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Berkshire County.

ITS PAST HISTORY



AND

ACHIEVEMENTS.

By

Charles F. Palmer.

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BERKSHIRE COUNTY

~ ~ AND ~ ~

WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR THE WORLD.

By CHARLES J. PALMER, Lanesborough.

The early settlement of what is now called Berkshire County, was partly delayed and partly hastened by the same cause, viz: the uncertainty of the exact boundary line between Massachusetts and New York. On the one hand, there was the danger that a settler on a grant from Massachusetts would be arrested by the New York authorities, lodged in jail, heavily fined and finally dispossessed. On the other hand, Massachusetts, in her anxiety to actually settle the disputed territory and establish a prima-facie claim to the region, was disposed to offer every inducement to those willing to undertake the task. Still, in point of fact, the first settlers came from New York, and settled in what is now called Mt. Washington as early as 1693, and others soon followed. These settlers undoubtedly supposed they were occupying New York territory and took possession under patents granted by Livingston. John Hallenbeck states in 1753 that the farm then tilled by him had been occupied for 60 years, and his name would seem to be the oldest known in the settlers of the county.

The next settler in the county appears to have been also from New York, a Dutchman bearing the name of Van Valkenburg; his errand being one

which has often been repeated since early as 1676 an army of white men under Major Talcott had passed through Berkshire county in pursuit of the refugees of King Philip's Indians, passing through West Otis, Monterey and Great Barrington. These were of course in no sense settlers, but were probably the first white men to set foot in the county.

It is also proper to remark that as early as 1676 an army of white men under Major Talcott had passed through Berkshire county in pursuit of the refugees of King Philip's Indians, passing through West Otis, Monterey and Great Barrington. These were of course in no sense settlers, but were probably the first white men to set foot in the county.

However, as early as May, 1722, there was a Massachusetts grant of two townships, under which what is now Sheffield, Great Barrington, Alford, Egremont and Stockbridge were occupied, at least in part. The Indian titles of these lands were extinguished by the payment of three barrels of cider and 30 quarts of rum. The settlers came from Springfield, Northampton and Westfield; the first Massachusetts settler being Matthew Noble from Westfield. In 1735 there was a grant made of land for four townships, to lie next each other along the trail between Westfield and Sheffield. This was for the purpose of rendering it likely that a passable road would be made and kept open between the Connecticut and the Housatonic,

affording a base of supplies for troops marching by what was then considered the most natural route to Montreal. This result followed; the road as then constructed being long known as the "Great Road."

These townships occupied nearly the territory now held by New Marlboro, Sandisfield, Monterey, Tyringham and Becket.

The necessity of having a continuous string of settlers along this important highway in order to keep the road passable, is shown by a petition sent to the legislature about this time. "It was very difficult, and for strangers almost impossible, to find the way and there being no other way of transportation but on horseback which, by reason of the badness and length of the way was exceedingly difficult, it was almost if not utterly impossible for His Majesty's subjects living in these parts to supply themselves with foreign commodities, be they never so necessary." A further idea of the mode of travelling to this region may be gained from an account by one who made the journey from the east. "My father and mother, with three children, started for Berkshire in a cart containing the provision for the journey, and all the household goods, drawn by a yoke of oxen. We travelled from five to eight miles a day, much of the way through a wilderness where roads had to be cut and bridges made. After a journey of a month's time, we reached our new home, a log hut. Our cabin was very small, and we had to partition off nearly half of it for a fold for our sheep to keep them from the wolves, whose nightly howling echoed among the surrounding mountains. After three years, my father conceived the idea of building a frame house, but was cautioned by the neighbors against so wild a project."

As far as the object of securing the disputed territory was concerned, these settlements by Massachusetts men were successful; the boundary line being placed very nearly where it now runs, as early as 1731. In so far as the settlement of Berkshire was for the purpose of serving as a help and

barrier in the French Canadian wars, the result was not so agreeable to the settlers. Being on the highway between New England and Canada, Berkshire occupied a position very like that of Virginia in the late civil war. The Indians, thoroughly familiar with this region and induced by a reward offered by the French for each scalp of an American, had an unpleasant way of making occasional descents on Berkshire without the slightest warning and prosecuting other attacks with all their accustomed vigor and barbarity.

The numerous forts and stockades, whose ruins are found all over the county, are reminders of the days when the settlers required places of refuge to flee to at the least sound of danger; leaving their houses, herds and crops to the mercies of the foe. In point of fact, the real source of protection for Western Massachusetts came not from the services of politicians or the building of forts, but as is so often the case, from the work of the missionaries. It was the securing the friendship and gratitude of the Berkshire Indians, so thoroughly acquainted with the habits of the more northerly red-men, which proved the real source of protection to New England. The story of the work among the Stockbridge Indians is worth recalling,

There was, during the 18th century, a certain romantic interest in the Indians throughout the British Empire, and support came for work in their behalf from two quite diverse sources. As the only representatives of the easily accessible heathen, missionary work centered on them, and also as representatives of pure Nature, as distinguished from Culture or Religion, writers, like Pope and Rousseau and Voltaire and other Deists had dwelt with affectionate tenderness on their character.

The interest had taken shape, so far as the Stockbridge Indians were concerned, as early as 1734 in the way of planting a mission under the leadership of Sergeant, being sustained for the most part by funds furnished by the Church of England Society for the

Propagation of the Gospel. The project at once enlisted a wide-spread interest among the churches and people of Great Britain and the details of the plans were formed in consultation with men of distinction abroad. As another has said:

Rev. Isaac Hollis, of London, a nephew of Hollis, the distinguished benefactor of Harvard College, had been interested in the mission from its start, and offered to support twenty of the Stockbridge Indians at an annual charge of 500 pounds. Rev. Dr. Watts also took up a collection among his friends in its behalf, and sent Sergeant 70 pounds, together with a copy of his treatise on the "Improvement of the Mind," a little volume which is cherished as a memorial among the descendants of Sergeant to this day. Other Englishmen took hold of the matter with interest. The Prince of Wales, also, and the Dukes of Cumberland and Dorset, and Lord Gower, with others, became liberal subscribers to the mission and to the school. Mr. Francis Ayscough, of London, clerk of the closet and first chaplain to the Prince of Wales, also made a donation of a copy of the Scriptures, in two large folio volumes, gilt and embellished with engravings. Upon the flyleaf was written, "Presented by Dr. Ayscough to Rev. John Sergeant, missionary to the Stockbridge Indians, in the vast wilderness called New England." It is creditable to the catholicity of Dr. A. that, when he was informed that Mr. Sergeant was a Dissenter, he replied, "What if he be a Dissenter? It is time those distinctions were laid aside. . . . I love all good men like, let them be Churchmen or Dissenters."

When Sergeant came to his missionary field, he found a greater obstacle to his success in the lawless and immoral conduct of some whites from the Dutch plantations on the Hudson than from the paganism of the Indians. As one has said, "the trials coincident to other missionaries were to be encountered—perils among the heathen, perils in the wilderness—and one which the apostle does not men-

tion—peril among the Dutch." It is the old story which runs through all our Indian history. Even in those early times there were to be found those who, for their selfish purposes were ready to make victims of the aborigines. Rum was then as it has been ever since the grand instrument of their success. Happily the influence of the missionary was so great and such the good sense and moral principle of a portion of the red men that they were led early to take strong measures against the threatening evil. It was not a year after Sergeant came among them when they passed a resolution "to have no trading in rum." The general court also came to their assistance with its law antedating the "Maine Law" by more than a century making it a criminal offense for any private person to sell strong drink to an Indian. The Dutch traders, fearing like those of old who made silver images of Diana, that the hope of their gains would disappear in proportion as the Gospel should produce its effect upon the Indians, endeavored to excite their opposition to the missionary, and to the colonial government, telling them that the latter was unfriendly to them, and seeking to deprive them of their liberty in not allowing liquor to be freely sold them. But their confidence in their pastor enabled him to convince them that the law was enacted for their welfare, and that the traffickers in rum were their real enemies."

