutionary army. He lived where John Boyd, Esq., now lives. He sold this place in 1786 to John Foster.

Griswold, Daniel, Esq., was from Norwich in 1756. He lived where Richard Smith, Esq., now lives. He was a physician, and pursued the practice of his profession for many years. He was appointed a justice of the peace at an early

day. On the death of Col. Williams, in 1774, he was appointed town clerk, which office he held till his death. He also succeeded the latter gentleman as deacon in the church.

### Epitaph

Sacred to the memory of Daniel Griswold, Esq.,  
who departed this life Dec. 22, 1792,  
aged sixty-six.

The wise, the good, the virtuous and the just,  
Lies here entomb'd to moulder into dust,  
But death must yield, resign the mouldering clay,  
To shine and sparkle in eternal day.

Griswold, Francis, was a brother of the preceding, and came to Sharon in 1762. He was a tanner and currier by trade, and he lived on the corner a little north of Solomon Bierce's. His tannery was near his house, where the cider-mill stood. He died November 6, 1778, at the age of forty-three.

Griswold, Capt. Adonijah, another brother of Daniel Griswold, Esq., came to Sharon in 1762. He settled in Mudge town where Solomon Bierce now lives. He was a lieutenant in Capt. Down's company in 1776. He died September 19, 1807, at the age of sixty-eight. He had three sons, Adonijah, Chester and John, the latter of whom lived in Tompkins county, N. Y.

Hamilton, David, was from Lebanon, and was the first settler on the place owned by Judge Sterling. He afterwards lived opposite Governor Smith's. He appears to have been the great land speculator of the day, his name appearing on the records as the grantor or grantee in deeds, more frequently than any other. He was also for a time deputy sheriff. He died in 1781, leaving sons, Dudley, John and Joseph. Joseph was a physician, and practiced medicine in the town for several years. Dudley formerly lived where William Marsh now lives. Mr. Hamilton disposed of most of his real estate in town previous to his death. He was largely interested in land



in Vermont, and in what was called the Susquehannah Purchase.

Hamlin, Cornelius, was an early settler from Wareham, Massachusetts, and lived near Mrs. Hunt's. He afterwards lived in the Hollow, near the iron works, in which he was a part owner. He also lived for a while near the head of Mudge Pond. In 1760 he removed to Spencertown, New York, but soon returned, and here spent his days. He had one son, Cornelius, who died in early life.

Hamlin, Deacon Ebenezer, was also from Wareham, and first lived where George Skinner now lives. He afterwards removed to the south part of the town, below Hitchcock's Corner. By his last will, he left 24 pounds old tenor bills, for the support of the gospel in the Congregational society at the Corner. He had sons, Ebenezer, Thomas, Isaac and Lewis. Thomas was the grandfather of Philo Hamlin, who is the only descendant of Deacon Hamlin now remaining in the town. Deacon Hamlin died in 1755.

Hamlin, Deacon Benjamin, was son of Deacon Eleazer Hamlin, of Fredericksburgh, now Carmel in Putnam county, New York. He came to Sharon in 1780, and lived at different places in the northwest part of the town. He was elected Deacon of the Congregational Church in 1793, and held the office till his death. He maintained a very pure and spotless character, and died universally lamented.

#### Epitaph.

The remains of Benjamin Hamlin,  
 Seniour Deacon of the first Church of Christ in Sharon,  
 whose piety, meekness, and sweetness of temper, rendered him  
 alike a blessing to the church, an ornament to society,  
 and the delight of his acquaintance.

This eminent servant of God,  
 expired in full assurance of a blessed immortality,  
 on the 6th Oct., 1820, in the 61st year of his age.

Hanchet, Sylvanus, was from Salisbury, in 1769. He lived where Alden Bryan now lives. He is celebrated as being the

first person who formally invited the Methodist preachers into Sharon, in 1788. It was at his house that the first Methodist society was formed, by Rev. Freeborn Garretson, and where public worship was celebrated for several years. He removed to the State of New York many years since, where he died.

Harvey, Joel, was from New Milford, in 1742, and settled in the valley. He built a grist-mill, which stood more than sixty years. He also built the stone house, in the valley, in 1747. He was a large landholder, and had a very numerous family, many of whom died of the consumption. Mr. Harvey died Dec. 26, 1796, at the age of 84. His Epitaph,—

All nations must,  
Return to dust.

Hatch, Capt. Ebenezer, was from Kent, in 1768. He lived on the place now owned by Zalmon S. Hunt, Esq., below Hitchcock's Corner. He was a respectable man, and served many years as selectman, and in other important offices. He left the town many years since.

Heath, Bartholomew, was from Lebanon, and was among the first settlers. He lived in the north part of the town, where Bird Reed now lives.

Epitaph.

In memory of Mr. Bartholomew Heath, who died Feb. 11, 1789.  
in ye 79th year of his age.

My glass is run, my days are spent,  
The fleeting moments heaven hath sent ;  
And now to God I yield my breath,  
And calmly fall asleep in death.

Hide, David, was from Lebanon, in 1748. He purchased of Samuel Gillet the 41st home lot, the same on which Homer Pardee lived. He was appointed constable in 1750, and served in that capacity, and as collector, ten years. He was also a deputy sheriff for several years.

Hide, William, was from Lebanon, in 1759. He lived where Charles Reed now lives. He had two sons, Eleazer and William W. He died Dec. 26, 1770, at the age of fifty.

Hitchcock, Samuel, was from Norwalk, in 1752. He purchased of Jonathan Gillet the place where Gov. Smith lived, and resided there five years. He then removed to the south part of the town, where his son, the late Asa Hitchcock lived, and there spent the remainder of his days. It was at his house that the first Methodist sermon preached in the town was delivered. He died January 1, 1794, at the age of sixty-eight. He had seven sons, Samuel, Thomas, Solomon, Amariah, Penuel, Stephen and Asa. The latter died Dec. 26, 1829, at the age of fifty-nine.

Holley, Israel, was an early settler, from Stamford. He first owned and lived in the 39th home lot, which he sold to John Gay, Esq., in 1743, and removed to the Great Hollow. He there lived on the place lately owned by Capt. Dibble. He had two sons, Israel and Nathaniel.

Holley, Joseph, was from Stamford, and was the original owner of one-half of the 36th home lot, the same on which the late George Bissell afterwards lived. This he sold in 1743, to John Sprague, and he afterwards lived in Turkey Hollow, a little north of Elijah Juckett's. He had three sons, Jonathan, John and Sylvanus. Jonathan removed to Richmond, Massachusetts. Sylvanus lived near the outlet of Indian Pond. John, who was the second son, was the father of Luther Holley, Esq., who was for many years an eminent citizen of the town of Salisbury. This last named gentleman was born in Turkey Hollow in 1752.

Hollister, Josiah, from Glastenbury, was the common ancestor of the Hollister family which resided in the south part of the town. He purchased of Matthew Judd, in 1742, the 2d home lot, the same on which John B. Lovell lived. He had two sons, Josiah and Samuel. Josiah settled on the home lot, and Samuel settled where Elijah Juckett now lives. Josiah had two sons, John and Benjamin. Benjamin settled in Oblong, New York, near the present village of Leedsville, where his descendants yet remain. He died Oct. 3, 1801, at the age of 74. Lieut. John Hollister died May 19, 1769, at

the age of fifty, leaving sons, Jeremiah, David, John, Nathan and Josiah. John was killed at the battle of Stillwater, in 1777. David became the owner of a large and valuable real estate. He lived where Enoch Lambert lived. He was the father of the late John J. Hollister, and of Joseph L. Hollister, who was the last survivor of this once large family.

Epitaph.

In memory of David Hollister, who departed this life  
Feb. 20, 1807, in the 53d year of his age.

Alas ! how soon all earthly joys are fled,  
Our dearest friend is buried with the dead.  
In vain we mourn, in vain the loss deplore,  
In vain look back to what he was before,  
From us he's gone, on earth he's seen no more.

Hollister, Samuel, from whom the family of that name in the south-east part of the town are descended, was from the parish of Kensington, in Farmington, now Berlin. In 1744 he purchased of Dr. George Holloway, of Cornwall, one hundred acres of land on the Ousatic River, which had formerly been laid out to Joseph Skinner. There he settled and died. He had two sons, Gershom and Elisha. Gershom was unfortunately killed at the raising of a barn, in Cornwall, in 1792. Elisha lived to an advanced age, and died in 1815. He left sons, Samuel, Elisha, Amos and Asahel. There are many of his descendants yet remaining in that neighborhood.

Hunt, Rev. Aaron, who for the last thirty years of his life was a citizen of Sharon, was a Methodist clergyman, of high standing in that denomination of Christians, and whose reputation is eminent among the early lights of the church. He commenced preaching in 1791, and for more than fifty years was an able, active and efficient itinerant minister. On retiring from active duty, he purchased the farm now owned by his son, Zalmon S. Hunt, Esq., south of Hitchcock's Corner, which was his home for the remainder of his life. There he died April 25th, 1858, aged ninety years and one month. His biographer says of him, that he had a clear strong intellect,

was an earnest Christian and an able and highly successful minister.

Hunt, Daniel, was from Lebanon, at the earliest settlement of the town. He lived on the mountain, at what was called the Randall house, now the residence of Wm. S. Marsh. He afterwards lived at the Tanner place, near Augustus L. Peck's. He removed to Vermont before he died. One of his daughters, who was the mother of Dr. Sears, lived to the age of ninety-four years. Another daughter was the mother of Dr. Ralph Deming.

Hunt, Phineas, a brother of the preceding, was from Lebanon, in 1747. He bought of Caleb Chappell, the farm on which his descendants resided, in Ellsworth. He had but one son, the late Phineas Hunt, to whom, by his will, he gave all his estate. He died August 22, 1787, at the age of 72. The son died Oct. 28, 1827, at the age of 69.

Hunter, Jonathan, was from Wareham, Massachusetts, where he had been Deacon of the church. He came to Sharon in 1747, and purchased of Benjamin Richmond the farm on which Benjamin Sears lived. His wife was a daughter of Deacon Ebenezer Hamlin. He died in 1762. He had two sons, David and Jonathan, who removed, soon after his decease, to Stillwater, New York. His widow afterwards married Lieut. John Pardee.

Hunter, Ebenezer, was from Norwich, about the year 1760. He lived on the mountain, in the southwest part of the town. His son, Nathaniel Hunter, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Hurlburt, Capt. Samuel, was from Lebanon, in 1743. He purchased of Caleb Strong, the west half of the 25th home lot, on which Charles L. Prindle now lives. He was the first merchant in the town. He was at one time possessed of a large and valuable estate, but before the close of his life he was reduced to poverty. He died June 4, 1789, aged seventy-seven.

Hutchinson, Samuel, Esq., was one of the first settlers, and

the second magistrate in the town. He was from Lebanon, and drew the 10th home lot, the same on which the stone house owned by Anson Boland stood. In 1751 he sold that place, and purchased the first minister's lot of the Rev. Peter Pratt. His house stood where Perry Louck's tavern now stands. In 1762 he removed to Spencertown, New York, where it is supposed he died. He had three sons, Samuel, Ezra and Solomon, the two latter of whom settled in this town, and gave the name to Hutchinson Hollow, where they lived.

Jackson, Deacon Ebenezer, was from Norwalk, and settled on the 42d home lot, now owned by John Jackson on the mountain. He was early chosen Deacon of the church, and was a highly reputable and useful man. He had six sons, Ebenezer, Joshua, John, Abraham, Stephen and Joseph, most of whom settled in the eastern part of the town. In 1763 he sold his home lot to Job Gould, and from that time lived with one of his sons at the River till his death, in 1766. An uncommon incident attaches to the farm on which he settled, in the fact, that it has been held by owners of the family of Jackson and Gould from the first ownership by Deacon Jackson to the present time.

Jewett, Capt. Caleb, was from Norwich, now Lisbon, in 1743. He first purchased and occupied the lot on which Gov. Smith lived, but in 1744 he sold it to Deacon Elmer, and bought of Samuel Chapman, the farm on the mountain now owned by his grandson, John S. Jewett. He was selectman of the town twelve years, and Representative to the Assembly at eleven sessions. He had sons, Caleb, Nathan, Thaddeus and Alpheus, the last of whom, after a life of much public employment, and of great usefulness, died at the age of eighty-six.

Epitaph.

In memory of Capt. Caleb Jewett,  
who died Jan. 18, 1778, in the 68th year of his age.

Let not the dead forgotten lie,  
Lest we forget that we must die.

Jennings, Joseph, was from Fairfield, in 1771. He lived at



the place lately owned by George Bissell. He died August 5, 1780, at the age of sixty-four. He left sons, Justin, Reuben, Charles and Joseph. They all left the town soon after the death of their father.

Johns, Benjamin, was an early settler in the Valley, and lived on the Burr place. He sold out in 1752 to Samuel Smith, and removed into the State of New York, near the late residence of Moses Clark, in North East. He died of the small-pox.

