

Folklore and Firesides
IN
Pomfret, Hampton and Vicinity


By
SUSAN J. GRIGGS

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EARLY HOMESTEADS
of
POMFRET and HAMPTON

by Susan J. Griggs



**Without oxen the wilderness could
not have been conquered.**

Dedicated to the memory of my husband, Alfred G. Griggs, and the happy hours we spent together in research and locating old homesteads.

The collection of pictures and material for this book was begun in 1934. Early views of homesteads have been used as far as possible so as to retain the original lines of architecture.

If there are some omissions, I am truly sorry, as the book has been written through a desire to perpetuate old homes.

S. J. G.

Abington
Nov. 14, 1949

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by
Susan J. Griggs

FOREWORD

The inspiration to write FOLKLORE AND FIRESIDES IN POMFRET AND HAMPTON came from hearing the older inhabitants talk of the King's Highway, a section of grassy road which in sections has become over-grown with brush, and nearly obliterated except for the ruts of the old road-bed.

History tells us that "from time immemorial it has been a trail, the laying-out of it being unknown." Over this trail the first white man trod, his pack on his back, seeking a new home in the wilderness. The pioneers called it the "way to Woodstock."

From tracing the old highway, your author has gathered folklore which is the nucleus of these stories. Facts and dates came from the hallowed pages of history, research of town records and genealogies, excursions into neglected burying-grounds where time and the elements have nearly erased humble names and reverent inscriptions, or where lilacs, roses, and tiger lilies mark the site of early dwellings.

A valuable map, published in Hartford in 1856, giving not only the highways of Windham County, but locating the dwellings of the inhabitants of that day, has been copied for use in this book.

The Author

Susan Jewett Griggs

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE AMERICAN INDIAN

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A race whose ancient lineage | Columbus found this country |
| Goes back through countless years— | An ancient tribal land |
| And research for its origin | Inhabited by many tribes |
| A futile task appears. | Each ruled by Chief command; |

Each mountain, lake, and river known
And named— no spot untrod
For just how many centuries
Is only known to God.

(Author Unknown)

ANCIENT ABORIGINES

Early or aboriginal names of Windham County's rivers, lakes, hills, trails, and forts,— and the Praying Indians.

Lakes: Pagtucket, and Mashapaug (Alexander's Lake, Killingly)

Rivers: Quinebaug, Shetucket, Nachaug, Pachaug, Moosup, Mashamoquet, Tatnick Brook (Brooklyn), Assawaga (Five Mile River), Cow-sick (Blackwell's Brook), Wapaqunas Brook.

Hills: Ekonk, Waungatatuck, Obwesatuck, Quinnebasset, Mashentuck, and Tatnick Hill (Brooklyn), which according to tradition, received its name from an Indian tribe, the Tatnicks.

Forts: When the white man came, he found a few scattered forts on different hills at Quinntatissit (Thompson), Wabbaquasset (Woodstock), Mashamoquet (Pomfret), and on Tatnick Hill (Brooklyn). Two very ancient forts, according to archaeologists, have been uncovered on the western slope of this beautiful hill that rises five-hundred and forty feet, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country, extending westerly beyond the old Nipmuck Trail, which the early settlers called the "way to Woodstock," or the "King's Highway."

Trails: The Greenwich Path, from the Quinebaug through Canterbury; and the Nipmuck Path. The main trail led from the sea to the far distant Nipmuck country in Brookfield, passing through Canterbury and Brooklyn, Pomfret and Woodstock. Among the Nipmucks, on the shores of Lake Quinsigamond (Worcester) lived several tribes known as Tatnicks.

Praying Indians: The apostle, John Eliot, began his work for the natives in 1647, establishing Indian Churches among the Tatnicks. This mission led him through the wilds to Quinntatisset and Wabbaquasset (Woodstock), where he preached the gospel on Pulpit Rock, his congregation seated on the hillside. Several villages of Praying Indians were scattered or murdered during the war of 1675. A decade later, the white man came and possessed the land.

THE CONNECTICUT PATH

The task of locating the Connecticut Path has quickened considerable interest. It is known that after the Path crossed the Narrows at Webster Lake, it ran southwesterly to Thompson, through Woodstock to Crystal Lake, vanishing and reappearing through the woodlands, meadows and fields, occasionally appearing near the present highway. Fortunately through the centuries there have remained three ancestral homesteads where the traditions and landmarks have been carefully preserved, as at the Chandler Farm in West Thompson, the Edward Arnold homestead in Fabyan, and the Walter Bennett farm near Crystal Lake.

Perhaps one of the most interesting landmarks is identified at the Bennett fording place. The dark water still flows swiftly between the stepping stones conveniently placed centuries ago for crossing the stream. Down the gently sloping bank where the trail wound, and over this ford passed in 1635 the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his congregation driving with them their flocks and horses to their new settlement in the wilderness. Over this same brook the invalid Mrs. Hooker was carried on a litter, perhaps swung between two long poles dragged by a horse throughout the long journey, although old illustrations show a picture of Mrs. Hooker in a square litter on the back of a horse, a litter large enough for her to lie down.

Apparently this deep-trodden path was never wide enough to allow two horsemen to ride abreast, nor was it ever improved for a cart, for it was discontinued through Windham County by 1725.

The first white man known to have used the Path was John Oldham, with three companions, in 1633.

IN THE BEGINNING

To better understand the beginning of our first settlements, the following is quoted from Larned's History of Windham County: "The whole Wabbaquasset country was yielded by Massachusetts to the claim of Uncas, who, favored by the government and encouraged by interested advisors, assumed to himself a large share of eastern Connecticut. The tract confirmed to him as the hereditary territory of the Mohegans was bounded on the north by a line running from Mahmunsook on Whetstone Brook to the junction of the Quinebaug and Assawaga at Acquiunk, thence westward to the Willimantic and far beyond it. The Wabbaquasset country was held by him as a Pequot conquest. It extended from the Mohegan north bound far into Massachusetts, and westward from the Quinebaug to a line running through the 'great pond Snipsic', now in Tolland. This large tract was given by Uncas to his second son, Owaneco, while the land between the Appaquake and Willimantic Rivers was assigned by him to his third son, Joshua or Atawanahood, sachem of the Western Niantics. Joshua died in May, 1676, from injuries received during the Narragansett war, and left a will, bequeathing the land

between the Willimantic and Appaquake to Captain John Mason and fifteen other gentlemen, 'in trust for a plantation'. His estate was settled according to the terms of the will. The General Assembly of Connecticut allowed the Norwich legatees the lands bequeathed to them at Appaquake, which, as soon as practicable, were incorporated as the township of Windham."

Many were the land grabbers who were anxious to obtain holdings in this vast territory. Leader among them was Major James Fitch, son of the Reverend James Fitch, the first minister of Norwich. His influence among the Indians was considerable, and he was readily made guardian over Owaneco, who had become the "cat's-paw" of the white man—selling his vast acres for drinks of cider, becoming at last a penniless drunkard, begging with his wife from door to door. History tells us that "the once sachem of the Wabbaquassets, second son of Uncas, and claimant, by right of conquest, of the greater part of Windham County, once flattered by the foremost men of the country, went, a drunken vagabond, about the country that had once been the vast hunting ground of his tribe, praying for charity."

In 1697, Major James Fitch was the most popular man in eastern Connecticut. Through his influence, he obtained from the Indians many thousands of acres from which to choose a home; the site, "a neck of land" enclosed by a curve of the Quinebaug River, below the river island Peagscomsuck, which gave the name to the settlement. There he dug the first cellar, and erected the first permanent home in Canterbury.

He was a little past middle life at the time. Nine sons and daughters had accompanied him into this wilderness. His plantation was at once recognized as a place of consequence. Civil and military officials and hordes of Indians made his plantation a rendezvous; court was held there and business transacted. For a long time, it was the only settlement between Norwich and Woodstock. The expedition that marched to the relief of Woodstock in 1699 passed the night there both coming and going.

In the summer of 1696 a band of Mohawks murdered a family at Oxford, where a boulder now marks the site of their home. The mother, a Mrs. Johnson, sole survivor of the tragedy, reached Woodstock town. In their alarm, the people sent a messenger to Major Fitch, seeking aid. Leaving Woodstock at daybreak, the messenger arrived at the Major's home in Canterbury at an early hour, in time for the Major to hasten to Norwich and gather a band of English and Indians. With his brother Daniel and this company he reached Woodstock the next day at sunrise. He scouted the country at this time as far as Worcester, but was unable to find the enemy.

Woodstock's village of Praying Indians was definitely located at South Woodstock, on the William Basto farm, by Arthur Basto, in 1934. Here is the site of their corn fields, and it is believed that the corn taken by the Wabbaquassett Indian, Acquittimaug, to Boston for food for that infant colony in 1630, was grown on these grounds.

Acquittmaug, with his father and others, carried great sacks on their backs on the long trek through the wilderness, selling their corn at a good price to the Winthrop colony, when there was yet only one cellar in the town, and that near the common. When Boston had grown to a thriving city he again visited it, and was the honored guest of the chief dignitaries of Massachusetts.

In 1684, Major James Fitch, guided by the Mohegan Sachem, Owaneco, had explored the vast forests of the Wabbaquasset and Nipmuck countries, receiving from Owaneco a native title to nearly all of the area which is now Windham County.

Out of this tract the town of Pomfret was purchased in 1686 for thirty pounds. This first tract was bounded southwesterly by its longest brook, the Mashamoquet, which gave the Purchase its name. By 1713, other tracts had been added, extending the southern boundary to Gray Mare Hill in Brooklyn, and east to the Quinebaug River. Later, through land additions, Pomfret included all Brooklyn that was then called Mortlake, and the northern section of Canterbury, which was known as South Pomfret — later, Canterbury's North Society.

Because of Indian troubles no effort was made to settle the Mashamoquet Purchase before 1694, when an equal division was made between the twelve shareholders in upland, lowland, and meadows. The meadows were most prized because of the hay easily obtained for oxen and cattle. In the division of land, James Fitch had given them "short measure," and to adjust the matter satisfactorily, he gave an "Equivalent to the original contract," the large section west and south of the Mashamoquet in Abington. In this second division of land each of the twelve proprietors received his allotted four hundred acres. Among these proprietors were: Esther Grosvenor, Samuel Ruggles, Thomas Mowry, John Ruggles, John Gore, Samuel Gore's heirs, John Chandler, Benjamin Sabin, Thomas and Elizabeth Ruggles, John White, Joseph Griffin, Benjamin and Daniel Dana.

The Dana family came to America in 1640 to escape religious persecution. Descendants of the first twelve families now living in Pomfret are: the Grosvenors, the Sabins, the Whites, the Chandlers, and the Sharpes.

Pomfret was incorporated in 1713.

MASHAMOQUET

Three streams in Pomfret are still known by their Indian names, the Wappaquans, that flows in a southeasterly direction past the South burying ground and through the Golf Course; the Newichewanna, that rises in the Brooklyn hills and flows south to the Mashamoquet; and the Mashamoquet, Pomfret's largest brook, signifying "Good Fishing." It flows in a southeasterly direction, encircling many of the 15,100 acres which the twelve proprietors purchased of Major Fitch, in 1686.

Owing to Indian troubles, no effort was made to settle the Purchase for several years. Until 1694 this land was divided into equal

plots among the twelve shareholders, in upland, lowland and meadows. The latter were most highly prized because of the hay easily obtained from them for oxen and cattle. In the division it was found that Fitch had given them "short measure." This was adjusted by taking land that belonged to Fitch in what is now the Abington section, "equiv-land" to the original contract, thus a second division of land was made south and west of the Mashamoquet, that each might receive his allotted 400 acres.

The twelve proprietors of the Mashamoquet Purchase to whom the plots were allotted were, Esther Grosvenor, Thomas Mowry, John Ruggles, John Gore, Samuel Gore's heirs, Samuel Ruggles, John Chandler, Benjamin Sabin, Jacob, Benjamin and Daniel Dana, Thomas and Elizabeth Ruggles, John White and Joseph Griffin.

The western section of the Purchase was made accessible to Boston and Hartford, and Norwich and New London by the Old Post Road running east and west, and the Nipmuck Path, running north and south. These two primitive roads crossed at the first four corners on Ragged Hill, near the old Chandler Schoolhouse. The Nipmuck Path which ran southwesterly from Woodstock to the distant town of Norwich formed the eastern boundary of Windham, and by 1694 had become the white man's highway. After King Philip's War had scattered the Indian tribes it was then known as "ye Windham Rode," and soon along its primitive way early pioneer fires were lighted.

In the division of plots Mrs. Esther Grosvenor chose some of the finest land on Pomfret Hill, and also a tract of land in the Ragged Hill section, on the Post Road.

A second trail, from Brookfield to New London crossed the Boston-Hartford trail west of the old Randall farm, Eastford line. This was the trail called the "Way to Woodstock"; later surveyed, was the "King's Highway."

The three hundred acre plot owned by John Chandler east of the fording place over the Mashamoquet, where for centuries the red man's path had crossed the brook (at the foot of Hamlet Hill Road), was sold out at an early date to settlers. Nathaniel Sessions purchased 100 acres in 1704, comprising the Butler estate and Westland Farm. In 1705 Richard Dresser bought 100 acres west of the Sessions' after building a house northeast of the present building, and making some clearing. He sold the property the following year to Abiel Lyon, whose deed, recorded in the Worcester Registry, reads "Abiel Lyon of the Mashamoquet Colony." Lyon also purchased the land upon the brook south of the bridge, where he built the first saw mill in Pomfret.

But Sessions and Lyon were not the first settlers in this locality. Before 1700 Chandler transferred a section of this tract to the Dana Brothers. In 1698 they sold to Benjamin Sitton "fifty acres of wilderness land, at a place called Mashamoquet, bounded west by the Windham Rode" (Larned's History). His purchase may have included the former Fay property, between L. L. Crosby and the Bernard Kelly farm. Of Sitton we know little. He is mentioned in the founding of Pomfret

Church Society, and built for his family a pew in the meetinghouse. He was one of the thirty families mentioned as being without protection from Indian attack in 1702.

Nipmuck Path, or Windham Road, crossed the heights of Hamlet Hill, the western boundary of the Chandler Plot. This once cultivated tract has again returned to the wilderness. On the Fay lot are unmistakable traces of a pioneer homestead, where a caved-in cellar and filled-in well bear silent testimony, together with a walled-up spring of running water on the slope of the hill nearby. The deep marsh lands in the eastern valley, which supplied hay for cattle, and the walled-in spaces, once fertile fields, all tell the oft repeated tale of forgotten homesteads. Marsh lands are now flooded by Fay's Pond.

The Path passed Whetstone Spring, where the Indians obtained whetstone for knives and hatchets.

Fay Pond received its name from Miss Sarah Fay of Cape Cod and Pomfret, who lived at the present Seeley-Brown place. She purchased the tract to preserve the forest, and laid out the road.

FIRST SETTLERS BY THE MASHAMOQUET

One of the oldest homesteads in Pomfret is the place now owned by L. L. Crosby, for two hundred years in the Trowbridge family. In 1856 it appears on the map in the name of Jerome Pike, a descendant of Daniel Trowbridge, pioneer, who came into the wilderness at twenty in 1731, with his stepfather, Joseph Bowman, from Dorchester, Mass. Bowman purchased a wild tract near the Eastford line, near the Stowells, at the summit of Pisgah Hill. For helping his stepfather clear this farm, Trowbridge received six months off his time, and was able to go out for himself. The Bowman farm is still known as a Trowbridge place.

Daniel Trowbridge bought the improved 100 acre farm of Abel Lyon, which had been under cultivation from 1705. The first owner, Richard Dresser, had sold to Lyon. Lyon had built a one-story plank house, about 30 x 15, which Trowbridge moved from the clay pits to the highway to become the kitchen ell of the present large square dwelling, which dates back to 1733. This ell stood until within the last decade.

Abel Lyon built the first sawmill in Pomfret in 1707 on the Mashamoquet, a short distance below where the highway crosses the brook on Route 97, bringing tools into the wilderness on his back. Pomfret soon built a road to his mill.

Sawmills were a New England invention. Scarcity of labor made hand-sawing in saw pits impossible, altho it was done in England until after the Revolution. The up-and-down saw of the first mills was operated on the hand saw principal.

A ford was maintained near the mill until 1732, when the first cart bridge was built, and a road laid out southwesterly through Abington. A year later a schoolhouse was built across the bridge near the present gate of the Goodridge estate.

Abel Lyon was one of the founders of the Abington Society, giving the first pulpit, costing one hundred dollars. He had ten children, and several of his sons were soldiers in the Indian Wars, Spanish-American Wars, and the Revolution. His youngest son, Jonathan, born after his death, was educated at Dartmouth by Rev. Walter Lyon. He was in Congress with Daniel Webster.

When Abel Lyon sold his homestead to Daniel Trowbridge he built a house nearer his mill, now the property of John Kelly. Originally this house had a great stone chimney in the center, and a long, low lean-to in the back.

When Abel Lyon brought his bride, Judith Farmington, into the wilderness, settlers were few. Families had taken homesteads on the Woodstock Line, and the east side of the Purchase. The Goodells had settled on Easter Hill, Abington. The Lyon's nearest neighbor may have been Benjamin Sitton.

PIONEER LIFE

The pioneer cabin usually stood in a clearing so small that only a patch of blue sky showed above it. The small windows were provided with bark shutters and, like the door, swung on strap hinges; if there was a floor it was made of puncheon (split log); often a great flat stump was left for a table, and the cabin built around it.

A platform two feet high was built by the wall, for bunks, when filled with hemlock boughs and the skins of animals, provided a bed that was considered healthy, if not luxurious.

The forest provided the wooden trenchers (which took the place of dishes), wooden spoons, noggins (a wooden mug with a handle, made by the Indians out of solid maple knots).

The virgin soil (once it had been cleared and burned over) yielded bountifully, in return for the arduous labor with grub hoe and adz—

WEST POMFRET CENTER 1

1. Map—S. Cooper. Ebenezer Holbrook homestead 1749. Owned by Horace Seeley-Brown.

2. Pomfret's Revolutionary Elms (April 1775) on Seeley-Brown property. See Holbrook.

3. Map—D. Trowbridge. Abel Lyon homestead. Owned by John Kelly.

4. Map—Jerome Pike. Daniel Trowbridge homestead. Settled 1705 by Richard Dresser. Said to be second oldest house in town. Owned by L. L. Crosby.

5. Map—D. Sherman. Trowbridge farm on Pomfret-Eastford line. Trowbridge family came to Dorchester, Mass. in 1636. James (1740-1820) lived on this 400 acre tract and reared twelve children. Was able to leave \$2000 to each child, besides a "setting out." Was a pillar in Eastford Church. Family attended so regularly, the neighbors were able to set their clocks by the passing of the "Trowbridge Band" on way to meeting. (Genealogy) Broad fields of this farm were used for parade grounds. Owned by Edward Geer.

6. Map—David Clapp. "Westland Farm," owned by St. Roberts Hall.

7. Map—Asa Dennis. Owned by Col. E. B. Dennis.

8. Map—G. Williams. Goodridge Estate, built by Elizabeth Pierpont Morgan 1790. One of three first mansions in Pomfret. House burned, and farm owned by Robert Rourke.



a relentless task, between rocks and the roots of the fallen trees.

When winter came the pioneer would have a chopping-bee, when all the strong men from miles away came at an early hour and with powerful blows attacked the great trees. A favorite way was to bring the day's work to a climax in what was called a "drive." This was done by chopping half-way into the trunk of each tree, until a wide circle of trees in the center group had all been half cut through (this was called "undercutting"). Then, with a few powerful and well-driven blows at the monarch of the group on the outward side of the circle and a few concerted pulls with a rope, the entire group of trees would be felled together. With his wide spreading branches the leader would bring down the trees in front of him; they, with their neighbors, would fall with a crash that shook the ground, making the distant hillsides ring. In a moment all the landscape would be changed. Where stood a great forest, now lay windrows of treetops.

It was slow work, this clearing of the land, and only through colonial neighborliness in log-rolling and stone-pulling bees was it accomplished. The hard stony fields of New England would have defied a lifetime of one man and a single yoke of oxen, without cooperation.

Pioneers pounded their corn into meal in a primitive mortar made from a hollowed block of wood or stump of a tree which had been cut out three feet above the ground. The pestle was a heavy block of wood shaped like the inside of the mortar and fitted with a handle on one side. The pestle was attached to a young sapling, conveniently near, giving a spring which pulled the pestle up and down. The rhythmic thump of this sweep-and-mortar mill could be heard a long way. After these simple stump and sapling mortars were abandoned elsewhere, they were still used on Long Island, and it was a saying that sailors lost on the Sound in a fog could hear the thump of the mortar mill and know on which shore they were.

Samp and samp porridge was the common dish. Indian corn pounded into a coarse powder is described by Roger Williams, who wrote "New samp is a kind of meal porridge unparched. This the English call their samp, which is Indian corn, beaten, boiled, and eaten hot or cold, with milk and butter. It is a diet exceedingly wholesome for English bodies." Roger Williams said that "sukquattahhash" was corn seethed with beans, meaning our dish called "succotash." Pumpkins were another food upon which the pioneer housewife relied. "It was the fruit that the Lord fed his people with, till corn and cattle encreased."

One Colonial poet gives the golden vegetable this tribute: "We have pumpkins at morning and pumpkins at noon. If it were not for pumpkins we should be undone." From the Indians the pioneers learned to dry pumpkins for winter use. Pumpkin, stewed and mixed with corn meal, was used in bread. It was even used as sweetening instead of molasses. We read of Thanksgiving dinners when mince pies were made of bear's meat and dried pumpkin, sweetened with maple sugar. The pie crust was made of corn meal.

FOLKLORE and FIRESIDES
of
POMFRET and VICINITY



**Putnam Wolf Den
Winter of 1942-1943**

CHAPTER I

CONNECTICUT

“What land is that so nicely bound
By Massachusetts and the Sound
Rhode Island and New York around
Where Yankees thick as hops are found?
Connecticut

What land is that where folks are said
To be so scrupulously bred
To be so steady habited;
Where hearty boys and girls are fed
On punkin pies and ginger bread?
Connecticut

What land is that where parsons live,
Where men hear gospel and believe,
Where humble sinners seek reprieve,
Where women stay at home and weave,
Nor gad without their husbands leave?
Connecticut.”

By Mrs. Fred Dayton, in the New Haven
Connecticut Register 1860.

POMFRET

On January 22, 1673, twenty-five years before the settlement of Pomfret, a lone Post-rider had left New York with the first mail for Boston, traversing the Westchester trail to New Haven and thence to Hartford where he had made his first change of horses; he crossed the river to Springfield, followed the river down to East Hartford, then over the wilderness trail Hooker had followed in 1633, through wilds to Boston — at times blazing new paths, as from Ashford to Douglas where he again followed the Connecticut Path. It required a month to make the round trip. On this trail Captain John Sabin built his stockade and house in Pomfret, in 1698.

TRADITION OF CAPTAIN KIDD

In 1689, when Captain Kidd was returning with booty from the Indian Ocean — being sought on the charge of piracy by the British — he fled over the New York and Boston Post Road. Passing through Coventry, the story goes, his “coach” broke down, being too heavily laden with a chest of gold and silver. He buried the chest in Coventry, where it was later recovered by his associates.

It was twenty-five years after the opening of the Post Road for the mails, and it is doubtful that the path was more than a cart trail; so Kidd could not have been traveling by coach, as coaches were not used in early colonial times because of the unsettled state of the roads. Coaches were not used until late in the eighteenth century. In 1789 it took a week to travel from New York to Boston, “the coaches often sticking fast in the mud.” Ox carts were the usual mode of traveling, when moving heavy loads.

AN HISTORIC FIELD

On the east side of Pomfret Street — now the main highway (Route 44) — at the top of Pomfret Hill, once stood the first meeting-house, the Sabbathday house, the burying place, the training field, and the schoolhouse. Just north of the meeting house was the town pound, for impounding straying animals until claimed by their owners.

Pomfret cattle were branded with “P”, Woodstock’s with a “W”—each town taking its initial letter as a brand. “Cattle were King,” at that early date; wealth was counted by their numbers. Though many were killed by wolves and Indians, they multiplied rapidly.

The first schoolhouse was “set up” in 1723 “to stand north of the pound within ten rods of it.” It was twenty-four by nineteen feet with seven foot studs. By 1726 a second schoolhouse was built by the “sign post.” The second schoolhouse built in this site is now owned by Mr. Quigley (near the Catholic church).

By 1733 Pomfret had four schools, one by the “sign post” — one at the end of Samuel Dana’s lane—which was down Pomfret Hill; one at the corner of the old Quaker Road (moved many years ago to become the primary room of the present Gilbert Pratt School—named for Gilbert Pratt who taught for thirty-five years in this school, resigning in 1934); one by Noah Upton’s place later named the Gary school; and one west of the Mashamoquet Brook, “just over the bridge at Lyon’s Mills.” It probably stood near the gate to the Dr. Goodrich estate.

The fate of the first little schoolhouse near the pound is not recorded, but it probably was discontinued. Much as our forefathers believed in learning, they gave no attention to making the schools attractive. Schoolhouses were set on bleak locations, with no playgrounds

or outhouses provided — no trees or shrubs to break the wind in winter, or the sun in summer. A pioneer schoolhouse was poorly lighted, rarely with more than two small windows on each side of the building and two small windows, separated by a "porch," in the front. A great stone chimney was built at the rear of the house, and the wide-mouthed fireplace, with its blazing log fire brought cheer into a room where the inner walls were fringed with desks before which were backless benches, made of slabs and held up by unbarked saplings.

Pomfret Street, which was covered with a growth of wild grass like rye, was known as "White's Plain."

In those rugged days there was little time to think of comforts. Dwellings also were barnlike in structure, devoid of paint, without shade trees. Not until after 1800 were homes made attractive.

School funds were obtained by a provision of the town, until the Brooklyn and Abington Societies were set off; thereafter, each ecclesiastical society made its own provision to maintain its schools, along with the ministry. From Litchfield County a small school fund was also obtained from the sale of lands, the annual interest of which was appropriated for that use. A hundred years later, monies obtained from the sale of lands in the Ohio region were appropriated for common school maintenance.

In 1795 General Moses Cleveland of Canterbury commanded an expedition sent by the Land Company to survey and settle the Western Reserve (New Connecticut), and there founded the City of Cleveland, Ohio, which was named in his honor.

The Pomfret meetinghouse, raised April 27, 1714, fronted the south; a great door opened on a middle aisle leading to a high pulpit opposite the entrance. A small door in the west end provided a second entrance. The room was lighted by nine windows, four on the lower floor, and five in the galleries where negroes sat. The "peers" of the church occupied the pews.

Deacon Nathaniel Gary built the only Sabba-day house in the County. At one end was a stone fireplace; at the other end, the horses were stabled during meeting. This house was a real haven to the half-frozen congregation that weekly warmed itself before the log fire. But a less cheering sight was the whipping post and blocks standing nearby, where people were punished for misdemeanors that are considered petty today. A man was not apt to be punished for drunkenness, as his condition was "Blamed" to the liquor. It is said that some were so strict in keeping the Sabbath that they honestly thought it was because cider "worked" on Sunday that it made men drunk.

All males over sixteen were trained for military duty on the broad field north of the church.

The first burying ground was little used, as the early settlement was very healthy. In five years there were but three deaths, all infants. In 1719 a new burying ground was provided (the present south cemetery) on the Wappaquans Brook. Joseph Griffin, one of the early proprietors,

was the first to be interred there, in 1723. The first burying place became unused and neglected. The Dana Road (east) cut into the bank. As late as 1800, the ends of some of the boxes could be seen on the hillside.

REVEREND EBENEZER WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams was twenty-five when he came to Pomfret in 1713. He was the son of Samuel Williams of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and a nephew of Reverend John Williams of the Deerfield massacre (who was taken captive by the Indians in the French and Indian war). A graduate of Harvard, he was considered a scholarly man, and many young men of Pomfret were tutored by him.

The first six months of his stay in Pomfret, he boarded at Captain John Sabin's, the only frame house in the town. He was well liked and received a call to the church, which he accepted. For his services it was voted to pay him "sixty pounds yearly for four years, to be raised annually twenty schillings until it reached seventy pounds, and there to stand throughout his stay in Pomfret." He also received one hundred and seventy pounds towards buying his land and building his house. Besides this he was given two hundred acres of land which "was reserved for the encouragement of preaching" and deeded to him by James Fitch, Samuel Ruggles and other Mashamoquet proprietors. His two hundred acres were taken "out of the undivided portion" at the top of the hill above "Hyde's Hollow," now "Baker Hollow." The parish assisted him in clearing four acres of land, of which two acres were set out to orchard.

His house-raising was a great event, as house-raising were always. Usually the houses were one, or one and one-half stories, constructed of planks, which with the boards for floors and doors came from the little saw mill on the Newichewanna brook, less than a mile distant. Usually they had four rooms, two on each floor. The front entrance was called a "porch." This and the great stone chimney divided the keeping-room and the kitchen.

In those days the furniture was made by a cabinet maker from timber from the surrounding forests. Pots and pans were made at Abiel Cheney's blacksmith shop. The neighborhood served itself and was self-supporting. Wooden spoons and "noggins" made by the Indians (a sort of wooden bowl with a handle, made from hard maple knots) also were common utensils.

It took years to collect the heirlooms which have become of such value in the last half-century.

Mr. Williams' young wife came with him from Roxbury, no doubt riding behind him on a pillion along the hard ride by way of the Great Trail, the Old Connecticut Path. Young Mrs. Williams may not have

had highboys and lowboys in her new home at once, but she did have spinning wheels, loom and carding combs, for without these she and her Reverend husband could not be clothed for meeting. Two years after accepting the charge of the parish, Mr. Williams was ordained on October 26, 1715. Dinner for forty ministers and messengers from other churches was served at Captain Sabin's on the Woodstock line near the present airport. "The good dinner" ordered by the town cost "ten pounds in money in the whole for payment."

Mr. Williams' land and farming was the pride of the parish. He owned large flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and slaves to care for them. Ministers' large families obliged them to engage in secular business. In early times, as it has been said, nothing was "cheep but preaching and milk."

What gave the name of Jericho to that wild and beautiful region is a matter of conjecture. Did the scholastic Mr. Williams, as he reached the heights of Easter Hill, in his parish, overlooking the valley, see in rushing streams, flowing from north and west, and in the low intervals disappearing among the rugged wooded hills, a comparison between this fair valley and the descriptions of Jericho of the Holy Lands? Perhaps he felt as Robison, the historian: "It is certainly one of the richest lands of the world, enjoying all the rains of the hill country."

It is said that Mr. Williams' congregations were too large to be seated in the old meetinghouse. He was yet in the prime of life when the Second Society of Pomfret, Brooklyn, was set off. One of the last duties performed by Mr. Williams was the fixing the boundaries of Abington in 1751, when that section of Pomfret was known as the Third Parish. It is tradition that in the latter part of his life he became very corpulent and could not reach his feet; so that when he was absent from home on councils and ecclesiastical purposes, a delegate had to perform the office of "foot dresser."

Ebenezer Williams passed away at the age of sixty-three. In the absence of a will, his children settled his estate according to his wishes. The homestead went to his elder son, Colonel Ebenezer Williams, who had established his home on the high elevation adjoining his father on the north. His old dwelling stood as an ell to the fine Colonial house which remained until 1941, although much damaged by the hurricane of 1938. It was a typical old dwelling, a low sprawling building with an immense kitchen and enormous fireplace and brick oven. Colonel Williams is credited with having built the beautiful colonial house, which is a marvel of early architecture. The broad fields were cleared, tilled, and walled by slaves, and a fine view is obtained from these hills.

Colonel Williams was made librarian in 1759 in the "room" of his father. It was ordered that "the Library be kept for the future of Mr. Ebenezer Williams till it should be ordered otherwise." Mr. Williams held this post up to the time of his death in 1783.

In 1856 the place was owned by P. and H. A. Dyer, and was known as Dyer Hill. In the "eighties" the property was acquired by Mrs. Adriana Bush of New York. Mrs. Bush made many improvements, including a mansion house which, with the beautiful pine grove where it stood, was destroyed in the hurricane of 1938. Since her death in 1913, the site has been known as Bush Hill.

ABIEL CHENEY — FIRST POMFRET BLACKSMITH

In scenic beauty, no spot in town compares with the view obtained from the old Pomfret Town House, which overlooks the long intervalle and encircling hills south, where the Mashamoquet and the Newichewanna join.

The first settler south of this locality was Abiel Cheney, blacksmith. He built his dwellings at the end of the long intervalle, about two hundred feet from the Newichewanna. Here a walled-in cellar remains, and a walled-in overflowing spring. Large pines grow, and partly cover the place where he burned charcoal pits for his forge.

Prior to 1720, a tavern license was granted Abiel Cheney to accommodate travelers who were passing his place over the one bridle path that connected this section with South Pomfret (Brooklyn). It was a long "Sabbeth Days journey" to meeting "exceedingly difficult and next to impossible, and children were compelled a great part of the year to tarry at home on the Lord's Day." The Reverend Mr. Williams visited the people and held a monthly meeting for them.

This trail which passed through Bennett and Baker Hollows to Blackwell's Brook, thence to Tatnick Hill and the coast, was a primitive Indian trail connecting their forts on "Chandler Mountain" and Tatnick Hill. These Indians disappeared from this section before the coming of the white man, having been driven north by the warring Mohegans.

The Tatnicks were found by Captain Gookin and John Eliot in 1666, living in small hamlets on Tatnick Hill in Worcester. They were a friendly tribe, and readily accepted Christianity, and were numbered among the Praying Indians who were later to be scattered by King Phillip's war. They fled beyond the Hudson River.

PIONEERS MILL SITE

"To the southward of Abiel Cheney," is a natural mill site on the Newichewanna about one mile up the brook from the Cheney homestead, near the boundary of Pomfret and Mortlake. No record can be found to establish the date when the ancient dam was built,

but according to the oldest traditions "it has always been there." The saw mill furnished boards for the houses built for Governor Belcher's tenants. It was in operation before 1739. A corn mill provided meal for the first settlers of this region, giving them, altho miles from the main settlement, all the privileges enjoyed by the older communities. The corn mill has not been in operation in the memory of the oldest present inhabitants, but the old mill-wheel was in place until recently, when it was removed by a late owner of the property. Boundary lines have been made from the "eye of the wheel." A few hundred feet west of the dam is an ancient cellar-hole. On the north side is a high stone chimney base, now heavily covered with sod. At each end of the cellar are broad door stones. Here was once the dwelling of a man who left the rude bride-path trail and followed the stream to a mill site in the wilderness. Remnants of his labors still exist today, as the older houses in the neighborhood were built from lumber sawed at his mill, which was in operation as late as the eighteen fifties. At that time Ira Elliott of Thompson, bought the property of his father-in-law, William Osgood. This property is owned, at present, by John Smutnick. The timbers and lumber for this house were cut on Pine Hill, and hauled to the old mill with ox-carts over Baker Hollow roads that were then in general use.

NORTH WILTSHIRE

When Israel Putnam purchased South Wiltshire from Governor Belcher in 1739, the North Wiltshire farm was sold to Benjamin Hubbard, who, in 1742, was granted a tavern license. The new road over Bush Hill, passing his front door, brought plenty of patronage. This was a half-way stop between Brooklyn and the Great Falls (Putnam), by way of the River Road.

Willard Hubbard, son of Benjamin, devoted his life to teaching. His life was one of much sacrifice. A small salary allowed by the English Missionary Society was insufficient, and many times he was obliged to keep the schoolhouse in repair, and also supply food and clothing for the children. Wheaton Farm, Ragged Hill, was the site of the Indian schoolhouse.

His brother, Dr. Thomas Hubbard, a student under Dr. Waldo, became an even greater physician than his predecessor, many young men studying under him, considered it a great privilege to follow his fast chaise on horseback, in order to gain experience. He lived east of the Ben Grosvenor Inn on the old road. He was active in Peace and Temperance Societies. In 1814 he and other Pomfret and Woodstock men incorporated the Arnold Manufacturing Company in South Woodstock, which made cotton twine and cloth. An active village grew up, long known as Arnoldtown. The old Hubbard tavern house is now

owned by William Valentine. It stands on the corner of Route 93 and the back road to Brooklyn via Bush Hill. The enormous latch on the garret door is said to have been for the purpose of keeping the slaves upstairs at night.

At a later date the Hubbards owned the farm now belonging to Clarence Green of Providence. The present fine old dwelling was built as a wedding present for a daughter of the Hubbards, before 1800. Happily, the present owners have restored the house to its original architecture, bringing down the splendid wide flooring from the garret and relaying it on the first floor. Wide roofing-boards and wooden pegging depict the age of the house. The ancient mill and dwelling sites are included in their property.

WESTERN POMFRET, NOW BAKER HOLLOW

The first settlers in southwestern Pomfret were: Thomas Goodell (1699), Easter Hill, Ebenezer Truesdell (1709), Samuel Sharp (1720) on the trail to Woodstock (the King's Highway), and John and James Ingalls (1720) on the Nipmuck Path, through Elliott, Route 97.

Ebenezer Truesdell bought and sold large tracts of purchase land in 1709. At one time he owned all of Baker Hollow, and sold out large tracts to Jonathan Hide on the south east and to Samuel Taylor on the north east sections.

Samuel Taylor settled in the Quinebaug Valley, but in 1727 he sold land to Henry Taylor who, when he married two years later, settled in the Hollow. At that period, usually, homesteads remained in the family for generations, although not always in the family name. The name of Louis Taylor is shown on the map of 1856. The property is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Clapp. This is a very old Colonial dwelling, and could well date back to the first settler, Henry Taylor. It has been carefully restored to its original lines by Mr. and Mrs. Clapp.

At an early date the Taylors operated a brick-yard in the Hollow, south and easterly of Hattins cabin.

In the Pomfret town records we find that Henry Taylor sold land to Ephraim Hide in 1736, married in 1735, died in 1761. This Hide farm, according to tradition, lay at the top of the hill above the Taylor-Clapp place, shown on the map as S. Sharp. This property is now owned by Martha Perkola.

The first little schoolhouse stood just above the Taylor-Clapp place in 1732, on the corner of the old road that once turned sharply to the right, and climbed the steep ascent through the Hide land. This road was changed to run around the hill in 1900.

Jonathan Hide bought land of Truesdell in 1709, covering much of Baker Hollow. His large holdings caused this tract to be called

Hide's Hollow. His home was on the Mortlake line, set off to the Second Society (Brooklyn) before 1740.

At an early date a family by the name of Potter settled on the left of Blackwell's Brook, near the crossing. Their settlement was known as Potter's Plain, where there are still cellar holes of this settlement, now all overgrown and forgotten. Children from this settlement followed the old trail that, then as now, skirted Pine Hill out to the little schoolhouse at the northern end of the Hollow.

Mr. Williams had been settled in Pomfret seventeen years before any means for public education were provided. In 1732 it was agreed that "there should be one standing school kept by a schoolmaster six months in the winter season, midway on the road leading from Woodstock to Mr. Williams' bridge." This was one of the first established schools.

"Mr. Williams' bridge" was a bridle path bridge, the stone piles of which remain. It is evident that this had been a fording place before the bridge was built, as it is still possible to cross on the stones. A substantial bridge was built over the brook after 1800. This bridge went out in 1938. For many years the valley was well cultivated, and the trail of Ebenezer Williams' time was a well trodden road. A stone bridge over the rivulet on the trail still remains.

The same year the schoolhouse was built, the town of Pomfret annexed the part of Mr. Williams' farm lying in Mortlake, which included his house, "for ye removal of ye difficulty he labored under in living out of town and bringing his work and dwelling together," which accounts for the elbow seen on the southeast corner of Pomfret maps.

Highway troubles kept Pomfret busy for several years, the town declining to build roads for the people of South Pomfret. Not until after 1737 was a road surveyed through Mortlake to Pomfret, the present Brooklyn road over Grey Mare Hill, and they finally consented to the "obnoxious highway," "provided the road be made conformable to Gov. Belcher through Mortlake, and thence along by Mr. Williams and Truesdells, and so to the meetinghouse" now known as Bush Hill Road.

HIDES' HOLLOW BECOMES RANDALL'S HOLLOW AFTER 1800 NOW KNOWN AS BAKER HOLLOW

Nathan Randall, son of John and Mary Randall, who came to Pomfret in 1793 and settled near Cotton Bridge, married Elizabeth Waight at the age of twenty-one. He bought land in the pleasantest part of the Hollow.

They had six children born between 1787 and 1801, named John, Mary, Nathan, Susanna, Stephen and Deborah. Deborah married Artemus Downing, died in 1837 and was buried with three small children

by the side of her mother, whose marble slab under the date of 1834 reads— "In memory of Elizabeth Randall, relict of Nathan Randall, age 76 years." There are other graves marked with field stones beside the two marble slabs of Mrs. Randall and her daughter.

Stephen Randall, youngest son, received the old homestead. Nathan Randall died before 1810. Whether this family were related to Jonathan Randall, who settled on Ragged Hill about the same time, is not known, although both families came from Rhode Island.

The old Randall house burned at an early date, and a second took its place on the same site. This was a long wood-colored, one and one-half story house, facing the south, with a well and well sweep in front. The well sweep pole was weighted with stones, as was the old gate-sweep pole that swung open to admit teams passing over the trodden road to Blackwell's Brook, little used even before 1900.

Four houses have been built on the foundation. Three have burned and the fourth is a neat stone cabin built by Irving Hattin, which he appropriately calls "Hattin's Hide-Out."

The fertile fields of many years ago are overgrown, and the road to the cabin is a mere trail to follow, but the foliage on the eastern hills is just as beautiful and the birds sing just as sweetly in the sunny hollow as they did in Rev. Williams' time.

The broad fields cultivated by the Randalls are now walled-in woodlands; even in their tiny burial plot, once walled against all intrusion, young trees are growing. In this tiny bit of God's Acre in the hush of the forest, one senses the weakness of man's effort and the reality of oblivion.

By 1850 the Randall farm was owned by Benjamin Baker, Sr. It was then a fine dairy farm. His descendants and other members of the Baker family settled in the hollow, giving it its present name of Baker Hollow. There were once many families living not only in the hollow, but on the hill side where a fertile plateau invited settlement, on which the Rev. Williams, the Days and others settled.

The Webber family were among the early settlers. The last of this family, Sumner Webber, lived a little below the present Roger Clapp house. They were typical New Englanders, living always within their means. In his old age he drove a faithful horse whose spasmodic stamping of string-halt announced his coming. Finally with but few hens for support, and her chimney falling down, the town fathers offered aid to the widowed Ellen Baker Webber, which was promptly rejected. Through private benevolence her chimney was repaired, and her wants met, so that her name was not on the town books up to the time of her death in 1923.

CHAPTER II

CARGILL FALLS (THE GREAT FALLS)

In 1700 Peter Aspinwall, one of the early settlers near the Falls, assisted in laying out a road to Woodstock. As the fording place was so dangerous the greater part of the year, he asked the General Assembly to allow him to build a bridge, offering to build and care for it, for 150 acres of land. The short-sighted Assembly refused to accept his offer, and for the next quarter of a century, the old fording place was made to serve the public.

Many were the thrills experienced in crossing the turbulent Quinebaug in times of high water. Not until 1722 was the river bridged, by Capt. John Sabin and his son. The sum allowed for the project was one hundred twenty pounds and three hundred acres of land on the west side of the river, now known as Sabin St. In the agreement he was required to keep the bridge in repair for fourteen years.

The first industry at the Great Falls, in Putnam, was a grist mill, established before 1720 by David Howe. At that date Pomfret had built a road to his mill.

In 1787 Capt. Benjamin Cargill bought the property and built a new mill. It had three large millstones, and was capable of grinding 500 bushels of corn daily. This mill was of great advantage to the whole country side in the great drouth of 1788-9, when all small streams were dry and no mills able to operate. Grain was hauled on hand sleds from Pomfret, and the adjoining towns, all winter. This was also a year when great cold and deep snow following the drouth made great hardship, with the men still away at war, and the roads not opened.

Capt. Cargill also built other industries, a fulling mill, malt house, distillery, trip hammer shop, sawmill, blacksmith shop, and churning mill (Pomfret's first creamery). He also built a three tenement house, which still stands. The grist mill was razed in 1949.

POMFRET FACTORY 1796

With the passing of Captain Cargill's active days, the property was sold to Messrs. Knight and Harris of Providence, and the first cotton factory in Windham County was added to the list of industries, called Pomfret Factory. In 1826 the village was owned by Smith Wilkinson, a man of fine business ability and Christian character. The

distilleries and malt houses were put to better use. A Congregational Church and a little red schoolhouse were built on the hill near what is now Union Square. His village was a model of law and order, and his home one of the most attractive in the county. He was a Baptist, and a church was built on his land in 1847.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1839, the first train pulled into the little railroad station that was called Pomfret Depot, although the Quinebaug River was the boundary between the towns of Pomfret and Killingly, and the Depot was in Killingly.

A lively village grew up in the three corners of the towns of Pomfret, Thompson and Killingly. An effort was made in 1849 to consolidate these three sections into one town. The enterprise was led by Mr. Wilkinson and his son, and many of the young men of the village. The old towns being unwilling to give up their valuable territory, a bitter conflict arose, but taking the "courage of Putnam" for their slogan, the promoters of the project continued the fight until 1855, when victory was finally won for them by Ex-Governor Cleveland, of Hampton, in the Assembly in Hartford. Through the "courage of Putnam" they were victorious, and in his honor they called their town Putnam.

Thus the west side of the Quinebaug, Pomfretville, was lost to the town of Pomfret, with its thriving industries of cotton and woolen mills, and the large Cargill grain mill by the Falls, that still bears his name. The river still dashes over the great rocks, a mad unrestrained demon in time of high water, and the name Cargill, through the Falls alone, will go down in the history of Putnam.

Cargill Mills have ground their last grist, and Manhasset Village now sprawls over meadow lands that were once the Cargill Farm, which, well watered with canals, was a marvel of production, even in dry seasons.

CAPTAIN JOHN SABIN

In 1691 Captain John Sabin purchased of Captain James Fitch, for the sum of nine pounds, one hundred acres of high land easterly from the old Air Port, where the wilds of the Mashamoquet Purchase joined the South Woodstock settlement. The trail of the Middle Post Road from Hartford and Boston crossed his land.

Before 1694 he had built the Sabin Stockade, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. Less than a mile to the northwest was Planting Hill, a community corn field, where early settlers grew their corn on allotments of one-half to one acre. Sabin family tradition asserts that the Sabin Stockade offered great protection to the planters when working in their fields, which were cultivated and fenced in common, a "fence viewer" being appointed by the town.

As a friend of the red man, Capt. John Sabin had great authority over them. At his own expense he fed the poor Wabbaquassetts, a deed that won them as allies of the white men, and for which service the General Assembly allowed him five pounds out of the public treasury, and raised him to the rank of Major. Descendants of John Sabin relate a story of how he outwitted attacking unfriendly Indians by hanging his hat out of the door on a stick, which was immediately riddled with arrows. Then he dashed from the door in pursuit. The Indians fled in terror, believing themselves chased by the ghost of the man they had killed. He chased them as far as Peak's Brook on the Woodstock Road. An ear of one of their number, and the riddled hat, were found after the skirmish, as proof of the attack.

John Sabin died in 1743, leaving a fair estate to his four children: John, a physician in West Farms (Franklin); Hezekiel, an innkeeper on Thompson Hill; Judith, wife of Justice Leavens of Killingly; and Noah at the old home.

A hundred years ago the place was deeded by a direct descendant of John Sabin to the Bartholomew family, descendants of William Bartholomew (1681) who built a "corne mill" at Harrisville, and of Abigail Bartholomew who was rescued by her father from the Indians in Roxbury, Mass. An old elm and well have long marked the site of this Capt. John Sabin dwelling, now known as Locust Hill Farm.