It is melancholy to read that this early prohibition of liquor applied only to the Indians. What were deemed necessities of the whites may be inferred from records in a neighboring town, of a vote respecting the raising the frame of a church, when among the requisites for the occasion, it was voted to provide three barrels of beer, 20 gallons of rum and 20 pounds of sugar to go with the rum.

Sergeant was, however, not the man to be intimidated by difficulties or opposition. His plans were formed in accordance with the latest and most approved methods. For example he adopted precisely what we sometimes

fancy to be a recent discovery, the principle of the University Settlement among the degraded; i. e., planting a little colony of the educated and refined in the very heart of the degraded, and thus establishing a centre of elevating and sympathetic ministrations to gradually uplift the fallen; an object lesson and model which would tend to reproduce itself in the hearts and lives brought within the sweep of its influence. One hundred and sixty years ago Sergeant's mind grasped the significance and power of this conception, and he began his work, not by preaching, but by bringing four families of whites with him to establish a focal point of influence.

Again, his mind reached forward to modern conceptions, in that he established a school like that at Hampton Court, where the Indians should be taught not mere book learning, but the art of Agriculture, the various modes of earning a living, the sciences of Housekeeping and Domestic Economy.

Still, again, Sergeant grasped the idea of the necessity of training native preachers for any considerable success in spreading the Gospel, and raised up quite a number who bore the messages heard at the Mission, far and wide, among distant and inaccessible tribes. Here again he anticipated the methods whose absolute necessity is only beginning to be realized by Mission Boards. It is not wonderful to find among the graduates of such a school as this, Indian youths who went through Harvard and Dartmouth, and who proved shining lights in their day and generation. Nor is it wonderful to find that these Stockbridge Indians proved a tower of defense to New England in the wars of those troubled times. So highly did Washington esteem their services that at the close of the Revolution he publicly bore witness to the fact, by presenting to the Indians an ox for a barbecue in honor of the successful issue of the war. As is well known, on the death of Sergeant, a successor was found in the celebrated Jonathan Edwards, who found not only a certain congruity between the savage impulses of his audi-

tors and the severities of his dogmatic system, but also an environment of peace and quiet in which he was able to elaborate his immortal treatises which have made Stockbridge a name of eminence in the literary annals of the world.

About 1760, shortly after the death of Edwards, such Indians as had not been brought under the humanizing influence of the Mission, having been permanently expelled from this region, a considerable number of towns sprang into being, and the few already provisionally established began to rapidly increase. For the most part, these were settled by that constant overflow of population and movement westward, which has been the story of the world in all ages. Some towns, however, had another origin. Dalton was established as an equivalent for another grant made to settlers on the New Hampshire line, whose grant on a new survey was found to lie on the New Hampshire side of the line. This township being called Ashuelot, Dalton was styled for some years, "The Ashuelot Equivalent."

Peru was set apart by Governor Bernard, the British governor of Massachusetts as a sort of country seat for himself which he expected to make like the country residences of the English nobility with their surroundings of aristocratic pomp and luxury.

Lenox was first occupied by Jonathan Hinsdale, a kind of hermit, who wanted to get away from the world; very much the same reason which prompted Blackstone to settle Boston.

It is a part of the irony of history that Boston and Lenox should have been the two towns of Massachusetts to be settled so as to get away from the world, and yet finally prove to be the two places most characterized by the luxury of the world, of all parts of the Commonwealth.

In May, 1761, the western part of Massachusetts, which had hitherto been called Hampshire County, was divided and the westernmost part was called Berkshire.

The county was settled to a considerable extent from Connecticut, but

also in part from the neighborhood of Boston; one town, Lee, being largely settled by the Ultra-Puritans of Cape Cod. The position of the county as bordering on several states has always given it a peculiar character more independent of Boston influences than other sections, and more varied in its sympathies, and cosmopolitan in its make-up. From the very first there was a curious blending of diverse elements. There were the hardy pioneers and Indian fighters, with their sturdy independence and democratic simplicity, and at the same time there was an unusually large percentage of the highly-educated, the cultured and the aristocratic; the ideal elements out of which a strong community should spring; elements which would lead us to expect on the one hand a people of such independence of spirit as to be the first to resent impositions from tyranny and to rebel against unlawful exactions from across the seas; and on the other hand, along with this being first to seek independence, a strong conservatism that would be eminently constructive after the war be over, and be in the forefront in establishing a settled constitution and the due administration of law.

Now, how far do we find these expectations realized as to leadership among all Americans in respect to throwing off unlawful authority, and also as to promptness in organizing lawful government on a solid basis at the conclusion of the struggle for independence? Let us see.

1st—as to renouncing allegiance to unlawful authority—On January 12, 1773, we find a resolution adopted unanimously by the men of Berkshire assembled at Sheffield, so nearly in the language of the subsequent Declaration of Independence of 1776 that the latter might seem to have been copied from it. And as the resolution was drawn up by the celebrated Theodore Sedgwick, even then, as afterwards, prominent in National Councils, it is not impossible that there may have been a close relationship between the two. This appears to have been the first, or very nearly the first, public

action of the kind in the whole land. In 1774 when British aggressions became still more pronounced, threatening to virtually reduce Massachusetts to the condition of a conquered province, although the Boston Gazette declared, "The whole Continent seemed inspired by one soul, and that a rigorous and determined one," yet of all the counties, Berkshire was the first to meet and pass resolutions of the most stringent character: Resolutions drawn up by a convention, one member of which was from Lanesboro (Peter B. Curtis) also a solemn league and covenant boycotting all goods and merchandise from England and every Berkshire merchant handling such goods. This action was practically the beginning of the Revolutionary war; after such a covenant, compromise was impossible.

After this we are not surprised to read that when a liberty-pole was erected in Sheffield and it was cut down by two men, that one of them was compelled to walk between a long file of citizens and ask pardon of every one; and the other tarred and feathered and forced to knock at the door of every house in town and ask pardon of the residents.

It is singular to notice one exception; Pittsfield then, as now, containing the most aristocratic element of the country, was a long way behind the rest. When, in 1765, the celebrated Boston Tea Party threw overboard the tea in Boston harbor, rather than submit to paying a tax on it, the Pittsfield town meeting voted that "this destruction of tea was highly unwarrantable, and we wish to express the abhorrence and detestation that we have of this extraordinary and illegal transaction, and desire that our representatives exert themselves to the utmost of their power, to bring the persons concerned with the destruction of said tea to condign punishment." It is proper to say that Pittsfield was soon abreast of the times, and some time before the Declaration of Independence voted to erase King George's name from all official insignia, thus actually committing the overt act of rebelling without

waiting to see whether the rest of the county did so or not; and as though to show their contempt for the importance of King George they coupled with this vote a number of miscellaneous provisions of the most trivial and insignificant character; the next item of business being that hogs should not be allowed to run at large.

This spirit of not submitting to unlawful authority was not limited to opposition to British aggressions and did not terminate with the Revolutionary War. For quite a long period Berkshire was administered as practically an independent principality; its people, being above all others great readers on the principles of government, claimed that by the revolution they had relapsed to a state of nature; that the old provincial charter had expired and they would admit no courts or pretended authority from Boston until a state convention had been held and lawful government had been organized, *de novo*.

They were governed meanwhile by a sort of committee of prominent men. This was done in no spirit of lawlessness, but rather with a supreme regard for law being established on a firm basis.

