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AN

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

AMHERST,

IN THE

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH,

IN

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT  
PERIOD.

.....  
BY JOHN FARMER.  
.....

AMHERST,  
PRINTED BY RICHARD BOYLSTON.

....  
1820.





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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE preservation of historical facts is supposed to confer an obligation on posterity. Though these facts may sometimes appear trivial when first brought to view, yet it is generally true, that they will acquire an importance proportionate to their antiquity. Those which are exhibited in the following Historical Sketch may be less interesting to us, than to posterity, who will best know how to appreciate their value.

It is gratifying to an inquisitive mind, and imparts profitable instruction, to review the conduct and examine the records of those who have passed before us on the theatre of action. It is a subject of delight to recal the "days of other years;"—the days when the goodly heritage we now enjoy began to emerge from an uncultivated state—when the wilderness budded, and at a succeeding period, blossomed as the rose. It is obviously our duty to venerate the memory of those, to whom, under Providence, we are indebted for our civil and religious privileges, and cherish a remembrance for the principles which influenced their conduct. A few observations relating to the earliest European inhabitants of New-England may not be improper. Our fathers were a race of men peculiarly qualified to engage in settling a new country. They were men of courage, enterprize and perseverance. They were a religious people. The cause of religious freedom had a principal agency in their removal from their native country. "They were," says Dr. C. Mather, "a chosen company of men, picked out of, perhaps, all the counties of England." It was the remark of a worthy magistrate of the colony of Massachusetts, that "God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain into this wilderness."

The first planters of the most ancient towns in New-England, were principally good substantial farmers or yeomen in England, or their immediate descendants. They were probably such as are described by Harrison, a writer of the sixteenth century, as follows. "This sort of people," says he, "have a certain pre-eminence, and more estimation than labourers and the common sort of artificers, and with grazing and frequenting of markets, and keeping of servants, do come to great wealth, insomuch that many of them are able, and do buy the lands of unthrifty gentlemen, and often send their sons to the schools, to the Universities, and to the Inns of court; or otherwise leaving them sufficient lands, whereupon they may live without labour, and

do make them by those means to become gentlemen." It is certain that many of those who formed the first settlements were persons of considerable estates.

Our fathers, previous to their leaving England, lived in houses or cottages, "distributed into several rooms above and beneath, and were coated with white lime or cement, and were roofed with reed." Others, of less substance, lived in cottages, consisting generally of two rooms on the ground floor, the outer for the servants, the inner for the master and his family, and these were thatched with straw. When they arrived in this country, and formed settlements in the wilderness, they built their first houses in a rude and inelegant manner, of rough materials, and were seldom more than one story high. And as they had been accustomed in their native country, to use thatch for a covering to the roofs of their houses, they used the same materials for several of the first years after their arrival here. The houses built in the country the first hundred years, and till past the middle of the last century, generally fronted towards the south, without any reference to the course or direction of the road. Hence we see at the present day some old houses facing the south, with the road running behind them; others with the end towards the road; and some with one of the corners.

There was a difference between the circumstances of those who planted our earliest towns, and their posterity, who formed more modern settlements. The Fathers of New-England entered an unknown wilderness, were surrounded with savage tribes, and exposed to their ferocity and the dangers and distresses of famine and disease. They were three thousand miles from their native country, without neighbours, and unable to procure assistance in view of the most serious evils, and were assailed with disease and death. The settlers of plantations at a later period did not experience these evils to the same extent, though their hardships and privations were very great. In case of assault from the Indians, they could seek shelter in the older settlements; when famine approached them, they could receive supplies from their brethren. But still they were surrounded with difficulties, which to surmount, required great hardihood of body and intrepidity of mind. Let us then, ever remember our fathers with veneration and respect.

*Amherst, 24 April, 1820.*

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

AMHERST, in the county of Hillsborough, is situated on both sides of Souhegan river, in latitude  $42^{\circ} 51'$  north. The principal part of territory lies on the northern side. It is nine miles in length from north to south; the greatest breadth is four and a half miles; its least breadth is rather more than two miles. It is bounded on the west by Mont Vernon, on the north by New-Boston, on the east by Bedford and Merrimack, and on the south by Hollis and Milford. The distance of Amherst from Portsmouth is about 53 miles, from Boston, 48 miles; and from Concord, the seat of government of the state, 30 miles.

As this sketch will be confined to the history of the town, the writer will forego any farther geographical description. Amherst has its origin from a grant of the General Court of Massachusetts, to the posterity of those who served in the war with King Philip in 1675. It appears from our historians that this grant did not originate from the most disinterested motives.\* It originated rather from motives of policy than from motives of benevolence.

From Governor Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts, it appears that the General Court of that province, in 1728, deviated from their ordinary prudence in the distribution of territory, and, "on a sudden laid plans for grants of vast tracts of unimproved land." Under the old charter of the province, and the new, till this period, the government had granted lands for the purpose of having settlements formed. But at this time, the disposition of the Court was such, that pretences

\* About 20 years since, [i. e. 1743] and for some following years, the General Assembly of this Province [Massachusetts] were in the humour of dividing and appropriating most of the then reckoned Provincial or unoccupied Lands: that in Case of future Claims by the crown, &c. by possession they might at least retain the Property.

Our General Assembly at this time were in such a Hurry to appropriate the vacant Lands, that several old Townships were encouraged to petition for an additional new Township; and when they were satiated, the Assembly introduced by way of Bounty to the Descendants of the Soldiers in the *Indian War of King Philip*, 1675, and of the Soldiers in *Sir William Phipps' Expedition against Canada*, 1690, grants to each of these expeditions. *Douglars' Summary, Vol. I. Note to page 505.*

were encouraged and even sought after to entitle persons to become grantees. The first, who were selected, were the posterity of all the officers and soldiers who served in the memorable expedition of 1675. Almost forty-eight years had elapsed since that event, and most of the officers and soldiers engaged in it were dead. Of one hundred and twenty persons, to whom this town was assigned, only nineteen, who served in that war, were living in 1733.

In June, 1728, the court granted two townships, each of the contents of six miles square, to the officers and soldiers, (or their lawful representatives) belonging to the province of Massachusetts, who were in the service of their country in the Narraganset war, as a reward for their publick service and in full satisfaction of the grant formerly made them by the court. In June, 1732, in answer to several petitions, an additional grant of five more townships was made, and a committee of five persons\* were appointed to survey and locate them in some of the unappropriated lands of the province. Each township was to contain six miles square. The conditions of the grant of these seven townships were, that the grantees should assemble within two months and regulate each propriety, or township, which was to be held and enjoyed by one hundred and twenty grantees; that they should settle sixty families at least in every township, and a learned orthodox minister, within seven years. The government, which was to be at the expense of locating the townships, reserved in each, one right for the first settled minister, one for the ministry, and one for the school.

As might have been expected, considerable difficulty arose from the number of descendants, who presented their claims for the right of the same ancestor. In order to remedy this evil, the court ordered that where the person was deceased, who had been in the service, the grant should belong to his legal representative in the following manner. 'That the eldest male heir if such there might be, otherwise the eldest female, if they pleased, should hold the land, by paying to the other descendants, or heirs, such proportionable parts of ten pounds, (which was judged to be the value of a right) as such descendants or heirs would be entitled to, provided that said land descended according to a law of the province for the settlement of intestate estates.'

The grant of the additional five townships did not immediately receive the approbation of the governour. The act for granting them passed the house, 30 June, 1732, and

\* John Chandler, Edward Shove, Thomas Tilestone, John Hobson and Samuel Chandler.



did not receive his signature till the twenty-sixth April, the year following. But the grantees were incessant in renewing their applications; they even went so far as to appoint a person\* to use his interest with the governour to induce him "to sign the grant." How far the influence of this person might have operated, it is not necessary to determine.

After a great number of meetings and adjournments of the committee of the Narraganset grantees, the grantees themselves assembled at Boston, on the common, and formed into seven distinct societies, each society consisting of one hundred and twenty persons, and entitled to one township. Three persons from each society were chosen a committee, who met at Luke Verdey's in Boston, on the 17 October, 1733, and assigned the seven townships as follows. Narraganset No. I, situated "back of Saco and Scarborough," now called Buxton, was assigned to Philemon Dane and company; No. II, at Wachuset, now called Westminster, to James Lowden; No. III, at Souhegan-West, now Amherst, to Richard Mower; No. IV, at Amuskeag, to Edward Shove; No. V, at Souhegan-East, to Col. Thomas Tileston; No. VI, in the county of Worcester, and now called Templeton, to Samuel Chandler; and No. VII, in Maine, to Col. Shubael Gorham.

This town which was called Narraganset No. III, was assigned to 29 persons belonging to Salem, 7 to Marblehead, 27 to Lynn, 5 to Gloucester, 9 to Andover, 14 to Topsfield, 14 to Beverly, 4 to Wenham, 4 to Boxford, 1 to Scarborough, 2 to Reading, 1 to York, 2 to Falmouth, and 1 to Chatham.

1734. The first meeting of the grantees of No. III, or Souhegan-West, as it was generally called, was holden at Salem Village, now Danvers, on the 17 July, this year, when a committee† was appointed to "take a particular view of the circumstances of the township," who were "to have power to employ a surveyor and such pilots as might be necessary." A committee‡ was also appointed to subdivide the township. On the 2 September, the society met to receive the report of their committee, who, having been disappointed in the choice of a surveyor, made no report. They however declared verbally, "that they had been on the land and found it well timbered." The proprietors at this time voted that the township should be "subdivided as soon as may be"—that the committee appointed for that purpose should lay out to each proprietor for the first or home lot, sixty acres, and what was wanting in quality to be made up in quantity.