Jones, Evan, was the first settler upon the place owned by Deacon William M. Smith, which was the old parsonage of Parson Smith. He came with the first settlers, from Hebron, and remained in the town till 1750, when he sold out to the Rev. John Searl.

Juckett, Elijah, was originally from old Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts. He served faithfully and honorably through the Revolutionary war, and was a sergeant in the light infantry under General La Fayette. He was in the severe conflict at Stony Point, when that post was taken by General Wayne, as well as in several other battles. He was a pensioner under the act of 1818. He died in 1839, at the age of seventy-eight.

Kellogg, Oliver, Esq., was from Sheffield, Massachusetts, and settled in Sharon in 1788. He was a clothier by trade, and lived at Hitchcock's Corner. He was a highly respectable and influential citizen, and was a representative to the Assembly at sixteen sessions. He was also for many years one of the magistrates of the town. He died Sept. 17, 1830, at the age of seventy.

Ketcham, Elihu, was the first settler on the Bates place, so called, now owned by Mr. Liner. This he sold in 1748 to John Marvin, Jr. From that time to 1753 he lived near the school-house in the Boland district, when he left the town.

King, George, was from Windsor, in 1784. He had previously been connected with the commissary department of the army, and at the close of the war, established himself as a

merchant, in company with Eli Mills. He prosecuted business with great success for many years, and accumulated a large and valuable estate. He died Nov. 31, 1831, at the age of seventy-seven.

Knibloe, Rev. Ebenezer, some account of this gentleman is given in a foregoing part of this work. It may here be added that he had three sons, William, Elijah and John P., all of whom were cut off within a few weeks of each other, by the epidemic which swept over the town in 1812.

Knickerbacker, Cornelius, was one of the early Dutch inhabitants of Salisbury, and lived at the Furnace Village. In 1748 he exchanged farms with Capt. John Sprague, and took possession of the 37th home lot, where the Messrs. Prindle now live, in Gay street. The pond now called Beardslee Pond, was for many years called Knickerbacker's Pond, from its vicinity to his residence. He died March 3, 1776, at the age of eighty-four.

Lake, Joseph, was a soldier in the old French war, and in the war of the Revolution. He came to Sharon from Stratford, in 1772, and purchased of Jabez Hamlin the place where his son, Andrew Lake, lived, near the Indian Pond. He lived for many of the last years of his life, in the eastern part of the town, where William Stone, Esq., now lives. He died April 24, 1813, at the age of seventy-four.

Landers, Joseph, was from Wareham, Massachusetts, in 1748. He bought of Caleb Chappell the 8th home lot, on which Dr. Ralph Deming now lives. He died on the 5th day of August, 1781, at the advanced age of ninety-four. His wife, who died the preceding January, reached the age of ninety-seven.

#### Their Epitaph.

Behold and see this wonder here,  
This couple lived full seventy year  
In wedlock bands ; now yield to death,—  
Ninety odd years 'tis from their birth.

Landers, Joseph, Jr., was a son of the preceding, and lived

with his father on the 8th home lot. He was appointed a deacon of the church in 1781, in the place of Deacon Frisbie, resigned, which office he retained till his death. He was a representative to the Assembly at the May session in 1782.

Epitaph.

In memory of Deacon Joseph Landers, who died  
August 31, 1801, aged 79.

Entomb'd in earth, beneath this stone,  
My aged body lies at rest,  
With this terrestrial ball I've done,  
And now reside among the blest.—  
Far from confusion here I lie,  
And calmly rest my hoary head ;  
My loving friends, prepare to die,  
For there's no peace but with the dead.

Lewis, Samuel, was from Hebron, in 1743. He was the first settler on the 9th lot in the first hundred acre division, the same where Ichabod Everitt now lives, in Ellsworth. He continued in town about thirty years, and then removed to New Ashford, Massachusetts. His son, Samuel Lewis, Jr., was a soldier in the early part of the Revolutionary war, and a history of his captivity in England, and his escape, is given in the former part of this work. He died soon after his return, leaving a wife and three children.

Lillie, David, was from Windham, in 1765. He settled in Gay street, and built the house now owned by Mr. Prindle. He removed to Ohio about the year 1800.

Lockwood, Nathaniel, was from New Canaan, in 1784, and purchased the farm on the mountain known as the Lockwood place, near Mr. Jewett's. He died Feb. 26, 1785, at the age of thirty-three, of consumption. His widow afterwards married John Williams.

Lord, Jonathan, was from Colchester, and was one of the first inhabitants of Ellsworth, where he settled in 1743. He lived where Horace Dunbar, Esq., now lives. He died in 1760.

Lord, Joseph, Esq., was a son of the preceding, and came

to the town with his father in 1743. He was for many years the only Justice of the Peace in Ellsworth. He was for several years a selectman, and member of the Assembly in October 1777. He died Oct. 28, 1778, at the age of fifty-eight. He was the first person buried in the burying yard now used in Ellsworth.

Lott, Baltus. This individual appears to have been a squatter upon the public lands before the township was sold. He was probably a Dutchman, and had taken possession of a considerable tract of land in Connecticut and New York, and had erected a house and barrack, and made considerable clearings. His territory embraced what is now called the Burr farm. The proprietors made many efforts to remove him, but he resisted them all until March 1742, when Joseph Skinner purchased his possessions for 300 pounds old tenor, and he went away. He afterwards lived in the north part of Amenia, New York.

Lovell, John, came to this part of the country from Rochester, Mass., in 1745. He first settled in Oblong, New York, where George H. Swift, Esq., now lives. In 1770 he removed to Sharon, and purchased of David Boland the 2d home lot, where his great-grandson, Chaffee Lovell, now lives. He died Nov. 3, 1789, at the age of fifty-eight. His only son, Captain Joshua Lovell, who was a respectable citizen of the town, lived upon the same place until his death, in February 1838, at the age of seventy-one.

Lovell, Joseph, was from Rochester, Massachusetts. He first settled in Kent, but in 1767 he purchased the 35th lot in the first hundred acre division, of Samuel Hollister, Jr. He lived at what was formerly known as the Cluxton place, on the road leading east from Caleb Chapman's. He had two sons, Levi and Joseph.

Manrow, Joseph, was from Norwalk, in 1744. He settled on the corner opposite John S. Jewett's, and the old orchard which he planted is still standing. In 1750 he exchanged farms with Matthew Fuller, and removed to the mountain, near

David Curtis'. In 1752 he sold this place to John Jackson, and became the owner of a grist-mill near the Bates place. This property he sold in 1757 to David Hamilton, and removed from the town.

Manrow, Noah, was for more than forty years an inhabitant of Mudgetown. He came from Salisbury in 1751. He lived on the borders of the Pond, in a house lately destroyed by fire, then owned by Capt. Benjamin Lines. He died May 5, 1793, at the age of sixty-four. He left sons, Noah, Younglove, Daniel and Philo.

Marchant, Amos, from Newtown, came to Sharon in 1773. He bought of Ebenezer Sprague the home lot on which Calvin Gay, Esq., lived, and built the brick house owned by that gentleman. He was one of the victims of the small-pox, which swept over the town with such terrible severity in 1784. He had sons, Joseph, Ashbel, Wheeler and Elijah.

#### Epitaph.

In memory of Amos Marchant, who died of the small-pox,  
Dec. 19, 1784, aged 62.

Though death be potent as a king,  
And wounds with his envenom'd sting,  
Yet faith fresh vigor will impart,  
To rob the tyrant of his dart.

Marriner, Capt. Ephraim, was from Colchester, in 1765. He settled in Abel street, where Stephen Tickner lived, and lived there until 1786. He then removed to the north part of the town, and resided there till his death in 1810. He was a member of the Assembly in May 1787, and in May and October 1788. He had two sons, Ephraim and Buel who removed to Yates Co., New York, several years since.

Marsh, Pelatiah, was from Lebanon in 1764. He settled in the east part of the town, where his grandson, Elijah Marsh, lived. He died April 8, 1790, at the age of eighty-three. His son, Jesse Marsh, father of Elijah Marsh, lived at the same place, and died October 25, 1822, at the age of eighty.

Martin, Eliphalet, was from Windham in 1786. He first

settled where Adonijah Maxam lived in the Hollow, which place had previously been owned by David Barrows. He afterwards purchased of Dr. Samuel Rockwell, the Elmer place, near the stone bridge, where he resided till his death. He was much employed in the business of the town. He died April 11, 1801, at the age of forty-seven.

Marvin, John Jun., was from Norwalk in 1748. He bought of Elihu Ketcham, the farm called the Bates place, about one mile easterly from the meeting-house, and lived there. He was also a part owner in the iron works at the mouth of Mudge pond. In 1752, he sold the Bates place to his father, who then removed to the town, and who died February 9, 1774, at the age of ninety-six. Mr. Marvin was a member of Assembly in May, 1756 and 1768. In 1770 he removed to Brook Haven, Long Island, where he resided till his death in 1783.

Maxam, Adonijah was from the old Colony in 1748. The name, in the early records, is spelt Muxam, and is so pronounced by elderly people at the present day. Mr. Maxam settled where Orrin Abel lived on the Ellsworth turnpike, where he died in 1760. He left four sons, Samuel, Benjamin, Adonijah, and Jacob. The third son, Adonijah, after having gone through the active and perilous services of the revolutionary war, which have been detailed in a preceding chapter, died at the age of ninety-seven years.

(Front.)

ADONIJAH MAXAM,

Born at Sharon,

Dec. 28, 1754.

Died Nov. 22, 1850.

Æ 97 years.

(Reverse.)

As a true Patriot he served his country faithfully in the war of the Revolution. As a friend he was warm and constant in his attachments, while he was strongly opposed to those he deemed the enemies of his country and of the Christian faith. As an honest man, a useful citizen and a devoted Christian he lived respected and died lamented.



Millard, Joshua, was from Cornwall, in 1768. He was the first settler upon the place now owned by Robert Buckley, in Ellsworth. He remained in town about thirty years, and then removed to Egremont, Mass.

Miller, Henry, was from Branford, in 1750. He was the first settler on the farm now owned by Deacon Jabez Swift, on the Ousatic river, and his house, the remains of which are still visible, was on the old road that formerly led north from Swift's bridge. He afterwards lived in Kent. He was the grandfather of Hubbel Miller, Esq., of Kent.

Miller, Deacon Gain, was born in Ireland, in 1716. He came to Sharon in 1763, and purchased of Daniel Hunt, the place formerly occupied as a poor house, near Frederick Parson's, where he resided during his life. He was elected deacon July 6, 1781, which office he resigned in August, 1799, and the late Deacon Chamberlain was chosen in his place. He left one son, the late Thomas Miller, who was the father of the late Daniel Miller.

#### Epitaph.

- In memory of Deacon Gain Miller, who died      ♀  
     Nov. 16, 1809, aged ninety-three.  
     I've long'd to join the heavenly song,  
     Of anthems ever new,  
     To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
     And bid the world adieu.

Mudge, Ebenezer, was one of the original proprietors of the town, and was from Colchester. He drew the twenty-fifth home-lot, lying on both sides of town street, and embracing the place now owned by Charles L. Prindle, and Baldwin Reed on the west, and by Deacon A. C. Woodward, Estate of Reuben Hunt, Mr. Terrett and Mr. Skinner, on the east. In 1743 he settled on the western border of Skinner's pond, as it was then called. Here he lived until his death April 21, 1758, at the age of seventy-five. He had six sons, viz. Samuel, Mica, Abraham, Ebenezer, Jarvis and Joseph. Samuel lived on the place now owned by Baldwin Reed 2d., which he sold

in 1772, to Job Gould, Jun. Mica lived a while in Ellsworth, and was a part owner of the first mill near Wm. Emons's. He removed to Albany county, New York, in 1758. Abraham lived at the Griswold place, now owned by Solomon Bierce. Ebenezer removed to Canaan in 1763, where he lived till 1775 when he removed to New Ashford, Mass. Jarvis settled on the homestead, but he soon sold it to Noah Monroe, and left the town. Thus, this numerous and respectable family had all left the town previous to the revolutionary war, but the beautiful lake on whose borders they settled will commemorate their name through all succeeding time.

North, Capt. Thomas, was from Wethersfield in 1743. He was one of the first proprietors of the iron works in the Hollow. He lived on the twenty-sixth home-lot, known as the Captain Patchen place, now owned by Mr. Chase. He served as selectman for several years. He removed into the state of New York in 1753.

Noyes, Calvin, was from Lyme, and was a direct descendant of the Rev. Mr. Noyes, the first minister of that town. He came to Sharon in 1792, and purchased a large and valuable real estate in the neighborhood of Benedict's mill, where he resided. He was distinguished for his public spirit, and for his many acts of private charity. He lived a bachelor, and for the last few years of his life was entirely blind. By his last will he gave the greater part of his estate to the Congregational society in Sharon, the American Education Society, the Connecticut Missionary Society and the Connecticut Bible Society. Each of those societies has received nearly seventeen hundred dollars from his estate. He died at the residence of his brother, Deacon Moses Noyes, in Poultney, Vt., January 22, 1831, at the age of eighty.