Knowing this, it is not wonderful to know that it was owing to a Berkshire man (Jonathan Smith of Lanesboro) more than to any other one man that Massachusetts came to ratify the Federal Constitution and have a settled government. The fact seems to be, as the commissioners for publishing the Massachusetts colonial records wrote me a few weeks since from the State House: "While all our people seem to have shown a genius for code-making and a wonderful apprehension of the philosophy of republican government, the honor of being first and most zealous in insisting upon a new constitution, properly and lawfully formed, undoubtedly belongs to the little community scattered along the extreme western border of the Province along the beautiful and fertile valleys of the Housatonic. And yet how little prominence is given to this fact in our books of history. It is certainly very

modest in the intelligent people of Berkshire not to have claimed more than they have for the achievements of their forefathers."

This happy mixture and combination which we thus find in the politics of early settlers of the democratic and aristocratic elements extends to every department of action. Everywhere we find the two elements of severe democratic simplicity with the virtues of ruggedness, severity, sturdiness and hard work; and also aristocratic superiority of mental insight and fineness of culture. As though the product of our environment, i. e., a home in the hills and mountains, towering above the ordinary level and yet without rugged and severe.

In education how plainly we see this combination of severity and superiority:—e. g. in the early half of this century the county was dotted over with academies, the resort of pupils from New York and Boston, and indeed from all over the land, wielding far more than her share of the influences that have made Massachusetts as a whole the centre of literary and educational activity and helpfulness for the whole land; and yet every one of the schools was no mere place for giving the fashionable veneering of the ordinary boarding school but rather the severe round of training in the Spartan virtues of hard, severe, honest, legitimate toil and earning every step of advance achieved. And from those schools, as well as from the mountain farms and hillside slopes of the Housatonic there has flowed a constant stream of manly vigor which has served to replenish the wear and tear and waste and strain of many a town and city in every portion of the land. The same is true of her institution of higher learning in Williamstown; although small (as modern colleges count size in terms of mere bulk and numbers,) she has the distinction of being the pioneer in American colleges in adopting the modern method of studying not books but facts: e. g., Prof. Albert Hopkins appears to have been the first in America to adopt the methods of discarding books as pri-

mary sources, and taking the classes into the actual fields and studying the rocks and flowers themselves. It was also under his direction that the first college astronomical observatory was erected, thus affording the students a chance to study not what the books said about the stars, but the stars themselves.

In Professor Amos Eaton the college gave to America its first botanical instructor and opened up to the people a new conception of the beauty of the fields, and taught them how to hear again the voice of God in the gardens, and to consider the lilies how they grow.

In the department of philosophy the same originality of conception was seen. In President Mark Hopkins' recitation room the prevailing method was not the old-fashioned text-book recitation, but on the first day investigating a topic, after the method of the German Seminar, by free discussion, reading of essays, investigating original sources, and then on the following day demanding of the student, not the views of the author, but what conclusions he himself had come to as the result of the previous discussion; the student being required to defend these views against objections from any one in the class. These methods are commonplace now; they were absolutely unprecedented then. As it has been happily expressed, "The larger institutions might have brought more men to the college, institutions like Williams brought more college to the men." "The one might be more extensive in the range of their sweep, the other more intensive in its effect upon the individual student."

This college life was an epitome and picture of the county life as a whole; i. e. great limitations of means to do with, great results accomplished with those scanty means. In other words the combination of democratic simplicity with aristocratic culture. Compare for instance, the fact of the actual presence in this county from the first, of an unusually large percentage of families of prominence and advanced culture, as evidenced by

Berkshire's pre-eminence in organizing the government on a sound and scientific basis; compare this with the fact that about as late as a century ago there was only one post office in Western Massachusetts, and that in Springfield; and the further fact that the only newspaper in the county was obliged to frequently print half a sheet, as no paper could be gotten for any more. Do we not here again find scanty tools for communicating intelligence combined with the greatest results, secured with those tools?

A second illustration of the same principle is found in the striking history as to Berkshire's relation to means of transportation and facilities for conveying news. Her postal facilities have been already indicated, the roads which Nature had provided, have been already referred to; the roads any where in the early part of this century being no better than the roughest kind of mountain wood roads now; people coming to church on horseback or afoot. Now this is not precisely the region from which to expect any great leadership or advanced ideas on the subject of roads and transportation, and the rapid circulation of news. But what were the facts? In 1806 a student of Williams college broached the idea of a railroad from Boston to Albany (long before any railroads in the world;) the idea being suggested by reading of a horse railroad in Wales for transporting slate. In 1826, by urgency of Stockbridge people, the idea was seriously advanced in the legislature. And the Boston and Albany railroad began to be constructed, and in climbing the Berkshire mountains proved to the world for the first time that railroads were a possibility not merely on the level but up and down severe grades. Also in 1826 an elevated railroad was proposed by Theodore Sedgwick of Stockbridge. As is well known, one of the first large railroad tunnels in the world is also in Berkshire; it being proposed as early as 1826. And still further, the principle of electric railroads was first patented by Stephen Field of Stockbridge. So much for

what Berkshire has done for the world, despite her own early peculiar hardships, in the way of transportation within the memory of persons now living.

And as to circulation of news, what can more eloquently appeal to the imagination than the contrast between the one post office in western Massachusetts, the best the world could do for Berkshire, and the oceanic cables of today, flashing the world's news about the globe, the return gift of a son of Berkshire to the world.

It is not alone in material things that Berkshire has taken the lead in inaugurating new projects. As is well known, the Agricultural society whose fair ground is located in Pittsfield, was one of the first societies in the United States of any practical character, to elevate agriculture and to inspire farmers to advance and improve and get out of and beyond the ruts of their own ways. To my own mind the establishing the Aggasiz association, branches of which—now all over the Union, is not the least important of all the noteworthy things this county has been instrumental in blessing mankind with. A great blessing which we take as a matter of course is the matter of religious equality, but men not very aged may remember that it was owing to its earnest labors of Pittsfield men that Massachusetts at last removed the remaining relics of Puritan legislation and made all religious bodies absolutely equal before the law.

In some quarters, the chief distinction of this region lies in the fact of Williamstown being the well-known spot which witnessed the revival of foreign missions and the rising to the conception that in Christian work the sympathies of men should know no limit narrower than the whole world; a conception which found a suitable home in a county of the varied and cosmopolitan sympathies of Berkshire.

It is interesting to notice that the doctrine of the possibility of Christian perfection in this life in the form in which has been widely held of late,

appears to have been first held in Williamstown.

An historical fact of very different significance is that when the Mormons commenced their aggressive missionary movement, they selected West Stockbridge as their sphere of operations, and when compelled to withdraw from this region, several of the Berkshire converts became eminent in the counsels of that objectionable sect. It is certainly somewhat singular that this same region should have been also the seat of the exactly opposite sort of sect of the Shakers; Lebanon itself at one time being within the borders of this county.

It is claimed that the world owes to these Lebanon Shakers, the buzz-saw, metallic pen, brush brooms and raising of medicinal herbs.

People whose memory goes back for 60 years will recall the excitement connected with the Millerite teaching connected with their proclaiming the end of the world in 1843; but possibly they do not recall that Mr. Miller from whom the movement gained its name, was a resident of West street, Pittsfield. Many other things took their rise in Berkshire, too numerous for mention, but it would be a great omission to forget the village improvement movement which we owe to Stockbridge, and possibly some besides the children may feel a debt of gratitude to Berkshire when they are reminded that it is believed that the Stockbridge Indians were the first discoverers of how to utilize the sap of the maple tree for the making of sugar. It is somewhat melancholy to read that when the whites perceived this new syrup, the only reflection it inspired was the hope that it would afford a good basis for the manufacture of rum.

Taken as a whole it may well be doubted whether any county in the United States has contributed more to the well being of mankind, and surely none is more worthy of the ancient benediction of the Hebrew Leader, "In Thee and in Thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

ORIGIN OF THE NAMES

~ ~ OF THE ~ ~

TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY.

DALTON.