\* Mr. Samuel Welles.

† Capt. Benjamin Potter, Capt. Richard Mower, and Mr. Daniel Kenney.

‡ The above gentlemen with Messrs. Cornelius Tarbell, Ebenezer Raymond, Jeremiah Gatchel, John Bixby and Thomas Tarbox.

About this time the first settlement was commenced by Samuel Walton and Samuel Lampson, who were the earliest inhabitants. They were from the county of Essex. Walton died in this town, but none of his posterity remain here. Lampson removed to Billerica about five years after this town was incorporated, and died there.\* His children remained in town, and his posterity still remain in Mont-Vernon. His son Jonathan Lampson died there in 1815, at the age of 90. Lampson and Walton first seated themselves about a mile from the present compact part of the town, on the Boston road, and here, it is said, was erected the first house in town. It was built of logs and stood where the tavern now stands. They afterwards took up other lots in different parts of the town, leaving their first habitations. Other settlers from Middleton in Essex, and the adjacent towns, arrived within a few years, and commenced settlements in different parts of the town.†

1735. On the 8 January, the proprietors granted to Richard Mower, liberty to draw lot No. 21, upon the conditions that he should, within eighteen months, build a convenient house of entertainment, fence in a pasture of six or eight acres, and provide a sufficient ferry boat to transport any of the proprietors over Souhegan river. On the first of May, a committee was appointed to take a view of the township, and locate a spot for a meeting house, burial ground and training field. A tract of land containing thirteen acres and one hundred and forty rods was designated for these purposes. Measures were taken this year to build a bridge over Souhegan river. It was also voted that a convenient meeting house be built on that piece or plat of ground laid out for that purpose.

In 1736, a person was appointed to wait on the selectmen of Dunstable, and request them to lay out a highway from Nashua river to Souhegan bridge.

1738. Fourteenth February, the proprietors voted to build a meeting house, 45 feet long and 35 feet wide. It appears to have been raised 16 May, 1739, when Capt. Ebenezer Raymond was desired to make provision for the occasion. It stood upon an eminence about one fourth of a mile from the present meeting house, near the house formerly

\* In order to ascertain the time of Mr. Lampson's death, the writer addressed a line to the Rev. Dr. Cumings, who says, he was admitted a member of the church in Billerica, on a letter of dismission and recommendation of the church in Amherst, May 30, 1765. The Doctor further adds, "I have a perfect recollection of him, but can give no account of his decease, which must have been prior to July, 1784, when my private records of mortality commenced." *MS. letter of Rev. Dr. Cumings, 1819.*

† For some notices of several of the early settlers, see Appendix No. I.



occupied by Major Turner Crooker. After the present house of worship was built, it was converted into a court house, and was finally burnt by an incendiary in 1790.

1739. A grant of sixty acres of land, adjoining the falls of Souhegan river, was made to Solomon Wilkins upon these conditions:—"That he should build a good grist-mill and keep it in repair, and at all times supply the inhabitants of Souhegan-West with meal when they should bring corn to be ground, for the customary and lawful toll." If any extraordinary casualty should happen, and he neglect to grind for the space of eight months, the privileges granted were to revert to the proprietors. These conditions do not appear to have been fulfilled by him, for a grant with similar conditions was made 30 April, 1741, to John Shepard, afterwards Colonel. Instead of sixty, there were granted to him one hundred and twenty acres, which extended down the river to the bottom of the falls.

1741. This year the proprietors settled the Rev. Daniel Wilkins. The plantation at this time contained but fourteen families. It seems to have been a primary object in the grants of townships in New England, that the gospel ministry should be established. Indeed in the grant of some towns in the early settlement, this seems to have been the principal condition. In the grant of all the Narraganset townships, it was stipulated that the proprietors should settle a learned orthodox minister within the space of seven years. The proprietors of this town at an early period of the settlement, manifested a disposition to have the inhabitants enjoy the ordinances of God. In December, 1738, they voted that the inhabitants should receive £.20 from the treasury, "toward their having the word of God preached among them for the ensuing six months." They afterwards voted that the settlers should have fifty shillings for every Sabbath they should have preaching among them.

As an inducement for persons to become inhabitants of this place, the proprietors voted that each settler should receive twenty pounds, provided he had complied with the conditions required by the grant of the general court.

Sixty families were required to be settled here before the expiration of seven years, but it may be supposed that the time was extended to a longer period; for in 1747, the proprietors chose a committee to adopt measures, which "should oblige sixty families (with those already settled here) to settle immediately, or procure some to settle here for them."

1753. A bridge over Souhegan river near Milford mills was erected about this time. Several publick roads were laid out this year;—one from Salem-Canada, now Lyndeborough, to Milford bridge, and another from the bridge to the meeting-house. The road from Lovejoy's bridge, from Small's and Sawyer's were laid out about the same time.

Near this period, there were seven garrisoned houses, which afforded places of security to the inhabitants in times of alarm and danger. Besides these, there was, according to Douglass, a fort or block house which was maintained at the publick expense. The Indians at this time, made frequent irruptions on the frontiers, destroying the fruits of industry and captivating the settlers. Though Amherst was for some time one of the frontier towns, and exposed to their incursions, yet it is not recollected that they ever committed much mischief in this place; nor is there recorded any account of their killing any person within the precincts of the town. It is believed, there were few or no Indians in town at the arrival of the first settlers. There had been a considerable number, and some of their *wigwams* were then visible. They had dwelt principally upon the river; and human bones, supposed to be those of Indians, have been washed from its banks within the recollection of the present inhabitants. The name of the river is derived from the Indians, and signifies, it has been said, *crooked*. Like many other Indian names, it has changed its orthography, but retains the pronunciation familiar to our earliest inhabitants. Its most ancient name was *Souhegenack*. It was explored before the year 1683, and some grants of land, situated on its banks, were made by the government of Massachusetts prior to that time. At a subsequent period, the vicinity of this river was examined in search of metallick ores and minerals. Mr. Baden, an ingenious miner and assayer, was sent over to New-England by a company of gentleman in England for this purpose. Lead ore was found near this river, and the Merrimack, "but not plenty, and so intermixed with rock and spar, as not worth working."

1760. This year, the town received a charter signed by Benning Wentworth, governour of the province, which is dated the eighteenth of January. It now exchanged the name of Souhegan-West for AMHERST, which was given to it in honour of Jeffery, Lord Amherst, commander in chief of the British army at the conquest of Canada, in 1760. This distinguished nobleman, who sustained many important offices in England, died at his seat in Kent, 3 August, 1797, aged 80.

The first meeting under the charter was holden on the 20th February. Colonel John Goffe, who was authorized to call the first meeting of the inhabitants, presided as moderator. Solomon Hutchinson\* was chosen town clerk. William Bradford, Reuben Mussey, Joseph Gould, Thomas Clark, and the town clerk, were chosen the first selectmen. Soon after the town was chartered, the inhabitants at a publick meeting, chose Rev. Mr. Wilkins for their minister, and voted him an annual salary of forty-seven pounds, ten shillings, sterling money of Great-Britain, or an equivalent in the currency of the province, upon the standard of Indian corn at two shilings per bushel, and pork two pence half penny per pound, sterling. A committee was chosen to present to Mr. Wilkins the votes of the town on this occasion, to whom he made a written reply at the same meeting, containing his acceptance of their offer.

The whole of Amherst at this time lay upon the northern side of Souhegan river. Its boundaries commenced at the river, "thence running north one degree west, on the townships of Merrimack and Bedford, six miles; thence running west on Bedford and a tract of land called New-Boston, six miles; then south about five miles and an half to Souhegan aforesaid; then by said river to the place where it began.†"

The year 1761 was distinguished by a very severe drought, which operated severely on the frontier towns. The crops were cut short so as to render supplies from abroad absolutely necessary.‡

1763. The last meeting of the proprietors on record was holden 14 March, 1763. The proprietor's clerk, Major Joshua Hicks of Salem, had deceased, and the records

\* Mr. Hutchinson lived on the spot where the house of the Hon. J. K. Smith stands. His dwelling house was burnt in March, 1761. He removed from town in — and afterwards went to the state of Maine, where he died a few years since, aged about 90 years.

† A portion of the present territory of Amherst was comprehended in the deed, obtained 17 May, 1629, by Rev. John Wheelwright and others, from Passaconaway, Sagamore of Penacook, Runaawit of Pantucket, Wahangnowawit of Swamscot and Rowls of Newichwannock. Thus, it seems, the right to a considerable part of the soil of this town was obtained from the original proprietors, which was "more valuable in a moral view, than the grants of any European prince could convey." Mason's grant from the Council of Plymouth included the whole of Wheelwright's purchase.

‡ The following instance of its effects is given on the authority of a gentleman of respectability resident in town.

A man belonging to this town of the name of Clark, having a family dependant on him for subsistence, went on foot to Charlestown Ferry, and procured from a vessel a bushel of Corn, which he brought on his back to Lovewell's mills in Dunstable, where he had it ground into meal, and from thence in the same manner brought it home.

and papers of the propriety were in possession of his executors. It appears that they could not be obtained without commencing a suit against them. A committee was accordingly chosen to commence an action against his executors for the recovery of the records, plans, &c. The favourable termination of this suit, placed in the hands of the committee the records and a few of the plans, but a number of valuable papers were never obtained. The propriety was not dissolved till about the year 1771, when the fourth division of lots was laid out by a committee appointed by the proprietors.