Noyes, Selden, was a younger brother of the preceding, and came with him from Lyme, in 1792. He lived where Clark M. Juckett now lives. He was cut off in early life by consumption. He left sons, Milton, Selden and John.

## Epitaph.

Sacred to the memory of Selden Noyes,  
who died July 5, 1804, aged thirty-four years.  
Though death's cold stroke the bond has broke,  
That joined the hand and heart,  
Yet should they stand at Christ's right hand,  
They never more can part.

Orton, John, was from Litchfield, in 1764. He married a daughter of Deacon Joseph Landers, and settled on the place now owned by George R. Woodward, which originally belonged to John Davis. He left two sons, Joseph and Luther.

## Epitaph.

In memory of John Orton, who died April 9, 1785,  
in the forty-second year of his age.

In prime of life he yields his breath,  
While weeping friends lament his death,  
But death must yield, his dust restore,  
Where friends shall meet but weep no more.

Pardee, Lieut. John, the patriarch of the numerous family of Pardee, in Sharon, was from Norwalk, and was an original proprietor. He was a shoemaker and tanner by occupation, and settled near the stone bridge, north of the meeting-house. He was a leading and prominent man in all the affairs of the town, and was a very large landholder. He was one of the first representatives of the town in the legislature, being elected such in October, 1755, when the town was first represented in that body; and he was chosen to that office at six sessions. He died July 13, 1766, aged sixty-nine. He had six sons who settled in the town, and whose descendants are very numerous, viz.: Thomas, Jehiel, John, James, George and Moses. Thomas settled on the mountain, where Josiah Brown now lives, and he was the father of the late Capt. Samuel Pardee. He died August 1, 1806, at the age of eighty-four. Jehiel settled where Clark Pardee lived, and was grandfather to the last named gentleman. John settled in the Great Hollow, and he was the father of the late Isaac Pardee, Esq.

James lived on the home lot, and built the brick house now known as the Pardee house. George and Moses lived just north of the stone bridge. Thomas and James were members of the Assembly several times, as was their nephew, the late Isaac Pardee, Esq. This last named gentleman died, very suddenly, on the 8th day of May, 1825, at the age of seventy-six.

Park, Joseph, was from Middletown and was the first settler on the place owned by the heirs of the late Samuel Beecher. He sold his farm in 1746 to Nathaniel Richards, and removed to Salisbury. He had two sons, Smith and Daniel. Smith lived near George White's, until 1780, when he sold the place to Benjamin Conklin, and removed to New Canaan, N. Y., where he died. Daniel lived where Mr. E. Mallary now lives, until 1762, when he sold the place to John Pennoyer, and left the town.

Parsons, Capt. Enoch, was from Newtown in 1763. He was a carpenter by trade, and settled where his great grandson, Frederick L. Parsons now lives. Being a man of more than a common education for those days, he was appointed, for many years, to "line the psalm," agreeable to the ancient manner of singing in public worship. He served as selectman and constable for several years, and was member of the Assembly in October, 1795. He died October 1, 1829, aged eighty-nine. He left four sons, Stephen, Freeman, Enoch and Amideus.

Patchen, Abel, was from Welton, in 1783. He purchased of Zebulon Badcock the south half of the twenty-sixth home lot, originally Deacon Skinner's, and kept a public house during his life. He was a representative to the Assembly in October, 1798, and May, 1799. He died April 9, 1805, at the age of fifty-three. He had one son, Stephen, who emigrated to Vermont, in early life. His three daughters, Mrs. Skiff, Mrs. Lowry and Mrs. Chase, all widows, are now deceased.

Peck, Dr. Abner, was a physician, and came to Sharon in 1751, from Salisbury. He purchased a place of Luke St. John, a little south of Joel L. Whitford's. He was cut off by

the small-pox, October 11, 1756, leaving a widow and two daughters.

Pennoyer, John, came from Stamford in 1742. He purchased a part of the twenty-second home lot, originally owned by Samuel Calkin, being the place where the late Gen. Augustine Taylor lived. He sold this place in 1749, to his son John, and removed to the State of New York, where the late Charles Wright lived, in the town of North East. He returned to Sharon in 1769, and purchased the place at the head of the street, now owned by Chesterfield King. He died December 11, 1785, at the age of seventy-eight. He had sons, Jonathan, John, Joseph and Jacob. Jonathan died in 1761. John built the brick house, known as the Taylor house, and also the one formerly owned by Dr. John W. Smith, in which latter place he kept a tavern. In 1785 he removed to Hudson, N. Y., where he died. Joseph settled in the town of North East, N. Y., and he was the father of the late Jonathan Pennoyer. Jacob, the youngest son, owned the place now owned by Geo. Skinner. He was killed on the 18th of May, 1814, on the top of King Hill, so called, by the oversetting of his wagon, at the age of seventy-six.

Petit, Jonathan, was from Stamford, at the earliest settlement of the town. He owned the thirty-second home-lot, and he lived on the road which is now discontinued, leading north from Joel C. Whitford's. He was much employed in public affairs. He was constable nine years. He died in 1772, at an advanced age.

Petit, Samuel, was a son of John Petit, of Stamford, and a nephew of the preceding. He lived in the north part of the town, near Benedict's mill. He died on the 8th day of July, 1826, aged eighty-eight. He left one son, Gideon, who died without issue, January 1, 1829, aged fifty-seven.

Petit, Joel, was a brother of the preceding, and was for many years an inhabitant of Sharon. He lived to a very advanced age. His son, Joel T. Petit, Esq., was a young gentleman of great promise, who was educated for the law, and set-

tled in the town. After a short professional career he died of consumption, September 13, 1807, aged thirty-two.

Pratt, Jonathan, was originally from the old Plymouth colony, and came to Sharon in 1753. He first lived in the Hollow, near the outlet of Mudge Pond, and was a partner in the iron works. In 1754 he removed to the south part of the town, and settled where Stephen Knibloe now lives. He died February 17, 1781, aged sixty-one.

Pratt, Capt. Abraham, was from Saybrook, in 1783. He purchased of Moses Reed the place on which he lived, in the north part of the town, now owned by James Landon, and commenced business as a shoemaker. He acquired a handsome estate, and enjoyed a large share of the public confidence. He served as selectman for many years, and was otherwise much employed in the business of the town. He died much lamented, on the 2d of March, 1840, aged eighty-one. His only surviving child was the wife of Henry Reed, Esq., of Ohio. All his other children were cut off by consumption in early life.

Quitterfield, Abner, is supposed to have come from Norwalk, in 1752. He lived in the south part of the town, on the road leading from the school-house to George R. Woodward's. He removed to Stillwater, N. Y., in 1768.

Randall, John, was from Wareham, Mass., in 1753. His wife, who was the daughter of John Bates, was the first female and the second child born in the town. He lived on the farm now owned by William S. Marsh, a little south of Mr. Jewett's. He died of a cancer May 19, 1807, at the age of eighty-two.

Raymond, Daniel, came from Woodbury, in 1748. He lived on the place formerly occupied by Zenas Beebe, below George R. Woodward's. He sold out to Deacon Landers, in 1760, and left the town,

Reed, Moses, was the first settler on the place lately owned by Capt. Abraham Pratt. He came to Sharon in 1743, and



died November 17, 1786, at the age of ninety. He left one son, Moses Reed, Jr.

Rexford, Arthur, was from Wallingford, in 1757. He lived in Ellsworth, a little south of Enoch P. Everitt's. He had four sons, Arthur, Joseph, Daniel and Benjamin.

Rice, Asa, was from Wallingford, now Meriden, in 1774. He lived in Ellsworth, where Enoch P. Everitt now lives. He died in 1785, leaving sons, Asa, Seth, Isaac and Barnabas.

Richards, Nathaniel, was from Norwich, in 1744, and settled on the lot lately owned by Samuel Beecher, now a part of Charles Benton's farm. He died in 1763, and the property passed into the hands of George White. There are none of his descendants now remaining in the town.

Richmond, Benjamin, was one of the first proprietors and settlers, and came to Sharon in 1742. He lived a short distance below Dwight St. John's, and died in 1766. He had one son, Edward, who removed to Spencertown N. Y., in 1757.

Roberts, Nathaniel, was from Salisbury in 1759. He lived in Abel street, a little north of Stephen Tickner's. He died July 15, 1766, at the age of fifty-five. He left sons, John, William, Lebbeus, and Amos.

Roberts, Samuel, Esq., was from Windsor, and came to Sharon, in 1784 as a hired man to George King. He had a successful career in the acquisition of property. He was the owner at his death of a large and valuable real estate. He was at one time a magistrate of the town, and twice its representative in the General Assembly. He left sons, Samuel, Hector, and Virgil B., the two last of whom are yet living.

Rockwell, Dr. Samuel, was born in East Windsor, February 18, 1759. While he was young his father removed to Colebrook, and was one of the first settlers of that township. In 1776 he was in the army, for which he drew a pension, after 1831. He entered Yale College in 1779, but soon left that institution and commenced the study of medicine, under the celebrated Dr. Lemuel Hopkins. He settled in Sharon in

1784, and, except about five years, when he lived in Salisbury, remained here till his death, which occurred on the 24th of June, 1836, at the age of seventy-seven. He represented the town in the legislature at the session in 1815.

Rowlee, Jonathan, was from East Haddam, in 1741, and lived near Richard Woodward's. He staid in town but a short time. He removed to Kent, and lived a little north of the meeting-house. He died in 1772, leaving sons, Simeon, Jonathan, Levi, Judah and Issacher, several of whom settled in and near Sharon. Levi lived where Roswell H. Hazzard now lives. He died of cancer, November 23, 1805, at the age of seventy-three. Simeon was the father of Mrs. Hamlin, widow of Deacon Benjamin Hamlin.

St. John, Deacon Matthew, was from Norwalk, in 1745. He bought of Samuel Comstock, the thirty-second home lot, now owned by D. L. and J. B. Smith. He was one of the deacons of the church, and was several years one of the selectmen of the town. He died August 3, 1755, at the age of 69. He had four sons, who bore the names of the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew removed to Suffield. His only child was the mother of Joel Chaffee. Mark lived where George Bissell formerly lived. Luke was a tailor by trade, and lived where Josiah Hull lived. These last two removed to Stockbridge, Mass. John lived a little south of Joel C. Whitford's. He died December 30, 1784, at the age of sixty-two.

St. John, Timothy, came from Norwalk in 1756. He lived where C. M. Dean now lives. He died November 28, 1806, at the age of seventy-four. His only son, Daniel St. John, Esq., removed to Hartford where he lived much respected to a very advanced age.

St. John, Daniel, was a brother to the preceding, and came to Sharon in 1761. He lived where the late Ezekiel St. John lived. He was a blacksmith by occupation. He died in 1781, leaving sons, Thomas, Lewis, Uriah and Caleb.

St. John, Silas, was also a brother of Timothy and Daniel St.

John. He lived in Ellsworth near the place where his grandson Henry St. John now lives. He was the first deacon of the church in Ellsworth, and was for several years town treasurer. He died September 21, 1805, at the age of sixty-four.

Sanford, Amos, was from Newtown, in 1768. He lived opposite Frederick L. Parsons' present residence. He died December 19, 1777, aged forty-four, leaving sons, David, Ezra, John, Samuel, Caleb, Salmon and Amos.

Sears, Capt. Stephen, was originally from Barnstable, Mass. His parents settled at a place called Jo's Hill, in the town of South East, Putnam county, N. Y. He came to Sharon in 1760. He lived where his grandson, Benjamin Sears, lived. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and in that capacity superintended the erection of the meeting house built in 1768. He died of the yellow fever in New York, where he was at work at his trade, in 1791. He was the father of Dr. John Sears. His widow died February 8, 1834, at the age of ninety-four.

Shepherd, Dr. Asher, came from Hartford, in 1772, and was a partner with Dr. Simeon Smith, in the druggist business. He built the house known as the Grosvenor house, opposite Richard Smith's, in 1774. In 1778 he removed to Bennington, Vt., and kept a druggist store successively at Bennington and Rutland, where he died in 1788.

Skiff, Benjamin, was from the town of Chilmark, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, and came to Sharon in 1774. He lived in Ellsworth, where Giles Skiff now lives. He died February 20, 1811, at the age of seventy-four. He had sons, Walter, John, Seth and Benjamin.

Skiff, Samuel, was a cousin of the preceding and came from the same place. He lived where Gibbs Skiff now lives. He died in 1825, leaving sons, Samuel, Arvin, Gibbs and Asa.

Skinner, Nathaniel, Esq., was from Colchester, and was one of the first and principal proprietors of the township. He drew the twenty-sixth home lot, known as the Patchen place, where Mr. Chase now lives. He was the first magistrate, first

town clerk and first deacon of the church. He remained in town until 1760, when he removed to Salisbury, and was an owner of the mill now known as Benedict's mill. He had sons, Nathaniel, Thomas, Joseph and Josiah. There are none of the family now residing in the town.