Dalton was so named from Tristram Dalton, speaker of the House of Representatives at the time of the incorporation of the town. There are two theories as to the origin of the name Dalton. The most probable makes it from Daletown that is, a town in a valley. Some, however prefer to derive it from the French word, D'Alton, that is, "of the mountain." A life of the statesman who gave his name to the town is given below: Tristram Dalton, senator, was born in Newbury, Mass., May 28, 1738. He attended Dummer academy, at Byfield, Mass., and graduated from Harvard in 1755. He inherited from his father a large fortune and studied law as an accomplishment. He also devoted his time to the cultivation of a large estate called "Spring Hill" in West Newbury, where he entertained among other prominent men, George Washington, John Adams, Louis Philippe and Tallyrand. Represented his state in the convention of committees of the New England provinces, December 25, 1776. He served in the state legislature as representative, speaker of the house, and a senator. In 1778, he was elected a United States senator and being assigned by lot the short term he served through the 1st congress, 1789 to 1791. In 1791, when the city of Washington was founded, he invested his entire fortune in land and lost

all, through the mismanagement of his business agent. At the same time, a vessel freighted with his furniture and valuable library were lost on the voyage from Newburyport to Washington, and he was left penniless. The government at once tendered him a choice of several official positions and he accepted that of surveyor of the port of Boston. He was a fellow of the American academy of arts and sciences. He died in Boston, Mass., May 30, 1817.

TYRINGHAM.

Tyringham derives its name from Tyringham, England, which was connected with the family of Governor Bernard. This was so called from being settled by the Thuringiams, a powerful tribe in Central Germany, from whom the institution of the Salic law was in part at least derived. Thuringia was so called from being conquered and settled by a tribe bearing the name of Durii, who originally came from Greece. Durii is an abbreviation of Hermanduri, which was derived from Hermione, the wife of Orestes, and the daughter of Menelaus and Helen concerning whom was waged the celebrated Trojan war, 110 years B. C. The Tyringham family has recently become extinct. The following is an obituary of the last member of the family who it will be seen bears the name of the governor of Massachusetts at the time Berkshire county was

settled. Sir Thomas Tyringham Bernard, of Winchendon Priory, Bucks, died on the 8th inst., in his 92d year. He was the fourth son of Sir Scrope Bernard, Morland fourth Baronet. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford. He sat in Parliament as member for Aylesbury, from 1857 to 1865 and was for 25 years Lieutenant Colonel of the Bucks Yeomanry. In 1816 he served as high sheriff and in the same year succeeded to the title, at the decease of his brother, Sir Francis Morland. On July 26, 1819, he married Sophia Charlotte, only child of Sir David Williams Bart of Rose Hallhersts; secondly, Oct. 12, 1840, Martha Louise Munshall, and thirdly, Ellen of Marcham Park. By his first wife, he had two sons, both deceased and two daughters, Charlotte, who died in 1865, wife of Mr. Francis Pigott, and Sophia, wife of Mr. Napier Higgins. The Baronet not leaving any male issue his title became extinct.

EGREMONT.

This was so called from Charles Windham, the earl of Egremont, who was the secretary of state in England at the time of the incorporation of the town. Windham was elected to the Parliament as early as 1734, being at that time a Tory. He soon afterwards became a Liberal and was a great friend of the American cause. All estimates of Egremont's character agree in ascribing to him a large share of the inordinate pride of his maternal grandfather, the "proud duke" of Somerset. Pitt also adds to his bad qualities ill-nature, avarice, and not always speaking the truth. He denies him parliamentary ability and business capacity, but allows him humor and sense. Chesterfield thought himself sufficient but incapable. Lord Standhope's pronouncement that Egremont owed his advancement to his father's name rather than to his own abilities seems scarcely tenable in view of the fact that for the greater part of his career he was in close alliance with leading whigs. He married on Mar. 12, 1751, a reigning beauty,

Alicia Maria, daughter of George Carpenter, second baron Carpenter of Killiagh. In 1761 when she was the lady of the bedchamber of Queen Charlotte, some verses were written in her honor by Lords Lyttellos and Hardwicke. June, 1767, she married as her second husband, Count Bruhl and survived till June, 1794. By her marriage with Egremont, she had four sons and three daughters. Of the latter, Elizabeth married Henry Herbert, and Frances married Charles Marsham, first earl of Romeny. There is one other town in New England deriving its name from the above, Windham, Maine. The place was located in the incidents referred to in Holmes' poem, "The One Hoss Shay."

ALFORD.

This town was so called from the Hon. John Alford of Boston. He was a man of large wealth and was distinguished as the founder of the Alford professorship of Natural Religion and Moral Philosophy at Harvard college. He was baptized at the Old South church, July 5, 1685 and died September 30, 1761.

SHEFFIELD.

This town was named after Sir Edmund Sheffield, the second duke of Buckingham. His grandfather was King James, the second. He died October 30, 1735, and his title became extinct. His father was one of the leading statesmen under Queen Anne.

OTIS.

This town was so called from Harrison Gray Otis, who was speaker of the House of Representatives at the time of the incorporation of the town. Mr. Otis was born in Boston, October 8, 1765, and was a nephew of the celebrated James Otis. He was admitted to the bar in 1786, and soon became a distinguished orator. He was aide to Gen. Brooks in the Shay's Insurrection in 1786, was a member of the Legislature in 1796, and a prominent leader of the Federal party in 1797 to 1801. He was United States district attorney in 1801, and

also was a member of the Legislature from 1803 to 1805. He was president of the state senate and was mayor of Boston from 1829 to 1832. Prominent member of the Hartford convention in December, 1814, the views and proceedings of which he afterwards wrote and published a series of letters upon. The name Otis is derived from a Greek word which means, "quick of hearing."

BECKET.

This was the birthplace of Governor Bernard in Berkshire County, England, and he naturally named one of the first towns he had the opportunity of naming, in honor of that fact. The word Becket means Big War, being derived from the two celtic words, Big Had having that meaning.

FLORIDA.

This town is so called from the accession of what is now the state of Florida in the United States about the time of the incorporation of the town.

PERU.

Peru is called from Peru in South America, which was revolting from the Spanish domain at the time of the incorporation of the town, and with whose efforts for freedom aroused great sympathy. Peru itself was so called by Gen. Birou, who was one of its celebrated heroes.

MARLBOROUGH.

This town is named after Marlborough, England, which was so called from the celebrated Saint Maidulf. The earlier name was called Madluf's borough, which was shortened to Mallsborough and after marl or clay was discovered in the neighborhood the spelling was altered by mistake to Marlborough, its real origin being forgotten. It is a singular coincidence as clay was also discovered in our Marlborough, which was derived from Clayton, one of its villages.

CLARKSBURGH.

This place was named after the Clark family extensively represented among the first settlers.

HINSDALE.

Named after Theodore Hinsdale, one of the first settlers. The name Hinsdale appears to have been originally Endsdaile, apparently meaning the family that lived at the end of the valley.

WASHINGTON AND MT. WASHINGTON.

Both named of course for President Washington. The origin of the name is suggested by the original spelling of the word, Wessington, which is compounded of three words, Wys—meaning creek washing in from the sea, ing—meaning low ground—and ton being an abbreviation of town. The word therefore means a town lying on the lowlands by an estuary of the sea, which is somewhat similar in contrast with either of the Berkshire Mt. Washingtons.

GREAT BARRINGTON.