1770. The charter, annexing a part of Monson to Amherst, was read and published at a publick town-meeting, 13 September, 1770. Monson was a small town granted by Massachusetts prior to 1748, situated between Hollis and Amherst. The inhabitants made application to be annexed to Amherst, a few years after the latter was incorporated. At first the inhabitants of Amherst were averse to the annexation, but at a meeting, 10 April, 1766, they voted that a part within certain described limits might be annexed, provided Monson would be at the expense. Accordingly this year, a charter was granted to annex to Amherst that part of Monson included in these limits: "From Souhegan river, southerly by the town of Merrimack, two miles; from thence west to the west line of Monson, from thence northerly to the river, and from this point down the river to the first place mentioned."

1771. In 1771, the province of New-Hampshire was divided into counties. This event more than any other that preceded it, contributed to the popularity of this town. Being selected as the shire town, having the principal offices of the county kept here,\* and six courts during the year, it acquired a degree of importance which it had before unknown. Here was the first publick administration of justice in the county. Before this time every cause, even from the remotest part of the province, was carried to Portsmouth, where the publick offices were filled principally by the friends of the governour. "Frequent complaints were made of partialty, and the practice of *watering the jury* was familiarly known to those persons who had much business in the law." The first courts were holden at the dwelling house of Mr. Jonathan Smith. But in December, the inhabitants voted to give the Justices of the courts of general sessions of the peace for the county, the old meeting house, on the condition that the said Justices should cause a new county gaol to be erected, within 160 rods of the house as it then stood.

\* The office of Register of Deeds was kept a few years at Hollis, but upon the resignation of Major Hobart, it was removed to this town. Moses Nichols succeeded Samuel Hobart, Esq. in 1776. Jonathan Smith and Isaac Brooks, Esquires, have been the successors of General Nichols.



1775. The number of inhabitants according to an enumeration made in 1775, amounted to 1428. The present meeting house was erected in 1771, and consecrated to Divine worship in 1774. Rev. Mr. Wilkins delivered a dedication sermon in which he noticed the early transactions of the town. This sermon which doubtless would have afforded some important information for this sketch, is supposed to be irrecoverably lost.

This year, Amherst was deprived of the active professional services of a very useful citizen in the removal of Dr. Seth Ames, who had resided in this place several years and practised physick with great reputation. He was brother to the celebrated Fisher Ames, and possessed a spark of that genius which shone with such distinguished lustre in that pre-eminent statesman. He graduated at Harvard College in 1764, in the same class with a son of Rev. Mr. Wilkins of this town, and is represented by those who recollect him as a person of brilliant talents and calculated to render important services to the community. His removal from town was occasioned by a declension of his health. He went to his friends in Dedham, where he died in 1776.

The year 1775 is distinguished for the commencement of hostilities between this country and Great Britain. The government at this time consisted of committees and conventions, to which necessity induced obedience. The first convention after affairs had assumed a threatening aspect, met at Exeter in 1774. Paul Dudley Sargent represented this town in that convention. In the same year, Benjamin Kendrick, Daniel Campbell, and Paul D. Sargent were chosen delegates for this town to another convention. They were directed and instructed, "to use their endeavours to secure peace and good order in the town, and use their utmost efforts to diffuse peace and good order throughout the community, and excite in the minds of the people a due respect to all just measures that might be recommended by the grand Congress of Philadelphia." These gentlemen were re-chosen in March, 1775 for the same purposes. In the revolutionary war, this town had a large number of citizens, who united in opposing the oppressive measures of Great Britain. The inhabitants not only opposed their restrictive measures, but they treated those with rigour who did not. Such was the temperament of the publick mind in this vicinity, that those, and the number was but small, who were suspected of favouring the royal cause, were treated with a severity, which might be considered reprehensible, where freedom of opinion was tolerated. Heresy in political opinion generated popular excesses, to which no

effectual remedy could be administered.\* The inhabitants of the town were ardent in the cause of liberty. They manifested their ardour and patriotism by a ready compliance with the requisitions of the Continental Congress, and the orders of the provincial conventions. When war actually commenced by the attack of the British troops,† on the inhabitants of Lexington, this town furnished a company of soldiers, under the command of Capt. Josiah Crosby, who marched to the scene of action on the 20 April. Amherst furnished its full proportion of men for the military service of the United States. It appears from an authentick document, that prior to the first of April, 1777, one hundred and twenty persons were engaged, among whom were two Colonels, one Major, five Captains, and nine subaltern officers.

That event which is annually celebrated in our country as the birth day of the nation, was proclaimed by Moses Kelley, Esq. sheriff of the county, with "beat of drum," on the 18 July, 1776, from the rock near the meeting-house.

It seems unnecessary to record the proceedings of the town in reference to the various events of the revolutionary war. A proportion of the difficulties and hardships of it was endured by the officers and soldiers, who engaged in it. Between twenty and thirty men belonging to this town, most in the prime and vigour of life, were lost by disease, or by being killed in battle.‡ Three of these were valuable officers, who

\* Several persons disaffected to the cause of liberty were confined at the prison in this town. They made their escape. One of the Committee of Safety, who had been very zealous against the *disaffected*, seemed to apprehend evil consequences from their escape. Some one in order to ridicule his fears wrote a kind of pasquinade, from which the two concluding verses are here added.

"Pull off for blood and raise the town,  
Be careful to waylay the ground,  
Before they you pass by;  
Watch every hollow, plain, and ridge,  
And set a guard at every bridge,  
And catch them nappingly.

"For all the people know it round,  
That I'm COMMITTEE for our town,  
And if these men be lost,  
I'll venture fifty pounds to one,  
That if the Congress hear they're gone,  
That I shall lose my POST."

† An attempt has been made to collect the names of the soldiers from what was then called Amherst, including a part of Milford and Mount Vernon, and the result is here added.—James Hutchinson, at Bunker Hill; John Cole, do.; — Dike,\* at Still Water; Ebenezer Wincoll Wright, at Winter Hill; Asa Lewis,\* at Bennington; Jeremy Lampson, do.; Nurse Sawyer, do.; William Henry Wilkins, at Valley Forge; Richard Goodman, do.; Aaron Upton, died at Worcester; — Wilkins, Canada; David Ramsay died at home; Joseph Davis in the Genessee country; James Clark at Mount Independence; Levi Woodbury died a prisoner in England; William Tuck; Robert Cochran; Jonathan Cochran; and one killed in Monmouth battle. Those with a star were killed.



died in the service of their country ; viz. Capt. Benjamin Taylor, at Winter Hill ; Capt. Daniel Wilkins, son of the minister, at Isle Aux Noix, on Lake Champlain in Canada, and Lieut. Joseph Bradford, at Winter Hill.

Besides the loss of so many lives, the expense of the revolution to this town, from the 19 April, 1775, till the treaty of peace in 1783, is stated in the town records to be £.3511 lawful money, in addition to any bounties, travel, or wages, given or promised by the State, or the United States.\*

1790. The Aurean Academy in this town was incorporated this year. Charles Walker, A. M. was the first preceptor. His successors were Daniel Staniford, A. M. ; Henry Moore, A. M. ; the late Jesse Appleton, D.D. President of Bowdoin College ; Thomas Cole, A. M. and several others.† Asevidence of the flourishing state of this seminary, the following account of a visitation of it by the president and trustees on the 17 March, 1795, is given. " On Tuesday last, the president and trustees of the Aurean Academy, attended an examination of the students of said institution, and were happy to announce their pleasure and satisfaction at the progress and manly conduct of the students. The propriety and promptitude of their answers to the many questions proposed to them in arithmetick, English grammar, geography, &c. would have done honour to the finished scholar. The execution of their manuscripts, their elocution, and recitations in the languages were equal to their most sanguine expectations." It discontinued in 1801, for want of adequate funds.

On the 23 May, died the Honourable Moses Nichols of this town. He had served his townsmen in the capacity of delegate to the Convention, which assembled in 1778, for forming a permanent plan or system of government on certain established principles, and a representative to the General Court, two years, Ardently attached to the principles of liberty, he took a conspicuous part in the revolution which established our independence. He commanded a regiment under General Stark, and was in the engagement at Bennington. Besides his military services, he was useful as a physician in this place, where he practised many years. He was Register of Deeds for the county of Hillsborough, from 1776 to his death. This office, with many others of trust and responsibility, it is believed, he discharged with fidelity.

The number of inhabitants, according to the census taken this year, was 2369.

1792. The number of voters in the first parish this year was 227 ; in the north west parish, 109 ; total 336.

\* See Appendix No. II.

† The names of the Preceptors will be found in the Appendix.

1794. The General Court held their summer session in this town. Governor Gilman for the first time came to the office of Chief Magistrate.

The south west parish of Amherst, having petitioned the last year, to be detached as a separate town, obtained their request, and was incorporated 11 January, this year, by the name of MILFORD. The town was formed by taking the Mile Slip, the Duxbury school farm, part of Hollis, and part of Amherst. About eighty families were taken from this town.