Near the site of the Stockade, on the highway, is an old stone mortar used by the Indians for pounding their corn into meal. This bowl-shaped rock is about two feet in diameter, and would have held a peck of corn.

BENJAMIN SABIN

Benjamin Sabin, half brother of John, settled first in Woodstock in 1686. Their father, a Huguenot, had settled first in Rehoboth, Mass. forty years before the settlement of Woodstock. He was the father of twenty children. Benjamin was the direct ancestor of Ralph Sabin, the last male survivor of the Sabin family at Sabin Corner.

Benjamin Sabin settled on the farm known as the Hayward place, now the Pomfret Golf Course. He was Pomfret's first Representative, in 1719, and the second person to be buried in the burying-ground (1725). The Sabin lands were bounded north by the Wappaquans Brook, and included the beautiful farm at the foot of Pomfret Hill, shown on the map under the name of William Sabin, purchased by George Lowry in 1880. The original Sabin house still stands as part of the outbuildings.

The farm passed from William Sabin to George Lowry, later to Thomas Maher. William Sabin was a strict churchman, who always said grace at the head of the long table where sat his line of hired

men, but hardly would he have said "Amen" before he would say "Lydia, pass the doughnuts."

From 1914 to 1921 here was the home of Elizabeth Jewett Brown, writer and teacher.

NATHANIEL GARY

Nathaniel Gary, the first settler in the old Gary neighborhood was one of the thirteen proprietors who settled Woodstock in 1686, being allotted 15 acres on Plane Hill (Woodstock).

For carrying chains in surveying, and laying out the new tract in 1698, he was allowed all the land he could encompass in nimble running in an hour, in this section. That he ran well is proven by the number of acres he acquired, including some of the finest table land lying west of the Quinebaug River.

A year later, on Dec. 3, 1699, he purchased of Major James Fitch, in company with J. Deming, 500 acres for 12 pounds. Deming settled at the foot of Prospect Hill, where the name of Deming is shown on the map of 1856. This transfer from Fitch to Gary was not recorded until January 21, 1717.

Fitch had acquired this land from Owaneco, the Indian Chief, who signed his deeds with his mark, the picture of a young chicken.

Gary chose the high lands west of the Quinebaug River for his home site. He was an active man in the new Parish, attending regularly services at the little meetinghouse built in 1715 at the top of the long Pomfret Hill. Finding the journey by the Dana Road cold and hard for himself and family, he built a Sabba-day house near the meetinghouse.

Perhaps tiring of frontier life, he returned to Enfield, Mass. in 1718 and sold his homestead to Jonathan Dresser "of Pomfret, late of Rowley, Mass., 100 acres with buildings, for 300 pounds, land running to the Quinebaug."

Members of the Gary family remained on other fertile Gary acres for a century, giving their name to the neighborhood. Samuel Gary was killed in the Revolutionary War. When the Methodists began their labors in Pomfretville (Putnam) about 1800, the Garys and Perrins were leaders in the movement. Meetings were first held at the old Perrin homestead or at the Gary schoolhouse, Mrs. Lucy Perrin Gary being a very active worker. George Gary, a boy of 17, was converted to the faith, and became a boy preacher of much power.

When Joseph J. Green acquired a section of the Gary farm from the Dresser family is not clear in the records, probably through inheritance.

Here his grandson, Jason Green, spent three score years and ten. He was a teacher for thirty years and Representative from the Town of Pomfret.

His first wife was Miss Catherine Adams Holbrook, and his second, Emma Werrill, of New York, an English trained nurse with long experience in English hospitals.

At the persuasion of this Mrs. Green, Jason Green installed a bathroom in his house, one of the first among the farming section of the town.

One of Mrs. Green's prized possessions was a lace handkerchief used to cover the face of Lloyd George at his christening.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Green bought the farm from the administrator of the Green estate, and in 1942 it was opened as a home for the elderly, under the name of Green-Wray Memorial Home.

Also a part of the original Green property is the farm of H. O. Coombs, which was acquired by the Ballards at an early date.

PERRIN

The Perrin family settled at a very early date on three hundred acres of land in the valley of the Quinebaug, on what is now Quinebaug Avenue. Samuel Perrin built a large house, known as the mansion, which he opened as a house of public entertainment, accommodating the restless pioneers that plodded to and fro, searching homes in the wild. His house stood on the grounds of the home now owned by the Kent estate at 126 Quinebaug Ave.

At this site Pomfret and Killingly built a bridge across the river to accommodate the Providence, Killingly and Pomfret turnpike, which connected with the Norwich and Worcester Pike at Pomfret Landing, by way of the old River Road.

The Perrins owned all Hospital Hill. The Perrin Farm is now owned by Mr. S. Nikoloff. Built in 1766 it was the Perrin home during the Revolution, where they suffered great privation, living on a diet of carrots for several weeks.

Just west of the Perrin farm house was once a splendid grove, where was held the first Camp Meeting of Windham County, in 1808. The Camp Grounds were maintained for more than half a century. Noah Perrin was one of the leaders of the early Methodist Church in 1795. Meetings were held at the old Perrin house for many years, when they were regarded with great disfavor by the old established churches.

CHAPTER III

OTHER FIRST SETTLERS AND THE FIRST CENTURY IN POMFRET

No name is more outstanding in the history of Pomfret settlement than that of Grosvenor. John Grosvenor, one of the wealthiest of the twelve proprietors of the Mashamoquet Purchase of 1680, had emigrated from England with his wife, Esther, and six grown sons—William, John, Leicester, Ebenezer, Thomas and Joseph, and daughter Susanna.

John Grosvenor's death occurred before the settlement of the new Purchase in 1700. His wife and sons took possession of his allotment, although he had been commissioned by the Company at the time of the purchase to visit Norwich and pay to Major John Fitch the thirty pounds purchase price of the fifteen thousand one hundred acres, comprising the Mashamoquet Purchase.

The marriage of Susanna Grosvenor to Joseph Shaw of Stonington, in 1702, was the first wedding to take place in the settlement.

Esther Grosvenor's oldest son, William, was graduated from Harvard in 1693, was a minister in Brookfield, Mass. and later went to Charleston, S.C. Her other sons, all in early manhood became leading citizens of Pomfret.

Mrs. Grosvenor was endowed with great courage and energy, and although she had been gently reared in England, like a true pioneer endured the hard life cheerfully. Skilled in the care of the sick, for many years she was the only medical practitioner. Once, when alone, her home was invaded by a company of Indians, who threatened to take a boiling pot of meat from the fire. In spite of their violent demonstrations, she defended her dinner, and held them at bay with a broomstick until the arrival of her son, Ebenezer.

The story is also told of her strength in searching for and finding a new born calf in the woods, after the men had given up the search, and returning triumphant, with the calf rolled in her apron.

Esther Grosvenor died in Pomfret in 1738, at the age of 86. She retained her health and vigor to a remarkable degree, walking to and from Pomfret Meetinghouse, more than a mile, every Sabbath. Her last days were spent at the old Ralph Sabin homestead at Sabin Corner, now owned by Capt. Hugh Goodhue, U.S.N., a descendant of the family.

This house is one of three built by Esther Grosvenor. Construction was begun in 1696, and finished in 1725; a remarkable example of colonial architecture, the old timbers still there, and the shutters

that were used when the house was built. The outer walls are lined with brick, as protection against Indian attack. The estate has ever been in the Grosvenor and Sabin families.

An Esther Grosvenor house stood on Pomfret Street, and was burned in 1913, while being used as an Episcopal Rectory. Maps of 1856 show it as owned by Job Williams, Town Clerk.

SPRING FARM

Post Road Tavern, Spring Farm, was built by Caleb Grosvenor, and there mail was left for over a quarter of a century before the first postoffice was officially established between Boston and New York.

The low ell of this overhang house was built about 1750, the main part about 1760. The present owner, Wilbur C. Abbott, has restored the house to its original lines by removing the long narrow porches that for many years scarred its colonial beauty.

In an ancient copy of the "New London Gazette" of 1786 is found the following advertisement of this property:

"To be sold or let — A farm containing 300 acres, situated in Abington Society. On the middle post road from Hartford to Boston with a large dwelling house which is now and has been for a number of years improved as a public house. Said house has an excellent orchard which will make 80 barrels of cider annually."

Caleb Grosvenor had two sons in the Revolution, and his home was undoubtedly sold after his death. The place did not again return to the Grosvenor family for a hundred years, when it was purchased by Benjamin Grosvenor.

Caleb Grosvenor was a rising young man at the time the Abington meetinghouse was built. Because of paying the highest rate in the Parish, he was given first choice of a place to build his pew.

The old post road, later the Hartford-Boston turnpike, was muddy, rough and precipitous, though heavily traveled. The tavern, built in 1765, was famous through the Revolution. Caleb Grosvenor was a loyal Patriot, but a sign long hung before his door, depicting a post rider carrying the English flag, and riding a galloping horse. This sign, that once bore the date 1765, now hangs before the Ben Grosvenor Inn on Pomfret Street.

History, tradition and controversy met at the tavern. In 1812 the son of Lieut. Joseph Spaulding, a Revolutionary soldier, Rev. Solomon Spaulding, with his wife, spent some time at the Caleb Grosvenor Inn while suffering from loss of voice while teaching school. He wrote for his own amusement a romantic account of the wanderings of the Children of Israel across the Behring Straits, and called it "Manuscript Found" or the "Book of Mormon."

Rev. and Mrs. Spaulding removed to Pennsylvania, where they became acquainted with Joseph Smith, who later became the Mormon

prophet. Mrs. Spaulding claimed she lent the manuscript to Mr. Smith, who never would return it. The Mormon Church emphatically denied the Spaulding manuscript, claiming it had been found by Professor Fairchild of Oberlin College in 1884.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Spaulding returned to Pomfret, and after the founding of the Mormon Church in 1830, was often heard to say she wished she had burned the manuscript. Among others to whom she related the story was Miss Mary Osgood, local historian, who was personally acquainted with her.

Mrs. Spaulding was Matilda, daughter of William and Susanna Chandler Sabin, granddaughter of Benjamin Sabin, Pomfret's first Representative. Her father was a blacksmith, and his original shop stood a little north, opposite the present Catholic Church in Pomfret.

In 1947, a small item in the city newspapers announced the finding in Honolulu, of the so-called Spaulding papers which disputed the original story of Joseph Smith.

Down the long steep hill west of Spring Farm is Nightingale Pond, named for Col. Nightingale, who came from Providence to Pomfret during the Revolution. A man of wealth, he entertained lavishly. His fine farm was rivaled by none in town.

On the pond that perpetuates his name, Henry Brayman carried on a sawmill at the old mill privilege. The toll gate house at the foot of the long hill west of the pond was for many years the home of Mr. Brayman's daughter, Mrs. Lucy Smith, before 1939. This house is shown on the map under the name of Dan'l Fitts, and has been purchased by Lloyd Saunders of Providence as a summer home.

POMFRET'S SECOND MINISTER 1756-1780

Pomfret's second minister, the Rev. Aaron Putnam, a Harvard graduate (1752) was installed in the Pomfret Parish in March 1756. While not considered an equal to his predecessor in talents and influence, he was highly regarded for his discipline in keeping the Sabbath.

POMFRET STREET 1

1. Pomfret's Third Congregational Church. Built 1832.
2. Map—Rob. Davis. The Ben Grosvenor Inn, showing old section, built 1760. Now owned by The B. G. Corporation.
3. Map—Chas. Burton. The Ebenezer Grosvenor Revolutionary Inn. Owned by the Slattery family.
4. Map—E. B. Robinson. Built by Louis Williams 1758. Owned by David Planchon.
5. Map—P. Grosvenor. Pomfret's first Post Office. Postmaster Lemuel Grosvenor, 1795. Owned by E. S. Elting, V.S.
6. Map—C. Lombard. Owned by Elizabeth Wiggins Est.
7. Map—Trowbridge. The Joseph Carter Grocery, 1762. At left the Joseph Carter dwelling, now Holy Trinity Rectory.
8. Map—Dr. Louis Williams. Peter Thompson Tavern House 1817. Home of Pomfret Doctors from 1849 to the death of Dr. S. B. Overlock in 1934. Owned by E. W. Moon, 3rd.





Unlike the Rev. Williams, whose home was miles from the meeting-house, Mr. Putnam built his dwelling on Pomfret Street, now the old part of Ben Grosvenor Inn. Soon after coming to Pomfret, he married the sister of one of Pomfret's first physicians, Dr. Hall. She met a tragic death on Pomfret Street, near the present Library, when she was thrown from a two-wheel chaise, the wheel having run over a rock after her husband had left her to pick her some wild flowers.

The second Mrs. Putnam was a daughter of Ephraim Avery, Brooklyn's first minister, Pomfret's second parish. Her widowed mother became the second wife of Gen. Israel Putnam. The building of Pomfret's second church was the historic event of Mr. Putnam's pastorate in 1760.

For a period of three years, the unfinished frame of a new church building stood untouched while the Parish quarrelled over the site. Pomfret Street was building up about this time and felt it should have a "priority" on the meeting house, which was deeply resented by the west section (Abington). The north east section had favored old Pomfret Village.

When the meeting-house was finally completed, it was the pride of the county. Standing out on the present highway, directly in front of Pomfret's present church, it would seat one thousand people. It stood 48x60, with 25 ft. stud, with a very high steeple, painted a bright yellow with chocolate trimmings. The meeting-house for a time united the people. The high galleries, high pulpit and sounding board were all up to date, all that the times demanded.

In his later years, through ill health, Mr. Putnam suffered loss of voice, and Walter Dodge, of Ipswich, a Harvard graduate, was called to aid in the parish. Mr. Dodge's lively manner and eloquence won favor from the start, a contrast to the "stiffness and solemnity" of Mr. Putnam. He was ordained in the church April, 1792, and soon had a large following among the younger set, leading them far from the Puritan circle, for he soon proved himself totally unfit for the ministry, by

POMFRET STREET 2 and ROUTE 93

1. Map—E. F. Robinson. Where Thomas Grosvenor entertained Washington, 1789. Has been torn down.
2. Map—W. Eldredge. The Col. Thomas Grosvenor mansion, 1792. Now Rectory School.
3. Map—L. Fittz. Chandler homestead in 1708. Owned by Gen. J. M. Carson. See Jos. Chandler.
4. Map—Elija Adams. Long the home of Alfred Briggs. Owned by Mrs. S. M. Wheelock.
5. Map—P. Grosvenor. One of the four first mansions built by 1750. Owned by Wm. D. Moss.
6. Map—J. Weaver. Fox Hill Farm. Once home of Eleanor Mathewson. Owned by the Mathewson Est.
7. Catholic Church and Pomfret's second school house on this site, built about 1850. First school on this site was built about 1732.
8. Map—David Hall. House moved to present site on side road west of Rectory School.

introducing wild drinking parties and dances into the parish. The society became hopelessly divided.

The Dodgeites, calling themselves the "Reformed Catholic Church of Pomfret" held their services in warmth and comfort in the old Esther Grosvenor homestead, just north of the present Episcopal Church; while the faithful remnant attended at the big cold meeting-house, made more cheerless by the thinning congregation, and listened to Mr. Putnam's long dry sermons, read by the deacons.

In all the church troubles and excitement concerning religion in Windham County, it is doubtful that any controversy ever surpassed these experienced during the seven years of the Dodge pastorate. Neighborhoods became enemies, little short of armed camps, families were divided, but happily the eyes of the public were opened and this young imposter was seen in his true light, when, attempting to preach after one of his drunken debauches, he fell in a stupor in the pulpit. "The Reformed Catholics," as they styled themselves, then passed into oblivion.

When the health of the Rev. Putnam did not improve, he was retired on an allowance for the last eleven years of his life, after forty-six years pastorate in Pomfret Church.

Mr. Asa King, of Mansfield, was installed the third pastor, in 1802, and succeeded in reuniting the divided church by promoting more respectable dancing parties and amusements. Under his supervision, improvements and repairs were made in the meeting-house. Fashionable pews replaced the old seats, and an additional sounding board was suspended under a massive canopy or balcony, costing as much as the present church building. In 1818 a "grand musical organ" was installed. Nathaniel Sweeting was the organist. For years Peter Grosvenor had led the singing, with pipe and tuning fork.

But the old church could not come back into its own, as the seven chaotic years of the Dodge era had been a spiritual drouth, and the congregation drifted apart in more ways than one. Many of the religious minded had been drawn away to the Baptists, who had become established in the old village, while others attended the plain, earnest meetings being held at Cargill Mills (Putnam), led by John Allen, Methodist.

In the hurricane of 1815, the great meeting-house on the hill suffered much damage and the loss of the high steeple, as did most of the churches in Windham County. Thereafter the building was so cold it was difficult to settle a minister, after the resignation of the fourth pastor, Rev. James Porter, in 1830.

The first task of the fifth minister, Rev. Amzi Benedict, was to build the present church (1832). Much of the timber from the old building was used in the construction. The additional land was bought by the ladies, by the sale of hand knit stockings, from hand spun wool (Pomfret's First Ladies' Aid).

CHAPTER IV

COLONEL THOMAS GROSVENOR

Colonel Thomas Grosvenor, son of John Grosvenor, was born in 1754. He served as lieutenant under Captain Brown during the Revolutionary War. At the battle of Bunker Hill, although wounded in the right hand (which he bound up with a white cravat) he continued to lead his company into battle, holding his sword in his left hand, despite the efforts of his negro servant to draw him from the field. This scene, painted by the artist John Trumbull, hangs on a wall at Yale University.

Colonel Grosvenor saw seven years of toil and privation, attached to Washington's main army. He was with General Washington in the famed crossing of the Delaware. In 1780 he broke ground at West Point and began the fort that is now the site of West Point Academy.

At the close of the war, Colonel Thomas Grosvenor resumed his law practice, and served on the Governor's Council. He was in high repute throughout the state—ever the friend of soldiers, Indians, and all who needed counsel.

Pomfret has reason to be proud of her two great citizen soldiers, General Israel Putnam and Colonel Thomas Grosvenor. Both were personal friends of General Washington. When the Commander-in-Chief made his trip to Boston in 1789, he passed through Pomfret. General Putnam lived in Brooklyn; so General Washington could not stop over to see him — but he did dine with Colonel Grosvenor. It is usually said that Washington was entertained at the Thomas Grosvenor Mansion (now the Rectory School), but when we consider that Washington made his visit to Pomfret two years before the house was completed, the tradition is confirmed that the Commander-in-Chief actually stopped at the Harrison House which would appear to have been the home of Thomas Grosvenor before the erection of his mansion in 1792. The festivities on the occasion of General Washington's visit were notable, particularly when an Indian greatly delighted the crowd by dancing on the ridgepole.

The house was much enlarged and remodeled when it became the residence of Mr. Robert Harrison about 1900. At that time he owned much valuable property in Pomfret—the Rectory School building, a racing stable and Arabian horses.

It was truly a red letter day for Pomfret when Washington's coach and four rolled down the old Boston Post Road, past the present site

of the airport, and through the village. What Washington thought of the country is found in his diary, under the date of November 7, 1789:

"Left Taft's (Uxbridge, Massachusetts) before sunrise, and passing through Douglas Woods breakfasted at one Jacobs, not a good house. Bated horses at Pomfret and lodged at Squire Perkins in Ashford (called ten miles, but must be twelve). The first stage, with a small exception, is intolerably bad roads, and a poor uncultivated country covered chiefly with woods, the largest of which is called Douglas, at the foot of which, on the east side, is a large pond. Jacobs is in the State of Connecticut, and here the land is better and more highly improved. From hence to Pomfret they are fine and from thence to Ashford, not bad, but very hilly and much mixed with rock and stone. Knowing that Gen. Putnam (seventy-one years old) lived in the township of Pomfret I had hopes of seeing him, but of inquiry in town I found he lived five miles out of my road, and not without deranging my plans and delaying my journey I could not do it.

Sunday, November 8, 1789—Ashford—It being contrary to law and disagreeable to the people of this state to travel on the Sabbath Day, and my horses, after passing through such intolerable roads, wanting rest, I stayed at Perkins' Tavern (which bye-the-bye is not a good one) all day, and a meeting house being within a few rods, I attended morning and evening services and heard a very lame discourse from a Mr. Pond.

Monday, November 9, 1789—Hartford—Set out about seven o'clock, and for the first twenty-four miles had hills rocky and disagreeable roads; the remaining ten miles was level and good, at Hartford a little before four. We passed through Mansfield (which is a very hilly country) the township in which they make the greatest quantity of silk in the state, and breakfasted at one Brighams in Coventry. Stopped at Woodbridge in East Hartford. I found by conversing with the farmers along the way that minimum crop of wheat to the acres was fifteen bushels, of corn—twenty bushels, and of oats, the same."

Thus is the description of traveling and taverns in the "good old days" at the close of the eighteenth century.

POMFRET, Including Ragged Hill

1. Map—J. W. Grosvenor. One of three houses built by Mrs. Esther Grosvenor before 1738. Owned by Mrs. Carleton Shaw.
2. Map—Horace Sabin—Oldest House in Pomfret. Begun 1696, completed 1725. Owned by Capt. Hugh Goodhue, descendant of Sabin family.
3. Map—D. Fitz-Toll Gate House of turnpike days. Owned by John Alho.
4. Map—H. S. Searles. Spring Farm. Caleb Grosvenor Inn 1760. Owned by C. C. Abbott.
5. Map—Jonathan Bennett. See Chandler-Cleveland house. Owner A. H. Paine.
6. Map—Geo. Randall. See Jonathan Randall. Owned by Mrs. Goodridge Barber.
7. Map—Charles Chandler. Birthplace of Louise Chandler Moulton, owned by Mrs. John Peterson.
8. Map—Jas. Wheaton. The Wheatons came to Pomfret in 1779. Owned by Fred Colburn.





1 2



3



4



5



7 8



THE EBENEZER GROSVENOR INN ON POMFRET STREET

“Who e'er has traveled earth's dull round
 What e'er his stage may have been
 May sigh to think he yet has found
 His warmest welcome at the Inn.”

The mystery of olden times still clings to the old homes along the main village street of old Pomfret, east from Overlock's corner, where stands the residence of Mrs. E. A. J. Wiggins (the Waldo house). In the days when this was the business section of the village, Samuel Waldo on this corner did custom tailoring, and there is still a cupboard in the east room where he kept the cloth of his trade.

But the Wiggins' residence is of much later date than the other homes of interest on the street. On their grounds may yet be seen the vine-covered walls of the old Harrison house, amid the trees of an old-fashioned garden, where deepening shadows fall cool in summer and dark on winter snow, and lure fancy back to those historic days when Pomfret had barely twenty families whose pioneer fires lighted along the primitive trails with no organized protection against the Indian attack. As early as 1712, Ebenezer Grosvenor was numbered among these families by Capt. John Sabin. It is traditional that the Harrison house was built by Ebenezer Grosvenor who there lived out his day. Born in 1684 and died in 1730—his was an active, useful life. He was on the committee to decide upon the site of the first meeting-house and “school house by the sign post.” He was also Sergeant of Pomfret's First Military Company.

In 1800 the Harrison house was the home of Sylvanus Backus, Pomfret's famous lawyer, who was elected to Congress by both parties in 1817 but died before taking his seat. His law office stood until recently. A monument in the North Burying Ground commemorates him.

Ebenezer Grosvenor, Jr., born in 1713, like his father, held offices of responsibility, and was one of the committee to choose the site of the second meeting-house in 1760. He married Miss Lucy Cheney, and they were said to have been the handsomest couple ever to enter the meeting-house. She was the first to be buried in the Hall (North) Burying Ground.

POMFRET 4 Route 44 Gary District

1. Map—J. J. Green. Greenway Memorial Home, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Green.
2. Map—W. O. Green. Owned by H. O. Combs.
3. Map—A. Perrin. Owned by Subbo Nicoloff.
4. Map—W. M. Bartholomew. Home of Pomfret's first white settler, Captain John Sabin 1694. Owned by Miss Mary Bartholomew.
5. Map—Dan. Medbury. Was home of 4 generations of Medbury family. Present owner Fisher Bros.
6. Map—Wd. Williams. Owned by Walter Davis.
7. Map—Geo. Record. Owned by C. A. Tarr, Cattle Dealer.
8. Map—I. May. Ithamar May settled in Pomfret in 1790. Owned by Twin Wing Farm.

It was Ebenezer Grosvenor II who opened the famous Revolutionary tavern in 1771, a place where many officers were entertained, and a headquarters for military news and events. Here Washington fed his horses when he called on his friend, Col. Thomas Grosvenor in 1789. It was here the proprietors of New Pomfret (Pomfret, Vermont) met on Christmas Day in 1779, to lay the plans for a new town in the then wilds of the north, as the younger generation was finding the mother town too old and thickly settled for their proper advancement, and was ready to join the tide of emigration that had already begun.

POMFRET'S FIRST POST OFFICE

Lemuel Grosvenor, Pomfret's first postmaster, was appointed under Washington in 1795. He remained in office forty years, and was very proud of his appointment, delighting in signing his name "Lemuel Grosvenor, P.M." A post office desk used by him was long in the family of Miss Elizabeth Thompson. His wife was a daughter of Gen. Israel Putnam.

Lemuel Grosvenor was born at the old Ebenezer Grosvenor Tavern, which some have claimed to have been the site of the first post office. His home was the large white house still standing on the corner of Routes 44, 93, and the old Post Road, where his descendants claim was the first post office site.

For a quarter of a century Lemuel Grosvenor's was the main post office for many miles around, the first between New York and Boston.

Lemuel Grosvenor also kept a store of barter and trade. It was customary for the storekeeper to go out among the farmers and trade his goods for farm produce, which was hauled to Providence with ox teams and exchanged again for goods, very little cash ever being handled.

THE OLD WILLIAMS HOUSE

In 1758 the Williams House was built by Lewis Grosvenor for his intended bride. Death ended the romance, and he never occupied the house. He was a half-brother of Lemuel Grosvenor, the first postmaster.

The following inscription is copied from a silver urn now in the possession of Mrs. Charles O. Thompson, a descendant of the Lewis Grosvenor family:

"The Assurer and Owners of Ship Champion & Cargo to Mr. Lewis Grosvenor in acknowledgement of the support and encouragement afforded to the officers and crew of said ship, when in great peril at sea by voluntarily remaining on board & assisting to bring her safe to port. Boston 1822."

FIRST GROCERY STORE IN POMFRET

Joseph Carter built the first grocery store in 1762, where supplies could be obtained by "barter and trade." There was little beside West Indian Goods that the average family needed at that date—rum, molasses, spices and salt, for which they traded the products of their farms.

The old building is now owned by the Misses Keyes. There is a very remarkable glass door in the house, made for shutters, very thick and heavy, intended for the outside front door. The second story was used for a dwelling for the clerk of the old store.

The Keyes family were of Ashford, but came to Pomfret in pre-Civil War days. Their mother was a dressmaker, widowed by the war. She owned the first sewing machine in town, in the days when it took 20 yards of silk to make a dress, or 18 yards of other material. The cost of a really nice dress was \$20. Dresses were of necessity turned and made over several times. Styles were just as variant as today.

Joseph Carter of Canterbury, owner of the store, lived in the house just west of his store, now remodeled and used as the Catholic Rectory.

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR

In the half century between 1870 and 1923 no townsman was more popular in Pomfret than Benjamin Grosvenor. As proprietor of the Ben Grosvenor Inn and owner of several of the best farms, he was the largest employer in town. His bountiful larder was supplied with vegetables and dairy products from Spring Farm on Ragged Hill, poultry and eggs from Hamlet Farm.

The many fine cottages he built for the accommodation of his guests were always filled. As a landlord, he was known all along the Atlantic Seaboard. Benjamin Grosvenor died in 1923, leaving the management of the Inn to his son, John. He also had a daughter, Mrs. J. D. Campbell, of Pomfret.

Benjamin Grosvenor was born at the old Grosvenor-Chandler homestead, at the foot of Chandler Hill, one of the three houses built by his pioneer ancestress, Esther Grosvenor. This house is now owned by Carlton Shaw Est. As a boy he attended the Chandler School and Woodstock Academy.

In 1866, following the advice of Horace Greeley to "Go West, Young Man," he went to the wilds of Nebraska, as an appointed agent to the Winnebago-Omaha Reservation, to teach cultivation to the Indians. This region became the richest wheat-raising district in the state.

In 1867 he returned to Pomfret to marry Miss Anna Mathewson. Their wedding took place at daybreak on the morning of December 23. They started on the early morning train for their honeymoon trip to the west, where Mr. Grosvenor had a new home waiting. The Missouri

River not being bridged at that time, they were given long poles to make the crossing on the ice less dangerous. Fortunately, they made the crossing safely. But tragedy awaited their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sharpe and child, who had come across the river to welcome them to their new home. In making the return trip, all three were drowned, as the ice broke under them. The Sharpe family was also from Pomfret, having preceded the Grosvenors to Nebraska. Two days later, Mrs. Grosvenor awoke in her own home, to find her yard full of Indians who were awaiting their turn to sharpen their knives and axes.

Apparently the Grosvenors were not pleased with the west, for at the end of two years they returned to Pomfret and purchased the property then owned by James Averill (the Reverend Aaron Putnam house), and opened the home for summer boarders. From this modest beginning Mr. Grosvenor achieved success.

Another of Pomfret's sons to answer the call of the west at this period was Darius Mathewson 2nd. Remaining in the locality where Grosvenor had settled, he founded the town of Wakefield, and saw the region develop into the state's richest wheatfield.

Mr. Grosvenor took a leading part in all town affairs.

After his death his son, John, maintained the Inn until the coming of the Automobile Age wrought many changes in the patronage of the hill-top summer resorts. With the reduction of business, the Inn was eventually closed and the entire property sold in the fall of 1943 to the Pomfret School, reopened in 1947.

Benjamin Grosvenor built several cottages that today, with the church, make up the major residential part of Pomfret Street. Most of these cottages stand on what was once the Zachariah Waldo farm.

JOHN ANDERSON PORTER PLACE, BUILT IN 1750

Another Pomfret residence of historical background is the John Anderson Porter place, built in 1750 by Payson Grosvenor. This was one of the first "mansion houses" of Pomfret. John A. Porter was at one time owner of the Hartford Courant. He was also Secretary to President McKinley. After Mrs. Porter's death, the property was purchased by Herbert Vanderbeek of Canton, Ohio, who restored the property, long neglected. It is now the property of William Moss. At this house in the Civil War, soldiers were examined for service.

THE MATHEWSON FAMILY

Joseph and Darius Mathewson came from Coventry, Rhode Island. Joseph Mathewson purchased the Col. Israel Putnam farm near the Brooklyn-Pomfret line in 1795, when Col. Putnam emigrated to Marietta, Ohio. In Mathewson's time the farm became noted for its fine dairy cheese. It is said that Putnam's portrait was painted on the wall above the mantle in the living room, where it has been papered over.

Also on the walls were found under the old paper, painting said to have been done by Hessian Soldiers, who worked for board and keep in local homes after the Revolution.

Darius Mathewson settled in Pomfret, purchasing the lands on the west side of Pomfret Street (now Pomfret School Grounds). His mansion house, built about the same time as the Goodridge house, stood on the site of Pomfret School Chapel. It burned in 1913, after the school was established.

Darius Mathewson was a leader in all efforts for reform and temperance, as was his son, George B., the father of Mrs. Benjamin Grosvenor and Mrs. Chas. W. Grosvenor.

Charles W. Grosvenor, returning from the Civil War, purchased his father-in-law's estate, and like his brother, opened his home for an Inn. These Inns became known as "B.G.'s" and "C.G.'s", and did much to put Pomfret "on the map," their extensive patronage causing all trains to stop in Pomfret, so popular was it as a summer resort.

In 1896 the Charles W. Mathewson Inn was sold to Edward Peck for a boys' school. The Mathewson name passed from the town. Their last homestead, Miss Eleanor Mathewson's, Fox Hill Farm, stands near the Woodstock line on Route 93, and is the third built on the same design on the same hearthstone.

POMFRET SCHOOL

Pomfret School was founded by Mr. Edward Peck in 1896. He died in 1898 after two years of work in Pomfret, during which time he built the gymnasium. Dr. Wm. B. Olmstead, a graduate of Trinity College, was his successor, and had been associated with him in establishing St. Mark's School for Boys, at Southboro, Mass., prior to coming to Pomfret. Dr. Olmstead remained as Headmaster from 1898 until his death in 1929. During this time the school was raised to the highest standard of education, and fine buildings were erected. Mr. Halleck Lefferts following as Headmaster greatly forwarded the work of the school. An enterprising citizen, interested in all town and public affairs, he did much for the youth of Pomfret. Mr. Lefferts was followed as Headmaster by Dexter K. Strong.

The hurricane of 1938 did great damage on the campus and century-old trees set out by the Mathewsons. The present chapel stands on the site of the Charles Grosvenor Inn.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private schools have been maintained in town since 1800 when the Baptist School opened on Tyott Road. In 1912 this property was owned by Stanton Wicks as a modern stock farm. It appears on old maps in the name of George Lyon. This residence was destroyed by fire within the past decade.

About 1800 a Quaker School was kept near the Quaker Meeting-house. Later, a Ladies' Seminary was maintained at the old Harrison house.

Reverend Roswell Parks, Rector of the Episcopal Church from 1843-53, taught a school on the street. This school is shown on maps as the Academy, and is the one which the artist Whistler attended as a boy, when he lived in the house now used as a Catholic Rectory. The school-building, moved many years ago, is used as a barn on the property of Peter Murphy.

Since 1900 there have been the Misses' Vinton's School at Four Acres, and the Vinton-Wiggins School for Boys at Hamlet Lodge.

The Rectory School, established by the late Reverend Dr. Bigelow when he was Rector of the Episcopal Church in 1920, is now beautifully situated at the Thomas Grosvenor mansion on the Street.

ARTHUR GROSVENOR HOMESTEAD

The Arthur Grosvenor farmstead in Abington, near the Mashamoquet, was a part of the original Grosvenor tract of 1700, and was kept in the family until 1944.

The present Grosvenor family of Pomfret are descendants of Thomas, the seventh son of Esther Grosvenor, the "picturesque widow of Pomfret." Thomas married Elizabeth Pepper in 1718, and settled on the Post road, west of Sabins Corner (the present Carlton Shaw house). In this house there are yet fireplaces that will take in six-foot logs, and some of the chambers remain, in colonial fashion, unplastered.

Thomas Grosvenor died at the age of forty-seven, leaving four children. We cannot follow the fortunes of this second pioneer widow, except through the line of her youngest son, Joshua, who was a lieutenant in the Indian Wars, and a member of the Legislature in 1786.

No doubt it was Joshua Grosvenor who first settled on the Grosvenor farm in Abington. This was the home of Charles Ingalls Grosvenor, his son, who was a Legislator from 1840-1850. Charles Payson Grosvenor was the third generation from the house to act as Pomfret's representative; and the late Arthur T. Grosvenor, last of the immediate family, was the fourth, in 1908-1910.

Charles P. Grosvenor, a recognized leader in all moral and temperance work in his town and county, was active in forming the first temperance society in 1829-30. Many of the leading men in Windham County joined him in his work of reform, and labored hard to bring about better conditions, Windham County can proudly state:

"That her great men were good
And her good men were great
And the props of her church
Were the pillars of the state."

CHAPTER V

MEDBURY HOMESTEAD – GARY DISTRICT

The first Daniel Medbury came to Pomfret from Rhode Island at the age of 21, choosing for a home site fifty fine acres of land on what has ever since been known as Medbury Pond.

He was a tanner by trade, and there he built a tannery, and also carried on a saddlery and shoe business.

He was a leading man in town and a member of the early Baptist Church. He died in 1853, leaving a large family of children by his two marriages.

He was followed at the homestead by his son, Daniel 2nd, who was born in 1819, also a tanner and farmer.

Daniel Medbury 3rd, born at the homestead in 1861, was the youngest of 12 children. Like his father and grandfather, he was a successful business man. But he utilized the pond, not for water power for the tannery, but to establish an ice business, which has been perpetuated by his son Raymond in an artificial ice establishment in Putnam.

Daniel S. Medbury of the fourth generation, born 1894 was the youngest of 5 children, and went to Detroit, Michigan. His son Daniel rounds out 5 generations of that name.

The Medbury homestead was sold in 1938 and is now the home of the Fisher Bros. Dairy.

The Medbury Tannery and Shoe Shop was of much neighborhood importance. Farmers took their cow hides to the tannery to be tanned into leather, for shoes for the whole family. Adult shoes were made by personal measurement, and children's shoes next. All scraps of leather were utilized. Boots and shoes were not made left and right as now. Longer service was obtained by changing to either foot.

Heavy cow hide boots greased with mutton tallow served in the lack of rubbers, which did not come into use before 1850. The odor from the first rubbers was so offensive as to prevent them being kept in a warm room.

GEORGE RECORD HOME

The George Record Home, lately owned by Tarr Bros., originally belonged to the Nathaniel Gary farm. The house, a one and one half story cottage, was occupied by several generations of the Record family.

George Record, who lived there in 1866, had two sons and a daughter. It is tradition that during the Civil War, fearing his sons would be drafted, he hid them in the cellar and garret, to make baskets, which he marketed at a profit.

Being a very thrifty family and the last of the "oldtimers" the two brothers, George and James, were often seen out with their oxen, on their fine valley farm, laying up stone walls. They were known as the "Record Boys," were great hunters and trappers, always began their work at the break of day, and lived well beyond three score and ten.

In business, only cash, never checks, was accepted by the Records. They were among the largest depositors in the local banks. After the death of the last of the three, about 1900, the property passed to a relative, and tradition says that in making repairs on the cellar walls, a large sum of money was discovered.

At the present time this is a large and productive cattle farm, including a very large barn, said to be one of the largest in the state.

The May place became the home of Ithamar May in 1787, when he "took possession of a fine farm east of Prospect Hill." He married first a Miss Sabin, descendant of John Sabin, and it is probable that the "fine farm" mentioned in Larned's History, came from the Sabin land. Ill fate hovered over the marriage of the Ithamar Mays, as in less than a year the bride took her own life, and from that time the house was considered haunted. This "haunted" house burned and the present house was built. It was of the May house that Louise Chandler Moulton wrote her story of "The Haunted House."

The home of Mrs. Irving Beebe stands on the site of the homestead of Dr. Waldo, Pomfret's Revolutionary doctor. The Waldo property extended to the site of the Pomfret Church. The old Waldo house was moved by Benjamin Grosvenor down the road that runs east of the church, and for many years was used as a boarding house.

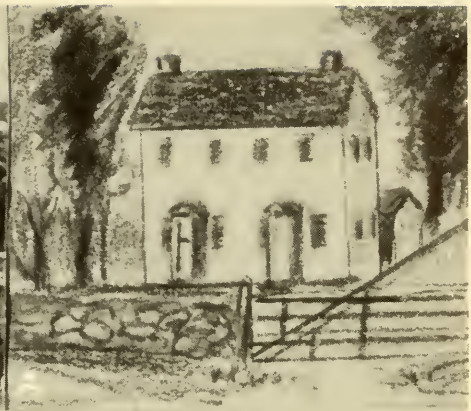
Louise Chandler Moulton, Pomfret poetess, who died in 1908, spent her girlhood at Elmwood, present home of Vinton Freedley. She was the great granddaughter of Hannah Sharpe Cleveland, heroine of the "pink satin," and cousin of Caroline Fairfield Corbin, the "bride of Goat Rock."

POMFRET CENTER 1 and Route 44

1. Gary School House, built 1846-50. First school here was built in 1733, when four districts were set off. Owned by J. J. Liguz.
2. Map—Quaker Meeting House, Quaker Road. Burned 1920.
3. New Community School, built 1947-48.
4. Chandler School House, Ragged Hill, owned by Asa Lee.
5. Map—Oliver Ingalls, Marks site of dwelling of Orin Marcy, blacksmith from 1818. In Abington Burying Ground is the anvil on which two generations of Marcy's worked. W. E. Marcy, last of the family blacksmiths, died in 1946. House owned by Mrs. W. E. Marcy. 5 generations have made Marcy Hollow their home.
6. Map—W. Sessions. "Hillside," owned by Frederick W. Hillmann.
7. Map—Charles Osgood. Was Jos. Elliott home. Owned by Robert McLaughlin.
8. Map—Samuel Dresser. Was Frank Haine's home. Owned by J. R. Cooke.



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Louise Moulton was born on Ragged Hill (John Peterson house) which she commemorates in her poem—

“My thoughts go back to the little brown house
 With its low roof sloping to the east,
 With its garden fragrant with roses and thyme,
 That blossom no longer except in rhyme.
 Afar in the west the great hills rose
 Silent and steadfast, and gloomy and gray.
 I thought they were giants, and doomed to keep
 Their watch while the world should wake or sleep
 Till the trumpet should sound on the Judgment Day.
 And I was young, tho the hills were old
 And the world was warm with the warmth of spring.
 And the roses red, and the lilac white
 Budded and bloomed for my heart’s delight.
 And the birds in my heart began to sing.”

POMFRET CENTER 2

1. Map—S. Dana. Jacob Ben’j. and Daniel Dana were among the first twelve proprietors of Pomfret. Owned by Edgar Hurdis.

2. Pomfret’s second depot, built 1904.

3. Field—Johnson homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson in foreground, taken in 1880’s. Owned by Kenneth Bosworth. Jeremiah Field of Providence, R.I. purchased in 1777, of Thomas Angell, 175 acres on the slightly hills east of the Mashamoquet, coming to Pomfret about the same time as did the Randalls and Higginbotham, at that period when the British were ravaging the Rhode Island coast.

Many families came to Connecticut bringing their flocks and herds. The Fields were Baptists, active in the early Baptist movement in Pomfret. Wm. Field was one of the founders of the Abington Library in 1793, when shares were sold at 12 shillings.

In the little family burying ground about an eighth of a mile north of the dwelling on the old trail which connected him with the Needle’s Eye Road (one of the oldest in town) we read the names of this pioneer family on fourteen old marble slabs. Among them is the inscription:

“In memory of
 Dea. Jeremiah Field
 Born in Providence, R.I.
 July 14, 1716
 Died Pomfret, Connecticut
 April 26, 1815
 Know Thyself
 and Know Thy God”

According to town records, John D. Johnson acquired the farm before 1860. The Fields are no longer residents of Pomfret. Wm. Field, born in Pomfret in 1790, died 1878, was at one time Lieut. Governor of Connecticut. Harold F. Field, Treasurer of Putnam Savings Bank, is a descendant of this family.

4. Map—Wm. Dirga. One of several restored colonial houses in Pomfret. Owned by Boris Archer.

5. Map—Averill. One of three Averill homesteads. Owned by Lawrence Ryan.

6. Map—Averill. Wolf Den Farm on High Ridge Road, owned by Wm. C. Hotchkin. One of the finest colonial houses in Pomfret.

7. Map—Jos. Gilbert. Owned by County Commissioner Allen Averill.

8. Map—Averill. Louis Averill farm, built 1837, home of the late Misses Clara and Lena Averill. Taken in 1880’s. Owned by Mrs. Edna Sharp.

BRIDE OF GOAT ROCK

Perhaps the wedding of Caroline Fairfield had the most romantic setting of any to take place in Pomfret. In the wilds of the Wolf Den woods, she and Calvin R. Corbin took the sacred vows of matrimony.

She was a Pomfret girl, although her birthplace was near Quasset Pond, in Woodstock. Her girlhood home had been in the north of Abington, near Sabin Corner, on the south side of the road. Her husband, Calvin Corbin, came from one of Thompson's oldest families. After making their home in New York, they went to Chicago, where for fifty years she took an active interest in moral reform, and was one of the original founders of the association for the advancement of women, but she was much against woman suffrage. Perhaps she was not all wrong, if so-called "Women's Rights" have made them forget their womanhood and claim the right to smoke and frequent drinking places.

On her last trip abroad, she had a personal interview with Emperor William and the Pope of Rome, in the interest of Anti-Suffrage.

TYOTT ROAD

On the Tyott Road, which skirts the western slope of Pomfret Hill, are a few old homes worthy of mention, among them the pleasant home of Miss Helen Mabie, artist, commanding a lovely view of the intervalle and the distant hills of South Woodstock.

It was originally the home of Seth Grosvenor, purchased in 1785 by Jabez Dennison. The Dennison family were prominent in the early Separates and Baptist movement in the County—a time when it took courage to fight for free speech and one's religious convictions; when a poor man's cow or pig could be seized for Priest Tax.

The story is told of a church dissenter being flogged on Ashford Green for non-attendance at church, when a stranger rode up and shouted "Oh ye men of Ashford, ye serve God as though the devil was in ye", then putting spurs to his horse, galloped on out of town.

After the Dennisons, the farm was long owned by Judge Charles C. Chandler, prominent citizen of Pomfret. Nathan N. Chandler owned the property in 1856, bequeathing it to his daughter, Maria, wife of Luther Day, whose father, Col. Calvin Day, owned the Edgar Bosworth farm (Goodenough) in Pomfret Center.

PETER THOMPSON TAVERN, THE DR. OVERLOCK HOUSE,
NOW OWNED BY MR. E. W. MOON

Peter Thompson came from Massachusetts in 1817, and opened his house as a tavern, at the height of the Stage Coach days over the turnpike, 1800-1845.

His place became famous for Masonic Meetings, Courts, and all public gatherings. Here was the birthplace of the Windham County Agricultural Society in 1820, where meetings were held before the new society removed to Brooklyn, and erected buildings.

From the corner at Peter Thompson's Tavern, the distance to Brooklyn was given as 7 miles, to Norwich 27, Providence 30, Hartford 40, Boston 60.

After 1848 prosperous days for the tavern were over, especially after the establishing of temperance societies. Town meetings in Pomfret were lively, held in Abington meeting-house until the town house was built a year later.

We have some record of famous meetings when the best men of both parties were aroused over the three major subjects of the day, peace, anti-slavery, and temperance. Feeling ran so high that many stages refused to carry temperance papers.

The old tavern house suffered from fire which swept the building when closed, and stood for some time before being rebuilt, to become the home of Pomfret's doctors.

Windham's First Temperance Society was formed in 1826. Pomfret organized its first society in January 1829. An idea of the excitement concerning the temperance movement is given in the "Connecticut Observer" of February 1840, written by Elisha Lord, son of Dr. Elisha Lord, Pomfret's first physician, from which these extracts are gleaned. In 1830 the Rev. John Marsh, of Brooklyn, gave an address on temperance, entitled "Putnam and the Monster Destroyed," that aroused the people. Briefly he spoke of the story of Putnam and the wolf, then reminded his audience that they had met that day to fight "a more terrible monster, and whose destruction would require Putnam courage."

From that time, "Putnam Courage" became the slogan of the early temperance societies. During a revival of religion held at Abington Church in 1831, the "dealers of spirits in Abington Society became convinced of the unrighteousness of its traffic and forsook it." Much credit is due these men, inasmuch as they were mostly Innkeepers, serving the public on heavily traveled roads. One of these places was the old Sumner Inn, another the Ingalls Inn on Abington Common. Strong drink had also been sold at the Four Corners Store.

In January 1840 a town meeting was called to vote on No License. The town went dry 61-49. The enraged Wets warned a second meeting, which did even better for the Drys, 125-80. "Putnam Courage" had prevailed. Pomfret remained a No License town for over a hundred years, when the work of our forefathers was undone in town meeting.

POMFRET LIBRARY AND CLUBS

Pomfret was the first town in eastern Connecticut to establish a public library (1740). It was first called the "United Society for Propa-

gating Christian and Useful Knowledge." It was organized with thirty members — men from Pomfret, Woodstock, Killingly and Mortlake (Brooklyn). The first meeting was held at Rev. Ebenezer Williams' home, and for many years the minister was librarian. Forty books were purchased. Connecticut's first library was established Oct. 30, 1733, and comprised 150 volumes, known as the Durham Book Co. By 1738 Yale, Lyme, and Guilford had libraries.