At whose suggestion this town received its name "Great Barrington" is now unknown. In the petition for its incorporation no name was presented, and in the preliminary stages of the bill in the House of Representatives, the name of the town was left blank. It was formerly currently said by the old inhabitants that the town was named in memory of Lord Barrington of England, then deceased, who during his life had manifested an especial interest in and had been particularly friendly to the colonies of New England. At the time, the divisional line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island was unsettled and in controversy. The town of Barrington, now in Rhode Island, lay near the disputed line and had been in some degree subject to the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, but as it was uncertain whether by an adjustment of the line, Barrington would fall within Massachusetts or Rhode Island, and to obviate the possible impropriety of having two towns of the same name in the province, it was determined that the new town be called Great Barrington. Lord Barrington—John Shute, a son of Benjamin Shute, and a younger brother of Samuel Shute, governor of Massachusetts from

1716 to 1723, born in 1687 and died at the age of 56 years. He was a Protestant dissenter and in 1701 published pamphlets "in favor of the civil rights of Protestant dissenters to which class he belonged." "On the accession of George 1st, he was returned as a member of Parliament for Berwick upon Tweed in 1720. The King raised him to the Irish Peerage by the title of Vincent Barrington of Ardglass." Four of his sons became distinguished, and the eldest, William, succeeded his father as Viscount Barrington.

SANDISFIELD.

Was named after Samuel Sandys, the president of the board of trade in Boston and great friend of the American cause. He was celebrated for his opposition to lotteries, the favorite resort in those days for raising money. The only exception to this rule which he was ever known to make was in favor of Harvard college, the raising of money for which he considered so good a cause as to justify the use of the lottery.

SAVOY.

Was so called on account of Savoy in Italy, coming into prominence about the time of the incorporation of the town in connection with the victories of Napoleon.

ADAMS.

Was so named for the celebrated patriot, Samuel Adams, whose name carries us back to the parent of the human race. The name Adams is supposed to mean, the created thing. The Adams family find their earliest appearance in history in Wales, a great many centuries ago, one bearing the name of Ap Adams, being the one first recorded. The ancestry of the family may be found in Volume 7 of the New England Genealogical Register, Page 39.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

Was named after Colonel Ephraim Williams, who was very celebrated in the early annals of Berkshire as the constructor of several of the principal forts found in Western Massachusetts, including Fort Massachusetts itself.

A full sketch of Colonel Williams will be found in Professor Perry's "Origin of Williamstown." The Williams family is one of the oldest families in the world. They can be traced back 1100 years before Christ to the first king of the British Isles. They also were the ancestors of the royal house of Tudor, including Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth.

HANCOCK.

Was named for John Hancock, who was at that time president of the Continental Congress, and was the first one to sign the Declaration of Independence, just two days after the incorporation of the town. The name Hancock goes back to the earliest days of Anglo-Saxon history. The earlier form is Endicott and the last syllable is a modification of the word, Goth, carrying us back to our Scandinavian ancestors.

MONTEREY.

Was incorporated just after the battle of Monterey, in the Mexican war.

STOCKBRIDGE AND WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

Appear to have been named after Stockbridge, England, probably on account of their mutual resemblance. There is no evidence that any of the early settlers of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, came from Stockbridge, England, but some of them appear to have come from its vicinity. Professor Frost, in his essay on the origin of the names of Berkshire towns claims that the names Woodbridge and Stockbridge were originally identical and that Timothy Woodbridge, the second settler of the town suggested the name. This I believe to be a pure myth. It is also a curious fact, that the Williamses who were the first settlers of Stockbridge came from that part of eastern Massachusetts where the Stockbridge family is extensively represented. It is possible that some relationship between the two families may furnish a clue to the mystery, but the explanation first given seems the most probable.

PITTSFIELD.

Was named after William Pitt, at that time Prime Minister. The learned essay by Joseph Smith on the circumstances connected with the choice of this particular name renders any further explanation unnecessary.

WINDSOR.

Was named after Windsor, Connecticut, which was named after Windsor in Berkshire county, England, the seat of Windsor Castle and the home of British royalty for many centuries and scene of Shakespeare's play, "Merry Wives of Windsor"; the name is a modification of Windle shore, meaning the town on the shore of the river Windle.

CHESHIRE.

Was named after Chester, England, the oldest town with a continuous history in that country and the seat of many notable historical events. It is a singular coincidence, that Cheshire county, England, is principally celebrated for the unusually fine brand of cheese produced there and that our Cheshire is probably best known to most people from the mammoth cheese sent by its inhabitants to President Jefferson.

LEE.

Was named after Charles Lee of the American army. The name Lee is of great antiquity. It first appears as Lega, De La, De la Lee, and of various spelling, gradually taking the present form, Lee. In the "Doomsday Book" Lega and Lee are often used to denote the same family. The name has also sometimes assumed still other forms, as Lea, Leigh, Lay and Ley. The word "Lee" signifies a "pasture, meadow or grass land." Previous to the use of surnames, persons were designated by the place of their residence, or some epithet descriptive of their personal character or occupation. Thus, John, residing near the lee, eventually became "John Lee," Samuel, very pale or white, became "Samuel White," and William the carpenter, became "William Carpenter," etc. The family of Lee is one of the most ancient in En-

glish history. In the eleventh century the name of Launcelot Lee is associated with William the Conqueror, and is of Norman origin, and in the division of estates by that chieftain, a fine estate in Essex county was bestowed upon him. Lionel Lee "raised a company of gentlemen cavaliers," at the head of which he accompanies Richard Coeur de Leon, in the third crusade, A. D. 1192. For gallant conduct at the siege of Acre, he was made "earl of Litchfield," and another estate was given to the family, which was later called "Ditchly." The armor worn by the crusaders is still preserved in the Horse Armory, Tower of London. They were devoted followers of the Stuarts, and distinguished for loyalty to the crown, and, for their acts of valor, received various honors and distinctions. Two of the name have been Knights of the Garter, and their banners, surmounted by the "Lee Arms," may be seen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

LENOX AND RICHMOND.

Were originally one town and were named after Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond and when the town was divided one portion took one part of the name and the other the other. The name Lenox is derived from the words Llevan-ax, meaning smooth flowing water. The river Llevan still bearing that name flows past the Lenox state in the south of Scotland. It is in the immediate neighborhood of Dumbarton Castle associated with Shakespeare's play, Macbeth, and the memories of Robert Bruce. The name of Richmond is derived from the old Saxon root, ric, which means conqueror, and which appears in our word rich, meaning a conqueror of wealth. A sketch of the life of Lenox, one of the great friends of the American cause, is given below:

Charles Lennox, third duke of Richmond and Lennox (1735-1806) third son of Charles, second duke of Richmond and Lennox, was born in London, Feb. 22, 1735. He was educated as a town-boy at Westminster school, where Cowper remembered seeing him set fire to Vinney Bourne's "greasy locks and box his ears to put it out

again." He graduated at Leyden University on Oct. 28, 1753, and subsequently travelled on the continent. Having entered the army he was gazetted captain in the 20th regiment of foot on June 18, 1753, lieutenant-colonel in the 33rd regiment of foot, June 7, 1753, and colonel of the 72nd regiment of foot in May 9, 1758, and is said to have served in several expeditions to the French coast, and to have highly distinguished himself at the battle of Minden in August, 1759. He succeeded his father as third duke of Richmond and Lennox on Aug. 8, 1761, and took his seat in the House of Lords for the first time on March 15, 1756. On November 25, 1760, he was appointed a lord of the bedchamber, but shortly afterwards quarreled with the king, and resigned office. He carried the sceptre with the dove at the coronation of George III, in September, 1761, and became lord-lieutenant of Sussex on October 18, 1763. He subsequently broke off his relations with the ministry and attached himself to the duke of Cumberland. Upon the formation of the Marquis of Rockingham's first administration he refused the post of cofferer, and in August, 1765, was appointed ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at Paris, being admitted to the privy council on Oct. 23 following. Though young and inexperienced he conducted his mission with great prudence and temper. Upon his return to England he became, in spite of the king's dislike, secretary of state for the southern department in place of the Duke of Grafton, and retired from office on the accession of Chatham to power in the following August. During the debate on the bill of indemnity on December 10, 1766, Richmond called Chatham "an insolent minister," and when called to order replied that he "was sensible that truth was not to be spoken at all times and in all places." Both lords promised that the matter should go no further. After this quarrel during the remainder of his administration he appeared no more in the House of Lords. On June 2, 1767, Richmond moved three resolutions in

favor of the establishment of civil government in Canada, and censuring Lord Northington's neglect of cabinet business, but was defeated by 73 to 61. On May 18, 1770, his eighteen conciliatory resolutions relating to the disorders of America were met by a motion for adjournment, which was carried by a majority of 34 votes. He constantly denounced the ministerial policy with reference to the American colonies and during the debate on the second reading of the American Prohibitory bill in December, 1775, declared that the resistance of the colonists was "neither treason or rebellion, but is perfectly justifiable in every possible, political and moral sense. In August, 1776, Richmond went to Paris in order to register his peerage of Anbigny in the French parliament, a formality which had never been gone through with. It was during the memorable debate upon Richmond's motion for the withdrawal of the troops in America, April 7, 1778, that Chatham was seized with his fatal illness when attempting to reply to Richmond's second speech. In May, 1779, he supported the Marquis of Rockingham's motion for the removal of the cause of Irish discontent by a redress of grievances, and in reference to an illusion to a union of the two countries, declared that, "he was for a union, but not a union of legislature, but a union of hearts, hands, of affections and interests."