Smith, Rev. Cotton Mather. Many allusions have been made, in the foregoing pages, to the labors and influence of Parson Smith, in laying the foundations of society and shaping the early institutions of the town, as well as in giving importance to some portions of its history. It is thought that the following extract from an address, delivered by the Rev. Abel McEwing, of New London, at the centennial of the consociation of Litchfield County, in 1852, will be acceptable to the reader, as pointing out facts of history and elements of character not before alluded to. It is unfortunate that the traditional error, that Parson Smith's mother was a daughter of Cotton Mather had not been detected before the publication of Dr. McEwing's address. She was a daughter of Atherton Mather, a cousin of Cotton Mather.

"The Rev. Cotton Mather Smith was, by the original Consociation of the County, ordained pastor of the church in Sharon, Aug. 23d, 1755. This office he held until his death, Nov. 27th, 1806. The name of Mr. Smith excites a curiosity, especially in a New Englander, to inquire after this minister's ancestry. Had he been only Mr. Smith he might have been born anywhere, or he might have descended from some man in almost any place, but when we read or hear the title or name, Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, our mind is carried back to the very early history of New England, and to some of the chief actors in its early scenes. The paternal ancestry of this pastor of Sharon we trace back to his great-great-grandfather, the Rev. Henry Smith, who was a minister of the gospel in Wethersfield. He was a conspicuous actor in the memorable scene of 1639, when the inhabitants of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield constituted themselves the commonwealth called Connecticut. England, a paternal estate and an eligible posi-

tion in society, he left that in this new land he might enjoy the rights of conscience. His will, published in the Colonial Records, informs us that he died in the year 1648. His great-grandson, Samuel Smith, Esq., of Suffield, married Jerusha Mather, and who was she?

"The daughter of the Rev. Cotton Mather, of Boston, granddaughter of the Rev. Increase Mather, and great-granddaughter of the Rev. Richard Mather, of Dorchester, who fled from England for conscience sake. The Rev. John Cotton, the very distinguished minister of the gospel in Boston, was the father of the wife of Increase Mather, and thus the great-grandfather of the lady who became Mrs. Smith, of Suffield. Her son, born October 16, 1741, she named Cotton Mather, and early did she destine him for the sacred profession of his ancestors. At Yale College, when he graduated, 1751, he was distinguished for amiable temper, bodily activity, graceful manners, industry and elegant literature. His studies preparatory for the ministry were prosecuted under the instruction of the Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, of Hatfield, Mass. He became pastor of the church in Sharon fifteen years after the first settlement of that town having for his predecessor in office Mr. Searle. When Mr. Smith preached as a candidate in Sharon, a Mr. King, called Merchant King, was an admiring hearer, and with becoming enthusiasm co-operated with the people at large in compassing the settlement of the candidate. Soon after this, however, the merchant was occasionally caught drowsing under a sermon. 'How is this?' A neighbor enquired; 'I thought you was an admirer of Mr. Smith.' 'Yes,' Mr. King replied; 'I am. I attended to him until I saw that he was a workman; since then I have given it up to him.

"Soon after his settlement in Sharon, Mr. Smith connected himself in marriage with the second daughter of the Rev. William Worthington, of Saybrook. This lady gladdened the heart of her husband, made his household happy and respectable, and added much to the efficiency and popularity of his ministry. The children of the family were six, the youngest of whom, the

only son who became an adult, was the Hon. John Cotton Smith, one of the governors of Connecticut.

“At the commencement of his pastoral labors, Mr. Smith found his charge a people divided in religious opinions, in habits to a great extent immoral, and scattered over a parish nine miles by seven in its dimensions. A field for usefulness this was for a young minister, who brought into it talents and influence which were appropriate. Bland and courteous in manners, sound in religious inculcations, uncompromising in moral habits and requirements, much in his study and often in the families of his people, he harmonized and reformed their faith and social habits, and gained such hold of their hearts that they retained his ministry, and gave deference to his counsels, to the close of his life. Somewhat acquainted with medicine, but more because he had the heart of the good Samaritan, he was sure to be with his parishioners when sick, and never by the sick was the presence of a minister more cordially welcomed. Religious counsels and prayers did not comprise all his ministrations on these occasions. A very distressing prevalence of the small pox at one season put all his benevolence, contrivance, activity, and fortitude in requisition. It was winter; houses for the sick could not be obtained in the parish; seven hundred persons were subject to the disease within the space of two months. For nineteen successive days and nights, the humble imitator of Him who went about ‘healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people’ put not off his clothes for rest. Here was something in addition to good preaching to make a minister popular among his own parishioners.

“After he had been twenty years in the pastoral office, that great event, the American Revolution, occurred. It found Mr. Smith in the maturity of his powers, wielding within his sphere, a great influence. He had dedicated himself to the Christian ministry, but this did not make him too sacred to give himself to his country. His brethren, the Congregational clergymen of New England, were, at large, distinguished



patriots, in the struggle of their nation for independence and free government. None among them in the incipient movements of the Revolution, or in providing for the hardships and conflicts of the war, brought the people of their charges up to a higher tone of action than did the pastor of Sharon. His sermons, his prayers, the hymns which he gave to the choir were impulsive to patriotism. When news of a battle, such as that of Lexington ; or the news of a victory, such as Burgoyne's surrender, reached Mr. Smith, he electrified his congregation by an echo of the tidings from the pulpit. Anxiety for the issue of the war inflamed his bosom to such a heat that this domestic action did not satisfy him. Into the memorable campaign of 1775 he entered as chaplain to a regiment in the northern army. His influence in producing order and good morals in the camp, in consoling the sick and in inspiring the army with firmness and intrepidity attracted the attention of Gen. Schuyler, the commander-in-chief, and secured from this worthy officer a respectful friendship for Mr. Smith for the residue of his life. Few men ever made more of domestic life than the subject of this sketch. As a husband and father he sweetened his home, elevated his family ; as a father he may be said to have magnified his office. Paul, an apostle to the Gentiles, sought the salvation of the Jews. Mr. Smith, a father in full to his own children, was also a father to the orphan children of his parish. Of no less than eighteen of those isolated young creatures had he the principal charge, and ten of them have often been seen sitting at his table at a time. The theology of Mr. Smith was that of the Calvinistic school. A polish of style and a sweetness of affection gave interest to his preaching, while fidelity to the conscience of his hearers gave it power. He was among the few pastors who lived to preach their half century sermon. He looked down upon a few of the survivors of the early years of his ministry, upon the middle-aged and youth whom he had begotten in the gospel, and upon the mass whom he had indoctrinated from the Bible, and to the God of all, he said in the text chosen for the

occasion—*Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.*—Luke ii, 29-30. This sermon was preached one year before his death. In it he stated that in the course of his ministry he had preached more than four thousand public discourses, besides more than fifteen hundred at funerals and other special occasions. He preached for the last time on the first Sabbath of January, 1806. From this time he languished with a submissive spirit until a disease, which terminated his life Nov. 27th of the same year."

Smith, Hon. John Cotton, the most eminent citizen of the town, was a son of Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, and was born February 12, A. D. 1765. He was graduated at Yale College in 1783, admitted to the bar of Litchfield county in 1786, and married to Miss Margaret Evertson, of Amenia, N. Y., in October of the same year. Their only child, the late William M. Smith, Esq., was born in August, 1787. Mr. Smith was soon introduced into the active duties of his profession in his native town, by reason of the pecuniary embarrassments of the community in consequence of the Revolutionary war, and particularly from the extensive and embarrassed affairs of his uncle, Dr. Simeon Smith, who removed to Vermont, leaving the management of his extensive and complicated concerns in the hands of his young and inexperienced nephew. Through unwearied exertions he was able to extricate the affairs of his uncle from a nearly hopeless condition, by the full payment of all just demands against him, and leaving him at last in the enjoyment of a handsome estate. It is but justice to his uncle to say, that he, having no children of his own, made ample compensation to his nephew, by the bequest in his will of a large and valuable estate. He was first elected to the legislature in 1793, and was very frequently a member, and twice speaker before 1800, when he was elected a member of Congress. There he remained six years, when the declining health of his father compelled his resignation. He was immediately elected to the legislature of the State, and represented the town without intermission till 1809, and held the place of

speaker at each session. He was then elected to the Council, and in the October session of the same year was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. In 1811 he was elected Lieutenant Governor, and in 1813 Governor of his native State. In this office he was continued till 1817, when the public voice demanded a change in the form of the government of the State, and the substitution of a written constitution for the less stable provisions of the Charter of King Charles the 2d. Governor Smith, not sympathizing with the majority on this question, retired to private life and lived, for nearly thirty years, a private citizen of Sharon. In public life, he was never appointed to a position which he was not fully competent to fill. As a presiding officer in a deliberative assembly, he had no peer, and although while he was member of Congress, except for one short term, he was associated in principle and feeling with the minority, he was called upon to preside in committee of the whole more frequently than any other member. The late Luther Holley, an eminent citizen of Salisbury, who had been a member of the Legislature when Governor Smith was speaker, once remarked that he had never seen a man who could take a paper from the table and lay it back again so handsomely as could John Cotton Smith.

In private life Governor Smith was a fine specimen of the polished christian gentleman. He devoted some of his time to reviewing the studies of his early life, and in the preparation of useful and entertaining articles for the more elevated literary periodicals. He was for several years President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and of the American Bible Society, which latter office he retained till his death, which occurred on the 7th day of December, A. D. 1845, when he had nearly reached the age of eighty-one years.

His funeral was attended on the 9th, by a large and sympathizing audience, and a very appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Grove L. Brownell, then Congregational pastor at Sharon, from I. Sam., xxv., 1. At the grave, the

Rev. Mr. Andrews, then of Kent, uttered the following remarks, which found a response in every heart.

“ I return thanks, in behalf of the mourners, for all the kindness you have shown to our departed friend during his sickness, and for the honors you have now paid to his memory. We all feel that a great man has fallen in Israel. Beyond the bosom of his family, in whose inmost affections his memory will be embalmed ; beyond the circle of his townsmen, among whom most of his blameless and dignified life was passed , beyond the border of his native State, which delighted to honor him, and which he faithfully served in many and most distinguished stations, even throughout our common country, whose counsels he helped to guide in times of darkness and peril ; and especially in the Church of God, to which he freely gave the light of his wisdom and the aid of his benefactions, will his death be mourned as a calamity. One of the noblest of the men of a former and better age has been taken from us, and ‘ we ne’er shall look upon his like again.’ But our joy and boast this day is, not that he was a statesman of enlarged insight ; not that he was a scholar of refined taste ; not that he was a gentleman in whose deportment dignity and courtesy were so remarkably blended, ‘ the observed of all observers ;’ but that he was a meek and humble disciple of Christ, rejoicing in the consolations, reverencing the ordinances and laboring for the advancement of the Christian Faith. And we have laid him in the grave in the hope of a blessed resurrection, assured that the spirit which now rests in peace, shall, at the coming of our King, be reunited to the body, then raised and glorified after the likeness of our Lord. Amen.”

Smith, James, was from Bolton, and was one of the original proprietors. He drew the eighteenth home lot, which lay on both sides of the town street, and bounding south on the highway leading by Dwight St. John’s. Mr. Smith was the first person ever chosen constable in the town, and was elected to that office for three successive years. In 1747 he removed to the north part of North East, N. Y., where he lived to a great age.

Smith, Theophilus, was a brother of the preceding, and first lived near where Dr. Deming now lives. In 1749 he bought of Mica Mudge the grist mill known as Gay's mill, which stood near Merrills McLean's present residence. He sold this in 1757, to Colonel Ebenezer Gay, and removed to the southeast part of the town, near where Lorin Emons lived. He was one of the owners of the grist-mill and saw-mill near his house. He died in 1799. He had two sons, Theophilus and Levi, who are both now deceased.\*

Smith, Samuel, was from the Great Nine Partners, N. Y., and came to Sharon in 1754. He was a blacksmith by trade, and lived on the Burr place, in the valley. He was a select-man for several years. He sold his property in Sharon in 1766, to Joel Harvey, and returned to the state of New York. He lived in the large house which was lately standing on De La Vergne's Hill, and kept a tavern there for many years.

Smith, Dr. Simeon, was a younger brother of the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith. He came to Sharon about 1756, and was a physician of extensive practice. He kept a large store of drugs and medicines, importing his articles direct from London. In 1776 he commanded a company of six months men, and was on service in the vicinity of New York. He was a large landholder and built the large stone house now known as the Governor's House. He represented the town in the Legislature at several sessions. He went to West Haven, Vt., in 1787, and there resided till his death, in February, 1804. He left no children. He was a man of great activity and enterprise.

Smith, Paul, was the youngest brother of Rev. Cotton M. Smith, and came to Sharon in 1770. He lived in the house originally built by Job Gibbs, next north of Jay S. Canfield's, now demolished. He was a constable of the town for a great number of years. He died March 28, 1825, at the age of ninety.