Before the present day library was built, the books had been kept at Pomfret's old Community House on Pomfret Street.

The present building was a gift from Mrs. G. I. Bradley, a memorial to her husband, who was long one of Pomfret's wealthy residents. The Bradley mansion was destroyed by fire about 1922. Mr. Bradley, when a young man, was a representative of the then new telephone company, traveling in this and foreign countries with a six horse band wagon. He is understood to have been one of the first stockholders.

On the Bradley estate is a mineral spring, that in the early settlement was largely used for medicinal purposes.

GAY DAYS OF POMFRET

In 1892 the Pomfret Club was incorporated by some of the leading townspeople, to provide entertainment for summer guests. The club house "Greystoke", joined the old Pomfret Hall, which was razed in 1935. Six acres of land were laid out in golf and tennis courts.

POMFRET PHYSICIANS

1738—1948

Dr. Thomas Mather, of Suffield, Mass., was the first medical man in Pomfret, coming the year after Esther Grosvenor died, 1738. He settled on Ragged Hill, buying land of Samuel Nightingale on the old Post Road, not far from the present Spring Farm. It is not likely that his record was better than that of Mrs. Grosvenor, who had cared for

POMFRET CENTER 3

1. Toll Gate House on Prov. and Hartford Pike, now Route 101. Built 1800-40. Owned by Melvin Zellar.
2. Map—M. Haskell Hotel. Built in staging days on corner of Prov.-Hartford and Norwich-Worcester turnpikes. Owned by Mrs. Hugh Kelley.
3. Pomfret Town House 1840.
4. Map—Col. Day. Second colonial house built on site. Owned by A. G. Good-enough. (Edgar Bosworth Farm).
5. Gilbert F. Pratt School House, now Covell-Ayer Post No. 170, American Legion.
6. Map—Walter Webb. Owned by T. F. Hanley.
7. Map—Samuel Hastings. Homestead of Benj. Sabin 1st, Representative of town. Now Pomfret Golf Course.





the sick and ushered in the new-born. He remained in Pomfret until 1761.

Dr. David Hall, also of Suffield, took his place, buying land on Pomfret Street, at Overlock's corner. He built his residence on the corner east of the World War Monuments, where only a growth of lilies remain to mark the site of his house and garden. His large wood-colored house was moved many years ago to its present location west of the Rectory School. Dr. Hall suffered the loss of his wife and young children and removed to Vermont.

He was followed by his younger brother, Dr. Jonathan Hall, who was the ancestor of the well-known Hall family of the time. Several members of the family went to New York, among them Miss Anne Hall, born in Pomfret. She was the first woman in Connecticut, if not in the United States, to be elected a member of the National Academy of Design. In New York, she devoted her time and talent to the painting of miniatures, exquisite faces of children.

Dr. Jonathan Hall was a plain country doctor, not claiming to the airs of some of his family. Tradition says that he had a young daughter, Fanny, who had unusual powers of making tables and chairs move about the room without touching them. Stories of this reached New York, and a brother of Dr. Hall, a business man, hearing it, became greatly scandalized. He immediately came to Pomfret to stop such slanderous reports about a member of his family. After hearing him through, Dr. Hall requested that he meet Fanny. It was a very demure young lady who came into the room, seated herself by the side of her uncle, and listened to the conversation. Suddenly the tables began to tip, and the chairs to move in a most unaccountable fashion. Tradition says that the city brother fled from the house in his astonishment.

Other doctors at an early period were Dr. Walton, Dr. Waldo, and Dr. Fuller, of Brooklyn, Dr. Lord and Dr. Wagner of Abington, also Dr. Louis Williams. Pomfret's most notable early physician was Dr. Albigeance Waldo, son of the Pomfret Pioneer, a young man of energy, and much ahead of his time in surgical and medical skill. He served in the Revolution as chief surgeon, being obliged to resign his post before the close of the war in order to save his family from starvation.

POMFRET LANDING 1

1. Map—Jos. Cotton. The Cottons came to Pomfret 1740. An ancient mill privilege on this land. Owned by Thomas Grimes.
2. Map—Benjamin Johnson. Owned by Adolph Jarvis. (Triangle Ranch).
3. Map—C. D. Williams. Built 1772. Owned by Miss Dorothy MacInnes.
4. Map—S. L. Cotton. The Cotton Tavern House. 1770-1819. Owned by Wm. S. Sloan.
5. Map—R. Kingsley. Owned by Edw. White Est.
6. Map—W. Cushing. Owned by Frank Noon.
7. Map—Sam Underwood. Turnpike Tavern House 1800-1840. Owned by Ellery Baker. At right the Cotton twine mill, 1820.
8. Map—Geo. Webb. Owned by Mrs. Horace Covell. At right the Hildreth house, owned by Frank Larrow.

Continental money had become so reduced in value as to be nearly worthless, and many army officers were reduced to poverty.

Dr. Waldo was a man of great and wide reputation. The late Dr. Overlook had in his possession account books which gave the record of a trip made by Dr. Waldo to New Hampshire to set the bone in a soldier's leg. The trip was made on horseback, and the charge was seven dollars. He was a leader in the Masonic Order, and a writer on medical topics. He aided General Putnam in writing the detailed story of his famous adventure with the wolf, for Col Humphrey's biography of General Putnam, in 1788, from which the account given in these papers is taken. Dr. Waldo's death in 1793 at the age of forty-four was considered a great loss to the town and county.

Dr. Thomas Hubbard took Dr. Waldo's place, which he ably filled until 1820, when Dr. Hiram Holt, of Hampton, a student of Dr. Hubbard, took the practice, remaining in Pomfret for many years.

In 1849 Dr. Louis Williams, a descendant of Mr. Seth Williams of Raynham, Mass., who came to Pomfret in 1791, purchased the Peter Thompson Inn, where he dwelt and cared for the sick until the late seventies, when Dr. F. G. Sawtelle took his place, purchasing the big tavern house from Dr. Williams. He practiced in town for two decades, and was here at the time of the blizzard of 1888.

Dr. Seldom B. Overlock followed Dr. Sawtelle, also buying the Thompson Inn, before 1900. He was long associated with Day-Kimball Hospital as a surgeon of skill. He was the beloved family doctor of Pomfret through the long years of his practice, and passed away in 1934.

Dr. William MacShepard then became the resident doctor of Pomfret, but soon removed to his family home in Putnam.

Dr. Bruce Valentine, of Brooklyn, N.Y., settled in Abington in 1947, at the Eliza Fairfield Clark Memorial Center, a foundation of great benefit to the locality, which was established by Dr. John Clark, a retired Massachusetts doctor, who had long been a resident of Abington.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888

From a paper written by Dr. Sawtelle about the storm, we take the following facts: The winter of 1888 had been very hard, with much sickness. The storm of March 12 broke very suddenly. The morning had been dull gray, with brisk, chill, west wind. At 3 o'clock fits of snow began to fall, with increasing rapidity and rising wind. At 4 o'clock Dr. Sawtelle started from his house to visit a patient on Pomfret Street, with a horse and sleigh. Soon he returned for a saddle, thinking to make the trip on horseback. Again he was forced to turn back, as the drifts rose so fast the horse could make no head-

way. Not to be discouraged he determined to make the trip on foot, as his patient was only three quarters of a mile away.

In company with his hostler, a strong Swede, he started again. It was 6 o'clock when they ventured again out into the blackness of the storm and night, trusting to find the way with a lantern. The road was drifted full, and they tried walking on the broad stone walls, but were continually blown off by the irresistible winds. The lantern hit on a rock and was useless. They staggered along in the darkness. A fourth of a mile from his home (Overlock Corner) the road crosses a slight valley some twenty rods wide, through which the tempest raged, as the doctor records: "we featherweights of humanity were blown right across the road into an open field of many acres,—not knowing where we were on such a night, abroad in the drifts and freezing air, with clasped hands we clung together, only to be hurled flat by the fiendish winds—we crawled along—somewhere—anywhere—only to keep moving. The cold was so great no overcoat would keep us warm, so benumbed, we struggled on, knowing that to stop meant death. Facing it for a moment, an icy helmet would form, requiring repeated breaking to breathe or see. At last we reached a fence, and clinging to it for support, hope came that it would lead us to a house. Just as our courage and strength became exhausted, the dark walls of a house loomed up before us. It proved to be a closed summer cottage, but it afforded shelter from the wind." They then knew they had reached the street, and they dug their way through the drifts, until in a condition of collapse they fell upon the piazza of the Ben Grosvenor Inn. Too weak to stand they lay upon the floor and kicked the wall. Benjamin Grosvenor opened the door at last, and took them in. Surely never were guests more grateful than were Dr. Sawtelle and the faithful hostler. At noon the next day they reached their homes on snowshoes. In the morning when the snow abated, it was piled nearly to the second story windows. Entirely impassible roads were broken out with many yokes of oxen.

On that terrible Monday night when Dr. Sawtelle was struggling through the storm, two less fortunate people perished on the Pomfret Landing Road. They were Fred Hopkins, and his housekeeper, Mrs. Whitney, both elderly people. They evidently left the house at dark to feed the cattle, but never reached the barn. They were found clinging to a fence a few hundred feet away from the house. She was still grasping a lantern and a bunch of keys. Preparations had been made for the evening meal, meat, bread, and a plate of buckwheat cakes, which had been tightly covered to keep warm, were on the table. For a week they lay buried beneath the snow. A great drift by their front gate was shoveled away and at last a search was made for them. Cattle, sheep and horses were found starving in the barn, some already dead.

At that time Ezra Dresser still lived at the old Dresser homestead, and C. B. Carpenter at the Carpenter place. Horace Covell of Pom-

fret Landing, then a young man, was employed by Mr. Carpenter, and was one of the rescue party. Mr. Hopkins was buried in the old Bruce Burying Ground on the Landing Road.

It is on record that some of the snow from the big blizzard remained in the woods until June.

WALTER DAVIS HOUSE, THE THOMAS WILLIAMS HOMESTEAD

The fine old house on Route 44 between Pomfret Street and Putnam, now owned by Walter Davis, is shown on the map as Willard Williams, who for many years was a large land owner in town. His father came to Pomfret after 1827, from Stonington, Conn.

He could hardly have chosen a more sightly location for his home, commanding a view of the distant hills of Thompson and Killingly. His daughter, Lydia Ann Williams, at twenty married Angell Wheaton.

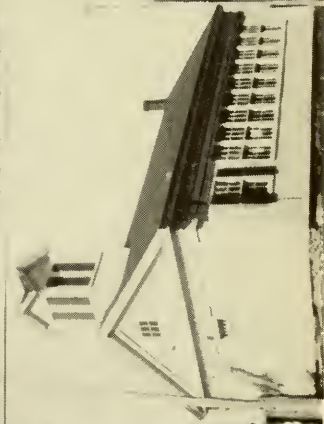
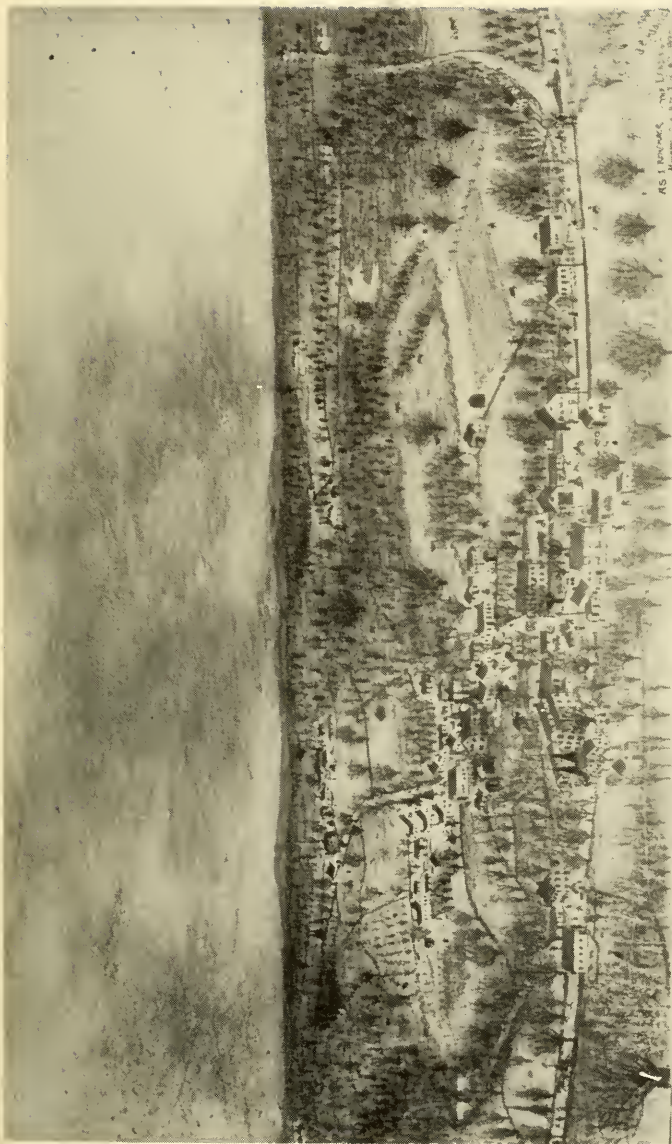
Much interested in orcharding, his farm across the road from his father-in-law, on the corner of Tyrone Road, has been known for many years as the Orchards. Mrs. Wheaton was a descendant of Roger Williams, founder of Providence, R.I.

The old Williams house is of the early architecture—wooden pegging throughout. Although much remodeling has been done, the kitchen ell still retains the old fireplaces and brick oven. The place has been known in recent years as the Wilcox, and Hickey place. The hill is still known as Hickey Hill.

Thomas Williams purchased the property in 1846, from Payson Grosvenor. As shown by town records, the Grosvenors were original land owners in this section.

POMFRET LANDING 2

1. View of Pomfret Landing, drawn from memory by Chas. Aldrich. See Chas. Aldrich story.
2. Pomfret Landing's first school house.
3. Pomfret Landing's second school house, discontinued 1948. Owned by Eugene Anthol.
4. Map—E. Bruce, River Road. Last dwelling on Sawyer-Bruce homestead, where settlement began 1707. Owned by Mrs. N. P. Peace.



AS LEAVES THE CITY

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CHAPTER VI

OUR RHODE ISLAND NEIGHBORS AND GENERAL PRESCOTT

During the Revolution, Rhode Island suffered greatly from the effects of the war, although only one battle was fought on her territory—the Battle of Butts Hill in Portsmouth, in August 1778, also called the “Battle of Rhode Island.” Her 400 miles of coast line lay open to the ravages of war, causing the inhabitants near the coast to flee inland, many coming to Connecticut and making new homes. Connecticut, as well as Massachusetts and New Hampshire, sent militia to their aid.

While stationed at Warwick Neck, a company under Col. William Barton, gave protection to a runaway negro, body servant of Major General Prescott, then stationed at Butts Hill. The negro, Quanto Henneman, fled the camp when he learned he was about to be sold, and was able to advise Col. Barton of the location of the British who had taken an American officer, General Lee, prisoner. Col. Barton, hoping to capture Prescott and exchange him for General Lee, gained the consent of his commander, and with 40 volunteers and the guidance of Quanto, set out on the evening of July 9th, 1777 in five boats from Warwick Neck, between Patience and Prudence Islands, evading the British ships in the Bay, and landed on the west side of Rhode Island in North Portsmouth.

Quanto had told them that on sultry nights General Prescott spent the night at a lonely farmhouse owned by the Overell family, on a mill stream with a double waterfall. Landing on the Island, they stole silently up the ravine, and skirted the guardhouse. They overpowered the guard at the door; Quanto breaking in a panel with his

POMFRET LANDING and NORTH BROOKLYN

1. Map—P. & H. Dyer. Bush Hill Farm. Owned by Hillandale Corporation, W. V. Williams, Supt. Homestead land of Pomfret's first minister, Rev. Ebenezer Williams.

2. Map—Hibbard. Faraway Farm, owned by C. W. Green.

3. Map—E. Warren. Site of Wiltshire Manor. Owned by Mrs. Arthur Lapsley. See Israel Putnam.

4. Map—Willard Hubbard. Owned by Wm. Valente. See Wiltshire Farm House.

5. Map—Henry Reynolds. Woods Hill. The Kingswood Tavern House, burned. Owned by Chas. L. Kimball.

6. Map—W. Baxter. Idle Wild Farm. Built before 1800. Though much re-modeled, retains its colonial beauty. Owned by J. Makowsky.

7. Map—Elisha Child. An 18th century house. Owned by E. Newton Searles.

8. Map—Elisha Child. Another 18th century house, owned by Arthur Kimball.

head. They seized General Prescott, going back to the shore the shortest way, through a field of rye stubble and blackberry bush, greatly to the discomfort of the General who had had no time to dress.

He was wrapped in Barton's cloak, and the boats pulled away for the opposite shore, directly under the bow of one British man-of-war, where the General could hear the sentinel cry out "All's Well."

Prescott was sent to Providence in a chaise, and Quanto for his own reward was brought to Pomfret, where he was given his freedom and cared for by the town the rest of his life, at Pomfret's first town poorhouse, in Abington.

Prescott was detested by friend and foe, and "independent of the humiliation and disgrace attached to such a capture, the British troops were overjoyed to find that he had been so suddenly snatched from his command."

History fails to state whether there was ever an exchange of prisoners, but the capture of General Prescott was greeted with hilarity and wildly "celebrated in song and story."

The fact that Lieutenant Kingsbury, of the Pomfret Kingsbury family, was in command of the militia in Rhode Island in 1777 would likely explain why old Quanto was brought to and cared for in Pomfret.

THE LOST VILLAGE OF THE HILLS

We read of the deserted villages of the cut-over lands of the north-west, but few know that Pomfret has its lost village where long ago the large family of Higginbothams lived and carried on a thriving business, their little mill being known as the Higginbotham Linen Wheels for hand spinning. The Higginbothams lived in their little settlement in the hills cultivating their fertile farms.

Before the march of progress carried away the business of the little mill, their business prospered for three generations, and the thrifty inhabitants settled down by their comfortable firesides to enjoy the fruits of their life's labor, until they were, one by one, laid to rest in the little burying ground; the burying ground that they themselves had made ready and walled in against all intrusion; and there from the leaning headstones of their graves we learn the identity of these sturdy people.

Today great trees are growing in the cellar holes of their homes, and the trails that once led from house to house, and to their mill, are overgrown and hard to follow. The orchards that they planted are crowded now by undergrowth, but yet they stand, though broken and bent by the storms of over a century of winter; yet blooming still with each returning spring, symbolic of the everlasting life; and drop their fruitage in the fall, unheeded and uncared for. In spite of flood, the

old stone bridge built by Higginbotham over the brook above his mill pond remains intact.

From the summit of this height spreads a marvelous view. To the north the range of old Ragged Hills continue, encircling westward to Allen and Pisgah Hills, in an unbroken chain of rugged wilderness. As in a panorama, we comprehend the vastness of the forests of long ago, and over all a peaceful silence reigns, and keeps a vigil on the lost village in the hills.

It is a family tradition that the first settler, Obadiah Higginbotham (1750-1803) was a deserter from the British Army. As he came to Pomfret from Cranston, R.I., he must have been stationed at Providence or Newport. Like the modern G.I. he found his bride, Dorcas, while in camp, and perhaps the fear of being separated from his little family prompted him to desert and escape into Connecticut, coming to Pomfret before 1780, as his fourth child, Darius, was born in Pomfret. He was the ancestor of the present Botham family.

Higginbotham came to Pomfret about the same time as did Jonathan Randall, who also came from Cranston, R.I. There is no record or tradition regarding this coincidence, yet it seems plausible that there was a tie between the two families, as the Randalls were buried in the little Higginbotham burying ground.

The Randall family were very well-to-do, coming to Pomfret with many slaves, some of whom were buried in the same plot. These negroes were quite superstitious, believing that ghosts sat at night in a certain elm tree near the cemetery, and nothing could induce them to pass there after dark. The late Mary Webster, and Mrs. Lucretia Taylor, were descendants of these negroes.

A stranger in a strange land, young Higginbotham was able to make some arrangements with the Peter Cunningham family, and establish himself on Nightingale Brook, where it narrowed quickly in its descent, and flowed through a natural basin.

In this wild and lonely spot he built his first cabin, and brought his little family. As there is no record of his buying land before 1800, his substantial home, built on the bluff above the stone bridge could not have been built before that date. The walls and cellar of this house show the finest workmanship. There was a great stone chimney in the center, which the elements have never disturbed. Near the broad south doorstone remains the old well and leach stone where the ash barrel stood, for leaching the lye Dorcas used in making her soft soap. The fields he cleared and cultivated lie open upon the sunny hill.

The Higginbotham family have not only left their hamlet but have also dropped the "Higgin" part of the name. George Botham of Abington is of the fourth generation from Obadiah Higginbotham. His great-grandmother, Dorcas, died in 1849 at the great age of one hundred years, having lived over seventy years in this wild region, and is buried in "God's Acre of the Hills," the Higginbotham Burying

Ground, as are the parents of George. He has inherited the frontier spirit of his fathers, and devotes much time, in season, to trapping.

Mrs. Alice Botham Edwards, of Hampton, a descendant of Obadiah, in youth lived in the house on the bluff. A trail then passed this house to the Lewin place on the east side of Nightingale Brook. There was also a large dwelling west of the brook, both of early origin.

Once a heavy gate swung across the road by the big house, on which the children delighted to swing. This was opened and shut in traveling the road, a primitive custom.

As late as Civil War Days, great flocks of sheep still roamed the hill pastures and were washed at shearing time in the mill pond back of the stone bridge, and broad fields were still under cultivation, now choked with undergrowth.

Other lineal descendants of the original settler are the families of Fred Botham and Mrs. Emily Botham Horton.

JONATHAN RANDALL FARMSTEAD

A broad ten acre lot divided the old and new Randall houses. On this ten acres, tradition tells us, Washington and Lafayette's armies camped when one of the divisions of the French Army, marching from Newport to Hartford, by the northern route through Killingly, Pomfret and Ashford. This gives foundation for the story, but assertion is also made that the two great Generals passed together over the road at a later date, spending the night at the Grosvenor House in Pomfret, and waiting for breakfast at the hearthstone of the old Randall house. Then they dined at the Clark Tavern in Ashford, where their names were to be seen upon an antique window pane. Another tradition is that it was on the window pane of the old church where Washington wrote his name. Could this be in a footnote? The Clark Tavern was burned many years ago, but the window pane, it is claimed, had been previously taken to Hartford.

It is a matter of history that Rochambeau's Main Army in 1781 marched in four divisions through Voluntown, Plainfield, Canterbury and Windham to Silver Lane, East Hartford, where they were encamped. They were followed, day after day, by stout baggage wagons and carts, bearing chests of silver, guarded by French soldiers. Tradition says the soldiers were paid in silver while encamped near Hartford, and because of their free spending, the name of Silver Lane was given to the road.

In 1840 George Randall, Jr., engaged in the manufacture of shoes in a shop just east of his dwelling, which employed many hands, the shoes marketed in Southbridge. In time the Old Bay State Shoe and Leather Co. absorbed the Randall industry. Geo. Randall was the grandfather of the late Mrs. Eliza Fairfield Clark of Abington (Mrs. John D. Clark).

The old Randall house was last occupied by Miss Betty Randall, who died in 1893, aged 84. She was the last to be interred in the old Higginbotham Burying Ground.

The Randall property, together with other large tracts in this section, totalling 5000 acres, was purchased by Mrs. Charlotte Grosvenor Goodridge, who had planned to convert the old Randall house into a mansion for herself, but instead went to live with her son, Dr. Frederick Goodridge. The second house built on the place is now the home of Mrs. Ethel Goodridge Barber.

CUNNINGHAM MANSION 1790

In early days, as one crossed the bridge at Lyon's Mills, he came to the big gates on the west side of the road which closed the Cunningham grounds to all intruders. There stood a spacious three story house built by Peter Cunningham, a retired sea captain. His wife, a granddaughter of Thomas Morey, one of the first twelve proprietors of the Purchase, was Miss Elizabeth Pierpont of Boston. Her wealth, gowns, china, furniture, and "chariots," as all four wheeled vehicles were called, were the wonder of the countryside.

The Cunninghams came to Pomfret during the Revolution, and for the first few years lived in a small house at Taft's Pond. The beautiful elms that grace the lawn were set out the year the mansion was built.

It was here the first little schoolhouse was built in 1733, near the present big north gate "just over the bridge at Lyon's Mills."

Dr. F. G. Goodridge, son of Mrs. Charlotte Grosvenor Goodridge, was born in 1874, graduated from Harvard in 1897, with a B.A. degree, and was also a graduate of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Receiving his M.D. in 1901, he had a wide medical experience, was a writer and instructor, and accompanied Commander Peary into the frozen north in research work. He was an officer of the 5th Division in the World War, and saw much active service, retired in 1919 with the rank of Major. As an ardent sportsman he took great pride in his Pomfret estate. In 1901 he married Miss Ethel M. Iselin, and to them were born four children, Frederick, Jr., Helen, Iselin, and Ethel Grosvenor (Mrs. Ethel Barber), who now resides at the Randall Goodridge farmstead.

The Cunningham mansion was closed soon after the death of Dr. Goodridge in 1930. Like many other estates, it had greatly depreciated during the depression of 1929, and was sold to Grover C. Bowen, an Eastford bachelor, who made his home in the kitchen ell of the house.

On the morning of December 27, 1944, flames were seen bursting from the upper northeast windows. The roads were sheeted with ice, and before the Pomfret Fire Company could arrive, the house was in ruins. Mr. Bowen was lost in the fire, his body later found in the cellar.

WHEATON

About 1775, James Wheaton of Swansea, Mass. settled on the summit of Ragged Hill. The Wheatons came from Wales in 1630 to Rehoboth, Mass. James was of the fifth generation in America. Through his six children he left a long line of descendants who have filled places of honor in the town and country. The little Ragged Hill Schoolhouse built in 1798, stood on his land.

Mrs. Edith Wheaton Smith, of Phoenixville, is descended from this family, as is also the large Wheaton family of Putnam.

Wheaton Hill rises to a height of 848 feet, and from the summit on a clear day, many years ago one could count 27 church spires.

In 1791 Darius Hicks, also of Rehoboth, Mass., came to be a neighbor of the Wheatons (see map).

The late George Hicks of Abington, who served his town as first selectman for over 30 years, was the last descendant of the Hicks family of Wheaton Hill.

CUD CORNER

In the depths of Ragged Hill Woods are still visible two grass grown rutted trails at the four corners of the old Eastford Road and the King's Highway. "Cud Corner" received its name from Cudgel, the last of the Indian pupils of the mission school of 1764 on the Wheaton farm.

This school is believed to have been conducted by Willard, son of Benjamin Hubbard of the present Valentine farm. The remains of the foundation of the old school are still visible.

A little west of Cud Corner are the crumbling walls of Cudgel's house, above the brook that bears his name.

This is a wild and beautiful spot. The range of Pisgah Hills rises majestically above the fields once tilled by the last of Pomfret's Indians. Two well traveled roads passed through this locality, one to Sherman's Corner and the other to the old turnpike (Route 44) terminating at the toll house, site of Elisha Peck's home in 1856, near the house owned now by Frank Paine. Lyons Brook supplied the power for Sumner's saw mill, and then flowed on to join the Mashamoquet in the heart of Ragged Hill Woods.

The last resident at Cudgel's house was Daniel Hollet. Mrs. Hollet was a descendant of the once prominent Cunningham family. Mr. Hollet delighted in following the hounds, for sport but not for the kill, as he never carried a gun. This locality has even been a sportsman's paradise.

GEORGE W. TAFT
INVENTOR OF THE CHAMPION ROAD MACHINE

Many still remember the ponderous road scrapers that heralded the coming of settled roads in the spring, when town crews turned out to plow the dirt out of the ditches and deposit it, stones and silt, into the middle of the highway. As the heavy machine passed, drawn by six horses, men with hoes picked up the stones and tossed them aside. After them came a span of horses dragging a "brush" of white birches, and the road work was done for another six months.

It is hard to imagine what condition the roads could have been in before the invention of the road scraper. The old Taft Pond road of Pomfret was the first to be improved by the Champion Road Scraper, which was invented by Geo. W. Taft, and perfected in 1882. Mr. Taft, a lumber man, purchased the old Sessions Saw Mill on Ragged Hill (Taft's Pond) and commenced hauling lumber to Abington Station. Finding the old Brooks Road Scraper quite incapable of making the road passable for heavy loads, he set to work to invent a better one. His perfected machine was widely sold all over New England. A large factory for its manufacture was built at Taft's Pond, and a storehouse at Abington Station. Many men were given employment. The business was finally moved to Kennett, Penn. Mrs. Ethel Barber is the present owner of Taft's Pond.

THE CHANDLER FAMILY

The Chandler family, who settled in Woodstock in 1683, were descendants of William and Annis Chandler, pioneers of Roxbury, Massachusetts (1637).

John Chandler, one of the early proprietors of Woodstock, settled in Eastern Vale (South Woodstock). His home lot lay on the corner just north of Mill Brook, bounded north and west by the Common. This homestead was sold by his great-grandchildren to Christopher Arnold in 1804, at the opening of the Arnold Mills. Prosperous years followed, when South Woodstock was known as Arnoldtown, and sometimes called "Cod Fish Town" (supposedly because of its "high airs").

John Chandler was one of the first Deacons of Woodstock Church. As a land owner his holdings were second to those of Major James Fitch in the County. When he died in 1721, he bequeathed to his son, Joseph, the one-hundred and fourteen acres on the Mashamoquet line and also land lying on Mashamoquet Brook. These latter lands were sold to Nathaniel Sessions and Richard Dresser and Abel Lyon for homesteads. The one-hundred and fourteen acres on the Mashamoquet had been continually in the ownership of the Chandler descendants from

1700 until their recent purchase by General Carson. This land, bought in 1700 for twenty pounds, lay between the Quinebaug and Bark Meadow Brook, which was outside the Mashamoquet Purchase.

The following is taken from the Chandler genealogy:

General Samuel McClellan of Revolutionary fame, married for his first wife, Jemima Chandler, daughter of Captain William Chandler of the French and Indian Wars who is buried in the Woodstock Burying Ground on the Common where rest the other early members of the Chandler family. His monument is a slaty sandstone slab. The inscription, under the crowned head and wings, reads:

Here lies ye Body of William
Chandler, Esq. Who Departed
this life June 20th A. D. 1754
in ye 57th year of his Age—
He descended from William
Chandler & Annis his wife
that were of ye first Settlers
in Roxbury, and from him by
his youngest Sun John—
Chandler, who moved to this
Town in ye infancy their of
And from him by his Eldest
Son, John Chandler who
was ye Father of ye Deceased.
He left Behind him 7
Sons & 3 Daughters.

On the foot-stone of his grave is a dial-face with the hour hand pointing to four o'clock, indicating that his day closed before the bright sun of his intellect had gone down into the senility.

His daughter, Jemima, was the fifth child. She was born on March 10, 1734, and baptised on the 17th, when one week old. She died at the age of thirty, leaving four children—the youngest, a babe of ten

BROOKLYN CENTER

1. Historic Unitarian Church.
2. Map—D. P. Tyler. Mortlake House, owned before 1949 by the late Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. Property of Elmer Brenn.
3. Map—J. Brown. Kingswood, built by Daniel Putnam, who married Col. Malbone's niece. Owned by Daniel Putnam Association.
4. First Episcopal Church in Conn., built 1769. See Col. Malbone.
5. Old Court House, now Town Hall. Left—Town Well and Putnam Marker.
6. Windham County National Bank.
7. Map—J. Collins. Old Putnam Farm, owned by Hillandale Farm.
8. Map—Wm. Potter. Owned by Ethelyn Tibbitts. Formerly A. Williams homestead.



12



3



56



78



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7

days. Her life was typical of the lives of the young women of that time—birth, baptism, marriage, and death. In going over the genealogies of the old families we find that a man usually had three wives, if he lived to see his four-score years and ten. Divorce seems not to have been a necessity then.

Jemima Chandler married Samuel McClellan and lived at the old McClellan homestead on the old Common at South Woodstock. As a second wife, General McClellan married Rachel Abbe of Windham in 1766. On the day of the Battle of Lexington, Rachel Abbe rode from her father's home in Windham, on horseback, bringing to her home in South Woodstock three small elms, which she planted on the Common. These elms grew to great size, withstanding the storms through more than a century and a half. Seedlings from the three "Lexington Elms" have taken root and grown upon the Common near the old town well.

Major McClellan's horse, which he rode through the war, became so accustomed to martial music, tradition says, that years after the war whenever he heard the drums on training-day, he would leap the pasture fence, and take his place in the ranks as proudly as the Captain who commanded the company.

Joseph Chandler, of the one-hundred and fourteen acre Mashamoquet farm, married Susannah Perrin in 1708. The Perrins were among the first families to settle at the Great Falls (Putnam). With twenty pounds and one-hundred and fourteen acres inherited from his father, he built his home in the wilderness of Mashamoquet. Joseph reared twelve children—the youngest one, Peter, remaining on the farm with his father. Three homes were built upon this hearthstone. (Present owner Gen'l J. M. Carson.)

In 1757 Peter Chandler married Mary Hodges, widow of his cousin. She was a daughter of a Taunton sea captain. She was considered a very beautiful girl, small and slight; a string one-half yard long would go around her waist and tie in a bow knot. She had many suitors, and that there was much romance and mystery in her young life was discovered a century later, when a secret drawer was found and opened in a butternut bureau which her first husband had made.

Mary Chandler lived many years at the Chandler homestead, and died in 1796, aged sixty-four. She was the mother of fourteen children.

POMFRET and ABINGTON

1. Map—N. H. Chandler. Many years the home of the artist, Miss Helen Mabie. Owned by Patrick Quigley.
2. Map—W. A. Brownell. Owned by W. H. Downer.
3. Map—J. Baxter. The Jos. Stoddard farm. Owned by Cleo Carter.
4. Map—P. Sharp. The James Sharp house. Home of 9 generations of Sharp family.
5. Map—Geo. Holbrook. Owned by Ellsworth Chase.
6. Map—Geo. H. Sharp. Owned by Miss A. and Dr. James Hutchins.
7. Map—Trowbridge. Owned by Merritt Peck.
8. Map—W. Trowbridge. Owned by J. Nelson Platt.

Four years prior to her death, Peter sold the old homestead to their son, John Wilks Chandler. (See Captain Stedman in *Hampton History*.)

John Wilks Chandler was active in all town and military affairs, and was commissioned by Jonathan Trumbull as Major of the Fifth Regiment of Cavalry. While Captain of a troop of horse, he entertained his soldiers and neighbors at his own expense at his homestead, an event long remembered in Pomfret. He also acted as Selectman and school committee-man, and was a Master Mason. He was a firm supporter of the old church society in the Oliver Dodge church controversy; he was also sent as a delegate to the Jeffersonian Convention.

In 1792 John Wilks Chandler married Mary Stedman of Hampton, and Peter Chandler removed to Pomfret Street where he kept tavern and a store on land now owned by Pomfret School.

WILLIAM AND HENRY CHANDLER

William and Henry Chandler, sons of Mary Hodges Chandler, by her first husband, spent their boyhood on the Mashamoquet Farm on the Line, and when grown to manhood, were among the many who sought new homes in the wilds of New Hampshire, in 1798.

Henry, lame from childhood, was apprenticed to Samuel Waldo, tailor, at the age of 14. The Waldo shop was on the corner, now the Wiggins residence. In 1784 young Chandler opened a shop just north of the North School, "where he hung out a sign of a full grown cabbage head, to announce to the public that he was ready to do all kinds of custom tailoring."—Larned's History.

But the urge for new adventure and new fields led him to accompany his brother, William, and thirteen other families to New Hampshire in 1799, in the new project of forming what they called a Moravian community, or United Brethren. The object was to hold all things in common. Four directors were appointed, William Chandler being chairman. All labored in one field, in the common cause, on the 200 acre farm belonging to William Chandler, apparently without complaint, until Henry Chandler made a coat for one of the "world's people," which was paid for in grain. When the directors handed over the price of the coat to some other family in the Moravian community, and his own children were hungry, he became dissatisfied. He could not see why a man lazier than himself should profit by his labor.

William Chandler urged him to be contented, and to do nothing which would disrupt the colony, and to give it a fair trial. Came fall and the end of the year, and all met to decide whether to continue the company, or to disband. It was agreed that any dissatisfied ones should simply leave the room, which Henry Chandler did, and others followed him. Thus ended perhaps the first communistic movement in New England.

When a demand had been made for the division of the year's crop, William Chandler had refused to allow anything moved. In his barns the hay was stored. His garret was filled with the harvested corn, for many had lived in his house. That year bitterness followed, and outsiders called it the "Raving, Bewitched Community."

Rev. Stephen Burroughs, formerly pastor of the Middle Society Church of Killingly, was then pastor of the Hanover Parish, and predicted from the first that the Community would fail. He said that people were too intelligent, and in order to make such a project succeed, you must keep them in ignorance. William Chandler was much the better off for the experiment of the Moravian Community, and became the wealthiest man in town. He died in 1844, aged 90 years. Unfortunately, the majority of the Community gained little except experience and hardship.

This valuable farm was situated about four miles west of Dartmouth College. Hanover was an extensive plain with lofty pines, desirable for settlement as well as for a college, and Dartmouth was founded in 1770 by Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, of Lebanon, Connecticut, as a missionary school for Indians and white boys. Daniel Webster, having Indian blood, attended Dartmouth. Dr. Wheelock found support for his labors in the example of the prophet Elisha, who founded "a school for prophets in the wilderness of Jordan."—Kings II, v7.

The present Center School Building in Columbia, Connecticut, is the same building which housed the school for Indians taught by Eleazer Wheelock, before he went to Hanover.

CLEVELAND-CHANDLER HOUSE

(Present owner A. H. Paine)

A short distance from Sabin Corner, and set back on the north side of the road among fine old trees, is a small low house which has a pleasant background romance of early days. It was here that Hannah Sharpe Cleveland, the heroine of the Revolutionary "pink satin" story spent her wedded life.

In 1780, before the great struggle was over, Hannah Sharpe and young Solomon Cleveland were planning their marriage, and the one major obstacle seemed to have been obtaining material for a wedding dress, other than homespun. By tradition a young lady's wedding dress should be of silk or satin, and should last a lifetime, perhaps to be worn by a granddaughter.

As the old saying "love laughs at locksmiths," so love broke down all prejudice. In this era supplies were becoming more plentiful. They were being brought to Norwich by privateers and smugglers; muslins, laces, silks and jewelry were also obtainable. But patriotism forbade the good people of Pomfret to buy of the peddlers who came to their door.

When young Hannah Sharpe opened the door to one of them on that eventful day long ago, and saw the pink satin that was the one thing her heart desired, she forgot the troubles of the past years, the expense that her father had borne on account of the war: his taxes, bounties, clothing sent to the soldiers, and the good money advanced by him for the cause, and paid back to him in worthless script. Full well she knew his dislike for these peddlers who traded with their enemies, but at that moment girlish love of finery overcame all else, and risking her father's anger in one silent appeal, she took the satin, and kneeling before him as he sat in his great armchair before the fire, she help up the beautiful material. The heart of the stern Revolutionary father was touched, and without a word he arose and, going to his treasure box, he unlocked it and handed her the forty silver dollars to pay for the ten yards of pink satin, enough to make the dress, and also for the bridegroom a pink satin waistcoat.

As was the custom in those days, some time during the first Sabbath after their marriage, they arose during the service and turned slowly around several times, so that all might see their wedding outfit, and it is doubtful if a more splendrant couple ever graced the Pomfret meeting-house.

Three years later a daughter, Hannah, was born to Solomon and Hannah Sharpe Cleveland, who grew to womanhood in the little Cleveland homestead at the foot of Ragged Hill, a neighbor to Silas Chandler (Carlton Shaw house).

Hannah Cleveland once returned from a visit to friends in the far distant Vermont, the trip being made on horseback. Riding up to call on her neighbor, young Charles Chandler, she dismounted before the east front door, and stuck her riding whip, a cutting from a poplar, in the ground. In due time the cutting took root, as did the romance of the young people. They lived for many years in her father's house. While the poplar grew to great size, beneath its shade children and grandchildren played near their Grandfather Chandler's door.

Hannah Cleveland Chandler was born Nov. 3, 1783, and died April 3, 1863, from being thrown from a carriage and kicked on the head by a horse (a rare traffic accident recorded in history). Her husband, Charles Chandler, died in 1858, much respected by all.

The Honorable Stephen Averill was a member of the Connecticut Legislature in 1785.

He was born in Windham Village (Hampton) in 1730, married Sarah Hendee of Windham in 1752. In 1770 they sold their farm in Hampton and moved to "Pomfret Town," where he bought 1000 acres part of which comprised the rugged Wolf Den Hills, and the plantation has long been known as the Wolf Den Farm. They had seven children before his wife died at the age of 45 in 1775.

Of his second marriage with Mrs. Mehitable (Dana) Allen were born three children. In the first U.S. Census in 1790 we find this quaint record: "Stephen Averill living in Pomfret Town—head of household

consisting of three other men over 16 years of age, three under 16 years, and five free white females over 16 years, including the head of the household," which probably included some helpers as well as the family. Stephen Averill was a man of property, as is shown by his will which was filed June 15, 1810, and was signed by Ebenezer Kingsbury, Lemuel Ingalls, and Squire Sessions, Appraisers.

The property at the time of his death was \$9,738.72, a fortune for a farmer of the times. Inventory consisted of hats, coats, breeches, waistcoats, linen and kneebuckles; also household furnishings, including loom, linen wheels, chests, ironware, pewter, china, bellows, warming pans, round table, desk, looking glasses, great chair, bedding, farm products, large quantities of pork, beef, Indian Corn, and five barrels of cider. In outdoor property is mentioned the following: saddles for women, and farm tools. Among his stock are listed one sorrel horse, one old line-back cow, 17 sheep, and a four year old mare; among his books were a Bible, Solomon's Geography, and Self Knowledge and Sincere Convert. In his will he left to his wife his "best horse, kind and saddle, and two cows of middling size" also home furnishings, etc.

Mrs. Stephen Averill probably spent her last days at the old homestead, which was situated about one mile north on the west side of the road from the Wolf Den entrance. In 1856 the property was owned by Joseph Clapp, a Quaker.

THE WOLF DEN HOUSE ON HIGH RIDGE ROAD

This house, according to the late Miss Lena Averill, was commenced in 1796 by Stephen Averill, son of Stephen, Sr., by a second marriage. After completing the chimney, which is quite wonderful in design, and making some progress on the building, but being an unsuccessful farmer, he was obliged to sell to his half brother, Lewis Averill.

Lewis Averill, on his marriage in 1824 to Hannah Burton, brought his bride to this house. At that time only one room was plastered, not unusual in those times when houses were completed as money and mean were available, not on mortgage loans.

Lewis Averill was a farmer, and a Representative to the Legislature in 1840-1841.

Those were the early Victorian days; of this period we hear little of the New England housewife. She lived in the time when the old methods were passing for newer ones; yet her life was quite as full of work and care as was her mother's or grandmother's. She lived in a time when nearly every housewife kept silk worms and made silk, not only to sell, but to spin and weave into beautiful cloth for her family; when the young boys of the family were required to rise early, rain or shine, in May and June, take their bags and climb the mulberry trees that had been planted in great numbers, to fill the bags with

leaves to satisfy the greedy appetites of the silk worms. She also spun and wove, and made all the garments for the family.

Mrs. Averill's life was typical. She made butter and cheese from many cows, as it was the custom of the farmer's wife. The cows freshened in May, which made May and June the early butter months. In July and August they filled the cheese pantry with cheeses, and in September and October they again made butter for the Providence, Norwich and New London markets. She began housekeeping when the housewife dipped her own candles. Never in her long life did she really trust the kerosene lamps. In the short days when her husband must do the chores by the light of the lantern, she would sit and faithfully watch from the window until he returned safely. She had a dread of fire in stoves, having been brought up before the open fireplace, and would never retire until the stove pipes were cold. Her home had some of the finest fireplaces of any home in Pomfret, and she, no doubt, regretted seeing them closed when stoves came into general use.

She spun yarn, and knitted stockings and mittens for her ten children. She could also direct the farm operations as is shown when her husband was in the Legislature, for he wrote home orders as to how his acreage of potatoes was to be planted. By the time the letter was received she had attended to every detail and the potatoes were already growing. At the age of eighty-five, Mrs. Averill knitted thirty pairs of mittens for the Children's Home in Putnam. She died at the age of eighty-seven, having survived her husband twenty years, which may show that a useful life and motherhood never shortens a woman's life.

LEWIS AVERILL RESIDENCE

Lewis Averill, 2nd, son of Lewis Averill of the Wolf Den Farm, where he at first resided, bought in 1899 the dwelling occupied by his widow, Mrs. Della Allen Averill, who died in 1948, and who was connected by blood ties to the Ingalls, Goodell, Craft and Allen families.

A son, L. Allen Averill also resides at this homestead. This house was built by Joseph Gilbert in 1876. Mr. Gilbert was a prosperous farmer who opposed the railroad cutting through his farm. Accordingly, in 1870 when a depot was built where he had once had his cornfield, he sold the property, fearing fire would destroy the buildings. Early engines burned chestnut wood, and were a great fire hazard.

FREDERICK AVERILL DWELLING 1804

Frederick Averill, son of the Hon. Stephen Averill, built the house now owned by Lawrence Ryan, at the corner of Routes 44 and 101. Prior to this he had lived on Wolf Den Farm, just northwest of the

present house there. He had three sons, Lewis, Frederick and Warren, the latter being an infant the year the house was built. In the last years of his life he sold the home, and having intermarried with the Davis family, came into possession of the house where Gardner Davis lives. Here Frederick 2nd spent his last days, as did also his son Warren. This Averill-Davis house was built in Civil War days.

NATHANIEL KINGSBURY

Nathaniel Kingsbury, with the Holts, Fuller and Buttons of Massachusetts, settled near Hampton Hill in 1715. He became one of the leading men of the town.

Just when members of the Kingsbury family settled in Pomfret, history does not say. It is tradition that at the Kingsbury tavern on the Wolf Den road, the men of the famous wolf-hunt celebrated and hung their trophy on a hook in the kitchen.

Many years later the tavern-house was torn down, and the beam that held the hook was used under a corn crib on the place. Willis Covell, Pomfret's town clerk, recalls that when he was a boy, he crawled under the corn crib to see the hook.

In 1789 Ebenezer Kingsbury was Pomfret's representative. For a hundred years the Kingsbury family ran a fulling and dyeing mill on a brook in what was known as Kingsbury Hollow, the intervale between the mouth of the Newitchewanna Brook and the range of the Wolf Den hills. Old account-books of this prosperous business are now in the possession of Mr. Everett Griggs, of Abington.

The Kingsbury Tavern stood on an open field just south of the present entrance to Wolf Den Park. A short distance west, on the north side of the road, was the Ayers place, shown on the map under the name of J. S. Ayers.

At the time Ransom Kingsbury occupied the homestead. A race-track was maintained on this corner for many years.

CHAPTER VII

POMFRET TOWN HOUSE AND POMFRET INDUSTRIES 1840

Migration, like a tide, was sweeping westward many sons of the town, yet enough remained to fill the places their fathers had held. Old homesteads were still occupied by descendants of the pioneer families; the nine schools of the town were filled with children. Farm production was at its height; thousands of sheep and cattle roamed the hills.

Water power was turning wheels of industry from Nightingale's Pond to Pomfret Landing, and to Pomfret Factory at Gargill Falls.