In June, 1779, Richmond received a well-merited rebuke from Lord Thurlow, whom he had taunted with the lowness of his birth, and who in reply reminded the duke that he owed his seat in the House of Lords, "being the accident of an accident." On June 2, 1780, Richmond, who had previously joined the Westminster committee of correspondence, attempted to bring forward his reform bill, but was interrupted by the confusion which prevailed in the house owing to the presence of the mob in Old Palace Yard. On the following day he explained the purport of his bill, the reading of which alone is said to have occupied an hour and a half. The three main

features of the proposal were annual parliaments, manhood suffrage and electoral districts. It was rejected without any division and practically without discussion. In consequence of some expressions of speech, with which he introduced his motion for an inquiry into the execution of Colonel Isaac Hayne on Feb. 4, 1782, he became involved in a quarrel with Lord Rawdon but afterwards apologized. At a meeting held at Richmond's house early in May, 1782, a resolution proposed by Sheridan requesting Pitt to bring forward a motion on Parliamentary reform in the House of Commons was carried. The committee was never appointed, for which Richmond wished to be appointed upon the parliamentary reform during the session, reminding Rockingham that it "was my bargain," for Rockingham died on July, 1782. Upon his death Richmond expected to be named as his successor in the leadership of the party. His nephew tried in vain to pacify him by pointing out that they "were both out of the question owing to the decided part we have taken in parliamentary reform." In March, 1787 an acrimonious discussion took place between Richmond and Marquis of Lansdowne during the debate upon the treaty of commerce with France, which put an end to their friendship and nearly ended in a duel. He spoke for the last time in the House of Lords on June 25, 1804, during the debate on the second reading of the Additional Force bill, which he condemned as a feeble and inadequate measure. He died at Goodwood, Sussex, on December 29, 1806, in the 72d year of his age and was buried in Chichester Castle, his body having been first opened and filled with slack lime, according to his directions. Richmond was a remarkably handsome man, with a dignified bearing and graceful and courteous manner. As a politician he was hasty and ambitious. Though an indifferent speaker, at "the house of the East India," in his quality of a proprietor, no less than as a peer of parliament at Westminster, he was ever active, vigilant in detecting and exposing abuses, real or

imaginary, perpetually harassing every department with inquiries, and attacking in turn, the army, the admiralty, and the treasury. Richmond married on April 1, 1757, Lady Mary Bruce, the only child of Charles, third earl of Ailesbury and fourth earl of Elgin, by his third wife, Lady Caroline Campbell, only daughter of John, fourth duke of Argyle. "The perfectest match," says Walpole, "in the world—youth, beauty, riches, alliances and all the blood of the kings from Bruce to Charles II. They are the prettiest couple in England, except the father-in-law and mother."

LANESBOROUGH.

This town was so named from the countess of Lanesborough, Ireland, who was a court favorite and a friend of the governor of Massachusetts.

This title was originally derived from the Lane family, who were members of the peerage, but who became extinct. The title was revived in 1728 and conferred upon Brindsley Butler, colonel of the Battle-ax guards in Ireland. As he had 23 children, it is needless to say that the title has not run out in his family and is now held by John Vansittart-Danvers Butler, who was born April 18, 1839. The Butler family came from France, the original form of the name being Boutellier or Bottler, the family being cup-bearers to the king. They first appear among the titled gentry of Ireland in about 1600, but may be easily traced in England to about 1350. As the genealogy of the Lane and Butler families is of some interest, it will be given in full in the forthcoming pamphlet on Berkshire.

It is of interest to notice that the Lane family were ardent friends of the American cause and endeavored to get Ireland to rebel at the time of the American revolution on which attitude, Mr. Froude, in his history of Ireland, comments. The town of Lanesboro, Ireland, is in Roscommon county, population 280, noted for its iron ore beds and coal mines. The iron mines were opened at a cost of \$400,000, but are not now worked. The coal mines are not worked on account

of the frequency of bogs. The town lies on the celebrated river Shannon, said to be the largest in the world in proportion to the country it drains.

ASHUELOT.

Which means a town between the rivers, being derived from the land near the Nashua river, which was the region originally granted to Dalton people, but a portion of it being found across the New Hampshire line, what we now call Dalton, was granted as an equivalent for the territory thus named.

CRANEVILLE.

A village in Dalton named after the Crane family. This name first appears in the year 1272, the family being tenants of William le Moyne and bearing the names of Andreas, John, Oliver and William, who came from the ancient province of Maine in the north of France. The name probably was derived from the town of Craon and signifying the place by the stream. The family at present are found for the most part in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. Among the most prominent of the family in the County of Norfolk was Sir Francis Crane and his brother, Sir Richard, both of Woodrising. Sir Francis was secretary to Charles I., Prince of Wales, and Knighted at Coventry, Sept. 4, 1617, by King James I., father of the Prince. He was also made Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, a mark of special and rare distinction. The emblem of the order is a dark ribbon edged with gold, bearing the motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense," that is, "Accursed be he who thinks there's evil in it," printed in golden letters, with a buckle and pendant of gold richly chased, and is worn on the left leg below the knee. Sir Francis, in the year 1619, introduced into England the manufacture of curious tapestry, and, with the assistance of King James I., who contributed two thousand pounds towards the enterprise, built a mill at Mortlake, then a village on the River Thames in the County of Surry, about nine miles distant and in a westerly direction from London. This mill con-

tained three rooms, one twenty feet in width by eighty-two in length, in which were set twelve looms. The second room was half the size of the first and contained six looms. The third was called the "Linning Room." He engaged workmen to come from the tapestry works at Paris, France, and from other parts of Europe, employing the highest skilled labor that was at that time to be obtained. To accommodate his Flemish tapestry weavers, he, on March 20, 1621, secured a license from the Archbishop of Canterbury for them to assemble for worship in the parish church of Mortlake, at his house or in any other suitable place, and arranged that a minister and an elder should be sent out from the old Dutch Reform church, Austin Friars, in London, when necessary to perform the service. On July 8, 1623, for the encouragement of the work, King James I. wrote to the King of Denmark asking that Francis Cleyne, a painter, might be allowed to come to England for the purpose of being employed as a designer at the Mortlake Tapestry works. He was immediately called, and the success of the work was now doubly assured and great progress in the art of weaving rare and beautiful designs in tapestry were achieved during the years that followed. Through the assistance of Francis Cleyne, Sir Francis succeeded in manufacturing many historical and grotesque pieces of gold tapestry, and the records state that the work was carried to singular perfection. In 1634 he was chosen one of a commission to purchase a tract of land to be used by King Charles I. as a game park. For 17 years he was given by the King, exclusive privilege of making copper farthings for circulation at the yearly rent of one hundred marks payable into the exchequer. He contributed 500 pounds towards the building of St. Pauls church in London. Another noted member of the family was Sir Robert Crane, who was elected to Parliament in 1620 and was created a Baronette in 1627. He became a member of the famous Long Parliament and was on the side of the people against the

king. In Massachusetts the name first appears in 1635 in the town of Weathersfield, Connecticut.