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\* Another brother of this family, of the name of Azariah, settled in the town of North East, N. Y., near the present residence of Douglass Clark, Esq. He was the grandfather of Dr. John W. Smith, formerly living in Sharon.



Smith, Dr Phineas, was a son of Dan Smith, an elder brother of Rev. Cotton M. Smith. He came to Sharon when young, and resided with his uncle Dr. Simeon Smith, by whom he was educated as a physician. He relinquished the practice and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He built the house owned by the late Cyrus Swan, Esq. He died June 4, 1794, at the age of forty.

Smith, Apollos, was a younger brother of Phineas Smith, who came to Sharon in early life, and resided with his uncle, Dr. Smith, by whom he was assisted in establishing an extensive pottery before the revolutionary war, which proved a profitable business. He built the brick house owned by Dwight St. John. He removed to West Haven, Vt., in 1802, where he died a few years after.

Smith, Deacon Paul, Jr., was a son of Paul Smith, and was born in Suffield, in 1763. He came to Sharon with his father, and resided here until his death. He was elected a deacon of the church in 1793, and discharged the duties of that office with great fidelity and acceptance for forty-six years. He was a man of great sweetness of temper, modest and unobtrusive in his manners, and the principles of the holy religion which he professed were beautifully exhibited in his daily walk. He died without an enemy on the 30th day of September, 1838. He had sons, Seabury, Chauncey and Richard. Chauncey died in Missouri some years since.

Smith, David, was from Litchfield, and came to Sharon in 1801. He lived on the Ousatonick river, where his son, the late Hon. Horatio Smith resided. He joined the Society of Friends in 1781, and is supposed to be the only member of that society that ever resided in Sharon. He died April 3d, 1826, at the age of seventy-three. He left sons, David, John, Horatio, Ransom and Gad—the latter was a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of decided promise, who was cut off by consumption in early life.

Spafford, Thomas, was an original proprietor, from Lebanon, and drew the thirteenth home lot, on which Samuel



Beecher lived. Not being satisfied with his lot he availed himself of the privilege accorded to each proprietor of throwing it into the common stock, and in lieu of it laid out a home lot about half a mile west of the meeting house, formerly owned by Deacon William M. Smith. He died in 1752. There are none of his descendants in the town.

Spencer, Alexander, was one of the first settlers from East Haddam, and he lived opposite Dwight St. John's present residence. In 1760 he removed to Oblong, N. Y., where he died the next year. He had but one son, Alexander Spencer, Jr., who was a volunteer in Arnold's expedition to Quebec, in 1775, through the wilderness of Kennebeck. He died on the march.

Sprague, Capt. John, was from Lebanon, in 1739. He drew the thirty-seventh home lot, on which the Messrs. Prindle now live. He was a selectman for several years, and what is singular, he could not write, his name. The words

his  
 "John <sup>his</sup> Sprague" are appended to many official documents  
 mark

on our records. He built the first frame house in the town. In 1748 he exchanged farms with Cornelius Knickerbacker, and removed to Furnace Village, in Salisbury. He afterwards removed to Canaan, where he died in 1760. He had three sons, Jonathan, Ebenezer and John, the last of whom went to Canaan with his father. Jonathan settled where James Landon, Jr., lives, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-four. Ebenezer lived where Bird Reed lives.

Sterling, Hon. Ansel, was born in Lyme, and settled in Sharon as a lawyer in 1808, where he spent his life. As a lawyer, his forensic ability was of a high order, nor was he deficient in legal science. His language flowed readily and rapidly, and sometimes his appeals to the jury were very effective. He held a seat in Congress for two terms. He died November 5th, 1853, at the age of seventy-three years, leaving a large estate to his numerous family.

Stedman, Robert, was one of the first settlers and came to Sharon in 1743. He lived on the road leading west from Anson Boland's, and the barn which he erected is still standing. In 1782 he removed to Rupert, Vermont.

Strong, Caleb, was from Colchester in 1743. He first settled on the mountain near Calvin Jackson's, which place he sold to Thomas Day in 1755. He afterwards lived near Freeman W. Parson's. He was a large landholder at different times, but he died poor.

Epitaph.

In memory of Mr. Caleb Strong, who died  
August 22, 1789, aged seventy-six.

Our mortal breath  
Must yield to death.

Strong, Josiah, was originally from Colchester, but lived awhile in Litchfield. He came to Sharon in 1747, and settled where Richard Woodward now lives. He died of the small-pox in 1761, leaving sons, Josiah, Elijah, Solomon, David and Joseph. He was a selectman of the town for several years. David was a lieutenant in the continental army.

Strong, Josiah Jun., was a son of the preceding, and was born in Sharon, June 16, 1758. His life was eventful as illustrating the dangers and sufferings of a revolutionary soldier, in the course of two years active service. He enlisted into Capt. Downs' company in 1776, and marched to Canada. He was taken prisoner with the rest of the company, at the Cedars, on the 19th of May following. They were released by General Arnold, on his return from Quebec, and Mr. Strong returned to Sharon. He immediately enlisted into Captain Smith's company, and joined the army under General Washington. He was in the battles of White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown, in which last action he was so severely wounded in the leg as to render amputation necessary. He was of course, compelled to leave the army, but he carried with him an honorable discharge from General

Washington. He was placed upon the roll of invalid pensioners. He died lately at Geneva, N. Y.

Studley, Joshua, was from Hanover, Mass., in 1771. He settled in the south part of Ellsworth. He died November 22, 1810, at the age of sixty-eight. He left two sons Gideon and Ichabod.

Swain, John, was from Branford in 1745. He lived near the place where Rossiter B. Hopkins now lives. He died in 1755, leaving sons, Daniel, James, Isaac and Jonathan.

Swan, Cyrus, Esq., was born in Stonington, in 1770. He was in early life engaged in mercantile pursuits, in the District of Maine. He afterwards pursued the study of law, and established himself in the practice in this town in 1798. He was a successful practitioner, and acquired a respectable standing at the bar. He died August 20, 1835, aged sixty-five.

Swetland, Rowland, was the first settler on the place where Lyman Merwin lives. He sold his place in 1768, to Daniel Curtice, and removed to the Lyman place, in the Great Hollow, where he died.

Taylor, Gen. Augustine, was from New Milford in 1784. He purchased of Robert G. Livingston, who had come to Sharon during the revolutionary war, the place now called the Taylor place, where he resided until 1815, when he left the town. He rose to the rank of major general in the militia, and for awhile commanded the troops which were stationed for the defence of New London, during the late war with England. He died soon after he removed.

Thurston, Amos, lived in the Great Hollow, near the school-house. He came to Sharon in 1768, and remained here until 1785, when he sold his place to Ebenezer Dibble, and removed to Ballstown, N. Y.

Tickner, William, was from Lebanon in 1739. He drew the thirty-eighth home-lot, next north of Mr. Sprague's, in Gay Street. He was a respectable man. He died in 1760, leaving sons, William, Jonathan and Daniel, who all left town soon after the death of their father.

Tickner, John, was a brother of the preceding, and came from Lebanon in 1749. He settled in the Great Hollow, on land which his father had previously bought of Bezaleel Tyler. He died at the age of forty-nine. He left sons, John, Benajah, Elisha and David. Benajah was the father of Dr. Benajah Tickner of the U. S. navy, and of Dr. Luther Tickner, of Salisbury.

Tobey, Elisha, was from the old Plymouth colony. He lived for many years where Stephen Knibloe now lives. In 1792 he removed to Alford, Mass. He died in Salisbury, on his way to visit his friends in Sharon. He had sons, Jonathan, Barnabas, Heman, Sylvanus, Ephraim, Elisha and Benjamin.

Tyler, Bezaleel, was from Branford, and was the first settler on the place now owned and occupied by Dr. Deming. He died August 29, 1760, at the age of seventy-seven. He left sons, Bezaleel, Benjamin, Amos, Charles, Gideon, Timothy and Nathaniel.

Waldo, Cyprian, was from Windham in 1770. He purchased of Gideon Hollister, a part of the thirty-sixth homelot, where Virgil B. Roberts now lives. He resided there till his death in 1797. He left sons, Alfred, Bradford, David R. and Zaccheus.

Warren, Lieut. James, lived on the place now owned and occupied by Edwin N. Hartwell. He had no children. He died May 14, 1788, aged seventy-six.

Way, George, was from Lyme. He settled opposite the Deforest house in the Gay district, and lived there for a number of years. He was the first grand-juror in the town. He had one son John, who lived on the hill west of Frederick L. Parsons'.

White, George, was from Wareham, Mass., and was the first settler on the place owned by Chesterfield Chapman. He came to Sharon in 1747. He had three sons, John, George and Archelaus. John removed to Alford, Mass., where he died in 1775. He was the father of the late Solomon White and grandfather of George White, now living.

White, Israel, was from Danbury in 1775. He settled in the Great Hollow, where he purchased a large and valuable farm of David Wood. Mr. White died in 1820, at the age of eighty-nine. He had sons, James, John, Sanford, Israel, and Stephen, and his descendants yet remaining in the town are numerous.

Wilson, Capt. John, came to Sharon after the revolutionary war, from Westchester County, N. Y. He finally settled in the southeast part of Sharon, on a farm formerly owned by Phinehas Benjamin, now by Daniel Hall, Esq. He enlisted into the army of the revolution, early in the war, and served faithfully till peace was proclaimed. He was a man of intelligence, a Baptist by religious profession, and of much weight of character among his acquaintance. He died January 20, 1849, at the age of eighty-six years.

Williams, Colonel John, was originally a physician, and came to Sharon in 1743 from Lebanon. He was for many years a very distinguished inhabitant of the town. He lived nearly opposite Judge Sterling's, and the house which he occupied was standing sixty years since. He was elected town-clerk in the fall of 1745, which office he held twenty-nine successive years, till his death. Previous to his appointment the records had been badly kept, and a good part of them are very unintelligible; but from the time they passed into his hands they were kept with great accuracy. It would seem, that for nearly thirty years, he wrote almost every deed which passed title to real estate in Sharon, judging from the fact that they were nearly all witnessed by him, and acknowledged before him, and it is interesting to observe with what remarkable accuracy and strict legal propriety they are all expressed. He held the office of selectman seventeen years, and was chosen member of the Assembly at twenty-seven different sessions, being the first ever chosen to that office in the town. When the county of Litchfield was organized in 1751, he was appointed one of the judges of the county court, and in about five years afterwards was made chief judge. He was also the



first judge of probate for the district of Sharon, which was established in 1755, which office he held while he lived. He also went through several military grades, and for several years commanded a regiment of colonial militia. He was a man of tall and slender frame, but of great gravity and very dignified deportment, and his word was law. He was a deacon in the church from June, 1766, till his death. He died on Sunday, March 14, 1774, at the age of sixty-eight, and as it was in the exciting times which immediately preceded the revolution, and he had been a military character, he was buried with military honors. His sword was borne upon his coffin, and volleys of musketry were fired over his grave. The funeral services were performed under the direction of Capt. David Downs. He left a number of children, but none remain among us. The late John A. Elliott was his grandson.

Wood, Abel, was from Wareham, Mass., in 1748. He settled in the valley, on the lot now owned by Chauncey Morehouse, which he purchased of John Gray. He died January 20, 1798, at the age of eighty-six. He had three sons, Ephraim, Elijah and Barnabas, the two latter of whom lived to a very advanced age. Elijah Wood was a grandson of Abel Wood.

Wood, David, was from Ridgefield, and was the first settler upon what is called the White place, in the Great Hollow. He came to Sharon in 1754, and in 1777, sold his place to Israel White, of Danbury, and removed to Ballstown, N. Y. He had sons, David, Stephen, Caleb and Benjamin. David was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, in 1776, and died in the prison ship at New York. Caleb died in Sharon. Stephen and Benjamin removed to Ballstown with their father.

Woodruff, Elias, was from Southampton, Long Island in 1768. He purchased a part of the ninth home-lot of Amos Tyler, and lived on it till his death, June 17, 1807, at the age of seventy. His house stood a little north of Dr. Deming's present residence. He left sons, Daniel, James Ithamir, Salmon and Evart, of whom Daniel is the only one remaining in town.



Woodward, Deacon Abel, came from Watertown to Sharon in 1798. He was a citizen of Ellsworth, and maintained a highly reputable standing in that community during his protracted life. He died March 5, 1849, aged nearly seventy-eight years. He had sons, David W., Abel C., and George R., the two latter of whom still survive.



# APPENDIXES.



## APPENDIX A.

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FORM OF DEEDS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITTEE TO  
THE PURCHASERS OF RIGHTS TO THE COMMON LAND IN  
SHARON.