1795. The first printing establishment in the county, was set up in this town by Nathaniel Coverly about this time. On the 16 January, he commenced the publication of a newspaper, called the AMHERST JOURNAL AND NEW-HAMPSHIRE ADVERTISER, which was continued by him and his son till the close of the year. It was succeeded on the 6 January, 1796, by the VILLAGE MESSENGER, edited by William Biglow, a graduate of Harvard College, and by Samuel Cushing. Mr. Biglow, who is known as author of several elementary works for schools, continued his editorial labors but a short time. Mr. Cushing continued to publish it till 18 April, 1797, when Samuel Preston succeeded, who closed the publication of this paper, 5 December, 1801, completing 310 numbers from its establishment.

THE FARMER'S CABINET succeeded the Messenger, 11 November, 1802. It was edited and printed by Mr. Joseph Cushing, till October, 1809, when Mr. Richard Boylston, the present editor, succeeded to the establishment. A paper, called the HILLSBORO' TELEGRAPH, was commenced the present year, by Mr. Elijah Mansur.

1797. The Benevolent Lodge of free and accepted Masons was constituted on the 10 August. Hon. Samuel Dana was installed Master, Jonathan Goye, Esq. Senior Warden, and Capt. Luther Dana, Junior Warden. The Deputy Grand Master of New-Hampshire, and other officers of the Grand Lodge, attended on the occasion, and were met by the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, all in their regalia. The discourse was delivered by the late Rev. Dr. Bentley of Salem.

1798. The Honourable Samuel Dana, who had resided in this town about sixteen years, departed this life in April, at the age of 58. Of one, who filled so many important stations in society, it seems proper to give some memorial of respect. He was a native of that part of Cambridge, now called Brighton, where he was born 14 January, 1739. He was educated at Harvard College in the same class with President Adams, and several other distinguished characters. He graduated in 1755, and was ordained the minister of Grotton in Massachusetts, on the 3 of June 1761. Here he con-

tinued till 1775, when, on account of "some supposed political heresy respecting our contest with Great-Britain," his pastoral connexions were dissolved. "From this time, for some years, he was without any settled professional employment, or steady pursuit. But his talents were too well calculated for usefulness in life to suffer him long to continue in obscurity. In 1783, he was admitted and sworn as a practising attorney in the courts of law. His eminence, his integrity, and his attachment to the interest of his employers in this profession, are so fully known to this audience, as to render encomium superfluous. It is sufficient to say, that such was the general satisfaction with his services, that he continued in full practice till the time of his decease. In 1790, he was appointed by the Supreme Executive of this State to the office of Judge of Probate for the county of Hillsborough. The important duties of that appointment he discharged with fidelity. Finding however that it interfered with his principal pursuit, and that the emolument bore no proportion to the toil, he relinquished the office in a few years. In 1793, he was called by the suffrages of his fellow-citizens to the dignity of Senator in the State Legislature. In that character, he took an active part in support of the law for abolishing the Courts of Sessions: a law which brought about an important and salutary revolution in the judicial system of this government. Many other offices of less note, some of which however were important, he discharged with reputation to himself and advantage to the community.

In domestic life, he was no less distinguished for his virtues. Serenity of mind, conjugal tenderness and parental affection were eminent traits in his character.\*

On the 15 August, a rendezvous for the enlistment of soldiers, agreeably to the act of Congress, was opened in this place, being the first here under the federal government. The company formed about this time belonged to the 16th U. S. Regiment, of which Rufus Graves, Esq. was Colonel.

1802. In 1802, the town sustained a loss in the death of the Hon. William Gordon, who died at Boston, 8 May, at the age of 39. At an early age he entered Harvard College, and received its honors in 1779. He engaged in a learned and arduous profession, in which his talents and integrity soon procured him an ample portion of business and fame. He had been a Senator in the State Legislature, a Representative to Congress, and at the time of his death, was Attorney-General of the State of New-Hampshire. His character is thus delineated in the publick papers. "His mind was not less adorned with learning than his heart with every manly virtue. His friendship was sincere—his benevolence active.

\* Hon. Timothy Bigelow's Oration at his interment, April, 1798.

Integrity, constancy and truth marked his character. An independence of spirit, a purity of morals, and correctness of thought, raised him above the prejudices of party, the meanness of avarice, and the frowns and flatteries of the world.\*

The north west part of the town, having been a separate parish more than twenty years, about this time, requested to be set off as a separate town. It was accordingly incorporated by the legislature, on the 15 Dec. 1803, by the name of MONT VERNON.

1805. The Handellian Musical Society was incorporated in June, this year, for the purpose of introducing a more judicious taste for sacred musick. Its professed objects are, to cultivate the art of musick—to acquire and diffuse a correct taste—and to enjoy the refined pleasures of melody and harmony. For sometime previous to the formation of this society, insipidity and bombast were permitted to prevail in our churches, and the most delightful part of divine worship became polluted with unhallowed strains. To the members of this society, which have belonged to this, and the adjoining towns, great credit is due for their exertions in checking a false and depraved taste, and in effecting a desirable reformation in church musick.

1806. The Hillsborough Bank was incorporated 18 June, for twenty years, with the privilege of a capital from 50,000 to 200,000 dollars. The first bills were issued 17 October. Its operation was suspended in 1809. Payment of bills was suspended in August.

1807. The only literary Society which has ever existed in town, was formed this year, for the purpose of advancing literary improvement, but like other institutions of a similar kind, formed under similar circumstances, it has passed away and left few traces behind. It was however of sufficient consequence and importance as to deserve some notice in this sketch. It consisted of an association of literary gentlemen, who met every second Wednesday, when discussion of literary subjects, declamation, and original composition constituted the regular exercises. The neighbouring clergy, most of whom were honorary members, frequently attended and took part in the exercises. A library of well selected books, consisting of 240 volumes, augmented by a quarterly assessment on the members, belonged to the society; but this valuable stock of literature was sold at public auction in May, 1818. The whole number of members since the organization to the dissolution of the Society, was about sixty, of whom more than one half were liberally educated.†

\* Portsmouth Oracle, Vol. XII. No. 33.

† The following gentlemen successively presided over the Society. Charles M. Adlerton, A. M.; Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford, A. B.; Rev. Jeremiah Barnard, A. M. and Samuel Curtis, A. M.



1810. The number of inhabitants, according to the census taken this year was 1554. Of the males, 228 were under 10 years ; 131 from ten to sixteen ; 148 from sixteen to twenty-six ; 130 from twenty-six to forty-five, and 123 of forty-five and upwards. Of the females, 214 were under 10 ; 122 from 10 to 16 ; 153 from 16 to 26 ; 145 from 26 to 45 ; and 150 of 45 and upwards.

Having noticed the principal events of a civil nature, in the order in which they transpired, the writer will conclude this section of the history of the town with a few general remarks. Harmony and social intercourse prevail, undisturbed by political or religious feuds. Those disturbances which create distrust and jealousy among members of the same society, and which poison the source of domestic comfort, have seldom or never been known here. The inhabitants of this place have ever regarded our civil and religious institutions. It is a fact worthy of notice, that the church and congregation have never been destitute of a minister, during a period of almost seventy-nine years, which will carry us back within seven years of the first settlement. A love of social order has also prevailed.

The learned professions\* have been, and are still filled, by several gentlemen of eminence, who have received an honourable support for their services. Many persons of a liberal education have resided here. More than fifty might be enumerated who have had either a permanent or temporary residence in this town. Fourteen of its inhabitants† have graduated at Harvard, Dartmouth, and Bowdoin Colleges. Four members from this State to Congress were resident in Amherst. It has also furnished six Senators‡ in the State Legislature, three Counsellors,§ one Judge of the Superiour Court, two Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, and several gentlemen to fill other important and respectable stations. The offices kept in this town, are Clerk of the Superiour Court, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Register of Deeds, Register of Probate, and County Treasurer.

\* The *Pastors of the Church* are, Rev. Jeremiah Barnard, and Rev. Nathan Lord, colleague.

*Attornies at Law.* Hon. Charles H. Atherton, Hon. Clifton Clagett, Hon. Jedidiah K. Smith, Edmund Parker, Nathaniel Shattuck and Robert Means, jr. Esquires.

*Practitioner of Medicine.* Matthias Spalding, M. D.

† See Appendix, No. VII.

‡ Hon. Robert Means, 1786, 1789 ; Samuel Dana, — ; Joshua Atherton, 1793 ; William Gordon, 1794 ; Jedidiah K. Smith, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1809 ; and William Fisk in 1810, 1811, 1812 and 1813.

§ Hon. Robert Means, 1786 ; Moses Nichols, — ; and J. K. Smith in 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1813.

# HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

IN

## AMHERST.

THE Church in Amherst was imbodyed on the 22 September, 1741. The persons who laid the foundation of it were, Daniel Wilkins, the pastor elect, Samuel Leman, Israel Towne, Samuel Lampson, Caleb Stiles, and Humphrey Hobbs, The covenant, constituting these persons as the first Church in Amherst, is expressed as follows :

“ We do this day solemnly and explicitly enter into covenant with God, and with one another, in the following manner. In the first place,

We give up ourselves to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, as the only living and true God, and unto Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, Prophet, Priest, and King, avouching the Lord to be our God, and by the assistance of his Holy Spirit, to cleave unto this one God and Mediator, as persons in solemn covenant with Him.

2. We also promise to give up our natural offspring unto the Lord, solemnly binding ourselves to walk together in the ways of God's worship, and to cleave to his ordinances according to the rules of his word.