PONTOCOSUC.

Former name of Pittsfield, meaning "winter home of the deer."

HOOSAC.

Former name of Williamstown and Adams, which means the region beyond, the name being given by those living in Troy and Albany.

HOUSATONIC.

The region beyond the mountains.

SEECONCK.

The home of the wild goose.

VAN DEUSENVILLE.

Was named after Isaac Van Deusen, the founder of its earlier manufactories. The name seems to have been derived from Van Doesen, a village in Lower Saxony, the former residence of the family.

WILLIAMSVILLE.

Named after Colonel Elijah Williams, one of the earlier settlers in that part of West Stockbridge.

NEW STATE.

A village in Savoy, so called after the effects of a fanatical revival in 1810, conducted by the notorious Joseph Smith, who turned out to be a very unprincipled man, but who left the people in a condition of extravagant excitement.

CURTISVILLE.

A village in Stockbridge, so called from the Curtis family. The name Curtis is probably derived from the words, curt-hose—meaning short stockings, the family being one of the first to adopt wearing the short stockings instead of the old-fashioned high stocking and knee breeches.

NEW BOSTON.

A village in Sandisfield. Named after Boston, which was named after Boston, England, and is a contraction of

Botolphstoun, St. Botolph being patron saint of that section of England.

LOUDON.

Former name of Otis, and being a contraction of Julia's down. The town in England being the former domain of a lady bearing that name.

JERICHO.

Former name of Hancock, being derived from the Bible Jericho, which means a city worshipping the moon, but which some think means rather city of the fragrant.

GOODRICH.

Name of the southern part of Hancock, the name meaning "rich in godliness."

GAGEBOROUGH.

A former name of Windsor. Named after General Gage of Revolutionary associations.

NEW ASHFORD.

Probably named after the old fort whose ruins are still to be seen near a celebrated ash tree.

ASHLEY FALLS.

A village in Sheffield. Named after the celebrated John Ashley, who was born September, 1736, and died on March 8, 1827, spending his entire life in Sheffield. John Ashley graduated at Yale College in 1758. Returning to the home of his father, Judge Ashley, in Sheffield, he read law, and was admitted to the Hampshire bar at the April term of 1762. Being an only son, and destined to succeed to large interests in land, he engaged early in mercantile business and followed his profession for only a few years. He owned a piece of land in the adjoining town of Mount Washington that is still known as Ashley hill, and the stream which runs through it is Ashley brook. His father built him a house a short distance south of his own, and about a mile north of the present Ashley Falls post office. The house stands on the west bank of the Housatonic river on what is known as the "back road" between Ashley Falls and Sheffield,

and is now owned by Mr. George Bartholomew, who has altered its appearance by the addition of a front porch and other improvements. John Ashley, from his youth was interested in military affairs, and rose successively through the several grades of ensign, lieutenant and captain in his father's regiment. On September 3, 1771, he was commissioned second-major of the South Hampshire regiment, of which his father was then colonel, and two years later he was commissioned major. After the outbreak of the Revolution, his patriotism and position in the militia naturally led him to enlist in the army. He was commissioned colonel of the 1st Berkshire Regiment, April 4, 1777, receiving his appointment as field officer on May 4th. Colonel Ashley took a prominent part in the suppression of Shays' rebellion. On September 10, 1786, Major General John Patterson, anticipating that the mob would attempt to prevent the sitting of the court at Great Barrington, issued orders to his officers to have their men assembled there, fully armed, on the following morning. Colonel Ashley among the others replied, saying that he had called upon the several companies in the regiment under his command for a respective number of men. The court was intimidated and voted to adjourn. Colonel Ashley held numerous civil offices. He was appointed a justice of the peace on June 27, 1771, and continued in frequent attendance on the Court of Sessions, of which he was a member, both before and after the Revolution. He was a selectman of Sheffield and at various times represented that town in the General Court.

"General Ashley was ever a firm friend to the constitution and liberties of the United States. As a magistrate he was upright. By his death his aged parent is deprived of a dutiful son; the town has lost a friend to order; the poor have lost a benefactor; and his family a loss irreparable. He received a wound in the leg a few days before his death, which his surgeon supposed was healing. On the seventh he was buried with military

honors. A large number of people testified their respect by attending his funeral." The sermon on that day was preached by Rev. Ephraim Judson of Sheffield and the text was taken from Ecclesiastes 7:2. He was buried in the Ashley lot in the old cemetery in Sheffield.

NEW FRAMINGHAM.

Former name of Lanesboro. Named after Framingham in Middlesex county, from whence the greater part of the earlier settlers came. This town was first settled in 1633 and was the theatre of King Philipp's operations in the Indian wars. In 1692 a large number of settlers came hither from Danvers, principally composed of families involved in the celebrated witch trials. The Bridges, Nourses and Elliots were prominent among these. In 1676, there was an Indian descent upon the town which resulted in some persons being carried into captivity. In 1700 the town was incorporated as the result of a petition on the part of those wishing to attend church, without traveling as far as they had hitherto been compelled to do. The Pratt and Gleason families were prominent among those moving in at this time. The first minister was John Swift, who remained 45 years on the salary of \$300 and 35 cords of wood. Framingham people figured prominently in the earlier colonial wars in the battle of Lexington and in Arnold's journey to Quebec. The town is now best known as the seat of the first normal school for female teachers. The town was named after Framingham, England, the word meaning the home of the strangers. There is located within it, the castle of the Howard family. A college is also there for the middle classes, built in memory of Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria. The town is one of the oldest in England, dating back to the time of Redwald, king of the east Angols. The castle was at one time the residence of Queen Mary, and now is the property of Penbroke hall in the university of Cambridge. The Howard

family are now the owners of the castle and is the family having the most distinguished ancestry in England. The name is thought to be a modification of Hereward, the Saxon. The Howards are the Dukes of Norfolk and often appear in Shakespeare's historical plays. The most celebrated of the family was Admiral Howard, who figured extensively in the Spanish Armada. One of his ancestors, Sir John Howard, figured extensively in the war against Joan of Arc, the subsequent wars of the Roses and fell in the battle of Bosworth. Another member of the family was commander at the Flodden Field, another was the fifth wife of Henry the eighth, another was the principal instrument in the discovery of the gunpowder plot. The family is in part descended from the Mobrays and Bigods, who came over with William the Conqueror and figured prominently in the Battle of Hastings and who are the two oldest families in the British Peerage. A more complete account of these distinguished families will be given in the pamphlet soon to be published.

QUEENSBOROUGH.