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“WHEREAS, by an act of the General Assembly, held at New Haven, October 13th, 1737, entitled—‘An act for the ordering and directing the sale and settlement of all the townships in the Western Lands,’ among other things it is enacted that the southwest townships in said lands, on the west side of the Ousatonic River, shall be vendued and sold at the Court House, in New Haven, to the highest bidder (being inhabitants of the Colony) on the third Wednesday of October next, at one of the clock afternoon, and continue by adjournment till the whole be sold by Samuel Ells, Esq., Joseph Whiting and Capt. Isaac Dickerman. They or any two of them to be a committee in the name of the Governor and Company to sell the Rights, take Bonds, and give deeds with Defeasance, &c. Therefore know ye that we, the said Samuel Ells, Joseph Whiting and Isaac Dickerman, by virtue of the Power and

Authority to be granted in said act, for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred and sixty-one pounds, to be in hand paid before the ensealing hereof, by Jonathan Peck of Wallingford, in the County of New Haven, and Colony of Connecticut, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, and thereupon in the name of the Government and Company of said Colony, do Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell, confirm, convey and Confirm unto the said Jona Peck, his Heirs and Assignees forever, One Right, Share or Allotment in the Township aforesaid, the same being divided into fifty-three Equal Shares or Allotments, (exclusive of the Land granted to the College, and all former Grants of the General Assembly that are surveyed and recorded in the public Records of the Colony, and are lying in said Township) with the priveledges and appurtenances thereof or thereunto anywise belonging. To Have and to Hold the said granted Premises with all and Singular the Appurtenances thereof, unto the said Jona Peck, His Heirs and Assigns in manner and form following, that is to say that at and until the ensealing hereof. We by virtue of the power and authority to us granted as above have good Right to sell and dispose of the said granted premises, in manner aforesaid, and that the same is and shall be a good and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple and is free from all Incumbrances whatsoever, always provided, and these Presents are upon this condition, that if the said Jona Peck shall by Himself or his agent within the space of the full year next after the date hereof, enter upon the said granted premises, build and finish a House thereon, not less than Eighteen feet Square and Seven feet stud, Subdue, clear and fence six acres of said land, and continue thereon for the space of three successive years, commencing after the two years aforesaid (unless prevented by death or inevitable Providence), and do and perform all Duties and Orders, pay all Taxes that shall be granted. Then the aforesaid Deed shall remain in full force and virtue, but in default or neglect of all or either of the said articles the same shall be void and of none effect. In witness whereof we



have hereunto set our hands and seals, this 18th day of January, Anno Domini 1738.

Signed, Sealed and Dd. In presence of

JOHN PROUT,

JOSIAH ROBINSON,

} *Conn. ss New Haven.* SAMUEL ELLS, L. S.  
JOS. WHITING, L. S.  
ISAAC DICKERMAN, L. S.

Then personally appeared Messrs. Sam'l Ells, Joseph Whiting, Isaac Dickerman, the ensealers of the above Instrument, and acknowledged the Same to be their free and voluntary act and Deed before me, John Prout, Justice Peace."

## APPENDIX B.

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### PATENT OF THE TOWN OF SHARON.

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“THE GOVERNOUR *and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America : To all to whom these presents shall come.*

“GREETING :—*Whereas*, The said Governour and Company in General court assembled, at Hartford, on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1732, did order that a township should be laid out in the Southwest parts of the country lands, on the west side of the Ousatonic River, and appointed Messrs. Edmond Lewis, Stephen Noble and William Gaylord a committee to lay out the same.

“And, *Whereas*, In pursuance of said order, the said committee laid out the same, and bounded it as follows, viz: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the township of M, it being a stake set in the ground and many stones laid to it, standing on the east side of a pond ; from thence the line runs south 12 degrees 30 minutes west, with the line of partition between the Province of New York and the Colony of Connecticut, nine miles to a heap of stones laid on a rock, being in the

aforesaid line of partition between the Province of New York and the Colony of Connecticut, and is about two miles east of Captain Sackett's dwelling house, which is the southwest corner bound of said township ; and from thence the south line runs E. 10° 30 S. four miles and one-half and one hundred and fifteen rods, to the Ousatonic River, where they marked a white ash tree and laid many stones to it, for the southeast corner bounds of said township, and marked many trees and made many monuments in the said south line, which township in their survey is called the township of N. S., and is bounded north on the township of M., south on country lands, west on the aforesaid line of partition between the Province of New York and Colony of Connecticut, and east on the Ousatonic River, as by the return of said committee bearing date October 7th, A. D. 1732, entered on the records of said colony Liber. 4th for patents, Deeds and survey of land, folio 472-3, in the Secretary's office, reference thereto being had more fully and at large may appear.

“And, *Whereas*, The said Governour and Company in General Court assembled, at Hartford, on the 10th day of May, A. D. 1733, did enact that said township, among the townships then lately laid out, should be disposed of and settled according to such time and regulations as the said assembly should order. And, *Whereas*, The said Governour and Company in General Court assembled, at New Haven, A. D. 1737, by their act did order that township should be divided into fifty-three rights, of which fifty-three rights one should be for the use of the ministry that should be settled in said town, according to the regulation in said act provided, one for the first gospel minister settled as aforesaid, and one other right for the support of the school in said town, and ordered that fifty of said rights should be sold, and that the other three rights should be for the uses aforesaid ; and that the committee by said act appointed should sell, and, in the name of the Governor and Company aforesaid, execute deeds of conveyance of the said several rights to the purchasers thereof re-

spectively, with conditions to such deed annexed according to the directions in the said act contained. And, *Whereas*, The said committee, in pursuance of and according to said act, have sold, and by their several deeds under their hands and seals, have granted unto Samuel Hutchinson, Nathaniel Skinner, John Sprague, John Pardee, and to the rest of the original purchasers of rights in said township, fifty rights or fifty-third parts of said township, upon condition as aforesaid, which township is now called and known by the name of Sharon. And, *Whereas*, Mr. Peter Pratt is settled in the ministry in said town, according to the directions aforesaid, their heirs or assigns having performed the conditions in the said deed expressed, and now moving for a more full confirmation of the said lands sold and granted them as aforesaid.

“ Now know ye, that the said Governour and Company, by virtue of the powers granted and derived to them by His late majesty, King Charles the Second, of blessed memory, in and by his Letter's Patent, under the great seal of England, bearing date the three and twentieth day of April, in the fourteenth year of his reign, and in presence of the several acts and orders of assembly before in these acts referred to, have therefore given, granted and confirmed, and by these presents do fully; freely and absolutely give, grant, ratify and confirm for themselves and their successors unto, to the said Samuel Hutchinson, Nathaniel Skinner, John Sprague, John Pardee, and to the rest of the original purchasers aforesaid, and to their heirs and assigns and such as legally represent or hold under them, in proportion to their respective purchases, and in such proportion as their assignees and legal representatives do hold under them as aforesaid, the said fifty rights or fifty-third parts, and to the said Peter Pratt, the said settled minister, the said one right or fifty-third part of all the lands in the township of Sharon aforesaid, and the said two rights ordered for the use of the ministry and school in said town, which two rights are hereby granted and confirmed unto the said purchasers and the said Peter Pratt, their heirs and assigns to and for the use aforesaid, and

all and singular the lands, trees, woods, underwoods, ponds, rivers, fishings, fowlings, huntings, mines, minerals and precious stones within the said township, and all the rights, royalties, powers, privileges, profits and services to the premises belonging. To have and to hold the said granted, or hereby intended to be granted, premises together with the privileges and appurtenances thereof, unto the said Samuel Hutchinson, Nathaniel Skinner, John Sprague, John Pardee and Peter Pratt, and to the rest of the said purchasers, and to their heirs and assigns and such as legally represent and hold under them in manner as aforesaid, and to their only use, benefit and behoof as aforesaid forever, as a good, sure and indefeasible estate in fee simple to be holden of our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors as of his majesty's manor of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent and Kingdom of England, in fee and common socage, and not in *capite* nor by Knights Service, yielding and paying therefor to his majesty King George the Second, his heirs and successors only the fifth part of all the ore of gold and silver that shall be there gotten or obtained, in lieu of all other services, duties and demands.

"In witness whereof the said Governour and Company have caused these presents to be signed by the Governour and Secretary, and the public seal of the said Colony to be affixed. Dated in Hartford, the 26th day of May, Anno Domini, 1747.

J. LAW, *Governor*.

"By order of the Governour and Company of the Colony of Connecticut in General Court assembled, May, Anno Domini, 1747.

"GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary*.

"Received May 30th, 1747, and here recorded.

"Test—GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary*."

## APPENDIX C.

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THE Rev. Dr. Trumbull, the historian of Connecticut, before entering upon his great work of publishing a history of the State, issued a circular, asking for information on matters pertaining to his undertaking, which was extensively circulated through the State. The following is the reply of Parson Smith :—

“SHARON, April 24, 1800.

“REV'D SR.—

“I noticed in the Connecticut Courant, printed by Hudson and Goodwin, a No. of historical queries which you requested might be answered. In compliance with your request have sent you the following answers—

“Q. 1. When did the settlement of the town commence? Who and whence were the first principal settlers?

“A. The town of Sharon began its settlement in the spring of 1739. Between 14 and 20 families from Colchester and Lebanon began the settlement. The next spring after a larger No. from the county of New Haven.

“Q. 2. When was the first church gathered, &c.?

“In answer to this query I must inform you, that when I was introduced into the ministry in this place I found no Chh. Record: however I took pains to collect the No. of Chh.



members, and found them to be about 45 ; whereof 25 were male members. Mr. Pratt was ordained the first minister soon after the settlement of the town—and continued in the ministry for 4 or 5 years, and then was dismissed for intemperance, and silenced—since dead.

“ Mr. Searl was ordained a few years after, and continued in the ministry for 4 or 5 years, and was dismissed on account of his ill state of health—since dead.

“ I was ordained on the 28th August 1755.

“ Q. 4. How many parishes, &c. ?

“ Answer. One at present ; though a committee has been appointed by the Gen’l Assembly to set off another parish ; and have reported in favour of it—and the matter is to be laid before the Assembly in May session for a confirmation.

“ Q. 5. When did the worship of God according to the mode of the Chh. of England, &c. ?

“ A. When I came to this place, there were 15 families that belonged to that Com’n. They erected a decent Chh. to meet in. Mr. Davies was their first minister. He soon died, and was succeeded by Mr. Palmer—since dead.

“ In the time of the late revolutionary war the Chh. house fell, and never was rebuilt. The members dispersed, so that now there is but two or three families that belong to that Com’n remaining amongst us, and they have no meeting for public worship.

“ Mr. Davies and Mr. Palmer both received orders from England, and had the Charge of New Milford, Litchfield, Sharon, &c.

“ Q. 6. What public libraries, &c. ?

“ A. A small library was procured in the time of the late war, which consisted of about 60 vols. but the books but few of them were valuable. It is now in contemplation to procure a large and useful library ; but the business is not as yet completed.

“ Q. 7. Wt. schools, &c. ?

“ We have at present in the town twelve schools. We

have an Academy that has been in good repute ; but of late we have failed in having good instructors, which has proved very injurious ; so y. now it is become no more than a common school.

“ Q. 8. What No. of Printers, &c. ?

“ A. We have one Printer and one press introduced this spring in April. About 500 papers are printed weekly—the title of the Paper, Rural Gazette, printed by Elliot Hopkins—the size of the paper between Hartford and Litchfield.

“ Q. 10. What Iron Works, &c. ?

“ A. We have at present but one Iron-works, and but little business done in it. We have had as many as 5 forges ; but all gone to decay except one.

“ Q. 13. When was the separate, &c. ?

“ A. We have no separate Chh. We have a few baptists. They were formed into a church a few years past ; but now they have no preacher among them, their members decrease ; and meet but rarely among themselves for public worship—they attend divine service among the standing churches in general.

“ P. S. I am mistaken as to Mr. Davies, and Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer was the first minister, and Mr. Davies his successor.

“ Previous to the settlement, already mentioned, there were between two and three hundred Indians that resided in the North-west part of the town in two villages : the one by the side of a large pond, now known by the name of the Indian pond, which consisted of about twenty-five wigwams ; the other village was situated in a large meadow at the south end of a large pond, now known by the name of Mudge pond, containing about ten or fifteen huts or wigwams. These Indians were under direction of five chiefs called Mughoca. They had an Idol which they worshipped [as] God, and committed to the care of an old Squaw. This Idol, though inferior to the great God that governed the world, was nevertheless invested with power sufficient to repel those evils brought upon

'em by Mutonto, or the Devil : and in case he refused or neglected to afford them his assistance, they would severely chastise him.

“ Their diversions on horseback ; their ceremonies when they bury their dead ; and their customs about marrying are not so materially different from those of other natives of this country, as merit particular attention.

“ These Indians were of a superior size, and probably part of the Stockbridge tribe.

“ About 30 years past, there was a water-mill erected by Mr. Joel Harvey for thrashing and cleaning wheat. One man could thrash and clean about 40 bushels a day. This mill and barn adjoining were consumed by fire, and never as yet repaired ; but the proprietor has of late determined to rebuild them.