A village called Pomfret Depot had grown up around the little new railroad station in 1839. Wood-burning engines came puffing over the Norwich Worcester Railroad, showering the countryside with sparks from their wide-throated smokestacks. The era of the stage coach and turnpikes was drawing to a close.

In keeping with all this progress, Pomfret was building a town house. It was no longer fitting to continue to hold Town Meetings in inns, schoolhouses, or Abington meeting-house. The battle was on — the choice of a site— This was an important decision to be made, equal to that of former years when the site for a meeting-house was chosen. For a year the townfolk met, and different locations were debated. Among the situations considered were the following:

Near "Haskell Tavern," Haskell Corner

Near the "South Schoolhouse," Albert Newton's in Elliott

On the "South end of the Burying-ground, near Lemuel Haywood's" now opposite the golf links

At "Charles Chandler's," the old Fayette Wright place

At "George B. Mathewson's," now Pomfret School

At "Col. Calvin Day's," now A. G. Goodnough

On "William Sabin's land between the schoolhouse and the Quaker Meeting House."

Near "Stebbins Store" in Marcy Hollow

With so many locations under consideration, the decision was finally left to an out-of-town committee, which was appointed on April 24, 1841, consisting of Jonathan Nichols of Thompson, Philip Pearl of Hampton, and Calvin Whitney of Ashford.

The following June 8, 1841 the present location was decided upon, and voted so at a town meeting. The new building was made ready, and opened October 4, with Job Williams as Town Clerk, and George Ingalls and Pitt Sharpe as Selectmen.

At this meeting it was voted to empower the Selectmen to buy a stove and pipe, and to install the same to heat the Town House, also to provide wood for the stove, cut and made ready. A little wrought iron stove, heavy as lead, was set up near the voting booth. A large box stove, embellished with the design of a galloping horse used many years in the Jericho schoolhouse, was added to the Town House heating equipment when the Jericho school was closed.

Lighting must have been with tallow candles, at first. Whale oil lamps came into general use about 1850, kerosene lamps appeared in Civil War Days, but were slow in coming into general use, as the smell of oil was obnoxious, besides being strong enough to taint butter, if carried home in the same wagon.

It would have been impossible to have chosen a more appropriate site for a town house than this on the eastern slope of Chandler Mountain, not only because it commanded one of the finest views of the town, but because it is an historic location, being on the tract purchased by Deacon Philemon Chandler from one of the first proprietors, Thomas Ruggles, in 1713. The original tract included six hundred acres of the best land in Pomfret, extending from the south burying ground (which Deacon Chandler gave to the town in 1719) to within a mile of the Putnam Wolf Den.

Deacon Philemon Chandler built his first long low plank house in 1714 on Ryan's Corner. On the height of Chandler Mountain, included in his farm, were the remains of a pre-historic Indian Fort, where the Red Man had maintained a look-out for warring Narragansetts, who strove to conquer the Nipmuck country west of the Quinebaug.

This fact is spoken of in a Thanksgiving address given by the fourth pastor of the church, Reverend Nathan S. Hunt, in 1841. The location of the fort was known to the Averill family, who possessed the homestead for one hundred years, as heirs through the marriage of Philemon Chandler's great-great-great granddaughter, Elizabeth Chandler, to Frederick Averill. The dwelling on the Averill farm was built in 1837 to receive Elizabeth Chandler as a bride. With the passing of the last descendants of the family, the Misses Clara and Lena Averill, the property has been purchased by Mr. Carl Sharpe.

Pomfret may justly be proud of its little town house, remodeled in 1938. There are a few of us who regret the passing of the quaint iron stoves, relics of "modern heating" of a century ago. These stoves were cast in the old Backus Foundary, near the beacon light on Mullen Hill, in Canterbury.

Pomfret once owned one Town Poorhouse, built in 1796 on sixty acres of land between Sessions Mill and William Osgood's land, which was on the west side of the middle road between the two railroad bridges in Abington. This one-story town building was fourteen by sixty feet; it had four rooms, two cellars, and two chimneys.

If the town house had been built as suggested "between the school and the Quaker Meeting House," it would now stand on the discon-

tinued Quaker Road. On the corner of this road, at the foot of Pomfret Hill, once stood one of the town's earliest schools. About an eighth of a mile west was the Quaker Meeting House, built in 1805; its first pastor was a Mr. Porter.

No record has come to light to show that the Quakers were ever molested in Pomfret, but the location of the building would suggest that they were not welcome on Pomfret Street. The Quaker Meeting House was built on the land of Obed Dennis, and stood encircled with forest and high walls—closed gates completing its seclusion. The structure was two story, twenty by forty feet, fronting south; there was a row of galleries, with two entrances covered with storm porches, one for the men and one for the women. A chimney was provided at east and west ends of the building. A central partition ran through the house, the men sitting on one side and the women on the other. A small burying ground in the rear is now overgrown, but a larger cemetery a half mile west, on the corner of the main and Quaker roads, has been well kept. Here we find the names of later members of the little church, among them the Clapp and Dennis families. There was never a large congregation of Friends, and as the remnant died or drifted away, only the two burial plots attest to the small flock which is almost forgotten in Pomfret's history. While only a few Friends lived in Pomfret, worshipers came from Brooklyn, Killingly, and Abington to this meeting-house, which, after years of disuse, was burned about 1920. Another site suggested was "near Stebbin's Store" in Stebbinsville, as Marcy Hollow was called when the town was built. Stebbinsville was named for one Erastus Stebbins who, in 1817, bought the woolen mill which had been built by a woolen company in 1812. Men, women, and children were employed; hand power was used.

Stebbins developed the water privilege down in the present State Park, where traces of the old mill-race are yet visible. Beside his woolen mill he opened a grocery store, on the present site of Thaddeus LeFort's house. Ten years later his business passed into the hands of creditors. The mills burned in 1835. The enterprise of the little hamlet required a school, known as the factory school. It stood on the top of the hill west of "Stebbinsville."

JAMES SAWYER — BRUCE PLACE

The James Sawyer place, long known as the Bruce Place, in Pomfret Landing, is now owned by the Russell Perkins Estate. The site where James Sawyer settled in 1709 and built his dwelling, was by a great pine tree that stands shading the cellar hole, overlooking the little waterfall in Bark Meadow Brook. He built his mill where the brook empties into the Quinebaug, where a natural bend in the river formed a mill race. Here he at once set about cutting out millstones and laying

up walls and foundations. The millstones, remarkable specimens of the handwork of the time, have been removed to the Perkins farm.

This mill was set up before there was a road in Pomfret, or other inhabitants in Pomfret Landing. The river was used to go to and from the mill, before bridle paths opened that section of Pomfret and Killingly. As settlement increased, a road ran from the Sawyer house to the fording place, where fifty years later Cotton Bridge was built.

J. I. Sawyer, of Putnam, a descendant of this family, was an artist of note.

The Sawyer property passed into the Bruce family about 1800. They also were a family of enterprise. They built a new house east of the falls on Bark Meadow Brook (present owner Mrs. Nina Pease), and for years carried on a thriving business of grist, saw and cidermills. Through the years there were three mills and dams on the brook. In early days Artemus Bruce had a cobbler shop, where the neighbors brought him their leather, with which to make their shoes.

On a knoll midway to the river is the old Sawyer-Bruce burying ground, a silent reminder of those early days.

COTTON HOMESTEAD—POMFRET LANDING

Thomas Cotton settled in Pomfret Landing in 1749 on six hundred acres purchased from James Danielson. His land joined the Sawyer tract on the east at the brook, extended north toward Pomfret Hill "beginning at the mouth of Corne Sawyer's millbrook, where it emptieth into the Quinebaug, thence south to the Mashamoquet, thence north on Dana's land." (The MacInnes house is on the Dana Purchase.) He owned all that is now Pomfret Landing to the Bruce place so-called. The present home of Adolph Jarvis is undoubtedly one of the oldest houses in the section.

It is said that with the Cotton goods, came also the first copper teakettle in Pomfret, and also the first rat.

The dwelling now owned by Thomas Grimes is also a very old Cotton homestead. The land on which it stands leads to an old Cotton mill privilege.

The property now owned by Miss MacInnes, the old Williams place, was early included in the Dana Tract. When James Cotton came in 1742 his land extended from Bark Meadow Brook to the Williams place, thence to the Mashamoquet.

THE COTTONS

The old Dana or Needle's Eye Road was one of the earliest roads in town. It passed through the Cotton lands to the Quinebaug River, which was crossed by fording. The first bridge was built in 1774, and

prior to then, Cotton had maintained a tavern house to accommodate the heavy travel from Pomfret and Killingly. In Barber's Historical Collection of 1838, we find the following: "About three miles S.E. of Pomfret Congo. Ch. there is a place called Pomfret Landing, which place is said to derive its name from a circumstance, that in ancient times, there used to be a tavern kept there, at which young men from Woodstock, Providence, and other places used to stop or *Land*, and in some instances, remain two or three days, carousing."

In 1770 Simeon Cotton, who died in 1819, was tavern-keeper, and deacon of Pomfret Church; so it would seem probable that an "ancient," notorious tavern had been opened and managed by the earlier Cottons. Yet it is surprising how well rum and religion blended before the temperance movement of 1820. The Simeon Cotton Tavernhouse still stands, deep in the vale near Cotton's Bridge.

The Cotton children received their schooling in the three R's and spelling-book at the little old Pomfret schoolhouse on the now closed Cooney Road, on the hill above the Landing. This schoolhouse was built at an early date for the children of the tenants of Governor Belcher, whose farms lay along the old church road. This was the only school available for the children of Israel Putnam when he lived at the old Putnam house, just over the Pomfret line in Brooklyn.

The Lapsley orchards (Wiltshire Manor), where Putnam lived at the time of the famous Wolf Hunt, is shown on the map as the Edwin Warrens. Wiltshire farmhouse, now the Valentine place, is shown as the Willard Hubbards. A glance at the map will show their neighborhood proximity. Although the school was gone in 1856, there appear on the Cooney Road the names of William Averill, Sam Ritchard, William Young, B. Johnson, and J. S. Colgrove.

Several old houses on this road that, long neglected, have now fallen into decay were last occupied by Irish laborers of the seventies, during the construction of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. It is said that the hill was black with them, so many were employed at that time.

The railroad, tho welcomed, was destined to take away the industry of the Landing. Wheels that had turned for half a century by the power of the Mashamoquet were soon to be stilled, and the old mill left deserted, a ghost of the home industry. The grist mill was operated for several years, and a store and post office maintained a few years longer. Now the last of the old mill is "gone with the wind" in the hurricane of 1938.

While the hum of industry was heard in Pomfret Landing, a new schoolhouse was built, which still stands. In comparison to early days the school attendance is small now, but for many years it was a truly favored school. On each Christmas, the late Mr. Lawrence Perkins, of Pomfret Landing, remembered his happy school days by providing a Christmas tree for all the scholars. To the youngsters, he was a real Santa Claus.

POMFRET IN 1810

The census of 1810 of Windham County states that at that date, all of its towns had post offices, except Hampton and Voluntown; two were listed for Killingly. Pomfret had one thousand nine-hundred and five inhabitants, three hundred dwelling houses, four religious societies, and eleven school districts, where school was kept the greater part of the year. Pomfret Street had twenty dwelling houses, two churches, a post office, and several stores. At Pomfretville, (now Pomfret Street, Putnam) there was a cotton mill, the largest in the state, also one woolen mill and a grist mill.

On Mashamoquet, Bark Meadow, Blackwell's, and Abington Brook, there were three fulling mills, and clothiers works, two carding machines, three small distilleries, four grain mills, six tanneries, nine saw mills.

Three turnpikes passed through the town: Hartford to Providence, Hartford to Boston, and Norwich to Worcester.

At this period Pomfret Landing was at its height of prosperity. For thirty years it had been the busiest part of town, with the Mashamoquet furnishing power to run its industries—a fulling mill (down the lane from the present Thomas Grimes place), a saw mill and a grist mill near the bridge.

POMFRET LANDING—A TYPICAL MANUFACTURING HAMLET

As early as 1787 the Gilberts had opened a barter store (in the old stone building that once stood on the south side of the Landing Road) doing a record business, "landing" a quantity of merchandise (Larned's History). Another enterprise was a large wagon and blacksmith shop, which stood on the east side of the bridge for nearly a century.

The last of these blacksmiths was Winthrop Chandler Aldrich, who died in 1905, after owning the shop for thirty-five years. The building was swept away by flood in 1907. Charles Aldrich, son of Winthrop, now of California, has drawn a most interesting picture of the Landing, from memory as of 1890, which shows several houses, the old mill, the grist mill and shop, which are no longer standing.

The last industry of the Landing was a creamery, which stood about a half mile west of the Landing, on the north side of the highway. This property burned about 1895.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

Seth Williams came to Pomfret from Raynham, Massachusetts, in 1791. He engaged in the shoe manufacturing business. The Seth

Williams homestead is the present Perkins place. Seth Williams was buried in the Bruce burying ground. His shop may have been one of the Landing industries. His grandson's name, Samuel, appears on the map as S. H. Williams.

Also on the map of the Old River Road, we see the name of B. Williams, a member of this family. This property was purchased by the father of Willis Covell, Town Clerk of Pomfret, who, when a boy, attended school at the Landing.

Mrs. William Valentine is a descendant of the Seth Williams family.

During the last half of the 19th century a grocery store was maintained at the Landing by Charles Williams, son of Samuel. This store stood just east of the old Cotton mill. Here was kept the post office. As was customary, the mail was brought to Pomfret Landing from Dayville, mail being brought for this section by the Norwich and Worcester Railroad after 1839. Isaac Hawks carried the mail for many years before the establishment of the rural free delivery.

THE MacINNES PLACE

This fine old Colonial place was built in 1772 (the date may be seen on the chimney). This property, owned by the Williams family, is shown on the map as the C. D. Williams place. He was a direct descendant of William Williams, brother of the Reverend Ebenezer Williams. Another direct descendant was the late George W. Perry, Civil Engineer, of Putnam. Throughout the long years the house has stood, its colonial lines intact.

COTTON TWINE MILL

The date of the building of this mill is not on record, but parents of the oldest inhabitants worked there in their youth. Children were employed at the age of twelve, at long hours of hard labor, and work was sent home for their mothers to do. The building was fast falling into decay, and went down in the hurricane of 1938. The twine mill came soon after the opening of the turnpike, in 1800, through the Landing—a great advantage to the industry. Also, at this time, the stage coach tavern was opened. This building, shown on the map as belonging to Samuel Underwood, is owned by Ellery Baker, a veteran of the second World War.

BRICK STEAMERS

For many years the term "Brick Steamers" has been associated with Pomfret Landing. Why, no one knew. The following historical

facts seem likely to give a fair explanation. The Quinebaug, like many other large streams, had been used as a waterway from early times. A project of dredging for a canal was proposed as early as 1760. This period might well be styled New England's Golden Age. Wealth had been accumulated, but not to the extent of the idle rich. All men were employed in some enterprise or business. Sons were sent to college, and daughters had time for fine spinning and needlework. New churches were lifting their spires upon the hills, and new dwellings were built. Thus there was a great need for more and easier transportation. The day of the turnpike had not yet dawned. Roads were still rude cart-paths, although everywhere passable. They were muddy, rutty, and stony, yet great quantities of farm produce were being hauled over them to Norwich to be shipped to New London and even to the West Indies. Boats to these parts carried horses, mules, and oxen upon their decks, as well as sheep, swine, turkeys, and geese. Produce shipped were pork, beef, butter, cheese, flour, and hides. In return, ships brought West India goods of molasses, rum, spices, salt, indigo, and sweetmeats.

During this period of activity, when much building was in progress, brick for chimneys arrived by water at Norwich, and, from there, was distributed to the surrounding area. In 1789 Washington observed in his diary that on his trip to New England he noted several times that all chimneys were built of either stone or brick. Undoubtedly, as much as possible of this material came by water from Norwich to Pomfret Landing.

Beneath the water, at the junction of Bark Meadow Brook and the Quinebaug River, can be seen the piles of an old landing wharf, doubtless the mooring place of the "Brick Steamers."

QUINEBAUG RIVER

The first bridge over the Quinebaug between the "Great Falls," in Putnam, and Danielson, was built in 1774, near the Simon Cotton Tavern. Although the river here was wide and deep, horses and oxen had been made to swim the stream, crossing from Pomfret to Killingly.

From the early settlement of Pomfret, flat boats had navigated the river to and from Norwich. Erection of the bridge opened a direct thorough-fare from Danielson to Pomfret Hill, and business boomed at Cotton's Tavern, so great was the enterprise, then widely discussed, of deepening the Quinebaug from Norwich to the Massachusetts line, for a canal, but the war prevented anything being done about it.

A half century later interest was again awakened to deepen the river. In October 1826 the city of Norwich voted: "Resolved to encourage a project for opening a canal from the tide water at Norwich to Worcester County, Mass. along the Quinebaug." The Norwich Channel Co. had been formed in 1805 for the improvement of river

water ways. It is reasonable to believe that in the excitement of Norwich having an established steamboat line, and Pomfret fighting for a canal to bring up their brick, the opponents of the project would jestingly say that they would yet run "brick steamers" up to Pomfret Landing, the same as we often speak of cattle cars or coal cars. (Flat boats then brought supplies up the river in high water.)

A canal charter had been granted in behalf of "manufacturing and agricultural interests," but before anything was done the public became interested in the then new mode of transportation, railroads, and the charter was changed to a railroad charter.

The Norwich and Worcester road was completed in 1839, and the canal project was forgotten until 1914 when a bill before Congress, providing for Government survey of the Quinebaug for a barge canal, but the day of the automobile had already dawned, and slow transportation was not in favor. A second time the canal project was rejected.

Cotton's Bridge has been carried away in floods several times, to go out again in the time of the great blizzard of 1888, and again in 1906. The present bridge was built in 1908. A sister bridge was built a mile south of Cotton Bridge in 1800, at the time the Hartford and Providence turnpike went through Pomfret. The builder, Thaddeus Allen, whose home was on the hill on the Killingly side of the river, signed a contract to keep the bridge in repair for one year. The day before the contract expired, flood took the bridge away, which so troubled Allen that he took his own life by drowning. In 1934 the present cement bridge was built, during the construction of the State Highway between Haskell's Corner and Dayville.

In the cold winter of 1935, the Quinebaug was frozen over to such an extent that in the breaking up of the ice in spring, great floes were carried by the current over the banks and highways. In instances farmers were able to fill their ice houses from this supply. This winter went on record for severe cold, the mercury falling to 40 degrees below zero much of the time during the winter months, with much snow. It will be long remembered by the boys and girls of Pomfret Landing, the mercury in the schoolhouse on cold mornings registering 30 degrees below zero. The winter of 1903-4, 1920-1, 1934-5, and 1947-8 were record cold winters in Windham County.

THE KINGSLEY FAMILY

The Kingsley family first settled in Windham. Apparently they came to Pomfret Landing after the Revolution, settling on the Howard White farm which has remained in the Kingsley family for a century. A section of this house is very old, and has remained unchanged although additions have been made. The house is shown on the map as R. Kingsley.

A second Kingsley dwelling, a large red house, stood, until the last quarter century, at the top of the hill above the Mashamoquet Brook Bridge. It was taken down and the timber used in the construction of the Hans Anderson dwelling. This old house was shaded by beautiful elms that still stand, and is shown on the map as the James Angell place. In 1932 the site was purchased by William Elliott; the old Pomfret Landing store was also purchased by Mr. Elliott, moved up the hill from the Ellery Baker property to the site of the old red house, and converted into a dwelling. This dwelling is much smaller than the old house, as is shown by the position of the ancient door stones, and the fine outside bulkhead entrance to the cellar.

A stone on which is inscribed the date 1793 was found by Mr. Elliott in this bulkhead entrance, and has been placed by the front door stone. Whether this house, or the White place, was the home of Ebenezer Kingsley is uncertain. In 1798 Ebenezer Kingsley was one of a committee of nine men appointed by the Town to attend to laying out the road from Little River to the Perrin place (at the top of Hospital Hill) and to building a bridge over the stream—also to the repair of the Cargill bridge. This was the second bridge over the Little River, the first being built in 1732, and trodden paths had substituted for highways before that date.

When William Elliott bought the Kingsley home site in 1932, the base of the old chimney was removed, and between two great stones in the foundation, four copper pennies were found at each of the four corners, dated 1794, 1796, 1802, and 1804. It would seem that the beginning of the construction was in 1791, when the stone was marked, that the chimney was begun in 1804, and the intervening years mark the years of labor in gathering building materials. All hardware was made at the blacksmith shop. Stones were hauled by slow moving oxen from the fields. Hearthstones and broad door stones were often transported miles on ox sleds. Logs were cut in the forests and hauled to the mill to be sawed into the great wide boards for the floors and plank walls. All sills and timbers were hand hewn, and the pegs were, like the shingles, hand made.

It took years to accomplish all this hand labor by a home owner and his sons. He was a busy farmer, and must reap and sow in season, and tend his flocks and herds. It was only in the winter that he could prepare material for his house. It is little wonder that he called in his neighbors to celebrate the greatest event in his life—the raising of his home. A fine dinner was served, and there was much merriment. When a house was raised, a carpenter was hired, at eight dollars per month and board, to finish it. With the farmer's help, this might be accomplished in a year.

The Kingsley house was a large two story building with a mansard roof, and one large center brick chimney.

CHAS. C. ALDRICH, 4565 47th ST., SAN DIEGO, CAL.

To Judge Willis Covell, Pomfret.

The Characters, as I remember them in my drawing, June 1944, as they were on the morning of June 9th, Monday, 1890.

From the left: I see Pete Norton, Mary Fisher, Billy Vaughn, then Albertus and his Buckskin horse en route for the creamery for buttermilk; another girl is ahead of the horse. I cannot make her out; then there is "Rabbitt" Charlie Aldrich as usual on the run, he has just driven Feeters cows to pasture, and has "dallied" too long with Frank Wood at the Creamery, besides he has to "go out" before he goes to school, hence his hurry; he hopes to make the grist mill, but will hardly have time to get to the third floor "outlet" which has always intrigued him as he has not been able to see how he can *miss* those that may be in the little places below. Geo. Hanley is headed for the store; Martin Hanley is trying to get a pig back in the pen; Lizzie Hanley is headed for school and Charlie Hanley is going back to the store.

Mrs. Curtis is inspecting her flower beds and tied to the corner of the barn is Amy Bruce's horse; some one else is in the yard, I believe it is Mrs. Harrington, as I place them living upstairs over Mrs. Curtis. Bill Harrington has his grocery cart backed up to the rear door of the store, about to leave for the west side, and I think I can see Willis Covell looking over the "rig." Dr. Darlings carriage is in front of the store, think he has been to the Grimes' to see the new baby. Mary and Sadie Malley are about to cross the bridge, headed for school. Will Spaulding has been to the mill and over to the shop, getting an axe handle probably from "Chan." Orrin Baker is headed for the "Out house" and I can see his mother just returning from same; Mrs. Malley is hanging out the Monday wash, and "Dick" Malley is cutting some clover for the cow in the barnyard; the cow has a broken leg, caused by Jimmy throwing a rock; Jimmy is raking hay in the lot across from the Webb place.

Fred Childs is breaking a colt, and is apparently headed for his old home a mile below; Mrs. White is returning from the store? guess she ran short of Monday morning wash soap; Ike Hawkes is rounding the corner with the "Fast Mail," "Pa Bennett" is in his yard and below is either Henry Nye or John Spencer, I can't make out; at the corner is old "Black Maria" Hall headed for her monthly visit to the store dragging her cart and her pet monkey; Oliver Young is headed for school and is trying to get friendly with the monkey; then Sadie White and Mary Chase. Ed White is cultivating.

Along near the Webb house I see Mrs. Geo. Webb, she, like "Black Maria" has to use a cane; in the hammock at the Lynn house I see a couple of the Ike Hawkes children; Sam Lynn is waving to the boy on the bicycle. He is Parris Aldrich, Jr. (Later I find Lynn had died the year before). The man in the buggy is Gallup's drummer from Norwich headed for the store; he is anxious to get the grocery order be-

fore Tourtellotte from Daniells Cornell in Providence comes on Monday night. The horse is scared of the bicycle and the dog is having a great time chasing same.

Geo. Feeter is on the bridge headed for the shop, and his dog, a red, has "dallied" at the corner and is waiting to join in the "chase" of the bicycle; Feeter is going over to get Chan to go fishing as he believes it's going to rain. I note a couple of men headed for the "Cove" and Ben White and another fisherman on the far side of the Quinebaug.

Chan, my dad, is setting a tire for Ed Gleason, who is fishing just below the shop, across from Sam Lynn's; his oxen are apparently contented with chewing their cud. Going up the hill I see Edith Young and Bertha Robbins, we called her "Brown" in those days, and Jud Hyde is coming down the hill for his mail; Mose Congdon is headed for the Grist Mill with Albertus Bruce's oxen and grist.

Mrs. Shippee is returning from out back, and Mrs. Pat Noon, who was then living in the smaller Aldrich house, is just going "out." I note Mrs. Feeter looking at her flowers, and in the rear of the Feeter barn I see Bert Fitts. At the then Aldrich house I see my mother hanging out the Monday wash, and my sister Mabel chasing my brother Winn as he has just escaped from the "out back" and wants his "MA"; in the lot back of Mrs. Adams' barn I see old Mrs. Grimes chasing the chickens from the garden and beyond I see a couple of pigs that she will have to get back to the pen; in the lot beyond I see Charlie Grimes with a hoe on his shoulder, and his son Tommy headed for the cornfield.

In Mrs. Clapp's back yard I see my brother Wallie hitching up to go peddling, probably to Williamsville, and Horace Clapp is headed for the barn. I forgot to mention that on the little hand-built temporary bridge across the stream at the old Palmer place I have placed Charlie Cole; "Buffalo Bill," we called him then; he used to live with Steve Hopkins, and for a little "Local Color" I put him in, even tho Steve Hopkins had by that time moved to the Prentice place; you will also note that Steve has just shot a woodchuck, and is holding it up for his man Stub to see; his wife keeps right on weeding the onions. Pat Noon is going down to the barn, guess he worked for Steve at that time, later buying the Hammond house.

At the school house I see several playing ball, and evidently they have knocked one over the fence, and some boy is chasing it. Fred Willis at Bruces, I see, is admiring his latest in weather vanes which he has recently installed on the barn; Juliette Keyes has forgotten something and headed back to Bruces. Back of the schoolhouse I note Lizzie Johnson coming to school. Coming through the Whipple wood I see Oliver Bennett coming to the store. He was then living at the Cotton Bridge house; later moving to the smaller Aldrich house when Noons moved to the Hammond place.

I have the Whipple place and the Boat house seen quite plainly, probably too plainly for the position I imagined myself to be in when

I drew the picture; I had imagined myself to be at the western end of the Chestnut Grove near the old "Mine" as we called it, and just east of the old barn that was in the cow pasture on the hill (Hanley Farm).

The mail was not taken at that hour, as we had but one mail a day, and that came at noon. Remember my J. Lynn and Co. orders? I tried to have as much so-called Life in the picture, hence the few changes.

The belfry on the schoolhouse I think had been installed by Jim Botham, aided by Andrew, and Jud Hyde had gotten a fairly straight flag pole. The crows are flying far and near and cows are pasturing here and there; much wild mustard can be seen. Cherries are ripe on the tree to the left and I had to leave a bit open so I could show the Mill dam and "Still Water" beyond. My sheet of paper was too small to show the creamery and my good boyhood friend, Frank Wood.

Not having been on the old Landing Hill since 1902, or over 42 years, my sense of location may be and probably is a bit off. I hardly remembered the Webb barns until after I had finished the drawing; Wallie sent me a sketch of it as he remembered it and I was fairly right.

"Forepaughs" Circus was coming to town, and you will note the red posters on the Palmer barn. They are also on the far side of the Hanley barn, not visible.

You, Willis, I don't believe had gone to work for Geo. Lynn at this date, June, but I do believe you went there during the summer after your summer recess from Bryant and Stratton in Providence. I believe you boarded with Mrs. Curtis. Arthur Harrington helped out before you went to the store and then I believe Arthur Rich went to work for Lynn and Anderson. I used to go on the cart with all of them, didn't like to go so much with Anderson as he spent many, many hours at the Wrights, just beyond Davenport's, and left me in the wagon eating bananas and candy. Someone, I don't remember who, used to stop for "Some Time" at the Botham Corners.

Well, the old landing will never look the same; so I like to remember it "when."

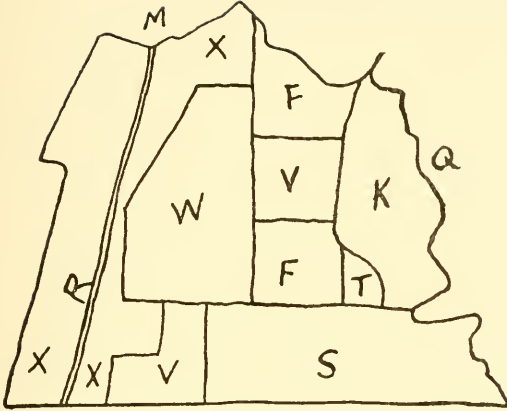
Charles C. Aldrich Dec. 15th, 1944.

TURNPIKES

The early years of 1800 brought turnpikes through Pomfret. Two of the old gate houses still stand, one on the Pomfret Landing Road, owned by the Day family, and the other on the Ragged Hill Road, home of the late Mrs. Lucy Smith. All toll-gate houses were sold in 1848 by the order of the town. The old Haskell Tavern Stand, at the fork of the pikes, Providence-Hartford and Norwich-Worcester, was well patronized. General training was held on the broad field opposite the Haskell Stand, where the Central School is now located.

CHAPTER VIII

MORTLAKE (1685)



- K. Kingswood (Col. Malbone Tract)
- T. Training Field.
- F. Foy's Land.
- S. Saltonstall Tract (Brooklyn Village)
- W. Wiltshire (Included Israel Putnam Farm)
- V. Vacant.
- R. Road (Surveyed in 1733).
- Q. Quinebaug River.
- M. Mashamoquet River.

X. Rev. Ebenezer Williams Land. In 1733 Mr. Williams' residence and a part of his land lying within Mortlake limits "as he had requested were annexed to Pomfret" "for ye removal of ye difficulty he labored under of living out of ye town, and for the bringing of his work and dwelling together," which accounts for the jog in the southeast corner of Pomfret map.

South of Jericho, through Mortlake (Brooklyn) a deep wilderness stretched for miles, broken only by a rude bridle path. This vast tract of five thousand seven hundred and fifty acres was owned before 1713 by the noted Puritan, Sir John Blackwell, who had purchased the section from Major James Fitch, primarily for a settlement of Irish and English Dissenters from the Church of England. His plans were frustrated by land troubles with Governor Andros at this period, and the tract remained unsettled, until a land transfer was made to Governor Jonathan Belcher in 1713.

Governor Belcher found residing on this tract a squatter, Jabez Utter, to whom he gave a deed to the 70 acres Jabez had cleared, fenced and built upon, also the use of 30 additional acres, but later on the arrest of Utter for "stealing a black two-year old horse" from Daniel Cady, Gov. Belcher brought suit against Utter and secured a quit-claim deed and return of the land. Adjudged guilty of the charges against him, and unable to pay the heavy fine and costs imposed at New London Court, Utter was given ten stripes on his naked body and put in jail. Later he was obliged to serve for eight pounds a year to work out his fine. This undoubtedly took a long time, and his wife and daughters were left to the mercy of the unfeeling times. Several young men took it upon themselves to drive the poor woman from her cabin

into the wilderness. After an all-night siege and abuse, they flung her and her children from the door, and set a guard against her return. How this brave family made its way through the wilderness to shelter, history does not record. Without food or shelter Mary Utter walked through the wilds some ten miles to the home of Edward Spaulding and two days later on January 19, 1714, was able to tell the magistrate of the outrage, but since the young men were from Woodstock, then a part of Massachusetts, the rascals were not brought to court. No doubt the children were "bound out" until they became of age, a life little better than slavery.

The fate of the Uppers seems hard indeed, but in the early settlement the squatter was not uncommon. Usually he was a man who had outlived his credit and standing in an older settlement.

PIONEERS ALONG THE PRIMITIVE KING'S HIGHWAY

Soon after 1700 a few scattered homesteads were taken up along the trail from the northern boundary of Woodstock to the southern boundary of Canterbury.

Edward Spaulding, where Mary Utter found shelter, was one of the first four settlers, south and west of Brooklyn Village. His homestead was at the foot of Tatnick Hill. The road from Canterbury to Woodstock lay near his residence, which soon became a place of entertainment for travelers; his first barrel of rum was brought from Norwich on two poles lashed behind a man on horseback (Larned's History). A two story brick house in Brooklyn, on Route 6, was for many years in the Spaulding family. It is shown on the map under the name of Taylor.

The trail through Canterbury had been rapidly tread out, as it was through Pomfret, and by 1719 Canterbury had completed her road to the South Pomfret line, placing rude field stones to mark off the miles. This road crossed Route 6 at the old Stetson Burying Ground, near the Hampton line. The original course of the trail passed directly north and south over Westminster Hill, just west of the church, but by the influence of one Richard Pellett, who had opened an Inn in 1717 to entertain travelers, the layout was changed. His place was situated nearly a half mile eastward, and fearing to lose his custom, he so entertained the engineers with liquors and feasting that the north and south course was changed to accommodate his tavern, intersecting it one and one-fourths miles east of the deviation. This road was included in the old King's Highway from Woodstock to Norwich.

This Richard Pellett was one of the early settlers on the "West Row" as Westminster was then called. It consisted of a few pioneer homes built near the junction of two trails that crossed on Westminster Hill, running east and west. Greenwich Parallel, became the "great

road" between Providence and Hartford. Because of the heavy travel of home makers on these primitive ways, Pellett had opened his home as a house of entertainment. A generation later, John Parks followed him in ownership.

It is tradition that Lafayette slept at the tavern on the night of June 17, 1781, when Rochambeau's grand army of four divisions marched through Westminster en route between Providence and Hartford.

After Parks' death in 1787 the tavern was closed, as a new one was built near the church. It is remembered by the older generation as the old Stocking place. The present owner, Frank Pellett, razed the old tavern house and built a dwelling, although the foundation of the tavern is still visible.

In 1735 Paul Hibbard and Israel Dimmock of Windham built a coal house (blacksmith shop) just west of the Westminster Church. This was the first shop in the section, and for over a century the furnace fires burned brightly, accommodating travelers of the turnpike, as well as Hampton, being reached by the Westminster road from Howard's Valley.

FOUNDRY ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Timothy Backus settled in Canterbury before 1712. The family was ever prominent, and early interested themselves in the blacksmithing and iron trades. At an early date they settled on Mullins Hill, on the King's Highway, north of Westminster Church. Here they established blast furnaces, and built a blacksmith shop, doing a very extensive business. They made and sold some of the first stoves in Windham County—quaint little cook stoves, "heavy as lead," standing on short wrought-iron legs, the hearth not six inches from the floor, with deep fire boxes capable of taking in a large chunk of wood. These stoves had four griddles, the back ones raised about six inches. These stoves were great heaters, designed to heat big old kitchens. Backus also made big box stoves for schoolhouses and churches and town houses.

The old Backus house burned many years ago, and the furnace fires have long ago gone out. Not many of the stoves they built are in existence, but one that for nearly a hundred years warmed the Pomfret Town House is now in the possession of the writer.

On the site where the Backus family lived there is now a beacon light, its long flashes of ever changing color, sweeping a long arm across the horizon, guiding the traveler on his aerial way. But no beacon light stood on these heights when more than two centuries ago men struggled to find their way over rude trails more difficult to follow than are the trails of the sky today.

KINGSWOOD HILL, POMFRET-BROOKLYN LINE

Kingswood Manor was situated on what is now known as Woods Hill, one of the finest summits in Windham County, commanding a view not only of Pomfret but of the surrounding towns. At the entrance to the drive to the manor, massive walls were laid, a suitable approach to any country estate. Slave labor also laid the walls around the large fields.

In 1726 Governor Jonathan Belcher leased the Kingswood five-hundred acres, one white servant, four oxen, four cows, two breeding mares, thirty sheep, harrows, plow, chains, and cart to Isaiah and Thompson Wood of Canterbury.

The old house that stood on the hill for more than two-hundred years was purchased by Albert Kimball in 1912; there he spent his last days. He passed away shortly before the house was burned on Easter morning in 1938. He was a descendant of the Kimball family that had settled on Kimball Hill, Hampton, in the north section of the town.

Three large barns have been struck by lightning and burned, on Woods Hill; two other small houses have been built there since the old house burned, one of which has also been destroyed by fire. The farm is now occupied by Charles Kimball, a son of the late Albert Kimball.

COL. GODFREY MALBONE

In 1739, Godfrey Malbone, Sr., a wealthy Newport merchant, purchased twelve hundred acres of forest and meadow land from Governor Jonathan Belcher. This property comprised Kingswood Manor.

Upon the death of Godfrey Malbone, Sr., his estate passed to his son Godfrey, who took possession about 1766, and came to Brooklyn to make his home about the time that Israel Putnam opened his inn on Brooklyn Green.

Colonel Godfrey Malbone had been reared in luxury and educated in England. His father's home was considered the most splendid edifice in Newport. It was situated within a mile of the State House. A Loyalist, he suffered greatly from Newport mobs; his financial affairs were "embarrassed by insubordination of the Colonials," his ships taken by privateers, and his house burned while he was in the midst of a housewarming. He gave up trying to live in Newport and came to Pomfret, and thereafter lived very simply in a great rambling plank house which had been built for a tenant. He gave his attention to the cultivation of his large farm which was well stocked with cattle, horses, sheep, goats and swine. He carried on, by the labor of his many slaves, who lived in cabins which lined the west side of the main road, south of the Day Street corner where Malbone lived.

While living in Newport, Malbone had owned several merchant ships. At one time his slave ship was attacked, and the negroes on

board defended the ship to such avail that the pirates were forced to withdraw. In reward for this service, Colonel Malbone bought them all and brought them to his wilderness plantation. They were a happy, jolly lot, fond of fiddling and frolicking. Once a year they held a Jubilee, elected a King, and installed him in office. Pero, an intelligent negro, son of an African King, usually held the office. A few of the slaves left at the time of the war, but the majority stayed even after the death of Colonel Malbone; their descendants have continued to live in Brooklyn.

It is ironical that the first Church of England in the County should have been established in Mortlake where, in 1686, the noted Puritan, Sir John Blackwell, had bought the territory for the purpose of escaping the Church of England, and to establish here a Puritan colony.

Daniel Putnam, son of General Israel Putnam, married a niece of Colonel Malbone, and, by 1815, was the strongest pillar of the Old Trinity Church. As early as 1792, Daniel Putnam was the proprietor of much of the Malbone estate, and had one of the largest dairies in town. This estate was widely known as the "Putnam Elms."

Colonel Godfrey Malbone remained a true friend of England during the Revolutionary War, but accepted defeat and change of government with becoming philosophy. A true gentleman, scorning all hypocrisy, he, in the end, gained the respect and admiration of those who had been most opposed to him.

Colonel Godfrey Malbone lived apart from the people of Pomfret and Brooklyn, having nothing in common with them. From the Colonials all he had received was wrongs. He paid his share of taxes, was always polite when approached, and was willing to help the needy, but he had no respect for his neighbors' beliefs. He was by birth an Episcopalian—not a popular nor common sect in the community. In return, the people had little respect for the person of the Colonel. It is said that a storekeeper put out a sign in Brooklyn which read "What wont money buy?" and a wag wrote below the sign "All the money in this place, couldn't buy Malbone a handsome face."

According to the law of the Colonies, Colonel Malbone was taxed for the support of the Society unless he attended some other church, which for him was impossible, since the nearest church of his faith was in Norwich. So when Brooklyn decided to build a new meeting-house he was much opposed, declaring that wanting a new building was a "ridiculous spirit of pride and emulation" and that they were about to demolish a structure as good and sound as when first finished, in order to build a "larger, newer, and probably yellower" one than the great new meeting-house which had recently been erected in Pomfret and which was painted bright yellow like a barn.

However, Colonel Malbone's opposition only increased the determination of Colonel Israel Putnam and other leaders in the Society, to the end that two rival churches were built, one by the Society, and the other by Colonel Malbone. Both are still standing. The old Epis-

copalian church is now opened once a year, on All Saints' Day, since a new edifice has been built in Brooklyn; but the church and the churchyard, where Malbone and many of his followers sleep, are kept in good repair. The church has never changed in any respect, and stands as an historical landmark to religious freedom, on the old Church Road in Brooklyn.

A descendant of the Malbone slaves, one Rufus Malbone, lived for a long time about a mile west of the city of Putnam. Rufus was a hard-working man and greatly attached to his horse. One night he drove home from Providence and was thrown from his wagon; when he recovered consciousness, in the morning, he found the faithful horse standing over him. So deep was Rufus' attachment to his faithful beast that he requested that upon his own death his horse should be shot and buried with him. This request was fulfilled; the horse was buried by his side in a small enclosure near his home, east of the Gary school-house. He left a sum of money for a monument, a slender shaft which reads: "Rufus G. Malbone, died October 12, 1884, aged sixty years, seven months, twenty days." On the opposite side is marked: "Dollie, his faithful horse, died Oct. 25, 1884."

The following, taken from "Newport Illustrated," pub. 1854, gives a sidelight on Malbone's early environment. The estate of Godfrey Malbone, Esquire, had been left to his son, Godfrey, later of Pomfret. It was situated on Tammany Hill, site of the home of Wannemetonomie, son of Miantonomo. It was famous for its beautiful grounds, artificial fish-grounds, orchards and wonderful view.

In 1766 the Malbone house was accidentally burned, the flames breaking out just as a large party was about to sit down to dinner. Col. Malbone, finding it impossible to save the house, ordered the dinner taken to the lawn and served, observing "If I have lost my house, there is no reason why I should lose my dinner."

The loss of his mansion seems to have climaxed his losses at Newport, and soon after he removed to the wilderness of Pomfret. During the Revolution Tammany Hill was surmounted by a breastwork, thrown up by the British, and was made one of a chain of outposts along the Island.

When the property passed out of the Malbone family, Edward Malbone, descendant of Godfrey Malbone, Esq., devoted himself to painting, with unabated zeal, hoping to be able to buy back the Malbone estate, but hard work shortened his life. The picture that made him famous, "The Hours", long remained in Providence.

ISRAEL PUTNAM

Among the first settlers of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1634, were John Putnam, his good wife Priscilla, and their sons, Nathan, Thomas and John. They were descendants of a noble English family.

Salem was then a small town, with quaint flat-roofed houses, the streets level, irregular and unattractive. During the witchcraft delusion about 1700, Joseph Putnam, father of Israel Putnam, endangered his own life by his outspoken disapproval of the persecutions, gaining the illwill of his own relatives and neighbors. As a precaution, he kept his musket loaded, and a fleet horse saddled at all times, ready for flight, should he be accused of the "crime" of witchcraft.

Israel Putnam was born January 7, 1718. His family must have been well to do, for when he came to Pomfret, a young married man, with his infant son, he brought slaves to clear his land, and was able to stock his plantation with sheep and cattle.

As a boy, Israel hated the classroom, but loved the great out-doors. At an early age he showed his fighting spirit; it is recounted that his father took him to Boston where his country clothes caused a town boy to ridicule him. Israel took it for a time, but when the taunting became unbearable, he gave his tormentor a sound thrashing, altho his opponent was a much bigger boy.

When Israel Putnam came to Pomfret in 1739, the town of Brooklyn was included in the section known as Mortlake, which belonged to the town of Pomfret, and from Jonathan Belcher he purchased Wiltshire Manor, a fine farm situated on the broad table lands of the Newichewanna Hills.

Although Putnam had slaves to clear his acres and build his walls, and his farm was well stocked, he was not popular. Proud Pomfret looked down upon the "rough Mortlake farmer," the stranger in the Second Society of Pomfret. He owned no pew in the meeting-house, but sat on the rude backless benches near the entrance, through the long four hours of the service, listening to the Rev. Ephraim Avery propound the gospel, while the "peers of the parish" sat in the slightly elevated pews looking down upon him. At that time there were only seven houses besides the meeting-house, in the village.

Putnam may not have owned a pew in the meeting-house, but he did own a fine bloodhound, which at least was appreciated by his neighbors. One winter morning on entering his sheepfold, he found that seventy of his flock were dead, and many lambs and kids wounded. His fighting blood was up, and he organized a hunt to destroy the she-wolf that had caused great damage to the flocks of the section. He knew her tracks, for she had lost two toes in a trap. She was old, but not too old to seek the western wilds of the state, Litchfield and vicinity, returning each autumn with a litter of whelps, each year an easy prey to the hunters, but the mother successfully evaded them.

Five of Putnam's neighbors agreed to hunt with him continually until the beast was killed. Hard pressed, she fled to her old haunts, but was turned back at the Connecticut River, and returned again to Pomfret. A light snow aided the hunters. John Sharpe, a lad of seventeen, was the first to discover her track, leading up to the rocky ledge and into the low aperture about two feet square at the base of the cliff.

The shouts of the hunters and the baying of the hounds soon brought other hunters up the incline to the den, only half a mile from the house of the Reverend Ebenezer Williams, who no doubt heard the alarm, and hastened to the spot. The wild rugged hills echoed the cry of the hunt, and the whole town was soon out. The wolf was in the den, but how was she to be got out? The dogs had entered, only to be torn and driven back, refusing to renew the attack. Straw and sulphur were burned before the entrance to no avail. Putnam called his negro servant to enter the den, but he refused. Putnam threw off his waistcoat, and making a torch of birch bark, crawled into the cave. For about fifteen feet the narrow passage runs obliquely, with smooth rock floor. No part of it is high enough for a man to stand upright, or more than three feet wide. At the end of the narrow passage rose a wall ten feet high. Here he stopped as he saw the fiery eyes of the beast, about sixteen feet back in the cave, crouching and snarling. Putnam's friends outside, hearing the wolf, jerked the rope which was tied to his ankle, so vigorously pulling him out that his shirt was torn and stripped off over his head. Still determined, he rearranged his clothes and re-entered, with torch and gun in hand. Breathlessly the crowd waited. The minutes must have seemed hours, before they heard the report of the gun, with snarls and growls from the enraged beast. Stunned and nearly suffocated, Putnam was dragged out again.

Some activities and exploits of Israel Putnam were:

- 1755—Commissioned Lieutenant by the Connecticut Legislature.
 - 1756—Joined Rogers' Rangers, was made Captain.
 - 1757—Saved Fort Edwards from being destroyed by fire, when endangered from a magazine stored with 300 barrels of gunpowder. When all others had fled, he alone put out the fire, suffering severe burns.
 - 1758—After becoming Major, he was captured by the Indians, and was at the point of being burned at the stake, when rescued by a French officer.
 - 1762—With the Montreal expedition he went to the West Indies as acting Colonel with a Connecticut Regiment, and was active in the attack on Morro Castle.
 - 1765—Returned to private life and his farm. He took up his work with the same energy he had shown in the war. He had already built a new house, and had greatly improved his lands with orchards and herds. His eldest son, Israel, had carried on the farm while he was absent, but his dream of home was unfulfilled, for soon after his return, death claimed his wife, Hannah Pope, and his daughter, Elizabeth, leaving him with seven children, from Israel aged twenty-five down to Peter Schuyler, aged a few months.
- The house, where the first Mrs. Israel Putnam died, still stands, just over the Pomfret-Brooklyn line in Brooklyn, on the side-road running east from Highway 93. This side-road descends the eastern slope of Newichewanna Hills to the old Church Road, coming out not

far from where the Cooney road also entered the Church Road. The first Pomfret Landing schoolhouse, the first in the section, was on the Cooney Road, probably less than a mile west of the Pomfret Landing Bridge. Likely the Putnam children attended there, as it was not more than two miles from their home, and the only one in the section.