Original name of West Stockbridge, which it is needless to say was not tolerated after the Revolutionary war. This name was given in the honor of the Queen of England, the wife of George the third. This lady was born at Mirow, May 16, 1744. It is said that a letter written by Frederick the Great deprecating his wars was the cause of King George being attracted to her, and the treaty of marriage was signed August 15, 1761. She crossed the English Channel at the time of a dangerous storm, having at length disembarked at Harwich she began her journey towards London, accompanied by an escort of noble ladies and gentlemen. She retained her buoyant spirits until she arrived in sight of the Palace of St. James, where her public presentation was to take place. Here she for the first time became somewhat disconcerted and grew pale. The Duchess of Hamilton endeavored to reassure her, when she replied: "My dear duch-

ess, you may laugh, you have been married twice; but it's no joke to me!" She soon recovered her usual self-possession as her intended husband met her at the palace gates; and as she knelt on one knee to him, he prevented her, and kissed her with more than an ordinary show of princely affection. During the whole scenes of her presentation to the monarch and his court, she conducted herself admirably and proved herself worthy of the high alliance which had been tendered her. The marriage ceremony took place a few hours after her arrival, and was celebrated in the chapel of the Palace of St. James. Walpole says of her, that she looked sensible, cheerful and remarkably genteel. He does not say that she was pretty, and it must be confessed she was rather plain, too plain to create a favorable impression upon the youthful monarch whose heart was certainly occupied by the image of a lady, who nevertheless figured that night among the bridesmaids,—namely, Lady Sarah Lennox. "An involuntary expression of the king's countenance," says Mr. Galb, "revealed what was passing within, but it was a passing cloud—the generous feelings of the monarch were interested; and the tenderness with which he henceforth treated Queen Charlotte was uninterrupted until the moment of their final separation." Queen Charlotte's wedding dress was of white and silver. "An endless mantle of violet velvet," says Walpole, "lined with crimson, and which, attempted to be fastened on her shoulder by a bunch of large pearls, dragged itself and almost the rest of her clothes half way down to her waist." The coronation passed with the usual ceremonies, and lasted into the evening. Nothing of note occurred unless we think it such that the king, while moving with the crown on his head, was so unfortunate as to drop out the large diamond in the upper portion of it. Had there been any one present gifted with prophetic power, he might have deemed the loss of the diamond typical of the loss of the jewel—America—from the chaplet of the English possessions. The

queen passed most of her mornings in receiving instructions from Dr. Majendie in the English tongue. She was an apt scholar and improved rapidly, and though she never spoke or wrote with exceeding elegance, yet she learned to appreciate justly the best authors, and was remarkable for the perfection of taste and manner with which she read aloud. Needlework followed study and exercise needlework. The queen usually rode or walked in company with the king till dinner-time; and in the evening she played on her harpsichord or sang—and this she would do almost *en artiste*; or she took share in a homely game of cribbage, and closed the innocently spent day with a dance, and “so to bed” as the Pepys would say, without any supper. The life of Queen Charlotte was so essentially domestic as to afford few materials for the historian. At first she was girlishly and ingenuously pleased with her jewels and the insignia of royalty, but she very soon wearied of them, for to use her own expression, “the fatigue and trouble of putting them on and the care they required, and the fear of losing them was so great that I longed for my own simple dress and wished never to see them more.” Throughout her entire reign the kingdom was almost continually at war, the first with Frederick the Great, then with America and then with Napoleon. The cares and vexations of the period at least resulted in the king becoming insane. What a life Queen Charlotte must have led in those long years about which nobody will ever know anything now, when her husband was quite insane, when his incessant tongue was babbling folly, rage, persecution, and she had to smile and be respectful and attentive under this intolerable ennui. The queen bore all her duties stoutly, as she expected others to bear theirs. In 1816 the public distress was very great, and those in high places were very unpopular, often for no better reason than that they were in high places, and were disposed to be indifferent to the sufferings of the more lowly and harder tried. The queen

came in for more than her share of the popular ill will, but she met the first expression of it with uncommon spirit; a spirit indeed which gained for her the silent respect of the mob who had begun by insulting her. As her majesty was proceeding to her last drawing room in the year 1815, she was sharply hissed, loudly reviled, and insulted in a variety of ways. She was so poorly protected from the mob that she was actually stopped. She waited for a few moments and then said calmly, “I am about 70 years of age, I have been Queen of England over 50 years, and I never was insulted before.” The mob admired the spirit of the undaunted lady and allowed her to pass without further molestation. She died on November 16, 1818. (Abridged from Agnes Strickland's *Queens of England*.)

Most of the villages in the county derive their names from the proprietors or the principal industry in their midst, and hence the origin of most of them is obvious. A few cases of special interest are analyzed below.

Pomeroy, a village in West Pittsfield, so called from the ancestor of the family being a gardner who raised apples for the king, or as it would be described in French “*Pomme Roi*.”

Barkerville, a village in West Pittsfield, so called from the ancestral family having been engaged in the business of stripping the bark from the trees for the purpose of tanning.

Partridgefield, former name of Peru. This name means field of the illustrious rulers.

Briggsville, a village in North Adams, so called from the old Anglo-Saxon word *Brigg*, which means a bridge, the family living near a celebrated bridge. In connection with this word “bridge” a popular false etymology may be explained away. It is frequently said that Stockbridge is the same name as Bristol, both words being composed of *Brigg* and *stock* meaning the bridge where the stock were accustomed to cross. In one case case one syllable being placed first, and in the other case, the other. This

is ingenious but is not in accordance with the facts of the case. The city of Bristol, England, being in point of fact derived from the old Gaelic word *Bris* which means broken and *Tol* which means chasm, the city lying near a chasm through which the river Avon goes to the sea. This is still further confirmed by the fact that the former name of the city was *Caer-oder* meaning "City of the Gap."

Russells. The word Russell is derived from Rosel which is compounded of the two syllables *Roz* which means an old French rock or castle and *El* which means water (spelled in modern French *Eau*.) The town of Le Rosel from which the Russell family came lies in lower Normandy in the Barony of Briquibec about a mile from the Atlantic, five hundred feet above the water which it overlooks from a position of majestic grandeur. This town was made the Appanage of the Bertrand family who were descendants of the celebrated Norman prince Rollo who was a descendant of Sigurd, King of Sweden who reigned in 735. The first member of the Bertrand family was William and his son Robert was named *Le Tort* on account of his lameness, the word "*Tort*" meaning twisted and being the Norman original of the English family called Twiss. The Bertrands came into England with William the Conqueror bringing with them the name of their Norman village from which they were called Russells. The Russells soon became Dukes of Bedford probably the richest Dukedom in Great Britain. For a while they were only Barons but John the third son of Henry the IVth who appears frequently in Shakespeare's historical plays was made Duke of Bedford and Regent of that portion of France which then belonged to England. He was the commander who captured Joan of Arc and was the principal agent in putting her to death. As the result of the benefactions of the Russell family it is said that the town of Bedford has more public endowments than any place in the Kingdom.

The town itself dates from 54 B. C., when the chief of the inhabitants of the town became the commander of the united forces of Britain in the vain endeavor to oppose Julius Caesar. The name Bedford first appears in 1345 and probably means "The house of prayer near the Ford." It had for many centuries a celebrated Norman castle and the arms of the corporation of the town consist of a castle surmounted by a Roman eagle with outstretched wings. The spirit underlying the name of the town is interestingly associated with the fact that previous to the reformation it was celebrated for the number and the wealth of its religious houses. The town was prominently identified with securing the Magna Charta and with the long contest against Henry the Third in his vain attempt to repeal the provisions of that instrument. The town is best known to the world from its having been the residence of John Bunyan and being the place where he wrote the *Pilgrim's Progress*. The celebrated philanthropist, John Howard, also lived in its environs. It is interesting to remember that the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts, was so called in honor of the Russell family who were prominent among its early settlers.

Farnhams, a village in Cheshire; the name is derived from Fernham, meaning Home of the Ferns; that is, the family originally living where the ferns were abundant.

Taconic, a village in Pittsfield. The name is a simplified Indian name which means forest, and has since passed (as a geologic designation) to the rocks found in the Taconic mountains.

White Oaks, a village in North Williamstown, where that tree was noticeably abundant.

Dewey's, a former name of New Lenox. The Dewey family derived their name from Donay in France, most familiarly known as given to the Roman Catholic English translation of the Bible. The Dewey family are the descendants, on the various sides of

their ancestry from Alexander the Great, Charlemagne, Pepin, Constantine the 1st, Christian Emperor. The Scandinavian heroes Thor and Woden and Frea, the wife of the latter, from whom Thursday, Wednesday and Friday take their names; Hengist the traditional conqueror of England, and the

Capet dynasty who reigned over France so many years. It is interesting to notice that the later English Deweys lived in Berkshire county, England, and were prominent in securing for English speaking people the blessings of liberty as witnessed to in the Magna Charta.

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