“ Wishing the divine blessing in your future attempt to complete the history of Connecticut, I subscribe, with much esteem, your friend and brother, COTTON M. SMITH.

“ [Superscribed,] Rev'd Benjamin Trumbull, D. D.

“ North Haven.”

## APPENDIX D.

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THE following is a copy of the deed by which the Indians conveyed away their last claim of title to lands in Sharon :

*“To all People to whom these presents shall come—greeting :*

“ Know ye that We, Nequitimaug, alias Moses and Bartholomous, alias Bartholomew, Indian Inhabitants of the Town of Sharon, in Litchfield County, in the Colony of Conneticut, in New England, for the consideration of fifty Pounds current money of the Province of New York received to our full satisfaction of Thomas Barns, of Sharon aforesaid, do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Thomas Barnes, his Heirs and assigns, a Certain tract or Parcel of land lying and being in the township of Sharon aforesaid, and containing by estimation fifty acres, be the same more or less, abutting South upon the land said Thomas Barnes bought of Joseph Skinner ; North upon Salisbury line ; West upon the Pond called the Indian Pond, and extending East so far as to take in all Our improvements in said Township of Sharon, it being the whole of what Land We claim in said Township. To Have and To Hold the above Granted and Bargained premises with the appurtenances thereof, unto Him, the said Thomas Barns his Heirs and Assigns forever, to his and their own proper use and

behoof; and also, We, the said Moses and Bartholomew, do for ourselves and our heirs covenant with the said Thomas Barns his Heirs and Assigns, that at and until the ensealing of these presents, We are well seized of these premises as a good indefeasible estate in Fee Simple, and have good Right to Bargain and sell the same in manner and form as is above written, and that the same is free from all incumbrances whatsoever, and Furthermore, We, the said Moses and Bartholomew, by these presents bind ourselves and our Heirs forever, to warrant and defend the above Granted and Bargained Premises to Him, the said Thomas Barns his Heirs and Assigns, against all Claim and Demand of any Person or Persons Whatsoever. In Witness whereof We hereunto set our hands and seals the 24th Day of July, 1752, in the 26th year of His Majesty's Reign. Signed, Sealed and Dd. In presence of

JOHN HAMILTON,  
JOHN WILLIAMS.

his alias  
MOSES (C) NEQUITIMAUG,  
mark.

his alias  
BARTHOLOMÆUS O BARTHOLOMEW."  
mark.

"LITCHFIELD COUNTY, ss.—Sharon, July 24th, 1752, then personally appeared the Indians called Moses and Bartholomew, the ensealers of the within written instrument, and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed.

*Coram* JOHN WILLIAMS, *Juss Pace*.

"Rec'd July 24th, 1752, and entered.

S. JOHN WILLIAMS, *Register*."

## APPENDIX E.

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THE following list of names of soldiers of the Revolution, belonging to Sharon, who served in 1775, were taken from the Controller's Books, in Hartford:—

Reuben Cartwright,  
David Manning,  
Reuben Calkin, Sergt.  
Jehiel Jackson,  
Jude Bill,  
Zenas Goodrich,  
John Hollister,  
Isaac Chamberlain,  
Solomon Goodrich,  
Southard Swetland,

Aaron Swetland,  
Sylvanus Gibbs,  
Wm. Goodrich, Corporal.  
Ebe Everitt,  
John Tickner,  
Jesse Calkin,  
Asa Rogers,  
David Ackley,  
Elisha Calkin,  
Thomas Heath.



## APPENDIX F.

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SOMETHING has been said in our narrative of the events of the Revolutionary war of the services and sufferings of Adonijah Maxam in that great conflict of arms. The following, copied from the proceedings of the Court of Probate for the District of Sharon, gives his own statement of the particular events of his military career:—

*“State of Connecticut, County of Litchfield, s s.—Probate District of Sharon.*

“At a Court of Probate, holden at Salisbury, within and for the district of Sharon, on the 30th day of July, A. D. 1832. Present—

SAMUEL CHURCH, Esq., *Judge.*

“On this 30th day of July, A. D. 1832, Personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of probate for the district of Sharon, the same being a Court of Record now sitting, Adonijah Maxam, a resident of the town of Sharon, in the County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut and Probate District of Sharon, aged seventy-eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832: ‘That he was born in the said town of Sharon, in the year 1754. I have no record of

my age, except what appears in my Bible and what may be on the Record of the said town of Sharon. I resided in the said town of Sharon, when called into the service of the United States, and have, ever since the close of the Revolutionary war, resided in the said town of Sharon. I entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as hereinafter stated: On the 8th day of May, as I think, and in the year 1775, I entered in the 3d Company of the 4th Regiment, and served by order of the General Assembly of Connecticut, under Major Samuel Elmore, of said Sharon. There were two Lieutenants belonging to the company, viz: Amos Chappel, of said Sharon, and Parmalee, of Bethlem. The Ensign was Shephard. The Colonel of the Regiment to which I was attached, was Colonel Hinman, of Woodbury, in said County.

“ We marched in the said month of May to Lake George, from thence to Ticonderoga, and from thence to Crown Point, in the State of New York. A part of our Regiment lay at Ticonderoga, but our company was stationed at Crown Point. We remained at Crown Point, keeping guard and other duties, about three month; from thence I was marched with the quarter part of our Regiment to Isle au Noix, in Lake Champlain. General Montgomery was there, and General McDougal, and Capt. McCracken, and Maj. Brown were with us at Isle au Noix. We staid at this place but few days, when we went with General or Col. McDougal, Major Elmore and other officers, in order to go around St. Johns, but we failed and returned to Isle au Noix. A few days afterwards Capt. Watson, of Canaan, Capt. McCracken, of the New York troops, and Major Brown went with a large party of men, of whom I was one, for the purpose of penetrating through the woods, to Chambly, in Canada. We lay at Chambly a few days, and then I went to keep guard below Chambly. Col. Ethan Allen came to us there. We crossed the St. Lawrence river in the night, with Colonel Allen, a little below Montreal, and while preparing breakfast, the British force came upon us. We re-

treated, and finally I was, with Colonel Ethan Allen and others, taken prisoner by the enemy. We were put on board a sloop in the river St. Lawrence, and put into irons two by two ; we were sent to Quebec, and kept in a prison ship till the last of November, 1775 ; from thence we were carried to Falmouth, in England, staid there fifteen days ; from thence we were sent to Cork, in Ireland, staid there about two weeks. Here Col. Allen was put aboard of a different ship from me. We next made land in Lisbon, in Portugal. During this voyage the prisoners were relieved from irons, and performed duty on ship board. From thence we made land next on the coast of North Carolina ; thence we were sent to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, where we were kept during the Summer of 1776. In the fall we were sent to the City of New York. We lay in the harbor of New York when Fort Washington was taken ; we heard the firing distinctly. We were afterwards confined in the French Church, in New York City. From thence two of us, that is myself and Roger Moore, of Salisbury, made our escape to Long Island, and from thence made our way to Saybrook, in Connecticut, and from there home to Sharon in the month of December, 1776, having been absent from home eighteen months. After this I was out at several alarms ; but I enlisted in the New York troops for nine months in the month of May, 1778. I was then residing in said Sharon. Our Lieutenant Colonel's name was Wisonfeldt, a Dutchman. His son was Lieutenant of the Company to which I belonged. The Major's name was Fish, the Colonel's name was Van Cortlandt, and in the Brigade of General Poor. I enlisted in Rhinebeck, in the State of New York, and soon after I joined the army at Valley Forge. We staid at Valley Forge until the British forces evacuated Philadelphia. We pursued them ; Gen'l Washington, Fayette, Steuben, Lee and others were with the army. I was engaged soon after in the battle at Monmouth. From thence the army, and I with them, marched to White Plains, in the State of New York. Our Regiment then marched up and crossed the North River at Poughkeep-

sie, and went through New Paltz, to a place called then Mumbaccor, and there we were stationed thro' the Winter, until the expiration of my term of enlistment, and was then discharged, but had no written discharge, nor have I any written document by which I can prove this service, nor do I know of any person now living, whose testimony I can procure, who can certify to this service.

"I am well known in the town of Sharon, aforesaid, to Hon. John Cotton Smith, Hon. Ansel Sterling, Hon. Chas. F. Sedgwick, Cyrus Swan, Esq, and many others, who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier in the Revolution. And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.'

"Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

ADONIJAH MAXAM.

PENSION OFFICE,

April 17, 1857.

"I certify that the foregoing paper is a correct copy from the original, on file in this office.

J. E. HEATH, *Commissioner.*"

## APPENDIX G.

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The following are the graduates of colleges who have been citizens of Sharon :—

### YALE COLLEGE.

NAME.	WHEN GRADUATED.	NAME.	WHEN GRADUATED
Peter Pratt,	1736	Milo L. Bennett,	1811
John Searle,	1745	William R. Gould,	1811
Jonathan Elmer,	1747	Milo L. North,	1813
Daniel Griswold,	1747	Ebenezer Blackman,	1817
Cotton Mather Smith,	1751	William Rockwell,	1822
Jeremiah Day,	1756	Milton P. Orton,	1824
Thomas Davies,	1758	Richard Smith,	1825
Fisher Gay,	1759	John M. S. Perry,	1827
John Canfield,	1762	John Cotton Smith,	1830
Augustine Taylor,	1776	Milo N. Miles,	1831
Judson Canfield,	1782	Robert D. Gardner,	1833
John Cotton Smith,	1783	David C. Perry,	1833
Daniel Parker,	1798	Dan'l D.T. McLaughlin,	1834
Alanson Hamlin,	1799	John T. Andrew,	1839
William A. Taylor,	1803	George T. Pierce,	1843
William M. Smith,	1805	Henry Roberts,	1866
Henry J. Canfield,	1806		

## WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

NAME.	WHEN GRADUATED.	NAME.	WHEN GRADUATED.
Vinton Gould,	1797	Charles F. Sedgwick,	1813
David L. Perry,	1798	Chauncey G. Smith,	1814
David Beecher,	1804	Judah Ely,	1820
Cyrus W. Gray,	1809	John Cotton Territt,	1833
Orange Lyman,	1809	William R. Territt,	1871

## UNION COLLEGE.

Alexander B. Bullions, 1842 |

## UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

Grove L. Brownell, 1813 |

## HARVARD COLLEGE.

John Williams, 1725 |



## APPENDIX H.

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THE following are the names of the children of the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, with the dates of their decease :—

Elizabeth Smith,	born June 20, 1759, died Jan. —, 1788.
Juliana Smith,	“ Feb. 12, 1761, “ June 25, 1823.
Thomas Mather Smith,	“ July 2, 1763, “ Apr. 18, 1782.
John Cotton Smith,	“ Feb. 12, 1765, “ Dec. 7, 1845.
Lucretia Smith,	“ July 20, 1767, “ ——— 1773.
Mary Smith,	“ Feb. 16, 1769, “ Dec. 10, 1801.

## APPENDIX I.

---

THE following is a roll of the Representatives from the town of Sharon, to the General Assembly, commencing in 1755, when the town was first represented :—

MAY SESSION.	OCTOBER SESSION.
1755 ———, ———.	John Williams, John Pardee.
1756 John Marvin, ———.	John Williams, John Pardee.
1757 John Williams, Josiah Strong.	John Williams, Josiah Strong.
1758 John Williams, Samuel Dunham.	John Williams, John Pardee.
1759 ———, ———.	———, ———.
1760 Samuel Dunham, John Pardee.	Josiah Strong, Caleb Jewitt.
1761 Caleb Jewitt, John Gay.	John Williams, John Pardee.
1762 John Williams, John Pardee.	John Williams, Caleb Jewitt.
1763 John Williams, Caleb Jewitt.	John Williams, David Foster.
1764 John Williams, Caleb Jewitt.	John Williams, David Foster.
1765 John Williams, Caleb Jewitt.	———, ———.
Caleb Jewitt.	

## MAY SESSION.

- 1766 John Williams,  
Caleb Jewitt.  
1767 John Williams,  
Jeremiah Day.  
1768 John Marvin,  
Thomas Pardee.  
1769 John Williams,  
James Pardee.  
1770 Simeon Smith,  
Thomas Pardee.  
1771 John Williams,  
Simeon Smith.  
1772 John Williams,  
Simeon Smith.  
1773 John Williams,  
James Pardee.  
1774 James Pardee,  
Ebenezer Gay.  
1775 Ebenezer Gay,  
James Pardee.  
1776 John Canfield,  
Caleb Jewitt.  
1777 John Canfield,  
Simeon Smith.  
1778 Ebenezer Gay,  
James Pardee.  
1779 John Canfield,  
Samuel Elmore.  
1780 Samuel Elmore,  
James Pardee.  
1781 ————,  
————.  
1782 David Downs,  
Joseph Landers.  
1783 Simeon Smith,  
David Downs.  
1784 Ebenezer Gay,  
Josiah Coleman.  
1785 John Canfield,  
Simeon Smith.  
1786 John Canfield,  
Simeon Smith.