3. We promise to live in the mortification of our own sin, and to endeavour the mortification of it in others, so far as the rules require, and to submit ourselves to the government of Christ in his church, and to obey the orders thereof.

4. We promise to train up all, under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

5. We promise to walk before God in our houses, and maintain the worship of God therein.

6. We promise to study to maintain the peace and purity of the worship of God, with us, that the blessing of God may be vouchsafed to this part of his heritage.”

On the 23 September, 1741, Rev. Daniel Wilkins was ordained to the pastoral care of the church. The ecclesiastical council who officiated on the occasion consisted of nineteen ministers and delegates. Rev. Nathaniel Henchman of Lynn was moderator of the council. The other clergymen were Rev. Andrew Peters of Middleton, Rev. James Osgood of Wenham, Rev. Stephen Chase of Lynn, by whom the Ser-



mon was delivered, and Rev. James Swan of Dunstable. Six females were admitted to church membership immediately after the ordination. The rite of baptism was administered, in September, the next year, to Deborah, daughter of William and Sarah Lancy, which is the first baptism on record. The sacrament was generally administered five times during the year.

Rev. Mr. Wilkins was from Middleton in Massachusetts. He received his education at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1736. He was considered a man of respectable talents, and contributed greatly to the prosperity of the town. Though the clergy in his day did not possess the influence which the early ministers of New-England did, yet they were looked upon with great reverence and respect. "In the early periods of the church, there subsisted a close connexion between the civil and ecclesiastical orders of the state. Various causes operated, at times to diminish the influence of the Christian minister. As new settlements were made, parishes were multiplied. The means of subsistence and of knowledge to the pastors of these little flocks were necessarily narrow; and they not unfrequently complained that they prophesied in sackcloth. Want of knowledge and of wealth was consequently want of power. Yet with all their poverty and the disadvantages of their situation, they possessed their full share of talents and virtue, and were therefore not to be contemned nor neglected. They remembered the views, which planted New-England; and, if they had not the learning, they were still animated with the spirit of their profession. Though the civilians of that day acknowledged and revered their piety, yet they provided with a jealous eye against the increase of hierarchal rule. So that the churches notwithstanding their professions and boast of independency, were actually under a kind of political control; and on the contrary, through the influence of the clergy, magistrates, who were annually elected, were occasionally displaced when they were thought to have infringed against the rights of the church."

For a number of years after the settlement of Mr. Wilkins, the inhabitants of this place experienced the *day of small things*. They were unable to contribute to his support in a manner suited to his clerical character. On this account, he was sometimes pressed into services incompatible with his sacred profession. He assisted in subduing the wilderness, while he administered to the spiritual wants of his parishioners. The labours of agriculture he was sometimes necessitated to perform.

In his theological investigations he had the assistance of a respectable library. The works of Owen, Hammond, and other distinguished divines of the seventeenth century made a part of it.

He had ten children, to one of whom he gave a liberal education. Three of his grandsons have received the honours of Harvard and Dartmouth Colleges, two of whom are attorneys at law ; the other a student of divinity at the college where he graduated.

Rev. Mr. Wilkins died 11 February, 1784, in the 73d year of his age. Forty one years had elapsed from his settlement, but he had been unable for several years to discharge the duties of his ministry in consequence of his infirmities. In 1778, the church and town invited Mr. John Blydenburgh to settle as a colleague with him in the ministry. The subject of a settlement was referred to a committee, who reported very liberal proposals,\* considering the situation of the town, but they appear not to have been accepted. After extending a similar unsuccessful invitation to Rev. Edmund Foster, now of Littleton, Massachusetts, the Church and town in 1779, gave a call to Rev. Jeremiah Barnard from Bolton.† From this period, a portion of the history of the town, will be blended with the history of the church.

There were certain circumstances, which at this time, operated unfavorably towards the settlement of any person as a colleague with Mr. Wilkins. The principal one, was the opposition of two distinct sections of the town, which were desirous of becoming separate parishes. They had remonstrated against the settlement of Mr. Blydenburgh, and they had now gathered fresh opposition. Though a respectable majority of the town was in favour of the settlement of Mr. Barnard, yet there was a considerable number in the north west part of the town who entered their protest. The inhabitants of that section of the town had conditioned to pay their full proportion toward the support of Rev. Mr. Wilkins, and of every charge with the town, until they should provide themselves with preaching, if they might but be permitted to enjoy the privileges of a parish. But the town would listen to no proposals of separation. Accordingly, thirty two persons protested against the settlement of Mr. Barnard. A considerable part of them had protested against the settlement of Mr. Blydenburgh, and they now declared, that they should object against the settlement "of any other minister, while they remained in conjunction with this town, and their request not granted."

\* The town voted £.200 for a settlement, allowing it to be made equal to corn at 3s4 per bushel, and fresh pork at 4d per pound ; and an annual salary of £.100.

† The town voted to give Mr. Barnard £.120 lawful money as a settlement, and an annual salary of £.80 till the expiration of two years after the war with Great Britain should cease, when it should be augmented to £.90.

The first of March was fixed upon for the day of Rev. Mr. Barnard's ordination, but for the reasons just stated, he was not ordained till Friday, the third day of March, when the following order of exercises took place. Rev. Jacob Bigelow of Sudbury made the introductory prayer; Rev. Zabdiel Adams of Lunenburg preached from Matthew 10:16; Rev. Ebenezer Bridge of Chelmsford gave the charge; Rev. Daniel Emerson of Hollis expressed the fellowship of the churches; and Rev. Josiah Bridge of East-Sudbury made the concluding prayer.

From the ordination of Rev. Mr. Barnard to the year 1816, the records of the church do not present any very remarkable transaction. During this period two churches were formed; one in the north west part of the town, over which was ordained Rev. John Bruce\* from Marlborough, Massachusetts; the other in the south west part of the town, which did not receive a minister till after this portion of the town was incorporated by the name of Milford.

In 1815, efforts were made towards settling a colleague with Rev. Mr. Barnard, whose parochial duties had for some considerable time been very arduous, and which, during the sickness of 1814, had evidently impaired his health. Perceiving the importance of adopting measures which might lessen the labours of him who had so long laboured among them in the ministry, and considering the difficulties which might arise from delaying the subject, the inhabitants, at a publick town meeting, chose a committee,† 18 September, 1815, "to consult with Rev. Mr. Barnard, and ascertain upon what terms he would consent to have a colleague settle with him in the ministry." On the 30 October, Mr. Barnard made a communication on the subject, through the committee to the town, from which the following is extracted. "Gentlemen of the committee, I thank the town for their politeness in consulting me upon a subject of so much consequence to their peace and happiness, and by a committee so respectable, of whose friendship to me and regard to the best interests of the town I entertain no doubt." After stating the extent and arduousness of his labours for the two preceding years, and the "unusual efforts" made to accomplish them, with a view that in his present debilitated state, that "that correctness, precision, and flow of good argument, so beautiful in composition, and that energy and

\* REV. JOHN BRUCE, was ordained 3 November, 1785; died 11 March, 1809, aged 52. A sketch of his life and character, written by a Parishioner, [Dr. Rogers Smith] is annexed to two Discourses of Rev. Stephen Chapin, his successor in the ministry, published in 1809.

† Hon. Charles H. Atherton, Hon William Fisk, Hon. Clifton Clagett, Hon. Robert Means, and Dr. Matthias Spalding.

pathos so pleasing in delivery, always gratifying to an attentive hearer, which might be expected from a man in the prime and meridian of life" could no longer be expected in his "wintry age," he proceeds: "From these considerations, gentlemen, and a desire that my people may be better furnished with the means of Christian edification and instruction, I am willing, yea it will afford me a peculiar favour, should it be a gratification to them, to relinquish to the town, the one half of my present salary, whenever they shall have settled another man with me, to take the burden and responsibility of the ministry off of my hands."

This generous proposal was accepted, and a committee was appointed to procure a candidate to supply the desk the ensuing four Sabbaths. Mr. Nathan Lord of South Berwick, in Maine, was procured, and preached his first sermon to this people, on the 24 December. On the 13 January, 1816, the church voted unanimously, to invite Mr. Lord to settle in the work of the ministry with them, and take the watch and oversight of the Church, and the congregation, as colleague with Rev. Jeremiah Barnard. On 19 January, the town voted to concur with the church in giving Mr. Lord an invitation to settle over the church and congregation. They at the same time voted an annual salary of \$700, and an addition of \$100 more, when he should remain alone in the ministry. Mr. Lord accepted their invitation, and was ordained 22 May, when an ecclesiastical council was formed by ministers and delegates from seven churches. On this occasion, the introductory prayer was made by Rev. Thomas Beede of Wilton; sermon by Rev. Asa M'Farland, D. D. from Mark xiii. 4; consecrating prayer by Rev. David M'Gregore of Bedford; charge by the senior Pastor; fellowship of the churches by Rev. Humphrey Moore of Milford, and concluding prayer by Rev. Stephen Chapin of Mont-Vernon.

Since the settlement of Rev. Mr. Lord, between 30 and 40 have been admitted members of the church; 49 have been baptized, of which 23 were males and 26 females.

The baptisms during the ministry of the first Pastor of the church are but partially recorded. The records kept by him, present the names of about 240, baptized, of both sexes. The far greater part of these occur during the latter years of his ministry, and prior to 26 August, 1779.