Soon after the death of his wife, Putnam united with the Brooklyn Church. Two years later he married Madame Deborah Gardiner, a lady he had long known as the wife of the Rev. Ephraim Avery, first pastor of the parish. Once Putnam had sat unnoticed under Avery's preaching, while Mrs. Avery sat in the parish pew. After the death of Rev. Avery, she became the wife of John Gardiner, of Gardiner's Island, a notable man of the times. Widowed the second time, she returned to her old parish home on the common. Putnam, then famous, won her favor. This marriage added much to his social standing, and connected him with many prominent families, for she had a large circle of friends.

Although a gallant officer of renown, he devoted himself to his farming, imported valuable livestock, and set out large orchards. His townspeople now delighted to honor him. He presided at Town and Society meetings, was first selectman, deputy to the General Assembly, laid out roads, set out school districts, hired schoolmasters, paid bounties on crow heads, collected parish rates, and had the job of "seeting the meeting-house", not an easy task, for every man was seated according to his standing in the parish.

His son, Col. Israel Putnam, Jr., then a young man, remained at the great rambling farmhouse on the side-road until 1787, when he sold the property to Joseph Mathewson, and emigrated to Ohio, where, with Rufus Putnam, a cousin of Massachusetts, and one Dr. Manasseh Cutler of Killingly, he became one of the founders of the company that settled Marietta, Ohio.

Clarina Chandler, second wife of Col. Israel Putnam, Jr., accompanied them on this long hard journey, riding a horse 28 years old, and sleeping in the wagons at night. While en route, she gave birth to a babe that did not live. She died in her Ohio home in 1801, at the age of 34, leaving 6 children.

Peter Schuyler, Putnam's youngest son, removed to Williamstown, Mass. Daniel was the only one to remain in Pomfret. Through his marriage to a niece of Col. Malbone, he became proprietor of Kingswood. He was an ardent leader in turnpike affairs, and was instrumental in putting through the pike from Norwich to Woodstock.

The daughters of General Putnam were a Mrs. Waldo, Mrs. Lemuel Grosvenor, and Mrs. Tyler, wife of Gen. Daniel Tyler, who built the Mortlake House, famous stagecoach tavern, owned by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt as a summer home for several years.

The last days of General Putnam were peaceful and happy. His right arm was paralyzed, yet he was able to ride his horse about his farm, attend public meetings, and visit his children. He died after

two days' illness on May 19, 1790. He was said by President Dwight of Yale College to have been to Windham County what Washington was to the country "first in peace, first in war, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

After Putnam's marriage to Mrs. Gardiner, he left the new house he had built at Wiltshire before 1760, and moved to Brooklyn, occupying the Avery homestead. His dwelling had become too small to accommodate the throngs of guests that visited him. The opening of the Avery homestead as an Inn, proves Putnam to have been a shrewd business man as well as soldier. At this period, 1768, he used the friendly nickname given him by the British officers of the Indian War, "General Wolf". Before his door he displayed a sign of "General Wolf," a figure dressed in full military costume, standing with outstretched arm, inviting the public to enter.

A giant sycamore stands at the gateway to this famous Inn near a marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

General Putnam's second wife, Mrs. Avery Gardiner Putnam, died before the end of the Revolution, in 1777.

CHURCH CONTROVERSY

In the controversy in 1769 over building a new meeting-house on Brooklyn Green, Israel Putnam led with the same vigor he had shown in the wolf hunt. It is believed that he and Malbone had a bond of friendship, despite their bitter differences. It is true that the meeting-house was only thirty years old, when the younger set declared it unfit to worship in. They were determined not to be outdone by Pomfret, Abington and Westminster, and this may have influenced their desire for a new building.

Brooklyn has been suddenly put upon the map by Putnam's removal there. His famous tavern was patronized by the better class in the County, and the "old shaky meeting-house with its patched roof and boarded windows" was a disgrace to the green, for in those days the meeting-house was a symbol of the wealth and standing of the society.

History does not record any formal opening of the new church, but according to tradition, a great company of people attended. An ancestor of the writer, who was present, handed down a story that a large crowd was assembled on the green, when a wag asked one old rhymster if he had some rhyme ready for the occasion. The old man squinted one eye, surveyed the crowd and meeting-house, and said

"Great big meeting-house, great big steeple,
Blind guide and ignorant people."

He probably was a Malbonite.

Contrary to Col. Malbone's prediction, the new meeting-house was "colored white." The master builder was Daniel Tyler, who had built

the first one. Undoubtedly the criticism by Malbone was responsible for the "genteel meeting-house" with convenient porches and handsome steeple, built at Tyler's own expense. Joseph Scarborough left a bequest for a bell, the second in the county, but died before the building was completed. The town voted for an "Electaric Rod," also.

Ample seating was provided. Five seats 11 feet long were ranged each side of a broad alley. The remaining area was occupied with forty three pews "the top of the floor of the wall pews was to be 9 inches above the top of the floor of the house, that of the body pews were to be four and one half inches above the same." When all was done the house was entrusted to the care of its most honored citizen, it being voted that "Colonel Putnam take care of the new meeting-house and ring the bell, at three pounds a year," which he faithfully did.

When Putnam set off to war, the Rev. Whitney rang the bell in his place. It was ordered that the bell should be rung on "Sabbaths, Fasts, Thanksgiving, and lectures, and at 12 of clock noon and 9 at night."

LEXINGTON ALARM

At eight o'clock on Thursday morning, April 20, 1775, a messenger from Worcester's Town Clerk delivered a dispatch to Daniel Tyler, Jr., of Brooklyn, giving notice of the attack at Lexington. Putnam, plowing in his field, heard the summons, and unyoking his oxen, sent his son Daniel to tell his mother. Then mounting his swiftest horse, he galloped away for "consultation with town committees and military officers," as messengers rode by horse to all parts of the country, and drums called the townspeople together.

When Putnam returned at night, he found hundreds of men from miles around, assembled on Brooklyn Green, awaiting news, ready and willing to go, but he bade them wait until duly called out by the militia. Then, without rest, he started at sunset for Cambridge, making the trip in 18 hours, so it is said. On such rides, horses were changed several times during the journey.

On that pleasant April morning, a "Captain Hubbard," a neighbor of Putnam, was working on an adjoining field laying stone, when the man on horseback, with a drum, stopped to tell him of the battle of Lexington and Concord. Being a very methodical man, Hubbard walked home at once, put everything in order, filled his knapsack, and started for camp. Benjamin Hubbard, of Brooklyn, lived in the Malbone district, near the first little schoolhouse, and the family were among the influential families of Brooklyn.

It has been said of General Putnam, that he not only excelled in the planning of campaigns, but in carrying out orders of his superiors. Even in the thick of the battle, he had many thrilling experiences.

One of the most spectacular was his escape from the British on horseback on March 2, 1779, at Putnam Hill in West Greenwich, Conn., 5 miles west of Stamford, on the road to New York. At the time of the Revolution, on the brow of Putnam Hill, there was a small Episcopal Church. Here the hill descended abruptly to the valley below. The congregation that lived at the foot of the hill had placed 70 broad stepping-stones up the hill to the church, to avoid the tedious walk by the circling road to the summit. General Tryon, with 1500 men, approached the church where Putnam, and 150 men, had planted a cannon. Their escape cut off, Putnam ordered his men to "provide for their own safety," and wheeling his horse "plunged down the precipice at full trot." The dragoons were but a sword's length from him, for the declivity was so abrupt that they dare not follow. Before they could gain the valley by going around the brow of the hill in the ordinary way, Putnam was far beyond their reach. One shot, however, of the many fired at him, went through his hat, as he passed down the hill. (Barber's Historical Collection)

MORTLAKE HOUSE 1778

Captain Daniel Tyler, builder of this large tavern house, known as the Mortlake House, was the son of Daniel Tyler, master builder of the first and second worship houses of Brooklyn. The younger Daniel lived to be the oldest inhabitant in the town. He died February 20, 1902, at the age of a hundred and two. Daniel, his youngest son, was the only one of the family to remain in Brooklyn, and after graduating from Harvard, married a daughter of General Putnam.

Captain Daniel Tyler was prominent in the Revolutionary era, serving as adjutant to General Putnam. He raised and equipped a company of militia that rendered great service when New London and Rhode Island were threatened with invasion. When building his house in Brooklyn he had war conditions in mind, for secret escapes, leading to cellar and roof, were built in the walls of the "keeping room" as cupboards.

In the style of the day, the house was two stories, with long sloping roof to the back, but the main floor has been raised a story, making the original first floor the second, with the original kitchen unchanged. The same iron teakettle swings on the crane in the open fireplace, and the atmosphere of other days still prevails.

Captain Tyler was twice married. His second wife came from the distinguished Jonathan Edwards family. He was father of twenty children, had fifty grandchildren, and one hundred ten great-grandchildren. He carried on a mercantile business, and believed in advertising. In 1784 he advertised in the "Norwich Packet" for 500 lbs. of flax seed, which he "will pay for with rock salt, West India goods or

European goods." He also wanted "to buy good butter, cheese and port at highest prices, also 4000 wt. of tallow and twenty fat oxen &&&." One of his sons, Paschal P. Tyler, followed him in business.

The Mortlake House in 1855 was the home of D. P. Tyler, Esq. The house was undoubtedly a tavern in stage coach days, which brought so much prosperity into Windham County.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, a descendant of the family, owned the Mortlake House as a summer home. In 1949 the Mortlake House was sold to Elmer Brenn and remodeled for apartments.

THE UNITARIAN CONTROVERSY

The old church in Brooklyn was the center of controversy which continued after it was built. By 1800 religious opinions were numerous. The Rev. Josiah Whitney, who had been with them for a half century, could no longer attend to all the church work, and a younger man was called to be pastor in 1813. The Rev. Luther Williams of Braintree proved to be a Unitarian. The younger folk soon became his followers, and a division came in the church body.

Many of the parish remained with the Rev. Whitney, upholding the old Saybrook platform and the orthodox banner, but nevertheless the new element obtained control of the church, and there came a Sunday when Dr. Whitney and his friends found themselves locked out on a Communion Day. In fancy we can picture this faithful band of worshipers, with their beloved old pastor in his quaint garb and flowing white wig, gathered at the meeting-house at the great south door which had been locked against them, an incident which must have been long remembered in Brooklyn. The distressed flock at first hired an attic in a dwelling, and later worshipped for some years in the basement of the new Court House (now the Town Hall).

Dr. Whitney died at the age of 94 years. Through his gentle spirit he had retained the devotion of his parish, through the trying period of church troubles. The old Church had become Unitarian, the church that had been the pride and ambition of Israel Putnam, the church with the stately steeple, the church which, fifty years before, Putnam had struggled so hard to build, where he had rung the bell, guided by a notch cut on the floor of the vestibule, indicating the hour of noon when the sun shone upon it. This mark, although dim, is still visible and should be preserved. Israel Putnam was buried from this church in the most impressive funeral service, conducted by Rev. Whitney, that Windham County had ever witnessed.

Although not a deeply religious man, it would be interesting to know which side of the trouble Putnam might have taken; for he loved the church building he had helped to build. For that reason he might have gone with the Unitarians.

The west end is still covered with hand-hewn clapboards, broad shingles resembling clapboards, which it is said were hewn by him. This church was badly damaged in the hurricane of 1938, losing its high steeple, repaired in 1939.

In 1821 the Congregationalists of Brooklyn built a chapel where they worshipped until 1832, when they built themselves a church. The Baptists used the chapel for some years before building the brick house of worship.

Since the Congregational Church was demolished in the hurricane of 1938 the Congregational Society have worshipped in the old Baptist edifice which stands on the site of the first Brooklyn meeting-house.

For many years courts have been held in Danielson, but the old courthouse, now the Town Hall, stands on the corner facing the Unitarian Church, the town well, and the Putnam Monument. The first jail or "gaol" adjoined the courthouse on the left. The "gaoler's" house was directly in the rear. Both have long been removed.

The Brooklyn Library originally was in the Windham County Bank Building. In 1822 the Windham County Bank was incorporated, and located in Brooklyn. A neat new building was built, well the pride of the people of the County. The Windham County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. was incorporated in 1826. The Bank would not admit as stockholders, any except their own County citizens; a "close communion bank," it was called by many, as a pun on the Baptists who in those days were very strict with whom they communed. The bank is now located in Danielson.

In 1820 the first Agricultural Society was organized and meetings held in Brooklyn. Pomfret had organized a Society in 1809, called Pomfret United Agricultural Society, for the benefit of Pomfret, Woodstock and Brooklyn, where premiums were given in live stock and produce. It is said that the Windham County Agricultural Society is the oldest agricultural society in the United States. Fairs are held annually, and prizes awarded on crops and livestock.

The buildings at the Brooklyn Fair Grounds, built by Ebenezer Jewett, second, of Hampton, were badly damaged in the hurricane of 1938, since repaired.

CHAPTER IX

WEST OF THE MASHAMOQUET—ABINGTON

In the autumn of 1698, Sarah Horrel Goodell left the friendly village of Woodstock, following the Path alone, far out into the wilds of the Nipmuck wilderness, seeking the cabin that she had been told by friends her husband was making ready for her. He had left for the new country in the early spring. Receiving no tidings of him, she resolved to join him, so taking her spinning wheel, she traversed the lonely trail from Roxbury, Mass., depending upon chance "lifts" from fellow travelers along the way.

She could not be prevailed upon to remain overnight at Woodstock, but, spinning wheel in hand, she hurried on through the forest gloom. South of Woodstock lay the Mashamoquet in the Nipmuck Country, the future town of Pomfret. At this period the only settler in the Purchase was John Sabin, near the Woodstock line, the Bartholomew place. The path that Sarah Horrel Goodell trod that autumn night, two hundred and fifty years ago, led over Ragged Hill in the western section, miles from the Sabin home. She traveled the rocky trail, ragged and steep, down through the valleys, over the brooks and on for many a weary mile, until at last, as the last rays faded in the west, she came to the little clearing, and there, by the side of the "way", she found her cabin home.

This first Goodell home is believed to have stood near the summit of Easter Hill, in the Elliott section of Pomfret, so named from its last resident. Traces of the old cellar remain near a fine spring of water.

In 1709 Thomas Goodell sold this first cabin and clearing with its young orchards to Ebenezer Truesdell, and built himself a large and substantial dwelling on the northern slope of the hill, about one-fourth of a mile south of the present Abington Church.

He owned several hundred acres of land between Blackwell's Brook and Abington Brook. His land was crossed by the King's Highway up to 1870, when that section of this ancient road was closed by the laying of the N.Y., N.H. & H. R.R. Travel was diverted through Abington Common, now Route 97.

The Goodells were of Huguenot origin. All of their eleven children were born before 1721. The first child, Humphrey, born Oct. 30, 1699, was the first white child born in the limits of the Mashamoquet Purchase.

The Goodell family lived for many generations at their second home site. A marvelous growth of lilacs still thrive by the open gate. A crumbling chimney, broad door stones, and a near-by well are all that remain to mark this century old pioneer homestead.

Captain Zachariah Goodell (French and Indian War) sold the land (for twenty pounds old tenor) for the site of the meeting-house in 1751.

Captain Goodell and his wife Hannah "Liv'd Together in ye Married State 58 years & Their Death They were not Devided" (Inscription in Abington Burying Ground).

The last of the family to live at the homestead were Harvey and Matilda, a blind brother and sister. It was also the home of William Goodell, a prominent anti-slavery writer and editor (1833). He delighted in saying he was a graduate of Abington's little red schoolhouse.

Rev. Jessie Goodell was among those of the first eleven young men of Pomfret to graduate from Yale in 1761. A lady visitant from Massachusetts querying for what purpose so many young men were being educated, was told that they were being trained to go to her state as missionaries, which chanced to be true, as many did settle in Massachusetts, holding positions of usefulness and honor (Ellen Larned).

INGALLS

Edmund Ingalls came to Salem, in Endicotts Company in 1628, began settlement of Lynn in 1629. 20/4/1646 was fined for bringing sticks home in both arms on the Sabbath Day. Was drowned March 1648.

James Ingalls (son of Henry and Mary Osgood Ingalls)

b. May 3, 1653

m. Hannah Abbott, had 9 children

d. June 27, 1735 (from Ingalls genealogy)

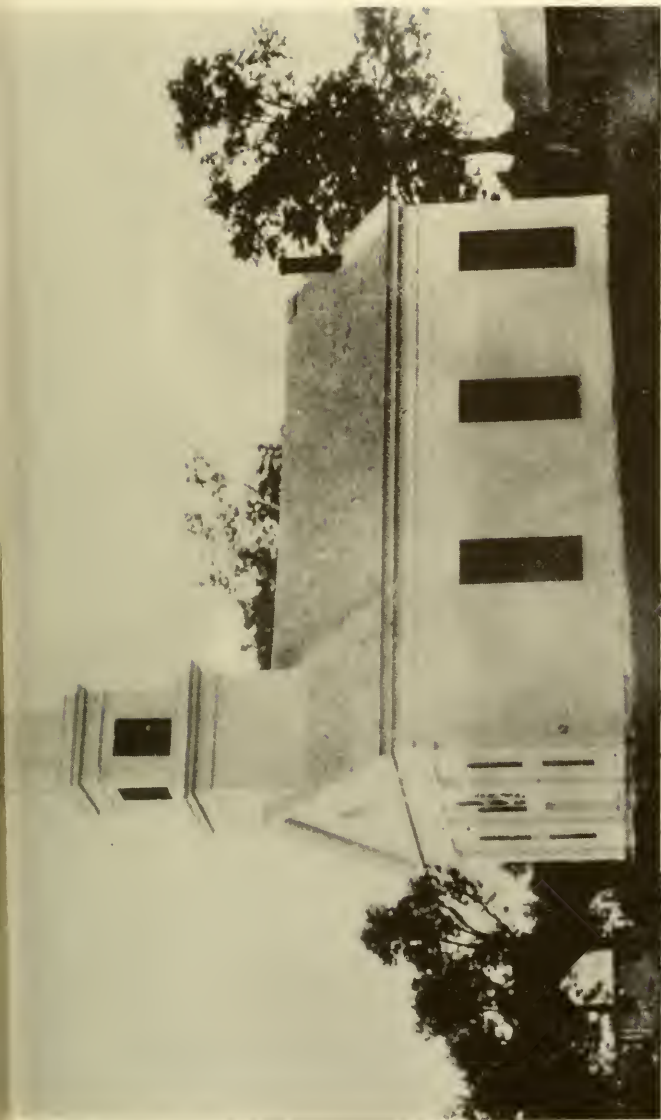
JAMES INGALLS HOMESTEAD (POMFRET)

The Ingalls family were among the first settlers of Andover, Mass., coming to Pomfret in 1720. They settled in the southwestern wilderness, thus becoming neighbors of the Goodells. Young James Ingalls was accompanied by his wife, Mary Stevens, a bride of a year, and his widowed mother, Hannah Abbott Ingalls, who brought her garden seed, on horse back, for her pioneer garden.

The first few years were lean ones in the pioneer country, and young James Ingalls often regretted leaving Andover, which in those days was an old settled section. Poor seasons and unrelenting labor so discouraged him that one day in despair he left his plow in the field, and returned to the house, determined to tell his young wife that they would give up and return to their native home. As he neared the house he heard her cheerfully singing about her work; her song cheered him,

ABINGTON CHURCH

1. Abington Church, built 1751.
2. Map—Jas. Hutchins, owned by J. Willits, Jr. Built by first parish minister, Rev. David Ripley, 1752.
3. Map—S. Lyon, owned by C. E. Griggs Est. Built by Rev. Walter Lyon, second parish minister from 1783-1826.
4. Map—Rev. H. B. Smith. Home of present minister Rev. C. K. Tracy. Seen in picture Rev. Read, 1911.



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and his courage rising to the occasion he went back to his work, saying "If she can endure these hardships, then so will I." Thus a woman's courage saved a fine citizen and a splendid family for the town of Pomfret.

Not until 1730 was a highway surveyed through the southwestern section of the town. Hitherto the road had gone no further west than Lyon's Mill, ending at a cart bridge over the Mashamoquet. Thus opened a direct route from Norwich through Windham and Pomfret to the Middle Post Road. Just south of Abington Church there still remains an ancient mile stone which reads "69 M to Bofton 15 M to W."

A second mile stone stands a mile south near the once popular tavern house of James Ingalls, pioneer. The old saying "fortunate is the Innkeeper by a mile-stone" no doubt was true in his case, and also fortunate was the weary traveler who was there entertained.

The house was a large two story lean-to, with a stone chimney in the center. The long lean-to roof is still visible in the garret of the house, over which was built a modern roof at the period when the colonial was not appreciated. But the great summer-trees, corner posts and heavy hand-forged hinges remain, and preserve much of the atmosphere of early times. Some of the square rooms still retain their colonial paneling.

Granite stone steps leading down into the deep cellar are reminders of the old tavern days when casks of West India Rum were rolled down the stairs. The outer walls of the house are lined with brick for protection again Indian attack, as is the old Sabin house on Sabin's corner. Brick kilns were opened at Woodstock by 1700.

The horse block, with stepping stones for mounting, remains intact. Sheds once stood a little south of the house, where horses were stabled and fed. There were no harness hooks in this shed, but saddle-hooks, indicating that it served the public in the days before wheeled vehicles. This shed was standing in the boyhood of the present owner, Mr. Howard Thornton, who also recalls that the horses were fed from a long chestnut trough. A negro slave acted as hostler.

James Ingalls gave the plot of land for Abington's first Parish Burying Ground, where rest the two first ministers — Rev. David Ripley and Rev. Walter Lyon, together with many members of their Society.

ABINGTON CENTER

1. Map—E. Griggs. Ell was first dwelling in section. Owned by Bert Whitehouse. See Capt. Ruggles.
2. Map—D. Smith. Owned by Mrs. Ruth Howe Clark. Built 1804.
3. Map—E. W. Sessions. Owned by Town Clerk, Willis Covell. Built before 1800.
4. Map—P. M. Allen. A 1760 house. Owned by Geo. I. Booker.
5. Map—Saw and Grist Mill. Holbrook-Sessions-Covell Mills 1719-1919. First grist and second saw mill on Mashamoquet.
6. Map—A. L. Chamberlain. Owned by Rep. Edna Sharp.
7. Map—Chas. Grosvenor. Homestead in Grosvenor family from early settlement until 1944. Owned by Alfred Arnold. Earlier Grosvenor house in background.

The deed given by James Ingalls was recorded in 1765 by Ebenezer Williams, Jr., Town Clerk, "a piece of Land Lying North of My Dwelling house known by the name of the Burying-place, containing about three quarters of an acre enclosed by a stone wall." This plot had been used as a burial place for some years. Hannah Ingalls, his mother, who died in 1753, was buried in the Gary-Cady burying ground, and that her memory was cherished in her family is shown by the care given her grave by her grandson Capt. Geo. Ingalls, throughout his lifetime.

The land for Abington Common was purchased from Beacham Goodell in 1764. Here Zebediah Ingalls trained his company before 1775, and later Capt. Geo. Ingalls.

EPHRAIM INGALLS INN, ON THE COMMON

Ephraim Ingalls, son of the pioneer innholder, James Ingalls, was born in 1725 and died in 1805. He married Mary Sharpe and had 12 children. The little house on the southwest corner of the old common, now owned by Eva Cunningham, was sold in 1801 to Ephraim Ingalls (Town Record).

When yet a young man he built the tavern house on the common and there kept a public house "to the good acceptance of the people" many years after the closing of the James Ingalls Inn in 1767.

This Inn was built in the overhang style of that period, which is rare in Windham County today. (Only one other, in Chaplin, remains to our knowledge.) It contained but two large rooms and two chambers, and high posted canopy beds piled high with feather beds and wool blankets accommodated the public. The road at that time wound around the west side of the common near the house, and travelers alighted on the broad front door stone. A long leanto kitchen sloped to the west. Here also was the taproom.

It is difficult to reconcile the religious extremes and temperance laxity of our ancestors. Ellen Larned, in a published paper on Abington in 1901 said: "Abington probably sinned no more than her neighbors, tho we have heard some hard stories of Esq. Sumner's cider mill, and the crowd that frequented there. And we may be sure that the soldiers and travelers, entertained during the Revolutionary War in taverns kept by Ephraim Ingalls and Abel Clark, on Abington Street, had all the liquor that was good for them. But this may be said that as soon as the temperance Reformation was fairly underway Abington was ready to bear her part."

The Sumner cider mill mentioned was the old building just south of the Grange Hall, now a dwelling house, well remembered as the Newell Badger blacksmith, which for many years previous had been a cider mill, the power to grind the apples furnished by a sweep propelled by a horse.

EPHRAIM INGALLS, JR. HOMESTEAD, OWNED BY
MRS. DOROTHY SMITH CHAMBERLAIN

Ephraim Ingalls, Jr. sold this fine homestead to Stephen Smith in 1832. Built about 1800 it stood near the Ephraim Ingalls, Sr. Inn on the common.

Lucy Goodell Ingalls died at the age of thirty years, leaving nine children, one of whom was Charles Ingalls, then a lad of 12. His father died in 1829, five years later, at 68. Five of the children went to Illinois in 1834.

A glimpse of the life of this Ingalls family is revealed to us in a letter written by Charles Ingalls, of Chicago, and read on Old Home Day, Aug. 21, 1901, the 150th anniversary of the Abington church — "Father's fenced-in pew, I remember, was in the N.E. corner of the church. Stoves or fire were nowhere in the building. Priest Lyon preached forty years without stoves or fire. In the fifties the buffalo tracks running down to the Platte River for water, six or eight inches deep, reminded me of Rev. Walter Lyon's path from his study to his pulpit, during the forty years he was treading it down."

Another Ingalls home still standing in Abington is the Draeger, built about 1750, which stands well back from the road, an ideal colonial house. It remained in the Ingalls family until 1800 when it was sold to E. Sharpe (Town Record).

The James Ayer house was a Goodell house, probably built at a later date. It stands on an old lane that once connected Windham Road with the King's Highway.

In 1775 there were 2316 inhabitants in Pomfret. Abington Society had barely established when in 1755 the French and Indian War broke out and all men eligible for service were called out under the leadership of Lieutenant Ebenezer Holbrook, and Captain John Grosvenor. Many followed the fates of Israel Putnam in the French and Indian War, and in the War of Great Britain with Spain in 1762. A company went with that brave officer to Havana. Most of them died from the fever and effects of the climate.

As we look back it would seem a useless task that colonial men should have fought the battles of Britain and France. But the bringing together of men from different communities, towns and provinces took them out of their own little world and broadened their minds by exchange of thought on public matters. They had learned that British officers were but men after all, and that the Pomfret Wolf Den hero was a brave soldier and leader, experience which served as a background for the troubled days ahead.

Although schools had been kept for forty years, there was at this period the usual lack of books and papers.

No postoffices or club rooms were established other than the substitute ample kitchen of James Ingalls' Inn on Windham Road, and the Caleb Grosvenor Tavern on Ashford Road, Captain Holbrook's Grist Mill on the Mashamoquet, and Captain Zebediah Ingalls' blacksmith shop.

A flat rock that served the purpose of a forge in this historic shop is now in the center of a flower garden in the door yard of the home of Richard Newton. In this shop many men took the Freeman's oath, and on the common before its door Sons of Liberty trained under Captain Ingalls.

The great bellows of the forge was operated by a horse sweep. Tradition claims that the horse worked so many years in a circle, he even fed in a circle in the pasture.

ABINGTON'S HONOR ROLL 1775

It is to the credit of the women of Pomfret that of all the military companies that marched to Bunker Hill, only one other was as well equipped as Pomfret militia. Our fore-mothers looked well to the ways of their households.

There were 81 names of the men in the original company on Abington's Honor Roll of Volunteers in 1775. All the names are not available, but among them were Dr. Elisha Lord, examining surgeon; Zebediah Ingalls, Captain; John Weld, 1st Left; Abner Adams, 2nd Left; Privates—Thomas Cotton, John Dresser, Stephen Avery, Jr., Elihu Sabin, John Wason, Wm. Wason, Cornelius Goodell, Edward Goodell, Jr., Ebenezer Gregg, William Abbott, Jr., Lem'l Ingalls, Paul Davison, William Pike, Naham Cady, William Barber, Jonathan Waldo, Appleton Osgood, Walter Bowman, John Sawyer, Edward Craft, Jonathan Holmes, Oliver Carpenter, Elizabeth, Abner Allin, Levi Stearns, Joseph Shaw, Jun., James Spence, Asa Allin, David Cady, Lemuel Fling, Thomas Stone, Nehemiah Bacon, Thomas Jones, Joil Read, Joseph Allyn, Abner Allen, Joseph Cummings, Nathan Greene, Joseph Whitney, Amos Barrett, Reuben Legg, Amaziah Trasset, Daniel Sharpe, Abijah Downing, Jonas Baker, Philemon Chandler, Thomas Goodell, Ephraim Herrick, Jonathan Sanger, Elisha Stowell, Benj. Durkee, Asa Pike, Nathaniel Sabin, Benjamin Covell, Abraham Farman, Lebbius Kimball, Joseph Bowman, Jun., Lemuel Vose, Daniel Ballou, John Cotes, Isaac Mason, and Daniel Dwight.

The original roll is in the possession of descendants of Captain Zebediah Ingalls in Brooklyn, Conn.

Names of soldiers in the old burying ground—Abel Clark, Daniel Dwight, Ebenezer Eaton, Joshua Grosvenor, Zebediah Ingalls, Zebediah

ABINGTON FOUR CORNERS

1. Abington Four Corners before 1905, before school house was turned around. Edw. Peal's meat cart. Left—Peck's Store. Note GASOLINE sign. Then gasoline was not drawn after dark by lantern light.

2. Map—Putnam Summer. Old Bolles Tavern House built 1826. Owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Baker. Left, Abington school house. To be used by the Abington Fire Company.

3. Map—Amasa Allen. He kept first grocery store and P.O. when mail came by stage from Dayville. Left, Episcopal Chapel, moved 1941 to Baker property.

4. An earlier view of Abington store.

5. Abington Store 1949, owned by Geo. Potvin.





Ingalls, Jr., Silas Holt, Appleton Osgood, Wm. Osgood, Benjamin Ruggles, Robert Sharp, Reuben Sharpe, Wm. Trowbridge, Antipas White, Amasa Copeland, the last survivor of the war in Abington, died at 94 in 1854. Feeble in body and mind, in his last years he was ever living over his battles fought.

In 1778 Ebenezer Cress was discharged from duty, to return and make shoes which were so sorely needed by the soldiers. He and many other Abington soldiers—among them Lemuel Ingalls, Ebenezer Holbrook, John Holbrook, Thomas Grosvenor and John Pike, were not buried in the old burying ground.

Pomfret had a few Tories and one traitor: one Nathan Frink, a lawyer, who posed first as a patriot, as became a brother-in-law of Schuyler Putnam, youngest son of Pomfret's hero. Seeing no advancement for himself in Freedom's cause, he became King's Attorney, and accepted the position of Deputy Stamp Master of Windham; and an office for handling the stamps was built on Pomfret Street, a little north of the present library.

Patriots of Pomfret were making too many sacrifices to tolerate a traitor in their midst, and he was never permitted to open the office; he was driven out of town, and his property confiscated.

In 1774, among other contributions to the cause, Pomfret sent 105 sheep for the relief of Boston.

At the beginning of those troubled times, Windham County had become an old and settled community, business enterprises were being undertaken; young men were anxious to harness the power of the streams, and the restrictions placed upon them by the Stamp Act were most obnoxious, bringing about a boycott of all foreign goods.

It was many years later that tea again became in general use. In the settlement of the west in 1800, tea and coffee were called "slop," a drink for women and children.

JOSEPH INGALLS HOUSE, OWNED BY MRS. A. F. CARTER

The atmosphere of early days still clings to the place where Joseph and Sarah Ingalls settled in 1749, building their home on the picturesque hill near the waterfall, on one of the tributaries of Blackwell's Brook.

ABINGTON and ELLIOTS 1

1. Wolf Den Grange No. 61, organized 1887.
2. Abington Depot showing Wm. Fay, station agent for 50 years, standing in door.
3. Map—J. Wheaton, James Ingalls Pre-Revolutionary Tavern and Stage Coach Inn. Note child is standing on mounting block. Present owner, Howard Thornton.
4. Map—J. Allen. Built by Capt. Zebediah Ingalls 1750. Owned by Fitz Henry Paine.
5. Map—Geo. Ingalls. Home of Capt. Geo. Ingalls, of Pomfret's militia.
6. Map—Louis Taylor. House in Baker Hollow owned by Roger Clapp.
7. Abington Social Library, built in 1883. This, the oldest active Ladies' Library in the U.S., was founded 1793.

The little low wood-colored house, with the wide front door facing the fair valley of Jericho, remained unchanged until within the last quarter century. But the remodeling and improvements have not destroyed the colonial beauty of the house.

Joseph and Sarah Abbott Ingalls, of Andover, Mass. were parents of twelve children. He died in 1799, she in 1810. They rest in the old Gary-Cady burying ground, the first in the section, about one half mile west of their old home.

Their second child, Peter (1752-1811) built his dwelling a short distance south of his father's place (the Cynthia Johnson place, which burned March 13, 1946). He was a tanner, and built a tannery at the foot of the falls, of which the chimney and wall foundations remain.

Capt. Zebediah Ingalls, son of James, born at the old homestead in 1729, died there in 1800. Upon his marriage about 1750 to Esther Goodell he built the present FitzHenry Paine House, northwest of the Inn. Here he lived until after the Revolution. In 1788 he sold this property to his son, Lemuel, who had been born there in 1755, and returned to his parental home which as a tavern appears to have been closed since his father's death in 1767.

Lemuel Ingalls, soldier of the Revolution, was discharged from active service to return home and repair arms. His old shop stood on the common until 1934 when it was razed in the construction of the state road. During his long life he held public offices, among them that of Judge of Probate.

The homestead remained in the family until 1855, when it was sold by the estate of Warren Ingalls. The present owner, Mrs. FitzHenry Paine, is a direct descendant of Mrs. Lemuel Ingalls, and also of Israel Putnam.

Lemuel Ingalls' son, George, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and was a captain of the militia that trained for many years on the common. An amusing story is told of his training days. The Company was drilling after a heavy rain, and the pompous Captain was stepping backwards giving his orders, when he stepped into a depression where water had settled. He slipped and fell. Picking himself up with all the dignity at his command he shouted "Gee from the puddle, boys, gee from the puddle."

His home was the present Sam Rich farm. He was a blacksmith, and maintained the Ingalls shop until after the Civil War.

SILK INDUSTRY

Like most New England housewives, Mrs. Lemuel Ingalls, wife of Judge Ingalls, a Revolutionary soldier, kept silk worms and made silk. Tradition tells us that she spun, wove and knit silk shawls for each of her three daughters. Their home was the present dwelling of FitzHenry Paine, of Abington.

Daily during the spring months boys and girls gathered the mulberry leaves to feed the constant appetites of the worms, until they

reached the chrysalis state, spinning their cocoons on branches provided for them in the shed or attic where they were kept. Later these branches were dipped in scalding water to loosen the silk from the cocoon.

Silk culture was introduced from France into New England in 1732 by Dr. Aspinwall of Mansfield. In 1747 Gov. Law of Connecticut wore the first silk coat and stockings made in New England. In 1750 his daughter had the first dress made from domestic silk. In 1755 it was made a matter of legislation whereby an ounce of white mulberry seed was sent to every parish in Connecticut, and for a time a bounty was paid on the trees and raw silk produced. Also in that year mulberry trees were planted at Yale by President Styles.

By 1760 a yard of silk could be made as cheaply as a yard of linen of eight runs to the pound. It was considered more profitable than any ordinary business. In 1793 we find record that 265 pounds of silk were produced, worth \$5 per pound, and an ounce of sewing silk was worth \$1. The combined spinning of 2300 silk worms was required to produce a single pound of silk, and there are approximately 50 miles of silk in a silk stocking.

During the Revolutionary War, the industry was quite abandoned, but it was revived soon after, and before 1828 it was entirely a household industry. Then a youth of seventeen, Edmond Golding, who understood silk manufacture, came over from France to Mansfield, Conn. Finding no mills in this country he succeeded in showing a group of men the simplicity of proper machinery. Thus in Mansfield was built the first silk mill in Connecticut.

An historical sidelight is that in 1614 there arose a silk colony in Virginia. Charles II, of England, in 1660, wore a coronation robe fashioned from the silk produced there.

In 1843-4 a blight attacked the mulberry trees like a pestilence, and this profitable farm industry has never been revived. Very few mulberry trees are now found in this section.

JAMES INGALLS—GOODELL TAVERN HOUSE

Capt. George Ingalls sold the James Ingalls Tavern to Roswell Goodell in 1828. Goodell in turn sold the property in 1834 before migrating to Illinois, when the roads were yet trails through the wilderness.

On the day of Goodell's departure, his townsmen came to say good-bye, and as the loaded ox teams and herds moved westward, it was much like a funeral procession that followed him the first few miles. But like the true pioneer, he feared no evil although the journey was beset with many dangers. The gravest of all was fever, to which he and three of his six children had fallen victim by 1849. Many times they must have longed for their comfortable New England home.

By 1841, the James Ingalls homestead had changed ownership three times, owned successively by Ford, Abisha Sharpe, and the Wheaton Estate, before becoming the property of the Thornton family, who have lived there since.

CHAPTER X

ABINGTON'S FIRST PHYSICIAN

Dr. Elisha Lord, as a young man, came to Abington on horseback, with his bride riding behind him on a pillion. He carried in his saddlebags the few drugs and instruments to practice "physic and surgery."

He purchased on March 3, 1760, of Nathaniel Rogers, housewright, who had built for his own bride, the first dwelling on Abington Common, a square hip-roofed house. The following is an extract from the ancient deed acquired by Dr. Lord—

"I, Nathaniel Rogers, in ye Colony of Connecticut in New England, House Wright, in consideration of the sum of sixty pounds lawful money to me in hand and truly paid by Elisha Lord—a certain tract of land lying in sd Pomfret, on the north or northwest side of the road leading from ye house of Mr. James Ingalls, Inn Holder, in Abington, to ye meeting house in sd society, containing a house and three acres of measure."

Miss Osgood further records "the inn and the meeting house indicate that the location was central, and the road mentioned was Windham Road, the main line of travel from Windham to Boston, which later became a notable highway.

The house contained four rooms, seventeen feet square, two on the first and two on the second floor. A huge brick chimney with stone foundations in the cellar, and a small "porch" as the entrance was called, took up the remainder of the house. On the left of the "porch" was a kitchen with ample fireplace and brick oven.

The Lord dwelling stood on the west side of the highway nearly opposite the old Abiel Clark Tavern. Here the Lord family lived for four generations. The last descendant of the family in this section was the Rev. Frank Fuller, many years pastor of Abington Church.

Soon after his purchase, Dr. Lord built the west rooms with summer-trees, corner posts and beams bounding the low ceilings, the corner buffet, the window shutters and wainscotted walls on the fireplace side, and the stencilled floor, were illustrative of the houses of early period. The original kitchen was promoted to the honor of the "keeping room."

In the one room on the second floor, the hearthstone was imbedded in salt as a protection against fire. During the embargo the scarcity of salt was a serious grievance, and it was said to have been taken out for

household use. In rebuilding the chimney the finding of a few lumps of salt confirmed the family tradition.

In 1945 the house owned by Walden Van Haagen burned to the ground, the occupants narrowly escaping with their lives. It was rebuilt by Mr. Aristides Raphael as a small cottage, passing by the death of Mr. Raphael immediately thereafter to Richard Doran.

In 1762, with Israel Putnam, Dr. Lord was sent to the General Assembly of Connecticut to represent Pomfret. He filled various offices of trust in town and church, and was a charter member of the Medical Society. In the quaint phraseology "he was a good inhabitant," and died at the age of 77, in 1809.

His grandson, Deacon Elisha Lord, was a writer, and left us the following bit of history of his grandfather's experience during the great storms of 1778-80. He says "The facts I am about to relate I had from my father who was at that time 20 years old. During the autumn of 1779, there was a great drouth lasting until early winter, and when the storm began to come, it was snow instead of rain. Storm followed storm in quick succession, until the snow was four feet deep on the level, covering up all the walls and fences. Then there was forty days of cold weather, so cold that there was not thawing, even in the warmest places. When they undertook to open the roads for travel, they encountered such obstacles that they gave up the job as hopeless. A constant sheet of snow running on the surface made it impossible to open the roads and for six weeks there was not travel with horses or oxen. Wood for the fire was drawn upon hand sleds with the aid of snowshoes. There was no grinding of grain in the mills of Abington. All grain had to be drawn on hand sleds to Cargill Mills, on the Quinebaug (Putnam), a distance of nine miles. My grandfather was the physician at the time, and he visited the sick on his snowshoes, taking a straight line over walls and fences to the place he wished to visit. The snowshoes that did service that winter are now in my possession. During the terrible winter snow was melted for household and farm use, cattle suffering greatly from lack of water. The previous autumn, all wells dry, water was hauled by Lemuel Ingalls in barrels or ox sleds from Alexander's Lake."

Dr. John Clark, one of the previous owners of this house, had greatly beautified and improved the old Lord homestead. Flowers and shrubs graced the garden, and roses lined the walls.

Dr. Clark has in his possession many deeds once held by Dr. Lord on neighboring property. The old doctor probably took much of his land for services rendered, and in his time land was an item of barter. and changed hands so frequently it is very difficult to trace original ownership although it is a fact that in the beginning it was John Ingalls in the southwest section, and Thomas Goodell in the northwest section of Abington.

In the time of Dr. Lord a visit was made in the neighborhood for 12½ cents, and out of town for two shillings (25c). Of the era an old song runs: "He says he will cure you for half you possess. And when you are dead he will sue for the rest. In these hard times."

The name of Capt. Elisha Lord, his eldest son, appears in the first record of church music in Abington "In a society meeting in 1785, voted that Elisha Lord and Benj. Dana be choristers to set the psalm." He lived on what is now the Seifert place, tho the present house there was built about 1920, but patterned after the lines of the original. The land was once a part of the Goodell holdings.

ABEL CLARK TAVERN OWNED BY MRS. IRENE WARNER BACHAND

The land on which the Inn stands was sold by Beacham Goodell to Ebenezer Craft in 1765, to John Gore of Boston in 1768, and to Abel Clark in 1772.

On May 15, 1775, Abel Clark opened his house as a tavern "because of the increase of travel over Windham Road" he deemed it necessary, the record goes on to say, "although Ephraim Ingalls has kept a tavern directly opposite for many years to the good acceptance of the people."

In 1801, after the death of the Clarks and after various short ownerships, the property was purchased by Judge John Holbrook, grandson of Ebenezer Holbrook, pioneer. The tavern days were over, and the house became a school for young ladies, primarily for his own daughters, taught by a Miss Ramsdell.

Judge Holbrook tutored many young men to enter the law, and held many positions of trust until his death at the age of ninety-three in 1862.

In the center hall of this large house, once a grand staircase of light wood ascended to the great ballroom on the second floor. This room was the scene of many gay dancing parties, and meetings of Israel Putnam Lodge, A.F. & A.M.

Solomon Gilbert opened a barter and provision store on the north-east side of the Common, in the small dwelling just north of the Tavern house, owned by the late Mrs. Agnes Warner. He also set out beautiful elms, in 1800, most of which went down in the hurricane of 1938.

The homestead passed to John K. Holbrook, who sold it to Edward Warner in 1875, and it has since remained in the Warner family.

THE CRAFT FAMILY

*"With the strong arm of English husbandman
He felled the oake, and turned the virgin soil."*

Lieut. Griffin Craft came from England in 1630, and settled in

Roxbury. Lieut. Samuel Craft, his son, was one of the thirty-nine men who signed to settle Woodstock in 1686. Samuel was also purchasing agent for Thomas Morey, one of the grantees of the Mashamoquet Purchase.

Joseph Craft, a grandson of Samuel, was born in Roxbury in 1684 or 1694, married Susanna Warner, a granddaughter of Benjamin Sabin, also one of the grantees of the Purchase. Joseph bought lands of Daniel Weld, of Roxbury, west of the Mashamoquet in 1722. He was the first settler on the Weld allotment, and soon owned 2000 acres. He was active in town affairs, one of the promoters of schools, selectman for fifteen years, and was also on the committee to settle county lines. He built his home on the sunny slope which faces north and east about one half mile west of Abington Cemetery, on the south side of the highway, now the site of the home of Arthur Erskine.

Here Joseph Craft brought his young wife. She lived to the age of eighty-three years. It is of interest to follow the fortunes of this real colonial family. With her own hands Mrs. Craft clothed her family of fifteen children in homespun, and provided for their daily wants by open fire and brick oven. She equipped them to ride on horseback over rough lanes and bridle paths the five miles to meeting on Pomfret Hill, and more than that, she went herself, carrying a babe in her arms, and a small child on a pillion behind her.

There were never enough horses to carry all members of these large families to meeting, and it was the custom for father and mother to ride, and the older children, if two or three horses were available, would ride two on a horse, trotting a mile ahead as the rough roads permitted. Then the first riders would dismount, and hitch the horses to a tree, and walk on while those who had started on foot would "hike" ahead until they came up to where the horses were tied. They in turn would get on and ride, passing the first group, to another stopping place. Thus be relays they made the trip each Sabbath to and from the meeting-house.

A substantial lunch was carried, which in cold weather was eaten in the warm "Sabba-day" house. The Sabba-day "noon-house" or "horse-hows" was a place of refuge for the half frozen congregation who sought the comfort there, before, after and between services on cold, wintry days. It was a long stable-like building with a rough chimney in one end, where early arrivals built a roaring fire of logs. Before this fire they ate their lunch and warmed themselves. The dining place smelled "to heaven of horse" for the patient steeds were often sheltered, before the building of the horse sheds. From the live coals of the fire in this wilderness "life-saving station" the women filled their foot stoves to keep them and the little ones warm the rest of the day. The family dog was often taken to church to lie in the pew, and keep the family more comfortable by his warmth.

Such two long Sabbath Day services were typical of those which the sturdy young Crafts attended, but the background of their training through such experience, formed in them character upright and honorable. Truly Joseph Craft could exclaim that the Lord had abundantly blessed him with fifteen fine sons and daughters.

Their eldest son, Samuel, was born in 1722. He and his brothers and sisters received their education in the "moving school," a few weeks at a time in neighboring farmhouses. In his early life he taught school. In 1746 he married Judith Payson, whose ancestors had settled on Mashamoquet Brook in 1708. Joseph Craft gave Samuel 69 acres of land, where he built a colonial house. In 1752 Samuel Craft gave to the church its first communion plates, with the inscription "A gift from Samuel Craft."

Griffin, son of Deacon Samuel, lost his wife by death in the spring of 1785. Taking his six children he drove through to Cherry Valley, N.Y. with three hired men and three oxcarts, three teams to a cart, to what was to them the Far West. On his arrival, he hired men to cut and prepare for burning fifty acres of woodland, in one week. Five years later he had 700 acres of clear land, and employed men enough to reap, bind, and put in shocks, 100 acres of rye, in one day.

Another son of Joseph, Benjamin, fought in the French and Indian War, and later removed to Vermont, becoming one of the founders of Craftsbury, Vermont.

Joseph, a third son, married Hannah Goodell, and served in the Revolution. Elizabeth, their daughter, married Peter Allen. In time they lived in the Craft house, and through them the place is identified as the Allen Farm. They had two daughters and their four sons served in the Revolution, as did several other nephews and grandsons of the family.