## OCTOBER SESSION.

- John Williams,  
Jeremiah Day.  
John Williams,  
Simeon Smith.  
John Williams,  
Thomas Pardee.  
John Williams,  
Thomas Pardee.  
John Williams,  
Caleb Jewitt.  
John Williams,  
Simeon Smith.  
John Williams,  
Simeon Smith.  
———,  
James Pardee.  
Ebenezer Gay,  
Thomas Pardee.  
John Canfield,  
Caleb Jewitt.  
Ebenezer Gay,  
James Pardee.  
James Pardee,  
Joseph Lord.  
Ebenezer Gay,  
David Downs.  
John Canfield,  
Ebenezer Gay.  
Samuel Canfield,  
David Downs.  
———,  
Samuel Elmore.  
John Canfield,  
David Downs.  
Ebenezer Gay,  
Josiah Coleman.  
John Canfield,  
Simeon Smith.  
John Canfield,  
Simeon Smith.  
———,  
Simeon Smith.

## MAY SESSION.

- 1787 Jonathan Gillet,  
Ephraim Marriner.  
1788 Ephraim Marriner,  
Josiah Coleman.  
1789 David Downs,  
Isaac Pardee.  
1790 David Downs,  
Isaac Pardee.  
1791 Phineas Smith,  
Augustine Taylor.  
1792 Phineas Smith,  
Judson Canfield.  
1793 Judson Canfield,  
John C. Smith.  
1794 Samuel Canfield,  
David Downs.  
1795 David Downs,  
James Pardee.  
1796 Samuel Canfield,  
John C. Smith.  
1797 John C. Smith,  
Oliver Kellogg.  
1798 John C. Smith,  
Oliver Kellogg.  
1799 John C. Smith,  
Abel Patchen.  
1800 John C. Smith,  
Oliver Kellogg.  
1801 Oliver Kellogg,  
George King.  
1802 Judson Canfield,  
Augustine Taylor.  
1803 Judson Canfield,  
Daniel St. John.  
1804 Judson Canfield,  
Isaac Pardee.  
1805 Judson Canfield,  
Isaac Pardee.  
1806 Judson Canfield,  
Isaac Pardee.  
1807 John C. Smith,  
Judson Canfield.

## OCTOBER SESSION.

- , ———,  
Jonathan Gillet.  
Ephraim Marriner,  
David Downs.  
David Downs,  
Isaac Pardee.  
Augustine Taylor,  
Phineas Smith.  
Phineas Smith,  
Judson Canfield.  
Augustine Taylor,  
Judson Canfield.  
David Downs,  
Samuel Canfield.  
Samuel Canfield,  
David Downs.  
Samuel Canfield,  
Enoch Parsons.  
John C. Smith,  
Augustine Taylor.  
John C. Smith,  
Samuel Canfield.  
John C. Smith,  
Abel Patchen.  
John C. Smith,  
Isaac Pardee.  
John C. Smith,  
George King.  
Augustine Taylor,  
Isaac Pardee.  
Judson Canfield,  
Augustine Taylor.  
Judson Canfield,  
Daniel St. John.  
Judson Canfield,  
Isaac Pardee.  
Isaac Pardee,  
Daniel St. John.  
Judson Canfield,  
John C. Smith.  
John C. Smith,  
Daniel St. John.

## MAY SESSION.

- 1808 John C. Smith,  
Judson Canfield.  
1809 John C. Smith,  
Judson Canfield.  
1810 Simeon Blackman,  
Oliver Kellogg.  
1811 Simeon Blackman,  
Oliver Kellogg.  
1812 Oliver Kellogg,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
1813 Oliver Kellogg,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
1814 Oliver Kellogg,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
1815 Oliver Kellogg,  
Ansel Sterling.  
1816 Oliver Kellogg,  
Samuel Rockwell.  
1817 Oliver Kellogg,  
Israel Camp.  
1818 Hezekiah Goodwin,  
Thomas St. John.  
1819 Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.  
1820 Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.  
1821 Ansel Sterling, Samuel R. Gager.  
1822 Samuel R. Gager, Samuel Roberts.  
1823 Samuel Roberts, Horatio Smith.  
1824 Horatio Smith, Cyrus Swan.  
1825 Ansel Sterling, Cyrus Swan.  
1826 Ansel Sterling, Horatio Smith.  
1817 Cyrus Swan, Calvin Gay.  
1828 Cyrus Swan, Calvin Gay.  
1829 Ansel Sterling, Samuel R. Gager.  
1830 Charles F. Sedgwick, Clark Chapman.  
1831 Charles F. Sedgwick, Israel Camp.  
1832 Israel Camp, Samuel E. Everitt.  
1833 Clark Chapman, John C. Smith, Jr.  
1834 Horatio Smith, John C. Smith, Jr.  
1835 Ansel Sterling, Ralph Deming.  
1836 Ansel Sterling, Zacheus W. Bissell.  
1837 Ansel Sterling, Elmore Everitt.  
1838 Elmore Everitt, Alanson Wheeler.  
1839 Alanson Wheeler, Ralph Deming.

## OCTOBER SESSION.

- John C. Smith,  
Judson Canfield.  
Isaac Pardee,  
Simeon Blackman.  
Cyrus Swan,  
Simeon Blackman.  
Simeon Blackman,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
Isaac Pardee,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
Cyrus Swan,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
Cyrus Swan,  
Samuel E. Everitt.  
Samuel Rockwell,  
Daniel St. John.  
Cyrus Swan,  
Israel Camp.  
Oliver Kellogg,  
Thomas St. John.  
Oliver Kellogg,  
Ansel Sterling.

- 1840 Elmore Everitt, Horace Reed.
- 1841 Zacheus W. Bissell, Richard Smith.
- 1842 John Cotton Smith, Jr., Eleazer Jenkins.
- 1843 Lorenzo D. Smith, William Everitt.
- 1844 No choice.
- 1845 Charles Sears, William Knibloe.
- 1846 John P. Goodwin, Elmore Everitt.
- 1847 John P. Goodwin, Charles Sears.
- 1848 Ransom Smith, John Woodruff.
- 1849 Ransom Smith, James Orr.
- 1850 David S. Cartwright, Southard Hitchcock.
- 1851 John S. Jewitt, Gibbs W. Skiff.
- 1852 George D. Goodwin, Chauncey Reed, Jr.
- 1853 John C. Smith, Zacheus W. Bissell.
- 1854 John C. Smith, George B. Bates.
- 1855 Norman E. Wheeler, Horace Dunbar.
- 1856 Henry V. King, Henry St. John.
- 1857 Fitch Landon, James A. Bierce.
- 1858 Erastus A. Deming, Charles M. Parsons.
- 1859 Myron Dakin, Seth B. St. John.
- 1860 Henry T. Finch, Chesterfield Chapman.
- 1861 Reuben K. Hunt, Joel S. Chaffee.
- 1862 Asahel A. Hotchkiss, John H. PerLee.
- 1863 Harry Lockwood, David F. Lambert.
- 1864 Nathan Dunbar, Fitch Landon.
- 1865 Edwin N. Hartwell, Miles B. Lewis.
- 1866 Zacheus W. Bissell, David F. Smith.
- 1867 George D. Goodwin, Ralph Deming.
- 1868 Walter M. Patterson, Isaac N. Bartram.
- 1869 Edgar J. Reed, David L. Smith.
- 1870 John C. Smith, Baldwin Reed, 2d.
- 1871 Hilan Middlebrooks, Charles E. B. Hatch.
- 1872 George D. Goodwin, Isaac N. Bartram.
- 1873 John Boyd, Robert D. Livingston.
- 1874 Hermon C. Rowley, Ichabod S. Everitt.
- 1875 William E. Marsh, Baldwin Reed, 2d.
- 1876 John Cotton Smith, Isaac N. Bartram.
- 1877 Seymour A. Frayer, George M. Walton.

## MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL.

Judson Canfield,

| John Cotton Smith.



## SENATORS.

Ralph Deming,  
Charles F. Sedgwick.

| Horatio Smith.  
|

## JUDGES OF THE COUNTY COURT.

John Williams,  
Cyrus Swan,

| Judson Canfield,  
| Ansel Sterling.

## APPENDIX J.

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### TOWN OFFICERS.

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THE following persons have officiated as magistrates in the town :—

Nathaniel Skinner,  
Samuel Hutchinson,  
John Williams,  
Daniel Griswold,  
Joseph Lord,  
John Gay,  
John Canfield,  
David Downs,  
Isaac Pardee,  
Augustine Taylor,  
Judson Canfield.  
John Cotton Smith,  
Daniel St. John,  
Calvin Gay,  
Samuel E. Everitt,  
Oliver Kellogg,  
Cyrus Swan,  
Ansel Sterling,  
Samuel Rockwell,  
Horatio Smith,

Samuel Roberts,  
Stephen Deming,  
Stephen Heath,  
Israel Camp,  
Charles F. Sedgwick,  
Oliver Kellogg, Jun.  
Jacob Chamberlain,  
Ebenezer Blackman,  
Joshua B. Chaffee,  
Richard Smith,  
Benjamin Hollister,  
Alanson Wheeler,  
John W. McKoy,  
Ransom Smith,  
Zacheus W. Bissell,  
Samuel Roberts, Jun.  
Silas A. Gray,  
William Everett,  
Daniel Parsons,  
Ralph Deming,

Zalmon S. Hunt,  
 Orrin Hutchinson,  
 Andrew Lake,  
 John Williams,  
 Southard Hitchcock,  
 Amos Prindle,  
 James Orr,  
 Eliakim S. Stoddard, Jr.  
 Eben W. Chaffee,  
 Harry Lockwood,  
 Norman E. Wheeler,  
 John T. Andrew,  
 Fitch Landon,  
 Garry S. Morey,  
 Samuel Elliott,  
 Cyrus W. Gray,

William Stone,  
 Horace Dunbar,  
 Samuel S. Woodward,  
 Ezra H. Bartram,  
 Thomas N. Lucas,  
 Heber Knibloe,  
 Walter M. Patterson,  
 Judson St. John,  
 Charles E. B. Hatch,  
 Philo Juckett,  
 Edgar J. R. Reed,  
 George Chamberlain,  
 Robert D. Livingston,  
 Charles L. Prindle,  
 Daniel Hall,  
 Chauncey W. Morehouse.

## TOWN CLERKS.

Nathaniel Skinner,  
 Ebenezer Frisbie,  
 John Williams,  
 Daniel Griswold,  
 Samuel Canfield,  
 Israel Camp,  
 George King, Jun.  
 Henry H. Quintard,  
 Erastus H. Winchester,

James Orr,  
 Harry Lockwood,  
 James E. Watson,  
 Aaron R. Smith,  
 Samuel L. Gager,  
 Robert E. Goodwin,  
 Charles C. Gordon,  
 J. Wade Hughes.

The following Attorneys and Counsellors-at-Law have practiced in the town :—

John Canfield,  
 Judson Canfield,  
 John Cotton Smith,  
 Cyrus Swan,  
 Joel T. Petit,  
 William G. Williams,  
 Ansel Sterling,  
 Charles R. Brown,

Chauncey Smith,  
 Ebenezer Blackman,  
 Charles F. Sedgwick,  
 Frederick J. Fenn,  
 Richard Smith,  
 James Orr,  
 Walter M. Patterson,  
 J. Wade Hughes.

## PHYSICIANS.

John Williams,  
 Abner Peck,  
 John Lee,

Daniel Griswold,  
 Simeon Smith,  
 Joseph Hamilton,

Asbel Goodrich,  
David Doty,  
Jonah Barnes,  
Phineas Smith,  
Samuel R. Gager,  
Samuel Rockwell,  
Simeon Blackman,  
Nathaniel Lowrey,  
John W. Smith,  
John Sears,  
Curtiss J. Hurd,

Elmore Everitt,  
Milo L. North,  
Ebenezer H. Conklin,  
Jehiel Abbott,  
Russell Everett,  
Ralph Deming,  
Horace A. Buttolph,  
Nathan S. Perry,  
Chauncey Reed, Jr.  
William W. Knight,  
Charles H. Shears.

## APPENDIX K.

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THE following Hymn, composed by the Hon. JOHN COTTON SMITH, was sung at the Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Town Meeting, December 22, 1839:—

O bless the Lord, whose mighty hand  
Led our forefathers o'er the main,  
To spread throughout this distant land,  
Fair freedom's just and gentle reign.

Not cold, nor want, nor foes array'd,  
Could the firm Pilgrim's zeal restrain,  
They trusted in their Saviour's aid,  
Nor did His servants trust in vain.

Through dangers, toils and anxious cares,  
God was their guardian and their stay;  
And gave in answer to their prayers,  
The blessings we enjoy this day.

One century round these hills and plains,  
Have the Redeemer's praises rung,  
Still let them rise in lofty strains,  
From every heart and every tongue.







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