The number of baptisms during 29 years of the Rev. Mr. Barnard's ministry, to wit, from 3 March, 1780, to 1 January, 1809, was 773. Of these 383 were males; 390 were females. The number of marriages by Mr. Barnard to January, 1813, was 309. The number of deaths in his parish from his settlement to the 1 January, the present year, was 730.



## APPENDIX.

### NO. I.

#### *Concise Notices of some of the first Inhabitants, and others who settled in town before the revolution.*

[Nearly eighty six years have passed away since the primitive inhabitants of this place arrived and effected a settlement. To the enquiry, *Our Fathers, where are they?* we may emphatically reply, they have all descended into the grave, and there remains not one, who *came up at the first*. But the writer has endeavoured to collect some memorials of them, which he presents, under the following concise notices.]

ISRAEL TOWNE was one of the founders of the church. He died in 1791, in his 87th year. He, with two brothers, Jonathan and Elisha, were among the first settlers. He had five sons, Thomas, Israel, Moses, Archelaus and Gardner, *Jonathan* had two sons, Jonathan and Aaron. *Elisha* had two, Bartholomew and Thomas.

JOHN WASHER, who was one of the first inhabitants, came from England at the age of ten years. He married Hannah Wilkins, of Middleton, Massachusetts, who died at Mont-Vernon in 1808, aged 89, leaving her fifth generation. He was the first and only man of his name in this country; and their descendants, in the male line, are all of the name now known in the United States.\*

WILLIAM PEABODY, one of the original proprietors, was here as early as 1742, perhaps earlier. He was one of the selectmen, and captain of the militia. He was father to Col. Stephen Peabody, who died at Mont-Vernon, and of William Peabody, Esq. of Milford.

JOHN SHEPARD came from that part of Concord near Acton. He settled here about 1741. He was a lieutenant colonel of the ninth regiment of foot under Col. John Goffe in 1767; and was afterwards colonel. He left five sons; *John*, who was a Justice of the Peace and of the Inferior Court, and who died in 1801; *Benjamin*, who died in 1810, aged 71; *Samuel*, who is living; *Jotham*, who died at Boston, in 1815; and *Daniel*, who died at Milford.

EBENEZER ELLENWOOD was among the first inhabitants. It appears from the town records that he was here as early as 1739.

JOHN SEATON, with his three sons, emigrated from Ireland, and came to this town from Andover, Mass. He died here

\* The Farmers' Cabinet, Vol. VI. No. 20.--1808.

at an advanced age. His son *John* was here as early as 1744. He was a deacon of the church from 5 Jan. 1774 to his removal from town. He died in April, 1793, at Washington, in this state. *Samuel*, was one of the selectmen, and died about 1796. *James*, was a resident here, and died before his other brothers.

ROBERT STEWART, with two sons, John and Samuel, settled here as early as 1749. He came from Glasgow, in Scotland, lived a while in Andover, Massachusetts, from whence he came to this town.

WILLIAM BRADFORD was here about 1743. His brother, Capt. Andrew Bradford, who died at Milford in 1798, aged 80, was here perhaps as early. The widow of Andrew, Hannah Bradford, died at Milford, 14 December, 1819, aged 96, leaving a numerous posterity. William was father of the late Major William Bradford.

BENJAMIN KENDRICK came from Newton in Massachusetts, and settled here in 1749, where he resided till his death, 13 November, 1812, in the 89th year of his age. He was great grandson of John Kenrick, (as the name ought to be spelt) who came from England, and settled at Newton, where he died 29 August, 1686, aged 82. His intermediate ancestors were John and Caleb. Of the latter, he was the second son, and born 30 January, 1724.

JOSIAH CROSBY was a native of Billerica, and descended from Simon Crosby, one of the early inhabitants of that place. He was one of the selectmen, a representative to the General Court, two years, and commanded a company at Bunker Hill Battle in 1775. He died in October, 1793, aged 63.

HEZEKIAH LOVEJOY was an inhabitant as early as 1751. He was a captain of the militia, and held several town offices. He died 6 April, 1793. His mother, who lived to be almost *one hundred and two* years of age, died in this town, 1 December, 1805, having had 336 descendants.

ROBERT READ was originally of Westford, but came last from Litchfield to this town, in which he was one of the early settlers. He was one of the selectmen, and a colonel of the militia. He died 13 September, 1803, aged 83.

NATHAN KENDALL was son of Nathan Kendall of Litchfield, and a descendant of Francis Kendall, who settled at Woburn, 1644.\* He was an inhabitant of Amherst as early as 1754; was one of the selectmen and captain of the militia, &c. He died 19 September, 1791, aged 66, leaving six sons, all of whom are living.

SOLOMON KITTREDGE, from Tewksbury, was a descendant from John Kittredge, one of the early inhabitants of Billerica,

\* See the Century Sermon of Rev. Samuel Kendall, D.D. delivered at Weston, 1812.



who died 18 October, 1676, leaving five sons, from whom all of the name in New-England, and perhaps in the United States, are descended. He lived in that part of Amherst which is now Mont-Vernon, where a number of his posterity reside.

PETER WOODBURY, though an early settler, was not one of the first inhabitants. He came from Beverly to this town. He was chosen a member of the General Court, and was one of the selectmen several years. He died in Antrim in March, 1819, aged 81. His sons were Levi, Jesse, Peter, and Mark, of whom Peter is the father of the Hon. Judge Woodbury.

WILLIAM FISKE was son of Deacon William Fiske of Wenham, and probably descended from the same family with the Rev. John Fiske, who was born about the year 1601, in the parish of St. James, Suffolk in England, and was the first minister of the towns of Wenham and Chelmsford, Massachusetts. The ancestor of this distinguished clergyman was one of the six brethren in the reign of Queen Mary, 1555, of whom three were papists, and three were protestants. The curious enquirer is referred to Mather's *Magnalia* for a further account of his family. Mr. Fiske, first mentioned, died about 1777, and some of his posterity, which principally reside in this state, Vermont, and in New-York, have held honourable and important offices.

REUBEN MUSSEY, one of the first selectmen chosen in town, and a representative to the General Court in 1778, was father to Dr. John Mussey of Peterborough, and Mr. Reuben Dimond Mussey who died in 1819, aged 66, at Pomfret in Vermont.

JONATHAN SMITH came from Danvers, and settled here several years before the revolution. He died in March, 1795, leaving two sons, *Jonathan Smith*, Esq. who was Register of Deeds from 1790 to 1803; and Hon. *Jedidiah K. Smith*, who has been a member of Congress, Counsellor and Senator of this State, and is now one of the Justices of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas.

JOSHUA ATHERTON was descended from an ancient family in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He settled here before 1775. He was a representative of the General Court in 1792; a Senator in 1793, and subsequently Attorney General of the State. He was a gentleman of liberal education, and graduated at Harvard College in 1762.

FRANCIS ELLIOT came from Middleton, and settled here as early as 1755. NATHAN FULLER, as early as 1758. EDWARD LYON was one of the first settlers and died 4 January, 1798, aged 88. Many others, who well deserve notice as the early inhabitants of the place, the writer will be obliged to omit, as he has not authorities at hand which he can cite with perfect confidence.

## NO. II.

[*The expense of the American War is stated on the authority of the following document.*]

September 9, 1791.—Received the accounts of the Selectmen of Amherst, for hiring soldiers to serve in the army of the United States for the town of Amherst, when at war with Great Britain, from April the 19th, 1775, till the Treaty of Peace, and find it, in addition of any bounties, travel, or wages given or promised by the State, or the United States, to be in specie, *s. d.*

£.3511 0 0.

*A true copy, Attest, Pr. JOSHUA LOVEJOY, Town Clerk.*

Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment at West Point, - - -	£.180
An average made in 1777 for soldiers that had served in the war, cost	480
To soldiers serving in Col. David Gilman's regiment	
Capt. William Walker's company served in New-York in 1776,	39
To soldiers in Col. Peabody's regiment, sent to Rhode-Island,	106
To soldiers serving in Col. Nahum Baldwin's Regt. at New-York,	72
To 10 continental soldiers for three years from 1781,	600
To 20 soldiers to serve in 1776, in Capt. Barron's company, Wy- } man's Regiment,	200
To 11 soldiers served at Charlestown, 1781,	132
To 9 soldiers, 1781, six months, new levies, so called,	270
To 11 soldiers, 1780, to serve six months, new levies,	330
To 5 do. — at Coos, Capt. Stone's company,	150
To 9 do. Colonel Mooney's Regt.	108
To 13 do. from 1783, three years men,	845

£.3511

## NO. III.

## PASTORS

*Of the CHURCH in AMHERST, since its formation.*

- I. REV. DANIEL WILKINS, A. M. graduated at Harvard College in 1736; ordained 23 September, 1741; and died 11 February, 1784, aged 73.
- II. REV. JEREMIAH BARNARD, A. M. graduated at Harvard College in 1773; ordained 3 March, 1780.
- III. REV. NATHAN LORD, A. M. graduated at Bowdoin College in 1809; ordained 22 May, 1816.