Ebenezer Craft was one of the first eleven young men of Pomfret to attend Yale, graduating in 1759. It was he who built the Abel Clark dwelling, a Revolutionary Tavern, now the home of Mrs. Irene Warner Bachand. He raised a company of cavalry, was ordered to Cambridge and there remained in service until the British evacuated Boston. He was the first Colonel of his regiment. Afterwards he acquired a large estate and also founded Leicester Academy in Massachusetts. Later he went to Vermont, and acquired a township, six miles square. He died in 1810 "beloved, respected and honored by all."

Another grandson of Capt. Samuel Craft was a "skilled physician" in the war, and one became Governor of Vermont. The daughters of the family learned to *read* and *write*, not a common thing in early times.

ALLEN FAMILY

Peter Allen married a daughter of Joseph Craft. For her dowry she received land on the north side of the road opposite her girlhood

home. The dwelling built there still stands, on land owned by Mr. G. I. Booker. This house was undoubtedly built before the Revolution. It is situated about one mile west of Abington Four Corners.

Peter Allen had four sons, all Revolutionary soldiers. One son, General Amasa Allen, of the Revolution, settled in Walpole in 1792, leaving a large estate. Some of the rare old heirlooms from his home are now in the possession of Mrs. Lewis Averill, of Pomfret, a direct descendant.

Major Samuel Allen, a second son, built a mile west of his father's home, on land now owned by Frank Paine, at the corner of Route 44 and a cross road leading to Elliott.

The Samuel Allen house stood back from the highway, the foundations still visible. About 1800 the house was destroyed by fire, all but the ell, which was moved and the substantial upright now standing was built. It is a well preserved colonial house, few changes having been made in the interior. It is tradition that at the time of the burning of his house, his death was caused by drinking quantities of cold water from the well when he was overheated.

CAPT. BENJAMIN RUGGLES

Captain Benjamin Ruggles, the first settler on Abington Four Corners, was a descendant of Samuel Ruggles, one of the twelve first proprietors of the Mashamoquet Purchase. His father, Edward Ruggles, settled here about 1723, married Hannah Craft.

Edward Ruggles purchased of his father-in-law 98 acres of swamp land for ninety-eight pounds, and built his house on the tableland three-fourths of a mile west of Abington Cemetery.

Three generations by the name of Edward Ruggles had lived at this place before it passed to Asa Dennis, ancestor of Col. E. B. Dennis, U.S.N., the present owner. According to the town record when the first north and south road was surveyed through the settlement, it was bounded "easterly on Edward Ruggles—for a King's Highway forever."

Edward Ruggles, II, born in 1724, was one of the first deacons of Abington Church, when it was organized in 1753. Captain Benjamin Ruggles and his brother served in the Revolutionary War. A part of his land contained the twelve acres of swamp land of his father's original purchase, which was then highly prized for grass land, and when kept mown was not bad hay. His home was on the high land east of the swamp. The ell part of the house now owned by Mr. Bert Whitehouse was the home of Capt. Benjamin Ruggles. It was to the kitchen of this house that the men of Abington came through the mud and rain on the March evening in 1793, to form the first Abington Library.

ELIJAH GRIGGS—STAGE COACH INN,
ABINGTON FOUR CORNERS

About 1800 Capt. Elijah Griggs, a Captain in the War of 1812, bought the Benjamin Ruggles place and opened a Stage Coach Inn to accommodate travel on the new turnpike just built between Hartford and Providence. He built a commodious addition to the house, which unfortunately, burned in 1870.

The property was soon after purchased by Capt. Francis Pellett, who rebuilt the upright now standing, and there spent his last days. This is the second house north from Abington Store.

In 1826 a second tavern house was built in Abington Center, as the four corners was called. A white brick in one of the two chimneys of the old Bolles Tavern, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker, is inscribed with the date it was built. Here dinners were served on General Training Days, always the first day of May, when hard working farmers left their plows and once more put on their epaulets, mounted their lively young horses, and capered and pranced before the marching companies, greatly to the delight of the youngsters, who also enjoyed the long cards of "muster" gingerbread, sold at a penny a card. A torchlight barbecue ended the gala holiday.

SUMNER TAVERN

The old Sumner tavern-house, situated one mile west of Abington Four Corners, long remained a land-mark in the parish. Samuel Sumner, innkeeper, was a leading man in the early Abington Church. His dwelling was a rendezvous for patriots and freemen in Revolutionary times, and later when turnpikes were opened, it became a famous stage-coach inn.

The last of the family, George Sumner, died in 1936. The farm had been in lineal ownership for over 200 years. The Sumners in early times intermarried with the Joseph Craft family, who once owned 2000 acres west of Abington village.

ABINGTON & ELLIOTTS — 2

1. Map—P. Sumner. Samuel Sumner Revolutionary Tavern House. Burned 1946. Members of Sumner family shown.
2. Map—J. Lyon, owned by S. E. Lyon, Beacon Hill.
3. Map—Wm. E. Sherman. The Battey Sherman homestead. Before the 1938 hurricane the pine tree there towered to great height, could be seen for many miles. Owned by Mrs. Hazel Flint. Tower Hill.
4. Map—Benj. Fay. Hubbard Farm, home of Miss Dorman H. Weaver, in Jericho.
5. Map—J. Griggs. Owned by Camille Crochiere.
6. Map—C. Cady. Owned by Mrs. Ethel Carter. A Joseph Ingalls house in 1749 in Jericho.
7. Map—Jericho's Second Schoolhouse. Owned by Miss Weaver.





The tavern-house was divided and moved when the new highway Route No. 44 was put through, and in 1945 the larger portion of the building, which had been moved to the north side of the road, was burned. The small ell, on the south side of the road, burned in 1947.

STOWELL

The first we hear of John Stowell (or Stoyell) is as a noted schoolmaster in the town of Plainfield, where he kept the only school, in the center of the town, in 1717-18. The cost for each child was four pence a week, besides public money. He was also a prominent man in Volun-town, before coming to the wild and rocky hills of western Pomfret in 1730.

He built his home on what is known as Stowell Hill, where is also the Sherman place, once marked by a group of pines, visible for miles around, before 1938. When the survey for the King's Highway was made it passed his house, on Stowell or Allen Hill, north of Abington Cemetery.

When John Stowell came to Pomfret he was engaged in teaching a private school in Woodstock, up to 1734, probably the predecessor of Woodstock Academy. Larned's History of Windham County gives a list of the 69 scholars who attended this school from Nov. 1, 1728 to April 1, 1729. Among them are many Pomfret names, such as Chandler, Lyons, Sessions and Tucker.

After that we find no mention of him, but listed among the resid-dwellings are gone, and the name is generally forgotten. The land Stowell. Descendants of David Stowell left Abington in 1834. Their dwellings are gone, and the name is generally forgotten. The land passed into the Allen family, and the hill is known as Allen Hill.

Nathaniel Stowell built his house on the slope to Abington Brook, but the dwelling was destroyed by fire about 1845. The present house on the same site was built by George Allen, another brother of Major Samuel Allen, and is now owned by John Stromberg and Miss Emma Allen. Mrs. Stromberg was a daughter of George Allen.

In 1753 many of the best and bravest sons of Windham County emigrated to the valley of the Susquehanna. Among them was Stephen

ABINGTON and ELLIOTT'S 3

1. Map—Jas. White. Ephraim Ingalls' Pre-Revolutionary Tavern House. Owned by Mrs. Dorothy Chamberlain. Left, the Chas. Smith House, also owned by her.
2. Map—Jas. Hutchins. Owned by Siegfried Levy.
3. Ephraim Ingalls' Tavern before the roof was raised.
4. Map—J. Williams. Owned by Oren A. Weeks.
5. Map—E. Lord. Home of Pomfret's first doctor, Elisha Lord. Owned for many years by Dr. John Clark. Burned.
6. Map—C. Osgood. Owned by Edw. Peal Estate. Birthplace of Mary Osgood, 1849-1923, Abington's Historian.
7. Eliza Fairfield Clark Memorial Center, erected 1947, by Dr. John Clark.
8. Haven Home and Hospital, established 1920, by Mrs. Susan J. Griggs.

Stowell. Col. Dyer of Windham was the promoter in forming the companies to travel to the then far south west. He praised the charms of the Wyoming Valley until a song of the times made this poetic impromptu:

“Canaan of old, as we are told, where it did rain down Manna,
Wa’nt half so good for heavenly food, as Dyer makes the Susquehanna.”

The journey to the new country was made with oxen and sleds, woodshod to slide over stones and rough ground, moving the few belongings they needed. But death and the Indian awaited them in the fair valley, and many a Windham County home was bereaved in the making of new settlements.

During the French and Indian War, Nathaniel Stowell, Jr. followed the fortunes of Israel Putnam, along with a score of other Pomfret men. Putnam had become a great hero, but the British officers delighted in calling him the “rough General Wolf.” Nathaniel Stowell, Jr. also fought in the Revolution, and belonged to the regiment called “Washington’s forlorn hope.” Of Nathaniel, it has been said that his cheerfulness and brave spirit did much to keep alive the hope and faith of his comrades, when under privation in the war. He returned to spend his last days at the ancestral home (Stromberg house).

Lemuel Stowell, probably a brother of Nathaniel, Jr., was a business man. East of the old homestead he erected a home now owned by Oren Weeks, and a tannery, which furnished sheep-hides as early as 1793 for books in the Abington Library. He also tanned hides for shoes for his neighbors. His tannery which stood in the present road-bed by the Abington Bridge, was torn down to make room for the road. At that time Peck’s saw mill stood just opposite, and the tannery received its supply of water from a race from Peck’s Pond that flooded the land where Abington Station now is. The old dam was under the present railroad bridge. The Stowells also had a bark mill up the stream where there was a second mill pond, on land now owned by Clifford Bowen. The millstone from the Peck Mill now covers the well at the home of the late Mrs. Constance Allen Stromberg.

HOLBROOK-SESSIONS-COVELL GRIST MILL 1719-1918

In 1719 Ebenezer Holbrook purchased of Samuel Gore for four hundred dollars the “beautiful triangular farm bordering the Mashamoquet.” Some improvements had been made and the dwelling built, surrounded by a garden wall, by which still blooms, with each returning spring, a mammoth lilac tree, its trunk over three feet in thickness.

On the favorable millsite just above the present bridge and the fording place, Mr. Holbrook established a gristmill and a sawmill, on opposite banks of the stream. This was the first gristmill on the Mashamoquet, and the second in Pomfret.

Of the thirteen children born to the Holbrook household, only two reached manhood, eleven having died during the epidemic of some contagious disease (probably scarlet fever). Later in life Ebenezer Holbrook divided his farm and mill privileges between his two sons, retiring and building a house for himself (the present Seeley-Brown house), where in the fireplace in the keeping room may be seen the date of 1749 cut into a brick.

A leading man in the Pomfret Church, he opposed the dividing of the Parish in 1751, "praying they might remain united."

On April 22, 1775 when the Captain Zebediah Ingalls company began its memorable march to Lexington, they rested and received refreshments under the Holbrook elms, still standing in 1947.

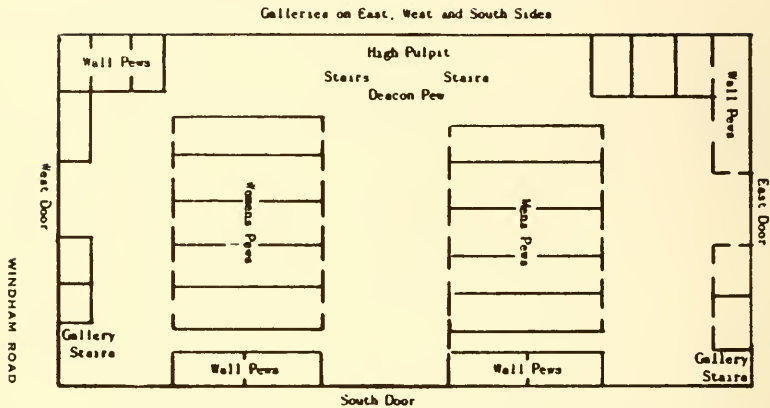
Prior to 1800 the Holbrook farm and mills were sold to the Sessions family, who for a century maintained an extensive business at the old mill site. In 1800 the first town road was laid out to the mill from the Joseph Elliott corner.

The present house was built before 1800 by the son of the miller for his bride-to-be, daughter of Deacon Samuel Sumner, of the Sumner Inn. According to tradition the young lady objected to living in the home of his parents and agreed to the marriage only when he had provided her with a new house. Industriously he set about preparing the timbers and when the frame was finished they were married, but it was a year later before he made any effort to complete the house. But as "all's well that ends well" the house when completed was all that any bride's heart could desire, for it was furnished with the "setting out" given by her father, a complete set of cherry furniture cut from the cherry trees on the Sumner farm, and sawed at the Sumner mill on Lyons Brook.

In 1895 the property was purchased by Judge Willis Covell, Pomfret's efficient Town Clerk, who operated the grist mill until 1918, when his two sons answered the call of country. The eldest, Herman, enlisted in the Army, and added one more Gold Star to Pomfret's Honor Roll. Ellsworth, who chose the Navy, was grinding a grist of corn when orders came to report for examination. The mill was shut down, never to start again. The unground corn was left for the wild creatures of the wood to enjoy. After two hundred years of service the work of the old mill was done.

CHAPTER XI

ABINGTON PARISH CHURCH



For many years Abington meeting-house was plain wood colored, built to the same dimensions as the first Pomfret Church, forty-eight and thirty-nine. In the record book of the first fifty years of the church these lines are found:

“This meetinghouse built in seventeen hundred and fifty one.
Built in Puritanic plainness and design
Its beams and rafters true in every line
Built for the centuries by honest hands.”

The site chosen was in the center of the Parish where the King's Highway and Windam Road joined together, following the same road

ABINGTON COMMON IN 1880.

1. Map—J. E. Holbrook, built 1760. Abel Clark Tavern, opened 1775. Owned by Mrs. Irene W. Bachand.
2. Solomon Gilbert Store, 1800. Gilbert set out elms seen in pictures. Building later used as law office by Judge Holbrook.
3. Old shop on Common where Lemuel Ingalls repaired swords during the Revolution.
4. Elliott School House, built 1850. Owned by Harold Cunningham.





bed for about one eighth of a mile. The former bore away to the south while the Windham Road continued in a southwesterly direction. Abington Parish extended north to the Woodstock line.

The center of the parish was at Capt. Zachariah Goodell's, from whom a half acre of land for the church site was bought, for twenty pounds old tenor. As the school was under parish rule, a rate was ordered to pay a school master as well as the minister. Thirty-four males and twenty females subscribed to the covenant of the new church. In January 1751, John and James Ingalls, William Osgood, Daniel Trowbridge and Edward Paine were chosen as a committee for "setting up and building and finishing a meeting-house.

The interior also was patterned after the old Pomfret meeting-house. The galleries were on the south, east and west sides with gallery stairs on the southeast and southwest corners with the high pulpit on the north side, with a broad sounding board above it. There are east and west doors, and a wide south door opposite the pulpit.

A wide aisle led through the unfinished interior to the pulpit. At first only body seats were provided in the middle of the meeting-house. Later pews were built, allotted first to the man who paid the highest rate, and the other parishioners contented themselves with such places as were left.

Caleb Grosvenor paid the highest rate, so had first choice for his pew. The list of pew owners shows: John Shaw, James Ingalls, Edward Paine, John Ingalls, William Osgood, John Sharp, Daniel Trowbridge, Captain Goodell, Nathaniel Stowell, Jonathan Dana, Edward Goodell and Ebenezer Goodell. It was also voted that the pews could not be disposed of unless the owner's land went with it. Thus land was king in Abington. The two deacons, Samuel Sumner and Captain Craft, sat in state at the foot of the high pulpit, facing the congregation.

To this cold cheerless church came Mr. David Ripley, graduate of Harvard College. He came to his ordination on horseback, as was the custom, with his young bride, Betsy Eliot, riding behind him on a pillion. He was a descendant of Governor Bradford of Plymouth, and Betsy a daughter of Jacob Eliot, of Lebanon.

ELLIOTTS

1. Map—Elijah Griggs. Owned by Harold Cunningham, Cattle Dealer.
2. Map—Elijah Griggs. Was home of Horace Bennett. Owned by Leonard Roine.
3. Map—Rufus Fay. Owned by Ernest Rowley.
4. Map—S. Clark. The Gould-Newton House, a true pioneer dwelling. When electric wires were put in, plank patterns were found to be hatched marked, to hold plaster, no lath used. Newspaper pasted to walls was printed in old style f and s. Owned by C. E. Harriman.
5. Map—J. Davis. Home of the late Miss Draeger. Owned by Ruth Cunneen.
6. Map—F. B. Pellett. Owned by Geo. Brown.
7. Map—W. Gould. Owned by Dr. John Clark.
8. Map—S. Allen. Owned by Frank Paine, built 1800.

FIRST MINISTERS OF ABINGTON PARISH

The ordination was held Feb. 21, 1753. An ordination supper was served with all the good things known to New England cooks, at the home of William Osgood. We are told that the "services were decently and solemnly carried on," which was not always the way at ordinations in that day, for strange as it may seem the Puritans sometimes turned their ordinations into days of revelry.

Rev. David Ripley's salary was 60 pounds a year, the money to be equal to wheat at 40 shillings, rye 30 shillings, Indian corn 30 shillings, oats 10 shillings a bushel, pork at 2 shillings and beef 16 pence a pound. He bought land of Caleb Dana—59 acres for 1000 Spanish milled dollars, on "May 27 in ye 27 year of his Majesties reign, George the second," and that same year he built his house. Mrs. Ripley brought slaves with her from her girlhood home. There is a record of a negro baby, Jenny, born in the Ripley household on Jan. 15, 1788. Mr. Ripley taught and fitted young men for college in his home. There long stood a fine old elm that he and Wm. Osgood, Jr. set out in the year the house was built, a monarch among elms. It withstood the storms of nearly two hundred years.

For seventy-five years the congregation worshipped in this unheated church, where infants were brought for baptism on the first Sabbath after birth, while the parents waited anxiously to note whether the infant showed its natural inheritance of Puritan fortitude by enduring the ordinance without wailing. It is now on record that the Rev. Ripley baptized 495 children during his 25 years of pastorate.

In 1840 the old square pews, also the high pulpit that had been given by Abel Lyon, which had cost a hundred dollars, was removed, and the interior was rearranged in the popular manner of the period. That is, with the medium high pulpit on the west end between the two stoves, and a choir loft on the east. The seats faced the minister and the entrances. The west end was extended, and the present turret took the place of the belfry. A spacious vestibule and two large doors were built. The galleries and the two rows of small windows on the east side were replaced by three long windows. While the outside of the building has remained unchanged since then, the interior arrangement was again turned around in 1869, with the pulpit on the east and the choir on the west. A furnace was installed in 1900.

In making repairs on the turret tower of the steeple in 1938, the crown of ornamentation, which is claimed to represent the twelve disciples, was not replaced, but will be replaced. It is claimed also that this crown represented the four gates of Jerusalem. Happily remaining uninjured in the hurricane of 1938 was the oval window in the front of the church. This, according to tradition, represents order, balance and stability. One other window of this type is found in the Congregational Church of Marlboro, Massachusetts.

Fires were considered unsafe in the meeting-house as late as 1801, when in Norwich a sexton could collect a quarter of a dollar fine if a foot stove was left in the church. Rev. Walter Lyon, unlike many ministers of his time, had been thoughtful of the comfort of his people during the winter, and held only one short service on Sunday, with a silk handkerchief wrapped around his head. He left a generous bequest to the Abington Society, including the land where the present Parsonage stands.

Many changes took place during his pastorate. The meeting-house was "colored" white in 1764. In 1774 a singer was chosen to "set the 'sams." In 1785 Dr. Elisha Lord and Benjamin Dana were chosen choristers and the choir went into the gallery to sing the psalms. At that time a big bass viol was brought into the choir, which the foes of viols declared was "only a fiddle played upside down." We are not told what Mr. Lyon thought about the introduction of instrumental music into the church. Some ministers were much opposed, and we read of one divine, who when giving out the psalms, said "Now we will fiddle and sing the 45th Psalm." In 1802 Samuel Sumner presented the parish with a bell (which is still used) and the belfry was built.

Lectures, concerts, meetings in behalf of temperance, anti-slavery, education and peace have been held here, doing much to influence the character of many young people who went out into wider fields, and the world has been made a better place because of the "order, balance and stability" of this little church, built where the King's Highway met the Windham Road.

The earliest record of a marriage in Abington is 1753, performed by the Rev. David Ripley.

Mr. Ripley remained pastor until his health failed, and he passed away on Sept. 2, 1785, at the age of 55 years, his life in Abington having been spent at the home he built, now considered one of the oldest houses in Abington, owned by Mr. James Willits. The original paneling and architecture of the house is still unchanged.

Rev. Walter Lyon, second pastor, was ordained in January 1783. He was the son of Capt. Benjamin Lyon of Woodstock, of Revolutionary fame. He graduated from Yale in 1777, and married Mary Huntington of Lebanon. Having bought land of the Goodells he built his house 20 rods south of the meeting-house. This dwelling also stands, a substantial building of colonial design, owned by the Charles Griggs estate. Rev. Lyon died in 1826. His life had been devoted to all public interests. He was one of the first school visitors, to catechize the scholars, and give prizes to the one who could commit the catechism to memory. He also tutored young men for college.

Rev. Lyon was a man of precise habits, and his clock and desk throughout his life stood on the spot where he first placed them, and his family left them there as long as they remained in Abington.

His only son, Samuel, opened a store opposite his father's house where he did business for many years. It stood a little south of the old mile-stone, now the site of Everett Griggs' gas station.

Pomfret was settled sixty-six years after the landing of the Pilgrims, and it is believed that Governor Saltonstall bestowed the names Pomfret and Killingly, in sentiment for his English home. Among his English possessions in Yorkshire he owned the Manor of Killingly, near Pontefract (Pomfret).

The name of Abington was given by the General Assembly in 1749. It was an ecclesiastical name for the ancient town of Abbotsford, England, on the Thames, later changed to Abington. The English Abington was about fifty miles from London, and this Abington is about fifty miles from New London, Connecticut.

This is the first church in the state to celebrate its one hundred fiftieth anniversary in the original edifice in 1901.

The hurricane of 1938 not only damaged the steeple of the church, but unroofed the parsonage. Both have since been repaired.

The pipe organ from the old Episcopal Chapel was donated to Abington Church by Henry Howard Rich, and was dedicated Oct. 15, 1939, the dedication sermon being preached by the Rev. Sherrod Soule, of Hartford, a native son of Hampton.

In 1791 Parish Rule included the schools at Ragged Hill, the one on the southern end of Old Abington Common (Newton's Corner) and at Abington Four Corners, called the Center School.

Each district in the Parish was allowed four months school a year. The schoolmaster received forty shillings a month (\$5.00) and boarded himself, yet many Abington young men were glad to teach during the winter.

Young Samuel Sumner taught for \$6 per month, thrashed evenings, and worked in his father's saw mill. He was noted for his penmanship.

Schools kept 6 days a week with two half Saturdays a month. The old school house was heated by a fireplace, had a stone chimney. The fires were built by a boy for 25c and *all the ashes* at the end of the term. From the sale of the ashes he realized an extra 25c. Each child was assessed a certain quantity of fuel, and if it was not furnished the child could not attend school.

The fire was possibly the only cheerful thing in the low studded, smoke-stained room, with its rows of hard benches arranged around the wall. The children sat with their backs to the teacher while studying. Seldom was there more than one arithmetic textbook in the school, and usually no writing books, the teacher having to set a copy for each child. The spelling book and catechism were the more common school-books. In summer a "dame" taught the little folks, her education being usually sufficient to teach sewing and the A B C in samplers.

The Center School in 1847 was replaced by a new building, considered "large and commodious."

A new patent stove that had mysterious cold air flues was set up, the pride of the district. The old school had faced east and west, and the new one north and south. This building was turned around in 1900 and became the present primary room, to which an addition was built to provide for other grades.

In 1839, with the Norwich and Worcester R.R. completed, mail no longer was left at the tavern to be looked over at will by the public, but was brought to small established Post Offices by stage wagons from Dayville.

The Bolles Tavern House was purchased by the Misses Sarah and Mary Howard of Hampton, artistic ladies of the Episcopalian faith, who built a neat chapel on Abington Four Corners. Furnishings and bell were donated from the old Episcopal Church on Pomfret Street, at the time the new edifice was built in 1881. The Bolles-Howard property, built in 1800, is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker. The chapel, moved during the road construction of 1941, now stands in the rear of the tavern house.

Just west of the chapel also stood an old dwelling house, built by Peter Allen, primarily for a grocery store. Here he kept the first post office, and lived over the store. Old account books of Peter Allen's store and post office are now in the possession of Mr. Everett Griggs.

From these accounts we note that few letters and papers were received daily, as is shown by the following record, under date of May 9, 1840—mail received that day was "1 letter to Andrew Dresser from Scotland, Ct. he paid 6 cents. Mrs. I. Griggs, 2 papers, 2 cents. That is all the mail that came to this office." Postage on letters and papers were paid for when received. Papers were 1 cent and letters from 6c to 25c, from Michigan, Ohio or Indiana. Record of this early office is from 1839 to 1841.

Strange as it may seem, charge accounts for mail were carried by some of the best people, as one of these accounts show — "Charles P. Grosvenor, Dr. received 6 letters and 10 papers between July 2 and Sept. 17, 1840, and paid the postage, 82c, Oct. 2." It was considered a breach of etiquette to pay postage in advance. Only business letters were prepaid.

ABINGTON FOUR CORNERS

The second Abington store was owned by the widow of Solomon Sumner, owner of the cider mill on the brook, she having followed Peter Allen in the grocery business by 1856.

Perhaps the best remembered of storekeepers at the corner was Randolph L. Bullard, in the 1880's. A typical Yankee trader, who bartered and traded with the people for miles around. On Monday mornings the road at the corner was full of teams, bringing produce in season,

and dressed veal, chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys and pork. The store did not sell fresh meat locally, but took the farmers' produce, gave them goods in return, and later carried their products to Providence. He also handled eggs, butter, cheese and whortleberries.

A hustler, he was off on the first train for market. The older generation still recall his checking a dressed hog on his ticket to Providence, the agent putting the check in the porker's ear, and shipping it as baggage.

His store would hardly have passed the requirements of the pure food law of today. Crackers and sugar barrels stood about, while on top of the loose covers sat the villagers at night, smoking and gossiping the evenings away.

Bullard was also the village fiddler, and played merry tunes at the village dances. He practised "Scotch bowing" and "Calling Off" at the same time. His orchestra was famed beyond his home town, even to Providence and the "beaches."

An able second fiddler was Edward Gosvenor, a veteran of the Civil War, whose home was at Hamlet Farm.

The story is told of a simple minded man who broke into the store and stole a pair of boots and a plug of tobacco. When the Judge asked him why he did not take something else, he replied, "Everything was marked so high, he could not make day wages selling them."

Abington school house before the 1938 hurricane, was shaded by beautiful trees set out in 1855, when the grounds had been leveled and posts set for a double rail fence to support an arbor vitae hedge around the grounds. The Scotch larches, balsam firs, and spruce were grown at the Charles Osgood nurseries, the McLaughlin farm. The hedges long ago gave way to highway improvement.

Abington school house was discontinued as a school house in 1948, when the children started school in the new Community School. The building reverted to the land and was donated as a whole to the Pomfret Fire Company by Mr. John Stromberg and Miss Emma Allen.

Between the school and the present highway was the Dresser store, which burned in 1845.

Survey of the Hartford and Providence turnpike was a major event in the lives of the school children. The driver of the gaily painted stage coaches driven by four horses was looked upon as a man of as much importance as the Governor.

Great droves of sheep and cattle were driven over this road to Providence and Hartford market, as well as patient oxen with loads of wood and charcoal from Ashford.

WOLF DEN GRANGE NO. 61

Wolf Den Grange No. 61 was organized in February 1887, with 33 charter members, 13 women and 20 men. First officers were: Master,

Charles O. Thompson; Overseer, Albert Averill; Lecturer, James N. Botham; Steward, Joseph Stoddard; Chaplain, Frank O. Davis; Treas., Edwin T. White; Secretary, Wm. Fay; Gate Keeper, Chas. K. Peal; Pomona, Mrs. Chas. Smith; Flora, Mrs. Albert Smith; Ceres, Lavinia Dixon; Lady Asst. Steward, Annie Arnold.

Other members were: Mrs. Edwin White, Luther Day, Mrs. M. A. Day, Albert Smith, Charles Smith, John Osgood, E. P. Moffitt, Mrs. E. P. Moffitt, Mrs. Mary Elliott, Mrs. Alice Fay, Herbert Marshall, Mrs. H. C. Marshall, Harvey Whitmore, Mrs. Harvey Whitmore, Charles Arnold, Clement Sharpe, Mrs. C. A. Sharpe, Mrs. J. N. Botham, T. S. Hamilton, Fred Hyde and Thomas O. Elliott.

First meetings were held in Pomfret Town Hall before 1913 when the hall built in 1888 by Reuben Weeks and Harvey Whitmore was purchased. Here R. L. Bullard held many of his famous dances, with Guerdon Cady of Central Village, prompter.

Wolf Den Grange, Incorporated in 1933, has at the present time (1949) 249 members.

ABINGTON LIBRARY

The Abington Library was established in 1793. The officers appointed were: Rev. Walter Lyon, Librarian; Thomas Grosvenor, Collector; Lemuel Ingalls, Clerk; Committee, Zachariah Osgood, William Sharp and Samuel Sumner. The rules for taking out books were: a folio of not more than 600 pages could be kept out four months; a large octave of not more than 300 pages could be retained three months; a small octave of 200 pages could not be kept more than a month. The Library was opened in May. Reading material consisted of one hundred volumes, mainly theological and philosophical works. Newspapers were few, and books were expensive. In early years the books were kept in Rev. Walter Lyons Home. Later, in a Dwelling House on Abington four corners until the present Library was erected.

A Social Ladies' Library, organized in 1813, merged in 1875 with the Abington United Library under the name of the "Social Library Association." This association is the oldest Library still active, organized by women in the state of Connecticut. In 1884 forty-three women of the association were still living.

This Library was established 50 years before higher education was available to women. The Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition (1892) placed a copy of this library constitution on exhibit.

TOLL-GATE HOUSE IN ABINGTON

There were two old toll-gate houses still standing in Pomfret on what was the Providence and Hartford Turnpike. One is on Route 101, the other one mile west of Abington, just west of the site of the old Sumner Tavern. This small one story house with a low lean-to was long

known as the Atwood place. It was purchased some years ago by Mr. Chester Badger, and enlarged, but shows on the west side the outline of the low sloping roof of the original building. It is now owned by Mr. Godfrey Zizka.

FROG ROCK

The last piece of historical interest before reaching Phoenixville on Route 44, is Frog Rock, in early times called "Half-way Rock," being half way between Abington and Ashford.

In the time of religious agitation, 1745-1800, the Separates and others held open-air meetings at the Frog Rock, using it as a pulpit. Descendants of some of the old families look with disfavor on the grotesque transformation of the rock into a glorified bull-frog, because of its historic background.

THE FAY FAMILY (HUBBARD FARM)

The Aaron Fay homestead (the present home of Ernest Rowley) has sheltered five generations of the Fay family. Here Benjamin Fay was born. In 1814 he went with his bride to live at the top of the hill above Marcy Hollow, at the present home of Mr. Fred Hillmann of the "Hillside" gas station. The house had been built by William Fields who owned the Hollow grist mill in 1792, and after Benjamin Fay it was for two generations in the James Botham family.

In 1824 Benjamin Fay acquired of Mr. Sharp in Jericho the Hubbard Farm where for many years he carried on saw, shingle, cider and grist mills, and developed the water power of the brook that flows through the farm. The millstones being worn, he employed a man, one

JERICHO SECTION

1. Map—Chapman. Owned by Alex Pauku. Was summer home of Misses Florence and Sarah Henry.

2. Map—Job Nye. Owned by Lawrence Swazey. Was summer home of Miss Goff of New York.

3. Map—S. Sharp. Restored by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Swain. Owned by Gray Estate.

5. Map—Jericho Pond. Owned by Silas Baker.

6. Map—Hammond. Owned by Mrs. C. C. Gardner. There is a site of an ancilar mill privilege on the brook. House is of early architecture, unusual cellar stairs of split logs.

7. Map—R. Sharp. First Sharp homestead on King's Highway. 1722. Owned by Misses Page and Blair.

8. Map—Cady. Summer home of Miss Homans for 40 years. Present owner P. Toomey.



1 2



3 4



5 6



7 8



winter, to cut new millstones from the ledges back of the house, for which the man received eighty dollars and board. One of the old millstones was placed over the well, with the sweep in front of the house.

In the seventies, the old Fay mill closed; the millstones were sold to the Sessions Mills (the Willis Covell place) and were in use until 1918.

This was the pioneer homestead of Daniel Draper. Between 1775 and 1824 the property changed hands six times, being owned successively by Nathaniel Draper, Peter Ingalls, William Elliott, Clark Elliott, Augustus Arnold, and Mr. Sharp.

The old Jericho schoolhouse, built on this Fay homestead land, had for a century an enrollment of over fifty scholars. This property is now known as the "Hubbard farm." It is owned by Miss Dorman Weaver, who has restored it to its original simplicity, making it a lovely summer home. The cider mill has been restored, and its thatched roof and water wheel give it a romantic setting.

The old Aaron Fay homestead on the slightly knoll adjoining the Elliott school is the home of Mrs. Ethel Fay Rowley, daughter of the late William Fay, veteran station agent of Abington, who rounded out twenty-eight years of service before his death at the age of eighty-two in 1938.

ELLIOTTS STATION

1. Map—Ira Elliott. Thomas Elliott homestead in 1880. Present owner John Smutnick. Some of Elliott family shown.
2. Old Elliott Depot. In doorway, Alfred Weeks.
3. Martin's Store. Burned in 1891.
4. Map—Spaulding. Home of the late Mrs. Cynthia Johnson family. Burned in 1946. See Joseph Ingalls.

CHAPTER XII

SAMUEL DRESSER HOUSE

The Samuel Dresser house, now owned by H. M. Cook, was originally the Horace Sabin place. In 1835 it was purchased by Samuel Dresser who, besides having an interest in the grist mill, carried on a shoe shop in 1840, as well as a broom making business. Those were the days when men who had passed middle life opened small shops and "did well," and laid the corner stone to future large industries for their children and grandchildren.

ACADIAN CHILDREN BROUGHT TO POMFRET

The children of Pomfret read the beautiful poem of Evangeline and feel a deep compassion, but few know that here in Pomfret, Killingly, and neighboring towns, these poor Acadian refugees, who were evicted from their happy homes by order of the Governor to Colonel Winslow, and scattered over the colonies, were cared for, too. But these were days, in 1755, when strong religious prejudices prevailed, and, since the wanderers were not of the same faith, it is not likely that even our own forefathers gave them welcome. As Longfellow says:

"Friendless, homeless, hopeless, they wandered from city to city
From the cold lakes of the north to the sultry southern savannahs
From the bleak shores of the sea to the lands where the Father of
Water

Seized the hills in his hands, and drags them down to the ocean.

Friends they sought, and homes, and many despairing, heartbroken,
Asked of the earth but a grave, and no longer a friend or a fireside."

Mr. Frank Haines of Putnam, formerly an owner of the Dresser house, has some valuable papers, among which we find an order received by the selectmen of Pomfret to care for a quota of Acadian refugees, consisting of a man and three children.

The following is a copy of the ancient document received when the four refugees were assigned to the town:

"Dated, Norwich June 26, 1756,
"Gentlemen: Pursuant to the Assembly, I send you Guillam Bougois and three children, Fore of the French people sent into the Colony from Nova Scotia. They being the people assigned by the committee for that purpose.

Signed by order
Jbz Huntington"

This is written on a folded yellow sheet of old linen paper, on the back of which we find written "To the Selectmen of Pomfret. French of Nova Scotia."

This rare paper came into the possession of Mr. Haines when he purchased the house. Mr. Samuel Dresser, a former owner, was a descendant of Jonathan Dresser, who was one of Pomfret's selectmen in 1756. For a hundred and fifty years the records of that day were kept by the Dresser family until given to Mr. Haines by Mrs. Albert Smith.

MARCY FAMILY

Three generations of the Marcy family have kept the anvil ringing in Marcy Hollow. Grandfather Orin Marcy built his first shop near the grist mill on the Mashamoquet in 1818. His son Alvin and three grandsons have continued the ancestral trade. Willard Marcy worked at the old site for thirty-six years. This old shop is replaced by a new one, which might well be styled a blacksmith's antique shop, as it has a fine collection of hand wrought tools, horse and ox shoes, and other relics of a century ago.

On the Marcy lot in the Abington burying ground we find a gray granite stone, on which is mounted the anvil that three generations of the family had used—an unusual but exemplary memorial.

When Grandfather Orin Marcy opened his shop in 1818 the woolen mill had been set up in the little valley. Grandmother Marcy worked in this mill before her marriage, for the sum of fourteen cents a day (and did not think of striking). Fourteen cents a day would buy many things dear to the feminine heart. Her shoes were made from the hides of the animals that had helped also to replenish the larder. The tallow supplied her candles. Her clothing was made from flax and wool raised on the farm. Her "hope chest" was filled with linen and blankets of her own weaving, and the little dwelling that she lived in near the shop was built with the nails her husband had forged. Also, the door latches and hinges, and the household bean porridge pots and other cooking utensils, such as "spiders and kettles that stood on long legs over the coals" were his handiwork. The problem of high wages did not bother him. In the words of the poet:

"Something accomplished, something done
Had earned a night's repose."

His grandson, Darius (1865-1916), followed the trade, and on his grandfather's anvil made, for the World's Fair in 1892, a case of horse-shoes that were awarded first prize, a plated horse-shoe pin.

Grandmother Marcy used to tell her children that when she worked in the mill the girls would climb the steep hillside and drink from a cold spring at the noon hour. The location of this spring was lost for many years, but was finally discovered by the late Charles Arnold who owned

the present home of William Smedley, now State property. This is believed to have been the Stebbins home. The spring was found to be walled in and a fine source of water, although it had been covered by the hillside wash for about a century. It is now piped into the valley for the use of the State Park.

The home of Willard E. Marcy was once owned by Oliver Ingalls (son of Captain Zebediah Ingalls of Bunker Hill fame) who was accidentally drowned in the Mashamoquet on April 10, 1815. Heavy rains had swollen the stream to overflowing; the night was very dark, and, returning from Abington store, Mr. Ingalls missed the road and fell into the stream above the dam. He owned a fine Newfoundland dog that was in the house with Mrs. Ingalls. Suddenly the dog leaped to the doors and windows, barking wildly, but was not released. In the morning Mr. Ingalls' body was found in the stream. Laura Ingalls, the noted aviatrix, who is said to have been the first woman to fly over the Andes (1933), is a descendant of Oliver Ingalls.

Stebbinsville had been an industrial center from the beginning of the settlement. In 1719 Ebenezer Holbrook purchased a four hundred acre tract for four hundred dollars. After building a saw and grist mill at the old mill site (now owned by Judge Willis Covell), he built a linseed oil mill at the hollow. The property was purchased by Robert Baxter in 1780. He changed it to a grist mill and also built a turning mill, which later became a wagon shop. These old buildings burned in 1900.

After the mills became the property of William Brayton in 1818, Marcy Hollow was among the prettiest spots in Pomfret. In the early days of automobile-tourists the settlement on the Mashamoquet attracted much attention from the lovers of the picturesque. The mill that for generations had served the neighborhood, the old dam, a bit of smooth lawn about the cottage of William Brayton and his sister Mary—these will long be remembered. Happily, postcards with views made before the burning of the mills are still in existence.

Pomfret owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Sarah Fay. In 1900 she bought a tract which is now included in the State Park in order to save the beautiful hemlocks from the lumberman's axe. These hemlocks fell in the hurricane of 1938.

Gone is the Brayton cottage, the mill he built, and the dam; but the stream flows on, through banks eroded and torn by the freshet of 1936, down to a swimming pool made by the State for the youngsters. Thousands visit Mashamoquet and enjoy the Park, but few know the history of the stream or its romances and tragedies.

Stebbinsville, as Marcy Hollow was called, was named for one Erastus Stebbins, who, in 1817, bought the woolen mill built in 1812. Men, women, and children were employed; only hand-power was used.

Stebbins developed the water privilege down in the present State Park, where traces of the old mill-race are still visible. Besides his woolen mill he opened a grocery store, on the present site of Thaddeus LeFort's

house. Ten years later his business passed into the hands of creditors. The mills burned in 1836. The enterprise of the little hamlet required a school, known as the factory school. It stood on the top of the hill west of the Mashamoquet. Recent development of the State Road has completely obliterated the site of the old schoolhouse.

After the Stebbins Mill at Marcy Hollow burned, a society of Adventists bought the old store building and remodeled it into a meeting-house or tabernacle. It was a plain unpainted building. Like all new sects in their day they were not always appreciated in their zeal, and a wag wrote:

“They bought a store in Stebbinsville
And built a barn upon the hill
To bate the horses when they come
To the second church in Abington.”

This first tabernacle later burned.

In 1865 the Adventist following built a new church near Abington's third railroad bridge, on Joseph Baxter's land (now the Cleo Carter place). This was later moved and made into a dwelling, now owned by Oren Weeks.

For a century the Baxters of Stebbinsville were among the leading families. In 1780 they acquired the mills of Job Olney, who had purchased them of Holbrook the previous year. The turning shop built by Samuel Baxter in 1848 utilized the water power of the brook near the present railroad bridge on the Stoddard, or Carter, place.

From 1856 Joseph Baxter lived on the farm, and was accustomed to take a load of pork or other produce to Boston with oxen, walking the entire distance of more than seventy miles, and returning with a load of fish. In cold weather he used to complain bitterly of the cold across Boston Common.

Under the leadership of Brother Hezekiah Davis, the Advent Church grew rapidly, and the little church became too small for them. A third house of worship was built in 1873, just east of Abington Depot, on Route 44. The land was leased from George Williams for \$15 for ninety-nine years. This is now the site of the Haven Hospital.

For years the Advent Chapel was empty and neglected. The property on which the chapel stood, passed from George Williams to George A. Dresser, then through Mr. Dresser's daughter, Mrs. Fred Smith, to Edward Peal, for \$25.00. Mr. Peal used it for a butcher shop until 1913, when it was sold to Joseph Elliott for \$75.00 to be remodeled into a dwelling. In 1923 it was again sold, to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Griggs, who modernized and improved it for a home for elderly people. In 1928-9, fine new large buildings were erected by a true philanthropist, Mrs. T. Morris Murray, of Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, and Boston, and The Haven became a Chronic and Convalescent Hospital, as well as a home for the aged. The old chapel was taken down to make room for new buildings.

The land on which the Haven stands was once part of the William Osgood Purchase in 1748, and until the last owner, had been continuously in the hands of descendants of the Osgood family.

OSGOOD-ELLIOTT HOMESTEAD

In 1810 William Osgood, also a descendant of the first settler, purchased the Abijah Sharpe property in Elliott, then Jericho. His daughter, Susanna, married Ira Elliott, who purchased the farm in 1852, and built the fine old house now standing. Mr. Elliott was largely instrumental in securing the construction of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad through town. He also gave the site for the Elliott station, now closed. A son, Thomas Osgood Elliott, a Civil War Veteran, inherited the property and entered the lumber business with William Ingalls, pioneers in the industry in the seventies, operating the first portable saw and lumber camps in Windham County. This homestead, "Pioneer Acres," is now owned by John and Paul Smutnick. John Smutnick is a World War Veteran, and ex-postmaster of Abington.

Rebecca, daughter of William Osgood, married James Congdon, and their home was the Leon Albro farm, being divided in half in the construction of the N.Y., N.H. & H. R.R., inducing Mr. Congdon to sell his farm and remove to Hampton, where for many years he was a leading citizen.

The crossing, known as Frawley's crossing, was altered in state road construction in 1940. In 1934 this place was the scene of the tragic death of Mrs. Irving Hopkins and a companion, of Hampton.

OSGOOD FAMILY HOMESTEAD—GWYN CAREG

William Osgood came to Abington in 1748. He became one of the leading men in the formation of the parish and the building of the meeting-house. The ordination dinner was served at his house.

His lands extended from the brook at Abington Depot to the Mashamoquet State Park, and south to Elliott. The Osgood homestead was built about 1760, remaining in the Osgood name for over a century, until the marriage of Elizabeth Osgood to Louis Ingalls.

Deacon Winthrop Osgood, born on this estate in 1775, built the fine old homestead known as the Joseph Elliott place, in 1800. His old straight-backed chair stands again in the Abington church, presented to the parish by his granddaughter, Miss Mary Osgood, in 1923. He disliked the hard plank seats in the straight-backed pews, and preferred to sit in his own chair with his back to the outside wall.

In connection with his farming he set out a large nursery, and supplied the town with many beautiful shade trees.

Mrs. T. Morris Murray (Miss Elinor Clark), granddaughter of Dr. Vinton, is a direct descendant of Samuel Stone, who with Thomas Hooker, made the dangerous journey through the wilderness from Boston to Hartford in May 1636. The Samuel Stone home was in the shadow of the Charter Oak in Hartford.

Mrs. Murray's home, Gwyn Careg, in Abington, was long a show place. It was the site of the pioneer home of William Osgood.

MISS MARY OSGOOD—ABINGTON HISTORIAN, 1839-1923

“God gave men all earth to love
And yet, because our hearts were small,
Ordained that just one place
Should be the most beloved of all.”

Miss Osgood was born at the Edward Peal farmstead in Abington in 1839. As a child she listened to the folklore told by the fireside of her father, Charles Osgood, and as a woman she spent much time in research and writing. She was a woman of fine intellect, a graduate of Cushing Academy and a teacher in the High Schools. Her brother, Charles Osgood, was sheriff of the county for several years.

Her last days were spent at the Haven Home and Hospital in her beloved Abington. She passed away in 1923, leaving her unpublished writings to the Superintendent and author, Mrs. Susan J. Griggs.

CHAPTER XIII

THE SHARPE FAMILY 1722

Wm. Sharpe House, now owned by Misses Page and Blair.

William Sharpe, with his bride, Abigail White, settled in Jericho at the foot of Easter Hill, in 1722, coming about the time of the Ingalls family. They built their home on the grassy lane that was then the trail of the King's Highway, a secluded spot for a pioneer home.

Their oldest child, John, is said to have been the first white child born in Jericho. As a youth he was active in the famous Wolf Hunt, in the winter of 1742-3. He was the first to discover the tracks of the she-wolf leading to the den in the rugged hillside. As a man he settled in northern Abington on the farmstead now owned and occupied by James Sharpe, of the seventh generation, whose two sons carry down the family name. The present dwelling was built in 1848, although a part of the original house still stands, as a woodshed, for which purpose the pioneer houses were eventually used.

For generations the Sharpes built their homes on the inherited acres of their pioneer ancestor. One of the dwellings remaining is the present home of Mrs. Gray, on High Ridge Road. All the original lines of his house have been restored. The peace and quiet of the century seem to cling about the place. A deeply wooded ravine and rapid brook add scenic beauty to the spot, tho greatly marred by the hurricane of 1938. This place was shown on the map as that of S. Sharpe.

Jericho was not to escape in early days its share of tragedy. Kindly Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Sharpe lived in a sunny nook on the King's Highway. They were childless, but opened their homes to orphans. A little nephew, five year old Oliver, had become a household pet, causing seventeen year old Caleb Adams, a boy of adoption, to become very jealous. In the family's absence he murdered the child, for which crime he was executed on November 20, 1803, at a public execution, attended by thousands, the boy being compelled to attend his own funeral before the execution.

"Wayback," the summer home of the Misses Natalie and Sarah Homans, of Washington and Pomfret, stands about a quarter mile back from the road on the Hampton-Pomfret line, not far from the Cady-Grow Cemetery, the oldest in southwestern Pomfret. The Grows lived just over the Hampton line, and their lands adjoined. This section in Jericho was near the old trail that was later the King's Highway.

This is a remarkable old house, having kept its old lines, and being probably originally a "half house," rare in Pomfret. The "half house"

was often built on Cape Cod by young people, then added to as they needed more room. The enormous stone chimney, first built on the end, would then be in the middle.

The addition to the house was built by the Misses Homans, and the massive timbers of the old house have been restored. The house was sold in 1948 to Philip A. Toomey.

The Misses Homans are direct descendants of William Williams, brother of Rev. Ebenezer Williams, who early settled on Bush Hill. Miss Sarah Homans still owns a cottage at Wayback, and will return there summers.

The Sharpe family is one of the few families still resident in Abington. Carl M. Sharpe, Representative 1937-40, and State Treasurer 1943, was a lifetime resident of the town. He also had two sons, Carl and Clement, to perpetuate the name. As son of Clement and Phoebe Peal Hutchins Sharpe, his boyhood was spent at the Sharpe homestead on the Mashamoquet. He died in 1948 while holding the office of Commissioner of Public Utilities. Mr. Sharpe was, as his ancestors, a leader in church and public affairs. His wife, Mrs. Edna Butler Sharpe, was sent as Representative from Pomfret in 1948.

During the Tercentenary Celebration of Connecticut in 1935, Putnam staged a beautiful pageant in which Pomfret took a leading part. Miss Beatrice Sharpe, his daughter, impersonating Columbia, being not only a direct descendant of the first settler, but also of General Israel Putnam.

THE HUTCHINS-SHARPE HOMESTEADS

Dr. Darius Hutchins, early nineteenth century physician, built the commodious dwelling which still stands on the corner of the old trail (then the King's Highway) and Windham Road (Route 97).

Dr. Hutchins was interested in the reform movement through the Abington Peace and Temperance Societies and Anti-Slavery movements.

On the death of his only daughter, Lucy Ann, in 1834, he desired to erect a monument to her memory. He had it cut from native stone and hauled with several yoke of oxen to the newly acquired Abington burying ground. This single shaft of native granite, about ten feet high, stands in the cemetery foreground. At that time monuments were rare, coming from Providence by ox teams. A stone quarry was being worked at the Cat-Den Ledges in Eastford, where stone posts for fences and for hitching horses were cut.

Dr. Hutchins died in 1839. His son, Dr. James Hutchins, who succeeded him in his Abington practice, married Miss Phoebe Peal, whose father, Mr. John Peal, had purchased the old Hutchins homestead in 1869. This house remained in the Peal family for half a century and Dr. James Hutchins resided at the Ripley house (now owned by Mr. James Willits) until his death in 1900.

His son, James Howard Hutchins, Abington's well known veterinary surgeon, with his sister, Miss Adrianna, resides at the old Sharpe home which was the home of their mother after her second marriage (to Clement Sharpe).

SHARPE HOME ON THE MASHAMOQUET 1820

This is one of the finest homesteads in Pomfret, now owned by Dr. James and Miss Adrianna Hutchins. It stands on a slightly knoll, overlooking the Mashamoquet, where history and tradition weave a thread of interest. For here was the site of the first sawmill, and one of the first schoolhouses, also the first "substanchel" cart bridge over the brook. For a quarter century, it had been the boundary line between the little settlement and the almost unbroken wilderness, since the road came to an end at the mill. Not before 1723 had the road been built farther on, and finally connected Windham Village (Hampton Hill) with Pomfret.

Here was the home of Mary Putnam Waldo, great granddaughter of our own Israel Putnam, who adds a bit of color to the usual drab history of pioneer women. In her early youth she married a Mr. Phillips, and leaving her home on Pomfret Street, emigrated with him to the wilds of Illinois; when trackless forests lay between there and Connecticut. Her husband was accidentally killed soon after they had become established in their home, leaving her alone; she made her way back to her native state with two small children. Upon her return she married George H. Sharpe about 1850, and there at the homestead saw many happy and prosperous years. Her grandchildren delight in recalling many of the thrilling tales she told of her experience in the "far west." George Sharpe was the son of Abijah Sharpe, of Elliott.

From Abijah Sharpe we trace the decided musical ability of the family, as we find in 1811 he was excused from paying his assessment for the meeting-house repairs "providing he teach singing school two sessions a week, through the seasons." The family is said to have owned the first piano in town.

GRIGGS FAMILY

The Griggs family descended from Dr. George and Benjamin Griggs, pioneers of Woodstock. Nathan Griggs (1751) was active in establishing Abington Parish. Four homesteads remain in Abington that were built by his descendants.

The George Drown homestead, built by Capt. Francis Pellett (1836), who married Sally Griggs, stands near the pioneer site of the Nathan Griggs hearthstone. Capt. Francis was a descendant of Richard Pellett, who settled in Canterbury in 1702. The Jessie Griggs place is now owned by Camille Crochiere. The late Horace Bennett place was the boyhood home of Abijah Griggs of the French and Indian War, builder of the fine farmstead now owned by Fred Cunningham, cattle dealer. The house is of the architecture of 1730-60. Here Abijah Griggs boarded the town poor when they were bid off to the lowest bidder. Then Dr. Lord, by giving them medical attention, was exempted from taxation.

The only lineal descendant of the family now living in Abington is Everett Griggs, archaeologist (Priest Lyon house). The home of the late Alfred Griggs, still owned by his family, was built in 1804 by Daniel Smith, of the Craft-Allen family.

An outstanding character in pre-Civil War days was Schoolmaster John Griggs. In the sixty years that he taught, he is credited with 3000 scholars, among them General Lyon of Eastford. His home was next to the old Pilershire schoolhouse in Eastford, on the Cat Den Ledge Road. According to tradition, Pilershire received its name from a pilfering class of people that settled there in early times. It is claimed they kept no sheep or poultry yet their tables were always supplied with meat. As their only source of supply was the neighboring farms, there was a question about where their meat came from, yet they were seldom detected. This has been a deserted region until recently taken over by the State Forestry Dept., who have restored the old roads for fire lanes, converting them into beautiful woodland drives.

GRIGGS-PELLETT FARM, NOW OWNED BY GEO. DROWN

In pre-Civil War times, the Francis Pellett place was one of the best farms in the town, having had the first large barn, which was struck by lightning and burned many years ago. Typical of the period, all labor was done by a large force of men and ox-teams. Great pride was taken in orchards, now broken and twisted by the century's storms. Doves of hogs once destroyed the larva of pests that now ruin the apple crops. Fine loads of fruit were yearly delivered at Providence with four-ox teams, the trip made by night, arriving at the market at noon the next day. Apples were exchanged for barrels of flour, sugar, molasses and bales of codfish. Aside from the tea, coffee and spices the farm supplied the farmer's needs. Soap was still made by the housewife from scraps and fats, and home-made lye, a product of the hard wood ash barrel mounted on the circular grooved "lye stone," indispensable in home soap making.

The kitchen ell of the Griggs-Pellett-Drown house is very old, dating back to the early settlement of the town. The farm was a part of the

Nathan Griggs tract, 1751. The upright part of the house was built by Capt. Francis Pellett in 1836. The large tract of swail land on the farm attracted early settlement. In the horse car period many farmers bailed the grass from the swail and marketed it for bedding for horses.

Wetherbee Pastures, in Elliott, purchased by John Wetherbee in 1913, is the site of the home of the Daniel Fitts family, and is named on the map as N. Aldrich. On this farm is the 1 acre fenced-in lot which was given by a previous owner to a young man named Loomis so that he might become a voter in the town, a legal requirement at that time.

POMFRET EASTFORD LINE

In the western part of Pomfret are the highest elevations, as Pisgah Hill, 868 feet above sea level; Tower Hill, 826 feet; and Utley Hill, 748 feet; location of Pomfret's second beacon light.

Tower Hill, for over a century and a half, was Sherman Hill, David Sherman settling there in 1750. Four generations followed him in continual ownership, covering a period of over 182 years. William Batty Sherman, last of the family, born in 1846, died in 1929. The property is now owned by Francis Duquette. The growth of beautiful fir balsam trees near the Sherman homestead were visible for many miles before the hurricane of 1938.

The old homesteads of David and Andrew Trowbridge are now owned by Frank West and Edward Geer.

Utley Hill was named for Stephen, who in 1777 was appointed one of a committee of Abington men to procure clothing for the soldiers. This farmstead was long owned by Harvey Whitmore, who built the present house after the Civil War.

CHAPTER XIV

BRIGADIER-GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON



Nathaniel Lyon was born in Eastford in July 1819. His father, a magistrate of the town, owned and cultivated a rocky farm on the range of hills about four miles from Phoenixville, in the 1830's.

Nathaniel later recalled the rocky hills in his birthplace,—the night before he fell in battle—when his regiment was encamped in a very rocky terrain. Preparing to make his bed between two rocks, he remarked that he had been “born between two rocks.”

The red salt box house, on the old Hampton Road, rebuilt through the State Forest in the 1930's, has gone, but the stone chimney, with fireplaces restored, still marks the site, and is used for open air cooking by picnickers and campers in the Natchaug State Forest.

The character of Nathaniel Lyon is revealed by his devotion to his mother, who was a descendant of Col. Thomas Knowlton, Ashford's Revolutionary hero. As a boy, he attended the little Pifershire school, where he excelled in mathematics, studying under Schoolmaster John Griggs.

In 1837, at the age of 18, he entered West Point, and was graduated in 1841, and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry. After serving in the Seminole War, in Florida, he was transferred to posts on the western front, also fought in the Mexican War, where

he was promoted to Captain. He was stationed in Kansas, before the outbreak of the Civil War, at the height of the political trouble and border ruffian days.

Lyon took a great interest in Lincoln's political campaign, and wrote many political articles which are given us in his biography. These writings are valuable, as he wrote not as an historian but as a man of the times, and portrays a clear insight of the problems which led up to the outbreak of hostilities. He depicted Abraham Lincoln, not as the Great Emancipator, but as a labor leader, Free Labor against Slave Labor, the cry of the West in 1861.

Nathaniel Lyon never married; it is said that he did not believe a soldier should be burdened with a family.

In 1861, he was stationed with a small company of troops to guard the gold of the sub-treasury and arms stored at the Federal Arsenal at St. Louis. At that time Missouri's Governor was Claiborne Jackson, a proslavery man, and a great friend of Jefferson Davis. Lyon became suspicious when the Governor ordered an encampment of 600 militiamen, and of large boxes being shipped up-river to Camp Jackson, marked "marble." Disguising himself in a black bombazine skirt, his red whiskers under a heavy veil, he drove about the town with a negro coachman and verified his suspicions that the boxes of "marble" were arms. Quickly Lyon raised 10,000 Federal Volunteers as Home Guards, and marched upon the Camp on May 10th, and demanded an unconditional surrender, which was accomplished without a shot being fired.

Lyon was promoted to the rank of General, and his strategy marked the beginning of a campaign to save Missouri and Kentucky for the Union. The historian, John Fiske, said of this military move by Lyon "It was the first really aggressive blow at the secession that was struck anywhere in the United States."

Three months from the day of the surrender of Camp Jackson at St. Louis, Gen. Lyon was killed at Wilson Creek, Missouri, on Aug. 10, at the age of 42 years. Temporarily his body was interred near the battlefield, and later shipped by train and boat to his native Eastford, stopping en route to lay in state at St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia. When the body arrived at New York on Sept. 2, it was met by great crowds, where it again lay in state. It was next removed to Hartford. The ovation by the citizens of Hartford was tremendous, the military and others, contesting in demonstration of respect for the dead, and of hospitality to the escort while the bier lay in state at the Capitol.

The special train, draped in mourning, brought Gen. Lyon's body and military escort from Hartford, leaving there "about one o'clock, arriving at Willimantic about quarter past three o'clock." Crowds were at the depot, including people from thirty miles around, who assembled to honor their hero. Flags large and small, draped with black borders, were suspended from houses and trees. It was after four o'clock before the cortege moved out of Willimantic, on the last sixteen miles of the

journey. First came the military, then the Missourian escort, followed by the hearse drawn by four black horses, brought from Hartford.

Next came an immense number of conveyances, carrying relatives of the deceased, and citizens. Hundreds of wagons from a single horse buggy to the cumbersome market wagon drawn by four horses, formed the procession. The road was lined with people, young and old, and all houses along the way were draped with flags. The tolling of all church bells added to the solemnity of the occasion.

The road from Willimantic was hilly, yet not impassable; the procession reached Eastford about nine o'clock. As it entered the village a six pounder on a hill "pealed forth minute salutes," while the bell of Eastford church tolled.

The road entering Eastford was lined on either side with trees. Lights, candles, lanterns, rushes, and every conceivable material illuminated the path, while the band played the "Dead March of Saul." The remains were placed on a bier in the Congregational Church, on an eminence west of the road by which the cortege entered the village, but was reached by a circuitous route, in order that the people could see the torchlight procession.

Thus with pomp and ceremony General Lyon was buried in the small burying ground at Phoenixville, near the schoolhouse, on the old road now little traveled.

While to the memory of lesser men, large monuments have been erected in city parks, there is no marker by the highway to proclaim to the world that a national hero, Nathaniel Lyon, is buried here.

POMFRET IN 1863

A glimpse of Pomfret Street in 1863 is given us by the Pomfret correspondent to The Windham County Transcript of Thursday, Nov. 12. Referring to Pomfret St. as "Pucker St." he writes of improvements being made along the street as follows: "Old shanties are tumbling down—and handsome edifices rise upon their ruins. Ancient residents are improving their quiet homes and newcomers are purchasing the quaint old dwellings and queer shops which for a century have blocked out famous street, and intend to build up the wastes next season, in more modern style of architecture." Among these newcomers was Benjamin Harris, Esq., a man who did much to build up Pomfret Street, and at one time owned the present Rectory School, and the Ben Grosvenor Revolutionary Inn.

Our correspondent also writes "We are unanimously expecting that the R.R. through here to New York...will be completed before the close of the war...The depot for Pomfret and Woodstock, it is thought will be somewhere near the barn of Lucius Fitts (General Carlson place) on the line between Pomfret and Woodstock." From this article

it would seem that there had been high hopes that the Railroad which was built through Abington and Pomfret Center, would be built on the Pomfret-Woodstock line. The writer goes on to tell us that it was expected that a large town or city would grow up in that section.

Controversy had already begun over the probable name of the new town, each town wanting the honor. A wag suggested it should be called Woodfret, Pomfstock, or Pumpstock, as it will be a place to water the "iron horse." Pomfret had suggested a macadam road built from Pomfret Street through "Cork Street" (Route 93).

The same paper states that all able-bodied men having gone to war "they had no fear of the next draft, or call for volunteers."

POMFRET IN 1950

Pomfret in 1950 is the same beautiful town, not through its fine estates of 1900, but in the manner in which its homes are kept. Small houses have taken the place of many of the large estates.

Agriculture is mainly in large dairy farms, where through modern machinery, stone walls have been moved and broad fields made fit for tractor use. There are very few horse teams left in town. Poultry raising is conducted on a large scale.

Ben Grosvenor Inn and Pomfret Inn serve the traveling public.

Pomfret has an Independent Fire Company with fire engines stationed at Abington Four Corners and on Pomfret Street. There are four state roads through town, and 37 miles of new surfaced road have been built in the past 15 years. Pomfret is "fast getting out of the mud."

The Community School, built in 1947-48, with bus transportation for the children, fills a long felt need, as does the Eliza Fairfield Clark Memorial Center, established in 1947 by Dr. John Clark, in memory of his wife. Dr. Bruce Valentine is in charge.

Pomfret has a voting list of 1001, and an enrollment of public school children of 340. In the last census Pomfret had 1710 people.

In World War I Pomfret sent 102 men and women, and in World War II, 185.

Pomfret has no industries, but many still work in Hartford, as during the war.

There are four churches, Catholic, Rev. O. N. Mandler; Episcopal, Rev. R. H. Parkes; and two Congregational, Rev. Geo. H. Johnson and Rev. C. K. Tracy.

There are four groceries, owned by Hattin and Zeller, Geo. Potvin, Paul Hyland, David Planchon; and five garages, owned by Raymond Cutler, Henry Rondeau, Russell Hillmann, Walter Green and David Planchon.

Four passenger trains stop daily at Pomfret Station, and one at Abington.

POMFRET'S NATIVITY PLAY

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Pomfret in 1810 had a population of 1905. "There were 280 Freemen or Electors, and about the same number of dwellings." There were 2 entire companies of Infantry, Rifle, Cavalry and Artillery, in the militia.

Taxable property, including polls was \$55,077.

There were 4 churches, 2 Congregational, 1 Baptist and 1 Society of Friends. Pomfret Street had 30 dwellings, a Post Office, church and several stores.

Enterprises were agriculture, a cotton factory "extensive scale," a woolen factory, 3 fulling mills, cloth works, 2 carding machines, 3 distilleries, 4 grain mills and 6 tanneries. There were several shad fisheries on the Quinebaug.

There were 11 school districts, and several turnpike roads.

In 1850 there was a population of 1848.

POMFRET'S NATIVITY PLAY

Pomfret is widely known for its beautiful annual Nativity Play, which was originated in 1912, with costumes and production supervised by the late Miss Beatrice Stevens, an artist of note, and Miss Ella M. Boulton, of Pomfret Street.

Many of the early cast are still taking part. The play was first produced in the old Pomfret Hall, too small to accommodate the crowd so that it was necessary to produce it three times in one evening. Since 1936 it has been given in the Hard Auditorium at Pomfret School, but at Christmas 1949 the Nativity was enacted in the auditorium of the new Pomfret Community School.

ABINGTON MEETING HOUSE

The beginning of the new half century finds the interior of the Old Abington Meeting House recently decorated in soft pastel colors, pews painted colonial white with mahogany trim, and a new heating plant installed, largely through the efforts of the Women's Guild.

Through the untiring efforts of the minister, Rev. Charles Tracy, plans are going forward for a new Sunday School chapel, and improvements on the grounds, looking toward the 200th anniversary in 1951.

A fine new sign has been erected, which reads "Abington Meeting House, Erected 1751, Oldest Now Standing in Connecticut."



POMFRET CENTER and POMFRET LANDING

1. Map—M. Wetherill. Owned by Arthur Youngs. (Town Records—Patience Benson bought land in Pomfret in 1777. In the Benson Cemetery, near the Youngs' home, are marble slabs marking the graves of Rev. John Benson, 1818, his wife Marcy, 1835, and daughter Betsey Benson Angell, 1816. The Benson lands were sold to J. Wetherill in 1831. Wetherill sold land to Youngs in 1879, and to Fisher in 1873.)
2. Map—S. W. Hammond. Owned by Mrs. R. E. Angell. At left, map—Cholar. Owned by J. Cropsey.
3. Map—J. Cooper. Owned by Mrs. J. Thale.
4. Map—M. Hammond. Owned by J. Kearney.

POMFRET LANDING STORE AND POST OFFICE

Stood between the Bridge and Old Mill



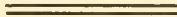
Burned in 1895

Left to right:
Charles Williams
Judson Hyde
George Feeter

FOLKLORE AND FIRESIDES of Hampton and Vicinity



Map—Mrs. Bowers. The House the Women Built. Where Sarah Hammond Mosley spent her long life and was found dead the day her application for a Revolutionary War widow's pension was granted.



"Folklore and Firesides of Hampton and Vicinity" was printed in 1941 by Linton Clark, of Abington, but owing to shortage of paper and other restrictions of World War II, publication of the Pomfret section of this book was delayed until this time.



NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
1950
Opened with 70 scholars



LITTLE RIVER GRANGE HALL
1906

FOLKLORE AND FIRESIDES of Hampton and Vicinity

CHAPTER I

THE JOSHUA TRACT

JOSHUA, third son of Uncas, gave by will the lands that became the town of Windham, to sixteen gentlemen of Norwich and neighboring towns. This tract was surveyed in May 1678 by Surveyor Richard Bushnell. It lay north of Mamosqueage (Lisbon) which lands Joshua had reserved for his children.

Bushnell led his surveying party up the old Indian trail known as the Nipmuck Path, to the tract specified in Joshua's will. The southern bounds followed the Nipmuck Path to the "wet flag meadows a little north of the path." This meadow the Indians called Appaquake. Here the surveyors lodged for the night, and next morning crossed through the woods ten miles to the Willimantic river. Soon after, another survey was made "to measure down eight miles from Appaquake, by the said Nipmuck Path . . . to a marked white oak at the end of said eight miles, on the west side of the path." This tract is finally described as "a tract of land lying to the west of Appaquake, east from the Willimantic River, south from Appaquake Pond, eight miles broad."

Our beautiful town of Hampton is the northeastern section of the original township of Windham. Appaquake School District is still the boundary line between Hampton and Pomfret. The "wet flag meadow" and "Appaquake Pond" now belong to the John Lewis farm.

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WINDHAM

Windham was first called "The Hither-Place." John Cates, the first settler, was a refugee from the English Crown. In the trackless wilderness in 1688 he and his negro servant lived in a cave before the coming of the first settlers who laid out their village west of the present Windham Green the following year. He then came out of hiding and became a respected citizen.

To the new town of Windham, Norwich gave freely of her sons who for more than a decade were content to remain in the fertile valleys of the Willimantic and Natchaug rivers. In 1708-9 a new settlement was begun in the northeast section of Windham by four Salem families, David Canada, William Shaw, Robert Moulton, and Edward Colburn.

Windham laid out a road through the "burnt cedar swamp" (Scotland) to the Nipmuck Trail that led to this settlement.

CANADA—LOOKING BACKWARD

Daniel, father of David Canada, like many of his time, considered that an "old settled community" like Salem in Massachusetts was becoming too crowded for the best interests of his six children, followed the emigration then moving into the new settlements of Connecticut. When Daniel arrived in Canterbury in 1709 the fertile valleys of the Quinebaug had been taken by the notorious land grabbers, James Fitch, Richard Bushnell, and the Tracys "by the Quinebaug or wheresoever it lay, and all for a song and a trifle," so that there was "nothing left but poor rocky hills and hungry lands such

as no wise man under Heaven would have ventured to settle upon."

Beyond these rocky hills was the Appaquage or Little River running parallel to the Quinebaug. The land between these rivers Canterbury claimed by right of purchase from Owaneco, second son of Uncas, but Windham had overstept the bounds of her first survey—which was bounded east by the Nipmuck Trail—and had taken a wide strip of Canterbury east of Little River to the old Westminster road, which then was a bridle path known as "the way to Woodstock and Norwich." By 1709 a few settlers were building homesteads near the "way," but Canada chose to push two miles farther into the wilderness, into the disputed tract claimed by Windham, and there bought one hundred acres of William More, then of Windham, but formerly of Norwich. Canada's purchase lay on both sides of Little River and was bounded by the Nipmuck Path which ran a little west of south following the west side of the river through Bigelow section of town.

There he built a dwelling evidently not for himself but for his two sons, Isaac and David, and daughter, Hannah, who were eager for adventure in the wild new country. Hannah, the eldest, was born Sept. 4, 1685; Isaac, January 21, 1687; and David, born July 7, 1693, was then a lad of sixteen. In a deep ravine a short distance from the site chosen for the dwelling is a never failing spring of water. Today the only trace of the dwelling is a tumbled down chimney and a medium size cellar hole.

Since the first habitation must needs have been of logs, and as the process of clearing the lands meant securing the timbers for a substantial building, one was

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undoubtedly built within the first decade. Benjamin Howard, a step-son of William More, (from whom the Canadas bought their lands), had settled two miles south on Little River, also in 1709, and had there built the first sawmill in the new settlement, at the site still known as Skinner's Mills. The Nipmuck Path that passed a half mile west of Canada's homestead provided a convenient "way" to the mill in the valley that still bears the name of Howard.

Three other families soon joined the Canadas in the wilderness; they were Edward Colburn, Robert Moulton, and William Shaw, all of Salem. The Moultons appear to have settled on the Frank Poliski homestead, and the Colburns further east. An interesting bit of history is handed down of the outcome of the long dispute over the lands between Little River and the old road between the towns of Canterbury and Windham. A new dispute arose between the towns and was carried on for years over who should care for Robert Colburn, son of the pioneer, who lived on land claimed by both towns, and on which Windham had collected all the taxes. Robert became demented after the death of his father, and was a town charge. He had married Hannah Canada in 1726, then a spinster of forty years. In 1754 Windham relinquished claim to much of the disputed territory, and the line was set at the present boundary, Canterbury having accepted the charge of Colburn. Thus we find that care of the poor was a great problem even at that early date.

William Shaw also settled on both sides of Little River, his land lying back of the old Holt and Litchfield farms. He was the grandfather of the ill-fated Elizabeth Shaw who was accused of leaving her new-

born infant to perish under the Cowantic Ledges in 1745, and was executed in Windham on Thanksgiving Day of that year. In the Windham Town Records we find a land transfer made by Shaw to Nath'l Farnum in 1737. The old cellar of this Shaw-Farnum dwelling remains, not far from the Litchfield burying ground which contains many Farnum stones. This dwelling was reached by a lane still existing between the Holt and Litchfield farms. William Farnum removed to what is given on present maps as Shaw Hill, where Elizabeth Shaw lived. The cellar of this dwelling may yet be found near Wolf Brook on land now owned by Elmer C. Jewett of Clark's Corners.

Of Isaac Canada we know little except that his name appears on the church records, and that he fought in the Indian Wars.

Of David, we know more. On November 5, 1718 he married Margaret Lambert, and to them were born six children: Sarah, October 13, 1720, Hannah, March 30, 1723; Elizabeth, June 4, 1726; David, March 28, 1728; Daniel, June 19, 1730; and John, November 18, 1732. According to the record given, David died the day his son, John, was born; he was forty years old. In that bleak November over two hundred years ago he was laid to rest on the sunny slope of the hill a few rods north of his dwelling. His widow, Margaret Lambert Canada, later married Nathaniel Phillips, who was born in Watertown, Massachusetts, May 2, 1703, the son of Jonathan and Sarah Holland Phillips.

David Canada was a respected citizen. His was the first plank house built in Hampton, and the first public house of entertainment. He was appointed surveyor for the first highways. His name does not appear on

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the church records, although his wife's does when it was formed in 1723. Three years after he came into the wilderness other men from Salem, Andover, and Chelsea, Massachusetts followed to be his neighbors, and in the vernacular of the times they named the settlement "Kennedy" in honor of David Canada, and the eminence where they began their settlement they called Chelsea hill.

Although his death was untimely David Canada lived through a very active period of Hampton history. There were then two inns in the parish, one kept by Martha Fuller, widow of Thomas Fuller, and the other by Nathaniel Hovey. The road known as Windham Road had been opened and brought much travel through the settlement en route to old Windham and Norwich. A store had been opened by Benjamin Bidlack where home-spun and farm produce could be exchanged for West India goods which were brought into the region either with ox-sleds or in barrels swung between two poles and dragged behind a horse. He had seen the old trails widen into unbridged "tote" roads so rough and impassable that it took a whole day to travel a few miles, which is the reason we find his lonely grave on the hillside near his home, although the old burying ground on Cedar Swamp Brook had been laid out at that date.

David Canada, Jr. as man settled in the western part of Hampton. His name can be found on the early Hampton records. We find John, the youngest, born on the day his father died, living in Westminster where, according to town records, he sold a portion of the late David Canada's estate to William Farnum, probably a descendant of the Nathaniel Farnum aforementioned.

In 1772 this land was acquired by Ebenezer Jewett, the Revolutionary ancestor of the Jewett and Pearl families. The old brick homestead of Ebenezer Jewett on the Brooklyn road has long been known as the Evans place.

The name of one David Canada, probably the son of David the pioneer, appears on the early town records of 1786. His home was in the western part of the town, on the road to the Nachaug schoolhouse, which was then in Hampton. The following epitaphs found in a Mansfield cemetery would indicate that this branch of the family attended church in Mansfield, which then included the present town of Chaplin:

*In Memory of
Mrs. Ruan (?) Canada
Who died December 29, 1819
Aged 88.*

And also a second stone:

*In memory of Mr. Daniel Canada
Who died February 26, 1819
In the 82 year of
his age.*

Another valuable bit of information is related by Hampton's fourth pastor, Rev. Daniel G. Sprague, who was installed in the church in 1824. "Hampton was incorporated as a town in 1786. It was mostly formed from the Second Society of Windham, which was formed as a society in 1720, and was called 'Kennedy' or Windham village. The place appears to have been named

8 FOLKLORE AND FIRESIDES

for a Mr. Kennedy, who with his family were the first settlers in the society. They located themselves about two miles south of the Congregational Church. It is believed that the first settlers (in the society) came into this town in 1708."

The following concerning Hampton's early history is taken from unpublished papers of William L. Weaver (1860), historian and genealogist: "Windham was incorporated in 1703, which was the beginning of 'Church and State'. Mansfield Society was set off in 1820. . . . In 1721 another society was set off in the northeast quarter of the settlement and the name of 'Kennedy' was given it, by reason of a family of Kennedys which resided in the section. The new society was near 'Appaquogue ponde' or the northeastern boundary of the tract granted by Joshua's will, and was variously called 'Kennedy' or 'Windham Village', and became at last the town of Hampton."

According to Weaver, who wrote the genealogies of the early Windham families, the Canadys (the true pronunciation) were early settlers of Rowley, Massachusetts in 1671. Their names are found in *Early Settlers of Rowley, Massachusetts*, and is often spelled Canada, Canady, Candia, and Kennedy.

8b

HAMPTON HILL

1. Congregational Church, built 1753. Then the great doors opened south. Pulpit on north, pews faced pulpit. In 1768 church was painted yellow, and pews turned around, as now. East entrance made 1796. Bell was presented to the church by Col Ebenezer Mosley, and steeple was raised. The fact that the "seets were turned round" no doubt adds to supposition that the "building had been turned around".

The old Mosley house is seen at the head of the "Great Street", shaded by a beautiful weeping elm.

2. Map—H. G. Taintor & Co. Hotel. Present owner Mrs. Ellsworth Davis. Chelsea Inn derived its name from Chelsea Hill, as Hampton Hill was called in early times. The broad common between the Inn and the Church was where "Peter's Spies" were forced to run the gauntlet, in 1774.

3. Map—S. S. Mosley. Built by 2nd minister, Rev. Mosley 1734-1791. Owned by Mrs. Frieda Angellott.

4. Map—S. Tiffany Store. Owned by Mrs. Arthur Flitts.

5. Map—Owned by Miss Genevieve Waters.

6. Map—R. S. Williams. Owned by Miss Fanny Ruddy.

7. Map—E. Mosley. Owned by Mr. Nathan Bennett. Old Gov. Cleveland residence seen on left.

8. Map—L. T. Button. Owned by Dr. Arthur D. Marsh.

8c

HAMPTON STREET 1

1. Map—H. G. Taintor. Owned by Roger Davis. Built 1790. Later owned by Patrick Pearl.

2. Map—Mrs. Pearl. Owned by Leighton Nosworthy.

3. Map—Mosley. Used for many years as Parsonage. Owned by Albert Mills.

4. R. D. Dorrance. Home of Hampton's Blacksmith, Henry Fuller. Shop north of house. Owned by Miss Esther Bates.

5. Map—C. C. Button. Owned by William F. Court.

6. Map—Wm. Brown, storekeeper. Owned by Miss Hortense Church.

7. Library, built 1860. Boyhood home of Rev. Sherrod Soule. See No. Bigelow and Litchfield. Later home of David Grinslit.

8. Map—C. F. Cleveland. Residence of Gov. Chauncey F. Cleveland, Connecticut statesman for many years. Owned by Miss Katherine Ahearn.

8d

HAMPTON STREET 2

1. Map—L. L. Foster. Owned by Mrs. Mildred Hibbard.

2. Map—L. Foster. Owned by Geo. Bridges.

3. Map—H. Fuller. Owned by Mrs. Alida Freeman. Built by Gov. Chauncey F. Cleveland.

4. Map—W. Clark. After 1870 the home of Wolcott Carey. Owned by Mrs. Nellie Sweet and Dr. Clarence Webster.

5. Map—D. Hughes. Present owners, left Harold Stone, right Mrs. Mary Brayman, Hampton's octogenarian, active at 103.

✓6. Map—Store. Owned by Robert D. Hastings. At left is home of Mrs. Annie Edmonds and Mrs. Leslie Mathews.

7. Map—J. R. Tweedy. Owned by Mrs. Harry Street.

8. Map—H. G. Taintor. Built in 1797. In the family 6 generations. Owned by Davis Estate.







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CHAPTER II

WINDHAM VILLAGE 1713 (CANADA PARISH)

THE first land distribution for Hampton was made in 1712, and the commanding site was the hill overlooking the valley where lay the little settlement of "Kennedy"; the village came into existence upon the hill long known as Chelsea Hill.

The nearest house of worship was in Windham where each Sunday these sturdy folk journeyed afoot or horseback. It was customary for one horse to transport several in a family, by taking turns walking and riding. But the way grew long and tiresome, especially since few of the number had ever belonged to the Windham settlement; there were no home ties between them, no warm handshakes from old friends and neighbors.

In 1715 - 16 petition was made, and granted, for a new parish to be set off under the name of Canada Parish. Windham was generous, not only in granting the request, but also returning two hundred pounds which had been paid toward the building of the new Windham meetinghouse. They also received "one-fourth of the John Cates legacy," the refugee from England, who sought safety from the spies of Governor Andross. A tombstone, probably the first in the Windham burying-grounds, commemorates his life and memory:

In
Memory of
Mr. John Cates.
He was a Gentleman, born
in England
And the first Settler in the
Town of Windham.
By his last
Will and Testament
He gave
Generous Legacy
To Ye first
Church of Christ in
Windham
In plate, and a generous
Legacy in land
For Ye support of Ye poor;
And another
Legacy for Ye support of Ye School
In sead Town forever
In Windham
July Ye 16th A. D.
1697

South and west bounds for the new parish were set as follows: "its south bound beginning at Canterbury line, to run westerly in the south line of Thomas Lassell's lot, and so in a direct course to Merricks Brook, and then the said brook to be the line untill it intersects the present road that leads from said town of (Canterbury) to the Burnt Cedar Swamp, and from thence a straight line to the brook (Ames Brook) that emptys into the Natchaug River about the middle of the six mile meadow (Mansfield)."

The new parish comprised all of the Windham territory north of Mansfield to Pomfret line. Only by aid of the oldest road maps and from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soil maps of Windham County has it been possible to locate the "Burnt Cedar Swamp" often referred to in bounds and locations. It appears to have been west of Kimball's mill, and about half-way between Windham and Hampton. The road from Windham to the Burnt Cedar Swamp probably passed through "Pinch Street" which led to the old Brook road to Clark's Corners, and also to the four corners at the top of the hill overlooking Howard's Valley. The swamp lay at the head of Cary Pond, and the cedars were much valued for building purposes; but while allowed to take for their own use, they were forbidden to take the cedars out of town.

The parish was finally set off in May, 1717, after the little settlement had struggled through the worst winter of which we have record. A terrible storm swept all New England, burying cottages to their chimneys. "There was a great loss in all domesticated animals, as well as to the wild creatures of the forest. Deer were found frozen to death, buried twenty feet under the snow. Great damage was done to the young orchards, by the snow freezing a crust even to the boughs, and the frost split them to pieces."*

Of the some thirty families who settled in the parish, it is probable that not more than half a dozen chose sites on the hill. The village began where the Bigelow road reaches the summit, and extended north and west. The first meetinghouse stood a little to the south of the present church; and a pound was built "for cattle doing

* Cotton Mather's Journal, BARBER'S HISTORY.

damage to crops" in "the great street near the meeting-house."

THE CHELSEA INN

This old inn took its name from the Hill, and was a most popular pre-Revolutionary public house of entertainment. That Nathaniel Hovey kept a public house before 1731 is apparent, for at that time one of the *bretheren* was brought before the church "accused of being overcome and disguised with strong drink; once on the highway, and again at the houses of Nathaniel Hovey and Benjamin Bidlock."

Windham Village was built along the first surveyed highway of 1705, as indicated on old road maps; but it was 1731 before Pomfret surveyed her road west of the Mashamoquet Brook to the Appaquake line, following closely the line of the old Nipmuck Path. This highway afforded direct travel to the Boston Post Road, across Pomfret Hill, and along which the first Pomfret village was built.

Through this highway came much patronage to the Chelsea Inn. In 1800 the inn was under the management of Charles C. Button. He was succeeded by Gilbert Snow in 1870; and Isaac Sanderson became proprietor during the building of the railroad. In 1874 Lucian Whittaker assumed ownership. While he and Mrs. Whittaker conducted the inn the grounds were tastefully kept, ablaze with autumn salvia which gave quiet beauty to the street. The stables were filled with well-groomed horses for the use of guests when city families spent weeks at the Hill-top Inn, and businessmen came to the county for quiet week-ends. A Mr. Curtis drove

the mail, and carried passengers to and from the railroad station.

Burdened with the weight of years, "Grandpa" Whittaker relinquished his business in 1902 to his son, Frank. In 1905 the inn again changed hands, and for the next thirty years prospered under the the capable management of Miss Anna Burnham until her death in 1936. The inn is now owned by Mrs. Charles Farnham, who has made many changes, — among them removing the wide piazza — and has renamed it The Martha Fuller Inn.

In 1810 there was only one inn in Hampton, but the coming of the turnpikes opened the Curtis Tavern in Howard's Valley, and the Clark Tavern at Clark's Corners.

CHAPTER III

THE FIRST ORDINATION

THE first pastor of the church was William Billings, a young Yale graduate from Preston. Like many ministers of that period he was willing to settle in a pioneer parish and grow up with the people. Although unfurnished, the meetinghouse was made ready for the greatest of all events, the ordination, the first church affair in the settlement, for around the little meetinghouse all the life of the neighborhood centered, both religious and civil.

A cluster of plank houses had replaced the first cabins of Windham Village. These houses were sparsely furnished. If two-story they contained four rooms, two on the first floor and two on the second. Wide-hearth fireplaces, the huge stone chimney in the center, warmed the big, bare rooms. These houses faced each other on "the great streat east and west." The street was laid out running north and south, with a broad common in the center where drill was held when a military company was formed in 1724 with Stephen Howard, captain, Nathaniel Kingsbury, lieutenant, Samuel Gardner, ensign, and sixty privates between the ages of sixteen and sixty.

Let us look back to the morning of June 5, 1723, when the sleepy little settlement awakened to celebrate

the success of their efforts to become an independent parish — the ambition of every pioneer community. Long before the first blush of dawn all was astir. Every brick oven in the parish had been filled with pies and puddings, and all manner of good things to be served at the dinner that always followed an ordination.

At an early hour people were arriving; friends were coming from miles around, and on horseback, toiling up the steep bridlepaths from the valleys, the wives riding on the pillion behind their husbands. Children in groups hurried along in suppressed excitement, for all must be quiet and orderly until after the services. Even the great barrel of cider carted by oxen to the meeting-house grounds was left unsampled until later.

All interest centered in the meetinghouse that was built in the approved style of the day, a long, low one-story building, with rows of small windows on the sides and front; three great plank doors opened to the south onto three broad aisles that led to the platform where rose the high pulpit opposite the entrance. At the foot of the pulpit were the seats for the deacons. At the east and west ends of the room the floor was raised about six inches for pews for the church dignitaries, for to sit in a pew was to be a "peer in the parish." The body seats were rude benches. There were no church furnishings, except one cushion, and that for the Bible to rest on.

Overhead the bare rafters shone clean. There was no chimney, for the Puritans valued their meetinghouses too highly to risk fires built in them, and they considered "red hot preaching should be enough to keep them warm."

Before the sun-dials indicated the hour of eight the congregation had gathered before the meetinghouse

awaiting the arrival of the ministers, for they must not enter the sanctuary ahead of them. Solemnly, with Bibles under their arms, the pastors walked between the lines of people up to the door, their quiet dignity enhanced by their long, black coats, white collars, and high hats. The deacons followed and took seats in front, at the foot of the pulpit. Last of all came the congregation and settled themselves on the hard, narrow seats for the long meeting. They enjoyed more than anything the singing, or rather the rendition of the psalms. The minister had the only psalm-book, so he read a line for the congregation to chant in any tune or key that might come to mind. The singing was awful at that period, as described by a rhymster and written on a panel of a pew door in the Salem church:

Could poor King David but for once
 To Salem Church repair,
 And hear his Psalms thus warbled out
 Good Lord, how he would swear.

But could St. Paul but just pop in,
 From higher scenes abstracted,
 And hear his Gospel now explained,
 By Heavens, he'd run distracted.

It was after the nineteenth century before our present hymns became a part of church service.

There were five reverend gentlemen present: Samuel Whiting of Windham, Eliphalet Adams of New London, Samuel Esterbrooks of Canterbury, Joseph Colt of Plainfield, and Ebenezer Williams of Pomfret. If the discourses were dry, and the singing bad, the dinner

was good; and after the last Amen had been said, all felt that they had done their religious duty and the rest of the day was theirs for a good time, for, Puritan religion consisted more in church attendance, and strict doctrine beliefs, than in refraining from all festivities. Thus we find that Ordination Day was not only a spiritual event, but also a day of merriment.

Where was the great dinner held? Perhaps at Nathaniel Hovey's Inn, in the spacious kitchen where always hung the steaming kettle over the fire. Or it may have been held in a new barn, swept and adorned for the occasion; for, the ordination ball in the evening was as much a part of the festivities as the dinner. We may presume that the dinner and ball were held in Mr. Durkee's barn. When the tables were cleared, and candlewood torches were aflare, the old-time fiddler, (who likely had learned his tunes in England), set all feet tapping to his music. It is recorded that at an ordination ball one Danvers young man danced so long and vigorously on the sanded floor that he wore out a new pair of boots. Whether the ministers attended, or approved, is not known, but they could not have objected very strongly. Undoubtedly the occasions were the beginning of many a romance, as the young maids would then put aside their straw bonnets which hid their pretty faces so completely. These bonnets, while the pride of the womenfolk, were the despair of the tithingman who could not catch them napping under their hats. Of this, the Rev. Whitney records, "He doth pleasantly say from ye Pulpit hee doth seem to be preaching to stacks of straw with men among them."

When the Rev. William Billings settled in the new parish he bought of Samuel Ashley one hundred acres

of land from the tract which extended along the Nipmuck Path and Little River to the summit of the Hill above North Bigelow, and on the hillside facing the common built his dwelling.

Rev. Billings' pastorate was not all harmonious, as he seems to have had difficulty with his discipline, one man being brought before the church for saying, "I would rather hear my dog bark than hear Billings preach." Others were brought before the church for being "overtaken with strong drink." But innkeeper Hovey or Benjamin Bidlack, storekeeper, who furnished the drink were not dealt with.

Pastor Billings' work for the parish was cut short by his death in 1733, just ten years after he had so happily taken the charge. He left a widow and four small children. His estate consisted of:

| | £. | S. | D. | | £. | S. | D. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|--------------|-----|----|----|
| Clothes | 24 | 4 | 2 | Bedding | 51 | 10 | 0 |
| Books | 48 | 10 | 7 | Indian Girl | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Horse | 22 | 0 | 0 | Farm & House | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Stock | 42 | 0 | 0 | Brass | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Furniture | 20 | 0 | 0 | Pewter | 8 | 7 | 0 |
| Cloth, yarn, flax | 20 | 0 | 0 | Iron | 10 | 4 | 0 |

Alone, Mrs. Billings found it impossible to support herself and children, and the year following her husband's death, she requested to be allowed the balance on her husband's salary, which was granted; she had barely enough provisions to last a week. But her problems were solved by marrying the second pastor, Samuel Mosley, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1729. Mr. Mosley is said to have been a man of dignity,

strict in discipline, and an able and earnest preacher. There is no record of the amount of his salary, but it is evident he looked well to his own good when he married the widow of his predecessor. A colonial minister had need of being a good business man as well as a scholar. All were obliged to till the soil, for "bread is earned by the sweat of the brow," and, "he that did not work, neither could he eat," were literal facts. Each man was dependent upon his harvests, and not upon the outside world.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN 1723

Members of the first church in 1723 were Rev. William Billings; deacons, Nathaniel Kingsbury, and Wm. Durkee; members, Ebenezer Abbey, George Martin, Joseph Jennings, Nathaniel Hovey, Samuel Ashley, John Clarke, John Durkee, William Durkee, Jeremiah Durkee, Thomas Marsh, William Farnham, John Scripture, Nathaniel Fline, Benjamin Bidlock. Within the next two years the following were united with the church, the community having grown rapidly: Daniel Holt, David Warren, Paul Abbot, Matthias Marsh, William Averill, James Utley, Daniel Button, Timothy Pearl, Robert Willis, Jacob and John Preston, Ebenezer Crocker, Nathaniel Woodard, Robert Holt, Ebenezer Martin, Joseph Badcock, Philip Abbot, Stephen Fuller, Nathaniel Parker, William Shaw, Jon. Hendee, Thomas Durkee, Samuel Colburn, Joshua Holt, Joseph Lasalle, Nathaniel Ford, Robert Colburn, Samuel Blanchard, Benjamin Preston, and David and Isaac Canada, sons of the first settler; his widow, Margaret's name is found on the lists, as well as a large number of wives and fam-

ilies of the above. There was also a number of residents not connected with the church.

Discipline was strict in the parish. In 1725 they voted, "We look upon every baptized person to be a subject of church discipline and ought to be called to an account by some church or other, whenever they offend."

Schools were established, and were held in private homes in different parts of the parish, a few weeks at a time; the teacher was paid a small sum for each day the child attended. The parish had its own selectmen and surveyors, so needed to go to Windham Center only for town meetings.

CHAPTER IV

REV. SAMUEL MOSLEY'S PASTORATE, 1734 - 1791

REV. MOSLEY developed the hundred acres into one of the best farms in the county. A thousand sheep once grazed upon these hillside pastures, and his cattle and swine were rivalled by none, in all the fifty-eight years of his pastorate. When he came to the village it contained not more than a half dozen houses. The womenfolk carried their foot-stoves to meeting, and men put bear skins on the floor, or bags were made of skins into which they thrust their feet, during the long meetings. And too, some brought the family dog to lie at their feet to add warmth to the freezing room. Dogs were taken to meeting until often a "dog-whipper" was necessary to keep them in order. There is record that in one New England parish, dogs set the congregation to rout by chasing into meeting one of those little animals which are so pungently offensive. This must have provided amusement for the "wicked boys" who were obliged to sit on the pulpit stairs to be kept quiet.

Like other ministers, Rev. Mosley owned slaves and had a devoted man-servant, Cuff, and Cuff's wife, Hannah. Their several children were baptized into the church as "the children of Hannah." Hannah had a vile temper, and threatened to kill her master. When Cuff warned Mr. Mosley, Hannah was traded to a neighbor,

Joshua Hamond, for adjoining land on the east. This incident caused much stir around the parish, one man declaring that he could already "see the horns of the pope." But the Reverend soon quieted the disturbance caused by "separating man and wife." Cuff remained faithful, and accompanied his master wherever he went. Tradition says that when Mr. Mosley went to Boston, Cuff started a few hours ahead, and was in Boston to take his master's horse. It is said that Cuff knew every one of his master's sheep by sight. When neighbor's sheep jumped fences and flocks became mixed, Cuff would mount a fence and as the sheep were driven past, one by one, not able to count, he would exclaim: "There goes one sheep, there goes tother; and there goes Masser Mosley's sheep," and he was never mistaken in the animals.

Cuff was also ingenious. A story is told that the Reverend undertook to make a "beetle". The piece of round wood would roll at each attempt to bore a hole for the handle. After exhausting his patience, he turned to Cuff, who was watching, yet not daring to offer unasked for advice, and exclaimed, "Cuff, how shall I make the beetle lie still?" "Put it in the hog's trough, Masser Mosley, put it in the hog's trough," advised the darkey.