## DEACONS,

*With the time of their election, death or resignation.*

<i>Elected</i> —Jan. 6, 1743, HUMPHREY HOBBS, resigned	1774.
“ June 3, 1743, JOSEPH BOUTELL, died May 19,	1795.
“ 1774, JAMES COCHRAN, died Jan. 5,	1774.
“ Jan. 5, 1774, SAMUEL WILKINS, resigned	1816.
“ Jan. 5, 1774, JOHN SEATON, removed from town,	1787.
“ Jan. 5, 1774, NAHUM BALDWIN, died May,	1788.
“ June 18, 1783, EPHRAIM BARKER, died,	1800.
“ June 18, 1783, JOSHUA LOVEJOY, resigned.	
“ Sept. 3, 1795, AMOS ELLIOT, died April 7,	1807.
“ Sept. 3, 1795, JOHN SEATON.	
“ Sept. 1, 1808, JOHN HARTSHORN.	
“ May 29, 1817, MATTHIAS SPALDING.	
“ May 29, 1817, DAVID HOLMES.	

## NO. IV.

## REPRESENTATIVES OF AMHERST—FROM 1778.

[The names of the Representatives prior to 1778, have not been obtained. It seems that for several years before the revolutionary war commenced, Amherst was classed with Bedford in choosing them, and from Mein and Fleensing's Register of New-England for 1768, it appears that Col. John Goffe was representative for the preceding year.]

1778. Josiah Crosby,	1792. Joshua Atherton,
“ Reuben Mussey,	1793. Daniel Warner,
1779. Josiah Crosby,	1799. Daniel Warner,
“ Stephen Peabody,	“ William Fisk,*
1780. Samuel Wilkins,	1800. William Bradford,
“ Nahum Baldwin,	1803. Jedidiah K. Smith,
1781. Moses Nichols,	1805. William Fisk,
1783. Robert Means,	1810. William Low,
“ Thomas Burns,	1813. Edmund Parker,
1784. Robert Means,	1814. William Low,
1786. William Peabody,	1815. Edmund Parker,
1789. Robert Means,	1816. Clifton Claggett,
1790. Daniel Warner,	1817. Edmund Parker.

\* Who was chosen in August for the Fall Session. Daniel Warner had been chosen in March, but being appointed to an office under the United States' government, he resigned the office of representative.

## NO. V.

## TOWN CLERKS IN AMHERST.

[The Town Records commence with the incorporation of the town in 1760 ; but they are extremely irregular and confused, as they contain the proceedings of the town, tax lists, location of roads and highways, births, deaths and marriages, &c. all registered in the same volume without order or method. The Propriety Records begin with the grants of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1728, and 1732, and terminate about the year 1771. These are in the hands of DANIEL CAMPBELL, Esquire, to whose politeness the writer acknowledges his obligations for the use of them.]

1760. Solomon Hutchinson,	1778. Nahum Baldwin,
1761. Solomon Hutchinson,	1779. Thomas Wakefield,
1762. John Shepard,	1784. Samuel Wilkins,
1769. Thomas Wakefield,	1790. Joshua Lovejoy,
1770. John Shepard,	1794. William Fisk,
1773. Moses Nichols,	1812. John Ellenwood,
1774. Samuel Wilkins,	1815. Robert Read.

## NO. VI.

## CAPTAINS OF THE MILITIA COMPANIES.

[The following is a tolerably correct list of names of those who have commanded the militia companies in town, though it does not pretend to give the exact order in which they succeeded each other, nor will it in all cases discriminate the companies.]

William Peabody, Israel Towne, John Shepard, Robert Read, Archelaus Towne, John Bradford, Nathan Kendall, Hezekiah Lovejoy, Moses Brown, Jeremiah Hobson, William Fisk, Joseph Nichols, Joseph Harvell, Philip Easton, Daniel Campbell, jr. Josiah Convers, Benjamin P. Brown, \*Ephraim Hildreth, \*Samuel Shepard, William Bradford, \*William Stewart, \*Thomas Wakefield, \*Nathaniel Emerson, \*Theophilus Page, \*David M<sup>c</sup>G. Means,\* \*Amos Elliot, \*Edmund Parker, \*Robert Read, \*Thomas Wilkins.

Those with a star commanded the West Company.

## NO. VII.

## EDUCATION.

## ACADEMY.

The AUREAN ACADEMY has been the only publick literary institution in town. The gentlemen who superintended it were as follows.

Charles Walker,  
Daniel Staniford,  
Henry Moore,  
Jesse Appleton,  
William Crosby,  
William Biglow,

Joshua Heywood,  
William Abbot,  
Daniel Weston,  
Peyton R. Freeman,  
James M'Pherson,  
Thomas Cole.

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

There are in this town nine school districts, all of which are supplied with school houses. In the winter of 1817—18, there were instructed in these districts, 527 scholars, of whom 105 were taught Arithmetick and 86 the elements of English Grammar. The school-house in the centre district, is 38 feet in length, 30 feet in width, two stories high and has a cupola. It was erected in 1806, and since that time, during the winter, there have been the following

## INSTRUCTERS,

*Winter of*

1806—7. Caleb Emerson,  
1807—8. Nathan K. Clough,  
1808—9. Nathan K. Clough,  
1809—10. Wm. F. Morrison,  
1810—11. Abraham Andrews,  
1811—12. William Gordon,  
1812—13. James M'K. Wilkins,

*Winter of*

1813—14. Js. M'K. Wilkins,  
1814—15. Timothy Parkhurst,  
1815—16. Charles White,  
1816—17. Steph. I. Bradstreet,  
1817—18. Thos. W. Duncan,  
1818—19. Francis Danforth,  
1819—20. Jeremiah Stow.

## SUMMER SCHOOLS.

There has been annually a school kept during the summer and autumnal months, since 1803, of which the following is a list of the

## INSTRUCTERS,

1803. Ephraim P. Bradford,	1810. Wm. F. Morrison,
1804. Thomas Woolson, jr.	1811. John Walker,
1805. Samuel M'Conihe,	1812. James M'K. Wilkins,
1806. Stephen How,	1813. John Farmer, till 1818,
1807. Nathan K. Clough,	1818. Samuel Whiting,
1808. Do.	1819. Abel F. Hildreth,
1809. George Kimball,*	1820. Gideon L. Soule.†

\* Mr. Kimball left in August, and from thence till 13 November, 1809, William F. Morrison instructed. The school from 1807 to 1812, inclusive, was kept in the centre district school house; since 1812, it has been kept in the court house. The aggregate number of scholars each year for the last twelve years added together, give a total of between 650 and 700. Note. There was a summer school in town before the Academy was instituted, which was instructed by Isaac Brooks, Esq. now Register of Deeds.

† Mr. Soule, who is engaged for the present season, commenced 3 May.



## NO. VIII.

*Natives and Inhabitants of Amherst who have graduated at College.**Grad.* **HARVARD COLLEGE.**

1764. John Wilkins, A. M. son of the Rev. Daniel Wilkins. He died at Athens, Ohio, in 1808.  
 1788. Jacob Kimball, A. M. son of Mr. Ebenezer Kimball.  
 1794. Charles Humphrey Atherton, A. M. S. A. S. late a member of Congress, son of Hon. Joshua Atherton.  
 1795. Daniel Weston, A. M. son of Mr. Daniel Weston. He is a minister of Gray in Maine.  
 1806. William Gordon, A. B. son of Hon. William Gordon.  
 1813. James Freeman Dana,\* A. M.—M. D. Adj. ad Prof. Chem. et Chem. Prælector Col. Dart. son of Luther Dana, Esq.  
 1813. Samuel Luther Dana, A. M. M. D. brother to the preceding.  
 1818. John Hubbard Wilkins, A. B. son of Samuel Wilkins, Esq.

**DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.**

1803. Reuben Dimond Mussey, A. M. M. D. Col. Dart. et Univ. Penn. Med. et Chem. Prof. Col. Dart. M. M. S. et A. A. S. He is son of Dr. John Mussey of Peterborough.  
 1812. Benjamin Frederick French, A. B. son of Frederick French, Esq.  
 1812. James McKean Wilkins, A. M. son of Mr. Jonathan Wilkins.  
 1813. Levi Hartshorn, A. B. son of Mr. Edward Hartshorn. He was ordained at Gloucester, Ms. 18 October, 1815, and died at Amherst, while on a visit, 27 September, 1819, aged 30.  
 1814. Allen Fisk, A. B. son of Hon. William Fisk. He is a counsellor at Law in the city of New-York.

**BOWDOIN COLLEGE.**

1807. Robert Means, A. M. son of Hon. Robert Means.

*Entd.* **Undergraduates at Harvard College.**

1818. Charles Gordon Atherton, son of Hon. Ch. H. Atherton.  
 1818. Stephen Russell Holmes, son of Dea. David Holmes.

## NO. IX.

**PHYSICIANS IN AMHERST.**

[THIS LIST IS NOT COMPLETE.]

Moses Nichols, who is noticed in the preceding sketch under 1790.

Henry Codman, son of an emigrant from Ireland, was a practitioner more than 30 years. He was born in this town, 24 January 1744; died 14 March 1812, aged 68.

Samuel Curtis, A. M. son of Rev. Philip Curtis of Sharon, commenced practice here in 1789.

Nathaniel Henschman, was son of an eminent physician of the same name at Lynn, where he was born 4 May, 1762. He commenced practice here in 1783; died 27 May, 1800, aged 38.

Rogers Smith, a native of Mont-Vernon, practised here several years prior to 1808.

Moses Nichols, son of Dr. Moses Nichols, practised here from 1805 to 1811, when he removed to the British dominions.

Matthias Spalding, A. M. M. D. S. M. S. Neo. Hant. Praeses, commenced practice here in 1805.

\*His name, which is put Jonathan Freeman Dana in the Harvard Catalogue, has been lately altered as above by an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts.



# BILL OF MORTALITY

*FOR AMHERST, N. H. FOR TEN YEARS ;  
Commencing January 1, 1805, and ending January 1, 1815.*

[From the 4th vol. second series of the Historical Collections.]

Years.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1805	.	2	1	2	3	.	4	3	3	1	1	4	29
1806	1	4	2	2	3	2	.	1	.	2	.	.	18
1807	3	2	.	2	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	2	27
1808	4	3	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	.	2	20
1809	1	1	1	3	4	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	14
1810	3	1	4	2	1	1	3	.	4	1	.	1	21
1811	1	.	.	.	1	1	3	2	.	1	.	.	9
1812	1	2	2	2	2	2	.	1	1	2	2	1	19
1813	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	4	2	1	2	1	22
1814	5	3	9	6	7	.	7	1	1	.	3	5	47
	20	22	21	22	24	12	26	18	20	11	10	19	225

*Table exhibiting a view of their ages each year.*

Years.	Under 1 year.	Between 1 & 5	5 and 10	10 and 15	15 and 20	20 and 25	25 and 30	30 and 35	35 and 40	40 and 45	45 and 50	50 and 55	55 and 60	60 and 65	65 and 70	70 and 75	75 and 80	80 and 85	85 and 90	90 and 95	95 and 100	100 and 105	Ages not mentioned.	Total.
1805	5	5	1	.	1	2	.	2	.	2	.	2	.	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
1806	7	2	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
1807	5	1	2	.	1	3	2	.	.	1	.	2	.	3	1	2	.	3	1	.	.	.	.	.
1808	5	5	.	.	2	2	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
1809	4	1	.	.	2	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
1810	6	4	.	.	2	1	2	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	3	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
1811	3	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	1	.	1	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
1812	1	.	1	1	1	1	2	1	.	.	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	.	.	.	.	.
1813	7	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	2	1	.	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	.	1	.	.	.
1814	12	7	2	6	1	3	2	1	.	2	2	3	2	2	.	.	1	1	2	1	.	.	.	.
	48	32	6	7	8	13	12	8	3	7	3	10	4	9	10	16	3	10	6	3	1	1	5	225

*Aggregate and average of ages each year.*

Years.	No of Deaths.	Aggreg. amount of ages.	Average age.	Years.	No. of Deaths.	Aggreg. amt. of ages.	Average age.
1805	29	841	29	1810	21	567	27
1806	18	585	32	1811	9	420	46
1807	27	1027	38	1812	18	855	47
1808	20	500	25	1813	22	569	25
1809	14	458	32	1814	47	1107	23

10 years. 225 Deaths. 6929 aggregate amount of ages. 31 mean average age. Those whose ages are not mentioned were children, and would not materially affect the above result.

*Remarks.* The most considerable part of the foregoing was prepared the last year, and intended to accompany the sketch of Amherst, published in the second volume of the second series of the Collections. Much care and attention have been bestowed to render the preceding tables correct and intelligible. It appears from the *first* that the number of deaths in June, October, and November, were considerably less than in any other months, consequently we may suppose these were more favorable to health. The whole number which have died during the ten years, is 225, (not including 8 strangers who have died in town) of whom 121 were of adult age. Of this number 59 were males and 62 were females. From a course of observations made in the eastern part of this state, and in several towns in Massachusetts, it is found that the proportion of those who die below the age of 16 is the same as those above 16. This will not however apply to the number of deaths in this town during the above period, though it might for a longer time. Of the 225 who have died, 100 were under the age of 16, and 125 were above that age, leaving an excess of 25. Under the age of 20 years, 106 have died, and above 20, 119 have died. Under the age of 25, 117 have died, and above, 108. Of those who attained the age of 60 years and upwards, 6 died in January, 4 in February, 6 in March, 7 in April, 7 in May, 3 in June, 6 in July, 4 in August, 5 in September, 4 in October, 2 in November, and 4 in December. Of those above seventy years, 12 died in winter, 10 in the spring, 11 in the summer, and 6 in autumn. Of the above number, (225) the writer has ascertained as many as 40, which have died of consumption, and this, doubtless, is near the correct number. Of these, 11 died in winter, 10 in the spring, 13 in the summer, and 6 in the autumnal months. It has been remarked that complaints of the pulmonary kind are more frequent, and prove more fatal, after a winter of extreme cold. This remark is, probably, true, if the extreme cold is immediately succeeded by a warm and early spring. The human constitution, braced by cold, cannot with impunity bear the subsequent relaxation, especially when there is a predisposition to such complaints.\*

The number of deaths from 1 January, 1815, the time when the foregoing Tables conclude, to the 1 January, 1820, was as follows; In 1815—34; 1816—20; 1817—22; 1818—23; 1819—19: total 118. Of this number about 18 died under 1 year of age; 23 between 1 and 5; 2 between 5 and 10; 2 between 10 and 15; 7 between 15 and 20; 8 between 20 and 25; 6 between 25 and 30; 4 between 30 and 35; 4 between 35 and 40; 4 between 40 and 45; 3 between 45 and 50; 3 between 50 and 55; 2 between 55 and 60; 5 between 60 and 65; 3 between 65 and 70; 4 between 70 and 75; 5 between 75 and 80; 3 between 80 and 85; 5 between 85 and 90; 1 between 90 and 95; and 2 between 95 and 100: Nine died in

\* For a few remarks on the application of this observation to the period embraced by the foregoing tables, see Historical Collections, Vol. 4, second series, pages 75, 76.

January, 8 in February, 12 in March, 11 in April, 20 in May, 10 in June, 9 in July, 8 in August, 11 in September, 9 in October, 5 in November, and 7 in December. The aggregate amount of ages of these 118, is 3583 years, giving a mean average to each of 30 years. — Almost one half of the number lived to 25 years or upwards. In the course of fifteen years, the whole number of deaths has been 343, of which 60 persons, above a sixth part, attained to 70 years or upwards.

The oldest native of the town residing here is Samuel Wilkins, Esq. son of the first minister. He was born in 1742. The oldest person, an inhabitant of the town, is Mrs. Mary Barnard, mother of Rev. Mr. Barnard, who entered her 99th year in April. Besides her, there are four others, between 90 and 100 years of age. There are also twelve between 80 and 90, and between 30 and 40 persons of 70 years and up to 80.

#### CORRECTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

On the 7th page it is said that Narraganset No. 4, was situated at Amuskeag, which was stated on the authority of the Propriety records of Narraganset No. 3. Since the manuscript was delivered for publication, we have examined Douglass' Summary, Vol. 1, page 506, where it is said, and perhaps correctly, that Narraganset No. 4, was "on the West Side of Connecticut River."

Page 16. The *Amherst Journal and New-Hampshire Advertiser* discontinued 9 January, 1796. From the 24 April, 1795, to that time, it was published by Nathaniel Coverly and Son. It was printed on Fridays till the 5 Sept. and from thence till it was discontinued, on Saturdays. Its motto was "*The public will our guide—the public good our end.*"

Page 23. Deacon James Cochran was elected in 1744, instead of 1774.

Page 31. In the list of graduates, natives and inhabitants of Amherst, we unintentionally omitted the name of Samuel Whiting, A. B. a native of this town, who graduated at Dartmouth University in 1813.

There are, in America, seven places of the name of AMHERST. Amherst, a town in Cumberland county, Nova Scotia; a town in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, incorporated 1759; a town in Virginia; a county in Virginia; one of the Magdalen Islands, in the gulf of St. Lawrence; a small Island at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, and this town.

SOCIETIES.—The *Amherst Bible and Tract Society* was formed in this town in December, 1816. The surplus funds of this society amounting to about \$60, were, in 1813, appropriated to constituting the Rev. Jeremiah Barnard and Rev. Nathan Lord as members for life of the American Bible Society. On the 1 January, 1813, it was divided into two distinct Societies, called the *Amherst Bible Society*, and the *Amherst Female Tract Society*. The Bible Society is auxiliary to the Hillsborough County Bible and Charitable Society, and through that to the National Bible Society.

There is also a Religious Female Reading Society, which meets every week.

We omitted to insert the present magistrates in town in the first part of the Appendix.

The *Justices of the Peace through the State* are, Hon. Jedidiah K. Smith, Hon. Clifton Bennett. *Justices of the Quorum* are, Samuel Wilkins, Robert

Means, William Fisk, Samuel Curtis, and Frederick French, Esquires.—  
*Justices of the Peace*, Hon. Charles H. Atherton, Isaac Brooks, Nathan Kendall, Edmund Parker, Timothy Danforth and John Alcock, Esquires.

Selectmen for the present year are, Capt. Daniel Campbell, Capt. John Secombe and Mr. Israel Fuller.

**STORES.**—There are four English and West India Goods' Stores in this town, viz. 1. Col. Means', which is the oldest establishment, having been kept in the same place without interruption about 46 years; 2. Messrs. Robert Read and Isaac Spalding, whose Druggist establishment is perhaps the largest in the county; 3. Mr. Joel F. Thayer, and 4. Mr. James Sloan. There are also two Milliner's Shops, owned by Mrs. N. Curtis and Miss S. Low, in which are kept English Goods and other articles appropriated to the millinery business.

**TAVERNS.**—There are four publick inns in town, of which two are kept upon the plain. The mail stage from Boston, which passes through town, stops at that kept by James Ray, Esq.













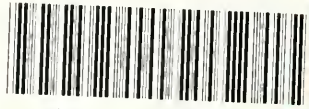


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