It was customary for church Elders to gather their families for evening devotion just before sundown. It was late fall, and the huge fireplace had been filled with logs before the family and servants knelt around the hearth while the minister stood, beseeching the blessing of the Almighty. Growing weary of long kneeling with closed eyes, Cuff ventured a glance at the fire, where, to his horror, he saw a black snake crawl from the end

of the backlog, and stretch itself along the hearth. A moment later, a second appeared, and then a third. This was too much for the old negro, who believed that satan lived in the serpent. He sprang to his feet crying, "Stop praying, Masser, stop praying or the devil will come and carry us all off!"

The Mosley house still stands, and until in the late '80's, when it became the property of the late Addison Grinslit, it remained unchanged, with many small chambers in the ell used for slave quarters. Mr. Mosley does not appear to have held Hannah's children in bondage, as the census of 1790 credits Hampton as having only one slave, undoubtedly Cuff, Mosley's body servant.

Only two highways had been surveyed, and the country was infested with bears, wolves and other wild animals. Wolves were most dreaded, and bounty was paid for their heads. As the meetinghouse was the center for law and order, the animals were brought there to collect the bounty — fifteen shillings if alive, and ten shillings if dead. Some communities required the hunter to nail the head to the side or under the windows of the meetinghouse. In Hampton the inhabitants were ordered to "nayle it to a little red oak tree at the northeastern end of the meetinghouse." The wary wolf was not easily destroyed by musket or "wolf-hook." Israel Putnam killed the last wolf in Windham County in the winter of 1742 - 43.

On the meetinghouse green stood the instruments of punishment, the stocks, whipping-post, pillory and cage. Also, there were horse blocks: rows of stepping stones or hewn logs for mounting horses. The meetinghouse was not only used for worship, but for townmeeting and as a storehouse. Until after the Revolution, it was

sometimes used as a powder magazine, for, never having fire, it was a safe place for explosives. A "powder-closite" was built in the roof-beams; when a thunder storm came up the meeting disbursed for fear the place might be struck. Yet it is strange they built no powder-house, since they would not risk heating the meeting-house, and cut away every tree or shrub from their villages for fear of forest fire, or lurking enemies.

Grain was often stored in the church loft; hatches were provided for the corn to be paid toward the minister's salary.

Since the pastor was the one educated man in the parish, he was magistrate and teacher. The little schools held in farmhouses, at best taught hardly more than the three R's, so young men of the parish who aspired for more education, found it by entering the home of Mr. Mosley and studying with him. Thus as preacher, magistrate, and teacher he was indeed the first citizen. For fifty-eight years he baptized, married, and buried the people, and was looked upon as a father, sometimes an arbitrary father, but on the whole greatly beloved.

The first blacksmith set up shop (or coal-house) soon after Mr. Mosley came to the parish, in 1735. This was on the King's Highway, in Westminster; Windham claimed the territory east of Little River to this old road for many years.

It would seem to have been an out of the way place for a village smithy to establish himself, but it was on the main thorofare and convenient for shoeing horses of the many travelers. Every farm in those days had its own forge, but although much blacksmithing was done at home, the village smith was an important man in supplying pots and pans for housewives, all nails and

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HAMPTON HILL and NORTH HAMPTON

1. Map—Wm. Brown. Hampton Store, built about 1910 by Tom Roberts, store-keeper. There has been a store on this site for over a century.
 2. Catholic Church.
 3. Hampton Hill's second school house. Town Hall on second floor.
 4. Map—J. Brown. The Lester Burnham homestead. John Nigrelli, owner.
 5. Map—H. Hughes—Owned by Dr. Royal Farnum. Built by Rev. Ludovicus Weld, third minister, 1792-1824.
 6. Map—J. Cannon. The Lyman Baker House. Owned by Dr. Wilfred Pickles. See Hampton 1850.
 7. Map—L. Fuller. The Capt. Stedman House. Owned by Mr. Denny of Providence.
 8. Map—Copeland. The Andrew Rindge Place. Owned by Alex Marcus.
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24c

NORTHEAST HAMPTON 1

1. Map—G. Lathrop. Owned by Dr. Lindsley Cochue.
 2. Map—G. Lathrop. Owned by John Archer.
 3. Map—W. Utley. Owned by Mrs. Ada Hickey.
 4. Map—G. Lathrop. Owned by Mrs. Sarah Fuller.
 5. Map—E. S. Mosley. Owned by William Spicer.
 6. Map—Wd. Dennison. Old Kenyon Farm. Owned by Morton Burdick. Built before 1760, unremodeled. Throughout the years the farm has been under cultivation.
 7. Hemlock Glen, beauty spot of Hampton. Owned by Miss Sarah Fuller. On map as Rockwell's Mills.
 8. Bell School House.
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24d

NORTHEAST HAMPTON 2

1. Map—Grow. Owned by Frank Postemski.
2. Map—D. Darby. Owned by Elmer Stone. A Grow house in 1743.
3. Map—P. H. Pearl, owned by Andrew Polom. Timothy Pearl acquired the Appaqaage lot in 1713.
4. Map—J. M. Congdon, owned by Wendell Davis.
5. Map—Clapp. Built 1801. Owned by Herbert Preston.
6. Appaqaage School, moved to No. Bigelow Road, to be remodeled by American Legion 1949.
7. Map—H. G. Nye. Owned by Wilmer Jones.
8. Map—A. Martin. Owned by Morris Metcalf. Geo. Martin was resident in 1716.



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bolts, or iron used, and shoeing horses and oxen. In 1731 the highway (now Route 97 from Pomfret) was built, and was long called the Old Windham Road; it connected the new settlement with the Middle Post Road that crossed Pomfret.

An outstanding event of public interest during Rev. Mosley's pastorate was the tragedy of Elizabeth Shaw in 1745, the first public execution in Windham County. Elizabeth was the grand-daughter of William Shaw, Sr., one of the first four settlers. Her father, William, Jr., made his home on Shaw Hill; although old maps show it as Jewett Hill, west of Howard's Valley. History is silent about the circumstances leading up to the tragedy, except that the weakminded, fifteen year old girl, when about to become an unwed mother, stole away to the Cowantic Rocks to bear her child. When search was made by her stern father, the infant was found dead, hidden in a crevice. Perhaps the unhappy girl walked the two miles to these rocks, hoping to find some friendly Indian woman to help in her hour of need, for the Indians for centuries had made their winter homes beneath the shelter of these ledges, where overhanging walls are still black from smoke of their fires. History does tell of the birth of the male child, June 29, 1745, and that "she left it untill it perished for want of relief, and did endeavor to conceal the birth and death thereof, so that it should not come to light wheather said child were born dead or alive." For this crime she was hanged, December 18, 1745. This tragedy attracted wide attention, for the moral effect could not be overlooked since common belief centered in carrying out to the letter the Bible text, "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed . . ."; but they

overlooked the words of Him who said, "Let him who is without sin among you . . . cast the first stone." There is no record that her betrayer was sought out and punished.

In the period when Mr. Mosley was in charge of the church, the first seeds of American freedom were being sown. As all government pertained to the church, so it was that in the church the agitation began. The doctrine of Roger Williams had spread from Rhode Island to Connecticut. His *Proclamation of Liberty* against "the legal bondage of praying night and morning in family worship wheather persons felt in the spirit of prayer or not," and paying taxes to support the church, and the obligation of regular church attendance, brought about considerable controversey, when followers of "the New Light" rebelled against the authority of the established church. But it is to the credit of Rev. Mosley that his parishioners were not persecuted by fine, imprisonment or whipping, nor for non-attendance or refusing to support the church. In Old Windham and Canterbury so many were jailed for the cause that a new jail had to be built. On the church records of Hampton only one entry was made to the effect that it "looked upon those separating bodies of professing Christians in Plainfield, Canterbury, and Mansfield as scandalous and disorderly walkers, and accordingly withdrew communion from them."

We can understand the attitude of that day, for few men had even a common school education, except ministers—who were determined to hold the people in their power. The feeling for the oppressed is expressed in the writings of the Reverend Elisha Paine of Canterbury, one of the few educated men in the Separatist move-

ment; i. e., separation of church and state. While imprisoned in Windham jail for his preaching, under date of December 11, 1752, he wrote: "I can not but marvel to see how soon the children will forget the sword that drove their fathers into this land, and take hold of it as a jewel, and kill their grand-children therewith."

That Rev. Mosley's parish was not divided is shown by the building of a meetinghouse; the old one had become crowded and out of date. The congregation was enlarged by attendance of people from Pomfret who lived near Canada Parish (Hampton). In 1749 plans were drawn for a new meetinghouse. This move alarmed Pomfret, as her southwest inhabitants desired to be set off, and wished to help build the new church; although the residents of Elliott and Kimball Hill did not want to be set off in what later was to be Abington Society, and therefore, for a time, were taxed for the building of two meetinghouses — by Abington, where they rightly belonged, and by Hampton, where they preferred to attend. At length the present boundary was set between the two parishes, and those left on the Pomfret side were obliged to support Abington parish. This dispute hindered the building of the meetinghouse, and it was not completed until 1753, two years after Abington church was built. Thus to Abington goes the honor of having the oldest meetinghouse in Connecticut, now in use.

But Hampton may well have credit too, for the church, built by the twenty year old master-builder, Thomas Stedman, still stands, a monument to his craft. A massive sounding-board with the text, "Holiness is the Lord's," was suspended over the pulpit by a slender rod attached to the rafters. The sounding-board hung

dangerously near the minister's head as he stood in the pulpit. This sounding-board in the Hampton church, had "panels and balls, cords and tassels, with hanging fringe." The pulpit was as high as the gallery, so that the minister could watch the congregation from all points. Pulpits were boxed in, with a side door opening into a staircase that wound up to a trap-door. The arrangement was a source of amusement for the children, who counted the seconds when the minister entered until his head appeared through the trap-door. But if one were caught smiling, the tithing-man was empowered to administer punishment after meeting, on the church grounds.

By 1768 repairs were made on the meetinghouse; it was painted yellow, imitating the new church in Pomfret, which was the envy of the county. The seats were turned around, and pews were added in the north and south sides. The pulpit was placed in the east end, as it is now. About 1780 a bass viol was introduced into the services, and the spot where it stood in the south corner of the choir gallery is still visible. Some were shocked, and left the church; one member, Benjamin Jewett, declared that he could not attend where they "fiddled in the House of God."

In 1796 Col. Ebenezer Mosley, of Revolutionary fame, (Rev. Mosley's son), presented Hampton church with a bell. It was ordered rung at 9 o'clock at night, at noon, and at 8 o'clock Saturday; to be tolled for evening meetings, and give the day and month every evening. At times of death it tolled the age of the deceased. Clocks and watches had not come into general use, and the ringing of the bell was welcome, although many depended on sundials.

Four years prior to repairing the church, a dispute arose as to who should sit in the pews. The member entrusted with the delicate office of seating the congregation had allowed "men of little or no estate to sit in the forward and high pews; while others of good estate and high in public esteem were compelled with shame to take the lower seats."

Thus the galleries and body-seats were left thin compared to the pews. Youth sat in the galleries and the tithing-man was busy keeping them in order. Leading men of the parish were angry to find themselves crowded out of the "high places" by men who had not helped to build the meetinghouse. Finally a meeting was called, and it was voted to "sell the pews at public vendue, no man to buy more than one, and no man outside the Society to buy one. Captain Robert Durkee to serve as vendue master." Captain Durkee had served bravely in the French and Indian wars and was a fit man to face an aroused congregation. But alas, the high and mighty now found themselves in danger of being out-bid by those who would then choose their own seats in the house of worship. Excitement ran high when the parish assembled to hear the valiant captain shout the bids. John Hammond bid on a wall pew, saying that as he was a little deaf, and the sound of the minister's voice would strike the wall and bound back, he "could hear a great deal more perstinct."

Twenty-five pews were sold for prices ranging from fourteen pounds down to three. The lucky bidders were Jeremiah Utley, John Fuller, Hezekiah Hammond, Stephen Durkee, Timothy Pearl, Zebediah Farnum, Ebenezer Hovey, Captain John Howard, Ebenezer Griffin, Henry Durkee, Daniel Farnum, Thomas Stedman,

Jun., Isaac Bennett, Jephth Utley, William Farnum, Joseph Burnham, John Hammond, Benjamin Cheddle, Stephen Arnold, John Sessions, Jonathan Clark, Samuel Fuller, John Smith, Gideon Martin, and Isaac Clark. Some of these were leading men, while others who were "bachelors who had never pade rates for more than one head and a horse," obtained some of the best pews, which brought about further dissatisfaction.

By advice of the elders of the mother church of Windham, a second meeting was called April 21, 1763, and the vote four month before to sell the pews, was rescinded by a large majority, and pew owners were obliged to relinquish their pews. It was customary at that time, in the societies in Windham County, to include transfer of pews as a part of the personal property in the purchase or sale of farms. We are not told whether the money was refunded to the bidders when the new committee reseated the congregation according to wealth and church standing at the close of the Revolution

Rev. Mosley was not able to attend the celebration service held on Windham Green, for in the closing years of his life he was confined to his bed. His congregation was faithful to him, and he remained in pastoral charge although young men were called to supply the pulpit.

In the hurricane of 1815, Hampton's church lost its spire, as did most of Windham County churches. When stoves were introduced into churches about 1825, they were usually placed in the vestibules, one on each side of the door; pipes extended through the church to chimneys at the rear of the building.

FIRST SCHOOLS

School districts were first set off in 1763. District No. 1 began at Rev. Mosley's on the Hill and ran west to the highway, crossing Cedar Brook, and taking in Robinson Hill (then Fuller's Hill); the line continued southwesterly to the parish boundary (the burnt cedar swamp west of Carey Pond on Merrick's Brook). This wild tract lay between "upper road" to Scotland and Clark's Corners.

The schoolhouse in District Number 2 was built just north of Cedar Swamp Brook, about opposite the present Fish and Game Club; the district included Howard's Valley and South Bigelow neighborhoods. The building was rough plank typical of the period, and after the present South Bigelow and Howard's Valley schoolhouses were built after 1800, it was used for many years by different sects for meetings.

North Bigelow District was third, and extended to the northeastern line, Alwarth Hill, which is now partly in the towns of Brooklyn and Pomfret. Three miles was not considered a long walk for hardy youngsters, although in heavy storms ox-teams came to the schoolhouses to take the children home; buried deep in straw they rode in a degree of comfort.

District No. 4 was the Clark's Corners school. This district was so large another schoolhouse was built in what is now South Chaplin, where the first settler, Benjamin Chaplin, had settled by the Natchaug, and a small community had sprung up.

In 1774 the Appaquake district was set off and the present schoolhouse built on the edge of the highway, with no playground provided.

About this time the Natchaug district in the northwestern end of the parish was provided for the ten families in this remote section. The census of 1790 ascribed to Hampton 1,332 whites, and one slave, (Cuff, belonging to Rev. Mosley); there were then 189 houses in the parish.

Hampton had been slow in establishing schools, although meagre schooling had been maintained in farmhouses and alternating from one side of the parish to the other, parents and the town paying for the employ of teacher. The term "keeping school"—decidedly New England—no doubt originated from this practice.

The Bell and Howard's Valley schoolhouses were built at a much later period.

The two brick school buildings of North and South Bigelow were built of brick made at the kilns on the old Litchfield farm. Within the past few years these schools have been closed for lack of scholars, and the buildings are now used as dwelling-houses.

CHAPTER V

DURING AND AFTER THE REVOLUTION

HARDLY had schools been established before the clouds of war again settled over the town, and the men who had fought in the Indian wars took up arms, and led the new recruits to fight for freedom.

Captain Ebenezer Mosley led a company to Bunker Hill, and later, marched 1,092 men from Windham and New London counties to the defense of Providence.

When post riders brought the few letters from the nearest postoffice, New London, crowds gathered at the inn for tidings of war. Bonfires were used to signal from hilltops. On Killingly Hill a Liberty Pole was erected, and to its crossbars a kettle of burning tar was hoisted to warn the surrounding communities.

With nearly every able-bodied man gone to war the women and children faced the ordeal of food shortage. Salt, valued at six dollars a bushel, must be had not only for household use, but for curing meats. Another item was molasses, used in place of sugar. Ebenezer Griffin, Jr., — whose home was the old landmark once owned by Alfred Kimball — transported cattle, butter, and cheese with ox-team to Providence and Massachusetts. These were long journeys, but supplies must be obtained in harbor towns. The incident of the Brig Nancy, captured by people of Stonington, and freight

of nineteen thousand gallons of molasses used as money, shows the scarcity of that period.

Peddlers who formerly had been welcome callers with merchandise not obtainable elsewhere, were now looked upon as public nuisances, and (as in Ashford) were often picked up and sentenced to hard labor.

Jeremiah Clark, of the Clark's Corners family, had opened a little trade with Newport, exchanging domestic commodities for sugar, molasses, and other staples brought inland in two boxes slung in a bag across the back of his horse. Unjustly suspected of smuggling tea into the town, his neighbors intercepted him on a return trip with tar and feathers; but he was released when they failed to find the forbidden though innocent herb in his pack.

One noteworthy incident of these times was the capture of *Peters' spies*. The Reverend Samuel Peters of Hebron, a loyal Episcopalian, in the fever of 1774, from his pulpit told his flock to take up arms against this High Treason, and "insulted the grand Cause of Liberty by calling it rebellion." This brought down upon him a storm of protest from the whole country-side. On September 6, a crowd gathered around the Reverend's house where he and friends were barricaded. From a window Rev. Peters proceeded to plead his cause, declaring that there were no arms in the house except two guns out of repair. Suddenly a shot was heard from within the house; the indignant patriots tore down the barricade and found all well armed. They demanded that he draw up and sign a satisfactory declaration and confession. He refused; accordingly, he was seized, put into his own ox-cart and hauled to the horse-block, upon which he was forced to stand and read a confes-

sion written for him. Soon after, Rev. Peters left for Boston, and in November sailed to England. To his mother in Hebron, and to New York friends, he sent letters by two friends who had accompanied him to Boston. These messengers stopped in Hampton at the Chelsea Inn. Here they were intercepted by a party of patriots, questioned and allowed to depart. Not far on their way a man behind a fence heard them say that "they might yet be searched before they got home, might be brought into trouble, and therefore had better hide the letters." From his hiding-place the man saw them alight and hide the letters in a stone fence. The letters were found, and quickly horsemen were dispatched to overtake the messengers. They denied knowledge of the letters, offering to so declare upon oath; but when shown the letters, were forced to admit the truth. The exact spot where the letters were hidden is not known, but it was likely along the wayside between Hampton Hill and Windham Center.

Immediately a court was held to decide proper punishment. The rancor of the letters tempered the indictment; to his mother Rev. Peters had written, "Six regiments are coming from England and sundry men-of-war, and as soon as they come hanging work will go on; destruction will begin in seaport towns — lintels sprinkled on the side-posts would preserve the faithful." To Dr. Auchmuty in New York, he wrote, "the clergy of Connecticut must fall a sacrifice to the rage of the Puritan Mob-ility, if the old Serpent, that Dragon is not bound . . . Spiritual iniquity rides in high places, halberds, pistols and swords . . . Their rebellion is obvious, and treason is common, and robbery is their daily devotion. The boundary of New York may directly extend to

Connecticut. Boston must then, and Rhode Island, be swallowed up as Dothan."

The convicted tale-bearers, beset by the angry crowd, begged in vain for mercy; ordinary delinquents might have drawn sentence to the public whipping-post, but the offense was serious and a heavier penalty was demanded, for news of the capture had spread so rapidly the country-folk had gathered from miles around. The prisoners must "run the gauntlet." Straightway the crowd formed opposing lines from the meetinghouse, across the street and green to Hovey's Inn, and Peters' unfortunate emissaries were kicked, cuffed, pushed, and booted, with all the insult malice could conceive, down the lines. It was a red letter day for Hampton. The incident reveals that the old Chelsea Inn occupied the same site as the present inn.

Before the outbreak of war in 1771 some of the best men of the parish had emigrated to the far off Wyoming Valley, in Pennsylvania. Among the first were Stephen Fuller and Capt. Robert Durkee; young Ebenezer Jewett moved the Durkee family by ox-sled to this "far west."

Conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut, in 1762-3, over ownership of this region had brought about defeat to the Pennymites, and opened the Valley to peaceful settlement. So glowing were the reports of the new country, so free of stone and rugged winters so common back home, that "emigration raged for a time like an epidemic, and seemed likely to sweep away a good part of the population." But while the Pennymites had been conquered, the settlers had not reckoned on the Indians, and dark days awaited them.

In 1778, when people of Windham began to take

heart, with the coming of the French to aid their stand for liberty, tidings came of the awful massacre in the Wyoming Valley. Among the killed were Capt. Robert Durkee, Robert Jameson, Andrew Dana, George Dorrance, James Bidlack, Thomas and Stephen Fuller, Stephen Whiton, John Abbot, Samuel Ransom, Elisha Williams, Timothy Pierce, and John Perkins, all barbarously butchered, their homes burned, farms ravaged, and families driven out naked into the wilderness. The settlement was ruined.

Anxiously at home relatives waited for tidings from members of their households. Weeks passed; then one by one stricken families came back to Windham and Hampton. Mrs. Stephen Fuller, and Mrs. John Abbot, each with nine children, begged their way to their old homes in Hampton, Mrs. Fuller on horseback, with her daughter, Polly. Mrs. Anderson Dana, with her widowed daughter, and six younger children walked all the way to her old home in Ashford. Mrs. Elisha Williams, after losing her husband, two sons, and a son-in-law in the massacre, came, barefoot and starving, with her five children, to her father's home in Canterbury.

In the Spring of 1771, New England suffered an extraordinary flood, caused by a great accumulation of ice in the rivers — not unlike the flood of 1936 which damaged or carried away nearly every bridge in Windham County. All bridges along the Natchaug, Willimantic, and Shetucket were swept away; most roads were impassable, and travelers were obliged to go miles out of their way, and risk the danger of being drowned in attempting the available fording-places. Windham refused to rebuild the bridges, as they were on the outskirts of town and did not accommodate townspeople to

any extent. Thus five "cart-bridges" were left unbuilt until, by order of the General Assembly, Windham was ordered to do so. The people of Hampton were forced to bear their share of the extra taxation, which, added to the demands of the mother country, was a burden, indeed.

The *Phenix* or *Windham Herald*, a small, four-page paper, printed by John Byrne, on a grayish linen, appeared March 12, 1791. The printing office was just north of the Windham Court-house. In a few years the newspaper had gained twelve hundred subscribers. For fifty years weekly deliveries were made throughout the county by Thomas and Samuel Farnham, and Jonathan Ashley, Jr. When bent and gray, they would refuse rides, saying that they could make better time afoot.

The newspaper was made up largely of advertisements of merchants and farmers — James Howard of Hampton was advertising a "beautiful bright bay stallion, Light Infantry, fifteen hands high. Imported from England," under date of May 11, 1793 — also, foreign and other news from three weeks, to three months old.

In 1795 a postoffice was established in Windham, at the printing office; John Byrne was postmaster. In January of that year a postoffice had been opened in Pomfret, the first on the Middle Post Road between Boston and Hartford. Unclaimed letters were advertised in the *Windham Herald*, even mail for Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Hampton, Mansfield, and Killingly. Postage was high; five cents, within the State, and fifteen to twenty cents for foreign or "far west." The receiver paid postage, and only business letters were prepaid.

CHAPTER VI

HAMPTON DOCTORS

DR. JOHN BREWSTER was the first resident physician, in 1755. For many years previous Windham had been cared for by Mrs. Hannah Bradford Ripley, a descendant of the Plymouth Governor — a remarkable woman, skilled in healing and midwifery. She was succeeded by Dr. Richard Huntington, who had been her understudy.

In 1829 prominent doctors were Brewster, Houlton, and Hovey. A Dr. Dyer Hughes practiced in Hampton from 1830 to 1881. He was an interesting character of the old school, making his rounds on horseback with his pill boxes in saddle-bags. A call in town was twelve and a half cent; and to Abington, six miles, his fee was twenty-five cents. Even at such low rates he accumulated a fair substance and maintained a fine home on the Hill. Dr. Robert Potter (1845 - 1862), and Louisa Potter (1845 - 1866), botanic doctors, lived in the homestead now owned for more than fifty years by Lester Jewett, present home of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Albert Hoffman, (Vera Jewett).

Other practitioners were Drs. George W. Avery, 1863; Charles H. Warner, 1871; Daniel L. Hazen, eclectic, 1874 - 5; Charles Gardner, 1876 - 84; W. H. Dunham, 1886; Harvey H. Converse, 1886 - 91; H. M. Bannister, 1893 - 5; and L. W. Spencer, 1895 - 1910. Dr.

Spencer took much interest in the grounds about his home. The lawns of the several houses in which he lived in Hampton still show his fine landscaping.

Dr. Amos Avery, 1903-07, owned the first automobile in Hampton. It was a long, buck-board affair, without windshield or top; a five gallon gasolene can was mounted on the rear. It no doubt attained a speed of twelve to fifteen miles an hour in dry weather, but on wet roads the doctor made his rounds with a faithful roan and buggy.

Dr. Arthur D. Marsh, the present resident physician, came to Hampton in 1912. Aside from two years service in the World War, when he was replaced by Dr. L. F. Cochue, 1918-1920, he has been the leading physician, rendering faithful service to a wide territory.

GOVERNOR CLEVELAND

Hampton is justly proud of many of her sons, among them Chauncey F. Cleveland, whose tomb is in the old South Burying-ground.

His public life began in his home town as a member of the militia, his "military bearing and affable manner" made him popular, and he advanced rapidly from the ranks to the highest military honor in the State, that of General. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congressman, and Governor of Connecticut by 1842. He was active in temperance, and an abolitionist. He recommended care of the insane poor by the state. Through his efforts laws were enacted to prevent children under fourteen working more than ten hours a day, and a law requiring children to attend school at least three months out of the year. It may be said that

The Legends below refer to the following
pages of pictures.

40a

40b

BIGELOW 1

1. Map—A. M. Litchfield Mills.
 2. Map—A. M. Litchfield, now torn down.
 3. Map—E. Parks. Owned by William Robbins.
 4. Map—S. G. Holt. Owned by Fred Greenman Estate.
 5. Map—M. L. Guild. Owned by Mrs. John Murphy.
 6. Map—H. C. Litchfield. Had blacksmith shop in basement. Owned by Stanley Weaver.
 7. Map—E. Ashley. Old Samuel Ashley Homestead. Owned by George Miner.
 8. Map—R. Ashley. Owned by Peter Engels.
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40c

BIGELOW 2

1. North Bigelow school house. Owned by Mrs. Morton Tiley.
 2. South Bigelow school house. Owned by Carleton Tenney.
 3. Map—A. M. Litchfield. Owned by Frank Styert.
 4. Map—Thompson. Owned by Miss Dora Thompson.
 5. Map—J. Fuller. Owned by Mrs. Alice Cary.
 6. Map—D. Fox. Owned by James Rodriguez.
 7. Map—H. H. Hammond. Girlhood home of Sarah Hammond. See The House The Women Built. Owned by William Lackenbauer.
Site of the North Cemetery was given at beginning of Parish by Hammond family.
 8. Gravestone of Dec. Nathaniel Mosley, son of Priest Mosley and father of Uriel Mosley. See The House The Women Built.
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40d

SOUTH BIGELOW

1. Map—Neff. Owned by Theodore Leveque. Last house standing of beginning of Hampton settlement.
2. Map—Evans. Home of 3 generations of Jewetts. Property of Howard Way. Burned in 1945.
3. Lonely grave on the Canada Purchase lands.
4. The late Chester Jewett standing by cellar hole of the home of first settler, David Canada.
5. Map—Mrs. Jackson. "Popover Hill", owned by Raymond E. Ostby.
6. Map—Avery. Many years the home of David Weaver. Owned by T. E. Stensland.
7. Map—J. Holt. Owned by Mrs. Helen Spaulding Fuller, granddaughter of Geo. Holt. This original Holt homestead razed many years ago.
8. Map—E. Whiting. A Holt-Grinslit homestead. Owned by G. E. Merrill.



1 2



3 4



7



1 2



3 4



5 6



7 8



he was one of the first promoters of free education, father of the state child labor laws, a friend of the poor, and of "the under dog." It is probable that the misfortune of William Ashley, — who, at the age of ten, lost the use of his right hand by injury while working in a Danielson cotton mill, — prompted Governor Cleveland to sponsor child-labor legislation.

Most court cases of early Hampton were disputes over land, religion, or debts. Men were jailed for debt, and made to work out the amount. In one instance in Hampton a man's body was attached for debt, and removed from his home to prevent burial before the debt was paid. The poor widow went to the creditor, a prominent townsman, and after taking leave of the body simply requested it be given decent burial. When the creditor found that nothing could be gained, he returned the body to the family. The incident, tradition says, aroused Governor Cleveland, who was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the poor debtors law.

Another illustration of the cruel effects of the poor debtors law is shown in the case of Judge Thomas Chandler, a native of Woodstock. He had removed to Vermont in 1761, just in time to be involved in troubles between the King's Court and the Freemen, over setting off Vermont from New York State. Thus gaining the reputation of Tory, did not help him in time of need.

In his old age he became impoverished through land speculations, and was put in Westminster prison by his creditors. According to law, then, if a debtor died in prison, whoever removed the body beyond the grounds, could be regarded an accomplice to an escape; for if the body were buried by a friend, that friend would be responsible for the debtor's obligations. Under

these conditions Judge Chandler lay in his cell, unburied, for the indebtedness was too much for friends to pay.

At last, when conditions had become unbearable, the jailor, Nathan Fisk, found a way out of the difficulty. Adjoining the jail-yard was the Westminster Burying-ground. A grave was begun in the jail-yard, and directed obliquely under the fence to a sufficient depth; during the night Fisk, aided by friends, buried the body in a rude pine box in the Westminster Church yard, by a pardonable evasion of the law.

The irony of the tragedy was, that the Legislature had granted a release for Judge Chandler four days before he died, but death came before he could be removed from prison.

The Clevelands were descendants of Moses Cleveland, an apprentice to a joiner, who came from England in 1648; and according to tradition, there was Pequot blood in the ancestor who came to Canterbury in 1703.

As a young man Silas Cleveland in 1780, during the Revolution, went to Bethel, Vermont, looking for a homestead. While working in the woods with David Stone, they were captured by a band of Indians and taken to Montreal. Silas was so copper-colored the Indians took a fancy to him and dressed him in paint and feathers. Six months later he was put by the British in a prison called the stone jug, a few month later was exchanged, and returned to Hampton, where he died in 1793. Stone was killed by the Indians.

The Indian likeness was also strong in Moses Cleveland, founder of Cleveland, Ohio; so much so that in Indian dress "they were ready to receive him as a brother." Of Governor Cleveland a story is told that as

a lawyer the opposing attorney challenged his knowledge of the law; Cleveland replied, "I want you to know that I am the best read lawyer in the state." The other retorted, "Yes, and the *only* red lawyer!"

Of Governor Cleveland, Joel Fox wrote: In 1840 Dr. Price from Florida came to Hampton to secure a runaway slave girl, and made an effort to employ attorney Cleveland, who refused, saying he would not take the case if Price filled his office with gold. Price employed Jonathan Welsh. Cleveland was moved to volunteer his services for the girl, and won her freedom.

DESCENDANTS OF OLD FAMILIES

Now, in 1940, there are still living in Hampton the following seventh generation descendants of pioneers: Farnhams, Fullers, Pearls, Holts, Ashleys — all originally from Andover, Ipswich, and Rowley, Massachusetts in 1712. The Jewetts came from Rowley about 1732. The Burnhams came to Ipswich in 1642, first settled in Saybrook and Guilford, and came to Hampton before 1750. The name Andrew Burnham appears among Captain Howard's company of Cavalry in 1758 (French and Indian War).

Of the Burnham descendants are Lester, and son, Jesse, now living on the old William Bennett place at the south end of Hampton street. The pioneer Burhams settled along the upper road to Scotland; the Joseph Burnham home is now owned by Mrs. Ellen Kemp, and the George Burnham homestead — once owned by Warren Burnham, then by Patrick McLaughlin — is now owned by a Mr. Wendziersyk.

The early Farnhams (or Farnums) were among the

largest land owners. They were descendants of Ralph Farnham, who came to Andover, Massachusetts, from Wales in 1658. The pioneer homestead is now owned by Mrs. William Harvey.

In 1907 Hampton's old blacksmith shop closed. It had stood from earliest times at the north end of the long street. Henry Fuller, who began his trade when ten years old, was the last of the old time blacksmiths. As Benjamin Franklin said, "He that hath a trade, hath an estate; and he that hath a calling hath a place of profit and honor. A plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees."

JEWETT AND PEARL FAMILIES

Benjamin Jewett II, a blacksmith, settled in Canterbury in 1732. He became a follower of Col. Godfrey Malbone, founder of old Trinity church (Brooklyn), and his name is inscribed on the tablet on the church. His eldest sons, Benjamin III, and Ebenezer, both blacksmiths, settled in Hampton on the upper road that once connected Howard's Valley and Clark's Corners. Ebenezer served under Captain Josiah Hammond when Gage was fortifying Charlestown Neck. The war over, he married his captain's daughter, Abigail Hammond, sister of Sarah Hammond Mosley of "The House the Women Built." Ebenezer settled homestead lands (given in return for military service) on the hills east of Hampton, now Route 6. The old dwelling was bricked over in 1840. His son, Ebenezer III, was the forebear of the present Jewett and Pearl families. He was a wheelwright and carpenter. Wagons he built were in use a hundred years. He was builder of the Bell schoolhouse, and the

exhibition buildings at Brooklyn fair-grounds; also, the first framed house in town, the Asa Burnham homestead or better known as the Demming place. The date, 1823, is cut in the brick of one of the end chimneys.

There was doubt as to the ability of young Ebenezer II to raise the new building, and a large crowd gathered to see it go up. Success and romance crowned the efforts of the young builder that day, for the building went up without a hitch; and here he met Nancy Jennings, the girl of his choice. Her father had jokingly told her that if the young builder, (whom she had not met), proved his ability, she might marry him.

Their eldest son, Ebenezer III, spent most of his life far from home as a Baptist minister, but returned in his last years to the old Bennett homestead in Howard's Valley. His keen memory was a storehouse of folklore, and to him, the author, his daughter, is indebted for much information concerning early days.

Allen and Lester Jewett, his brothers, lived near Clark's Corners. Allen purchased of Solomon Smith the old John Clark place on the "camel back" or Smith road, where he spent most of his life as a farmer, store-keeper, and station agent; for twenty-five years he was postmaster.

Of his two sons, Wallace went to California; and Elmer has remained in Hampton. As a youth he taught local schools, and has long been a leader in public affairs. For some years he was station agent at Chaplin Depot.

The Pearl families of Hampton are descendants of Timothy Pearl, pioneer of 1712, through John and Maria (Jewett) Pearl, daughter of Ebenezer Jewett II.

The late Austin Pearl was postmaster eight years

during Wilson's administration. His two sons, William and Reuben, are veteran R. F. D. mail carriers.

The two routes in Hampton were established in 1903. Twenty-five miles a day was a hard drive, so two horses were used, alternating daily.

William Pearl, Jr., is of the eighth generation to remain in Hampton.

A PIRATE STORY — BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In late years the Jewett homestead has been known as the Cady place. Mr. Cady lived alone, and before his death in the Fall of 1939, he talked of pirate treasure buried on the place; for a man had appeared with an old map, and claimed descent from the buccaneer Teach. Landmarks were identified; and agreeing to share the find, the men excavated a sizeable pit. One evening the man failed to bring the tools to the house as usual. The next morning at the pit Cady found the tools and his friend's boots, as though discarded in a hurry. Whether treasure was found is not known.

Why were pirates so far inland? Mr. Cady had the answer. Between 1713 - 18 Edward "Blackbeard" Teach was pirating West Indies shipping, and he may have anchored off New London, come up the Nipmuck Path, either to reach Boston, or more probably evade pursuit. Near the Canada settlement the party crossed easterly to strike the North and South Road, later the King's Highway, which led to the Connecticut Path to Boston, or to double back to New London by the east route, originally the Tatnick Trail from Worcester to Norwich.

That the landmarks co-incide with the pirate's map is noteworthy; at least four are easily identified. In the

door-yard is the first marker, the stone shaped like a horse's head. Following a southeast-by-south line across the road the next marker is a boulder, perhaps chipped purposely, resembling a dog's head, pointing south. Crossing a small brook, and bearing to the right, is the fish's head; an eye, realistically placed on the low stone, looks directly to the pit just twenty paces due south.

The wood's path is likely the old pioneer wagon road and may have been the Indian trail by which the pirate band crossed to escape pursuit.

The pit presents a mystery. Fully eight feet deep, the walls are perpendicular slabs of granite, too well placed, seemingly, to have been natural formation. This vault measures about five feet square, and four feet deep. Mr. Cady said that timbers were rigged to hoist a flat capstone which topped the vault.

CHAPTER VII

THE HOUSE THE WOMEN BUILT

WHILE Woodstock has its Pulpit Rock, Pomfret its Wolf Den, Brooklyn its historic churches, Canterbury its Crandall House, Windham its Frog Pond, Hampton has "The House the Women Built," a monument to the energy and courage of the women of the Revolution, and a tribute to the romance of Sarah Hammond and Uriel Mosley.

Young Uriel had felled the timbers for his house, and returned the lumber from the sawmill to the site on land given by Sarah's father, Captain Josiah Mosley.

All was in readiness when Uriel was called to arms and marched away in a company of Hampton men. The twenty year old bride-to-be, and future mother-in-law decided to build the house; and with the help of a one-legged carpenter, a broad-ax and chisels, the two women set to work. The day of the raising brought women in numbers. It is doubtful whether this event could be duplicated; maids and matrons, working like men, hoisted beams, and joists, which, mortised and pinned, went into place like clock-work. Their homespun, ankle-length dresses of bright red, yellow and blue, contrasted pleasantly with the brown and black attire of the older women.

On the cleared slope before the new house, a bountiful dinner was spread on rude tables. Mother Mosley

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had dressed a sheep, a quarter of which the good Reverend had blessed for the occasion. No doubt he, too, was present, for he was Uriel's uncle, and it would be he who would say the long grace, at the head of the table.

In the midst of this gaiety the hills re-echoed the sound of the post rider's horn, bringing them tidings from New London. In the excitement it was learned that young Uriel had been wounded in battle, and Sarah, the true Revolutionary maiden, mounted a horse and sped away to find her lover.

Eventually she brought him to the House the Women Built — they were married September 15, 1788 — and here they lived half a century, and reared their children. Uriel passed away before her, and she was granted a soldier's widow's pension, which she was not privileged to receive, as death claimed her the day the pension was granted.

Uriel was the son of Deacon Nathaniel Mosley, whose memory would long since have been lost were it not for facts concerning his headstone in the North Burying-ground.

The Nathaniel Mosley homestead stood on the east side of the street, south of the Governor Cleveland house. It passed to the ownership of strangers about the late nineties.

APPROPRIATED A MILE-STONE FOR A GRAVE-STONE

Much has been written about strange or ludicrous epitaphs; and Hampton has one in its North Burying-ground. On the western slope are many field stones used before 1800 as crude markers in family plots. Here

for more than a century stood the Deacon Nathaniel Mosley stone, apparently no different than the others, cut in the Eighteenth Century pattern with the hideous face of a rising sun engraved near the top.

Deacon Nathaniel, thriving farmer on Hampton Hill, was wont to haul his produce, beef and pork, to Boston with four-ox-team, more than seventy miles, taking a week for the round trip. On one of these journeys he brought home a mile-stone, had it cut and lettered, and set in his burial lot. The Deacon passed on to his reward in 1788. The riddle of how the pious Deacon came by the stone is hidden in the contradictory inscriptions; for a home-seeking woodchuck, not long ago, burrowed under the stone, and exposed an earlier inscription, that perhaps the Deacon did not intend for a postscript:

*In Memory of Deacon
Nathaniel Mosley
who departed
This life March
ye 3rd 1788 in ye 73
year of his age*

*Memorio Mori
Blessed are ye dead
That dieth in ye Lord
There works do follow
with a suer reward*

*To Worcester
Left Hand Road
To Boston
Right Hand Road*

THE HAUNTED HOUSE

There is scarcely a town in New England that has not some time in its history a legend of a haunted house. Hampton is no exception. Only the cellar-hole is left of the century-old gambrel-roofed house in the southern part of Howard's Valley, just east of the Three Bridges, on the road to Canterbury. For many years it stood empty, with sunken door-sills and gaping window frames. Tradition says that more than a hundred and twenty-five years ago a peddler was murdered in the old house; anyhow, he disappeared mysteriously, after having lodged in the house, and when uncanny sights and sounds were heard, his memory was revived — his uneasy ghost haunted the place.

One story goes that a family had moved out because of the weird noises at night. One day, going into the cellar, the woman noticed a sword protruding from the thick walls of the chimney. Wondering that she had never noticed it before, she tried to pull it out; an awful groaning and shuddering sounded throughout the house. Terrified, she fled upstairs and told her husband, who went to the cellar, but failed to see the sword; although he had heard the groans and moans. Naturally, they moved out as soon as possible.

The next family, the Ebenezer Jewetts, had even a more terrifying experience. Sounds such as the drip of water from the ceilings were heard at day and night. The front door, which opened into a small entry, could never be kept fastened all night, no matter what pains were taken to lock it securely. Nails driven over the latch would be removed; a knife placed as a wedge to prevent the latch being lifted, would also prove futile,

the door was always found unlatched when morning came.

In the night, all through the house, the latches would rattle mysteriously. Upon investigation, the rattling would cease, but commence in another part of the house.

East of the entry opened a long room. Before the south, front window Mrs. Jewett kept her spinning-wheel. Her bed stood against the east wall, opposite a fireplace built into the big center chimney. One evening when some neighbors had come into the kitchen, she opened the door from the kitchen into this bedroom to take out an extra chair. Her seven year old daughter, Laura, followed, as did also the child's small pet dog. They were startled to see the bowed figure of a man peering through the window. In a second the figure seemed to come through the window, right between the spokes of the spinning-wheel, rolling over and over, a headless body of a man; it vanished with a "whishing" sound up the chimney. The child remembered the experience perfectly, and her fright at the terrible sight. The dog bristled and barked; and the household was much upset.

Mr. Jewett did not believe in ghost; he poohed at their story. But one night, some time later, he was awakened by something heavy falling on him from the ceiling. In horror he recognized the same headless, hairy thing that had frightened his wife and child. As before, it vanished in the fireplace. There was no longer any doubt, and the family moved at once.

CHAPTER VIII

NORTH BIGELOW — THE LITCHFIELDS

NORTH BIGELOW MILLS were owned in 1800 by Deacon Williams and his sons. The Williams home is the Dora Thompson house, east side of Hyde's Corner. The old Dorrance farm was on the northwest side of the Corner. Mrs. Dorrance was thrown from her wagon on the winding Bigelow Hill road and killed in 1840, the first highway accident, of record, on this dangerous hill.

The last to operate the old North Bigelow mills was Jared Hyde, from 1890 to 1920. He owned the Dorrance farm. Besides operating the sawmill and gristmill he added a grocery store to his business.

The man who brought real prosperity in his time was Colonel Andrew Litchfield (1801 - 1890). He was born in Brooklyn, a descendant of John and Isaac Litchfield, pioneers on Tatnick Hill (1740), where for nearly two centuries the families cultivated one of the best farms in Brooklyn. Their original dwellings still stand on the hill, which has a background of historic lore, for the Red Men climbed its height to reconnoitre; and in Revolutionary days Lyon, the deserter, hid in a hillside cave — above the Israel Putnam Highway — which has since been called Lyon's Cave.

Coming to Hampton as a lad of fourteen, in the year of the great hurricane, 1815, he became interested in

lumbering. Millions of feet of timber had been blown down, even as in the hurricane of 1938. Upon reaching manhood, he acquired the sawmill property. Other mills on the pond were a sawmill, cross-cut shuttle block mill where apple-wood shuttles were made and marketed at Southbridge, Mass., a cider and shingle mill, and clover top mill (carried away by a freshet). Chaff from this mill was used on fields to produce the fine hay for which the valley was famous. There was a gristmill, corn cracker and bolting mill, besides the brickyard, making North Bigelow a thriving business center.

The brick industry disappeared many years ago; the water supply, piped from the side of Hampton Hill to a trough near the barn, rounded out a century of usefulness, for many teams plodding over the old dirt road drank in the shade near the Litchfield homestead.

Colonel Litchfield's large barns were filled with fine stock, his granary with home-grown corn, and his orchard bent beneath its luscious fruit. He was credited at one time as the largest land owner in town. He rose to high rank in the state militia. It is related that when he united with the Hampton church he remarked that he couldn't be more honest with his fellow-men, *but with his God*. In the Litchfield burying-ground, just south of the homestead, sleep five generations of the family. Fred Litchfield (1859 - 1918) was left fatherless by the Civil War, and was reared in his grandfather's home, whose property he inherited.

An only child, Delia, lived upon the old homestead. Her first marriage was to William Weeks of Pomfret, who died in 1932. Her second husband was Alfred Vargas. She passed away suddenly in 1938, the last of her family. The only survivor of the family is the Rev-

erend Sherrod Soule, whose mother, Caroline, was Col. Litchfield's daughter. At the age of fourteen she was teaching the South Bigelow school. Dr. Soule's father, then the young minister, was the school visiter, and thus began their romance.

Rev. Sherrod Soule spent much of his boyhood on the old Litchfield farm, where he shared in the labor. He recalls plowing a four-acre field for buckwheat, with oxen, threshing with oxen, taking it to mill with oxen, and returning with the flour for cakes. He remembers as a youngster cutting thistles; mixing mortar in the brickyard; and that the lovely panelling in the old Litchfield house was made from pine cut from the farm timber lot.

Colonel Litchfield built the present library building for a home for his daughter and Rev. George Soule. There appears to have been no parsonage on the Hill at that time. Rev. Soule died in 1867. The property was sold to David Greenslit, and has remained in the family over half a century. Dr. Sherrod Soule received his schooling at Killingly high school, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1885, and later from Union Theological Seminary, in New York. His life has been one of usefulness in the ministerial world, and state Missionary Society.

CAPTAIN JAMES STEDMAN—HEMLOCK GLEN

Another of Hampton's outstanding citizens was Captain James Stedman. He was captain of a Hampton Company in 1776, and Nehemiah Holt was orderly-sergeant. At the Lexington alarm the company assembled at the meetinghouse for prayer, then marched to Pomfret after sunset to join others. Captain Stedman

was at the battles of White Plains, and Harlem Plains, marched with Washington in his retreat through New Jersey, crossed the Delaware with him, and suffered the bitter winter at Valley Forge. Of the long march through New Jersey, Sergeant Holt wrote, "All night long Washington rode at the right of the column, a little in advance, but so near I could most of the time put my hand on the rump of the powerful gray charge upon which he rode, made restive by the cold sleet pouring down upon us, . . . Washington spoke scarcely a word during that dreadful march."

Returning to his farm after the war, Capt. Stedman continued his trade of carpenter and joiner. As early as 1750 he had made wooden clocks that kept good time, whittling the works out of hard wood, and smoothing the edges with a file; weights were held by cords of home-spun flax. History tells us that before 1800 most clocks were made in England, and assembled over here.

No cases were supplied for these early clocks; the purchaser either made one, or hired a cabinet-maker, or simply hung the works under the full moon face on the wall. They were called "wag-on-the-wall" clocks. Wooden clocks were popular but the makers depended on peddlers to sell them. It is said that every family of substantial means after the Revolution had "a polyglot Bible, a tin reflector, and a wooden clock." With Yankee shrewdness the clocks were "warranted, if well used." Prices ranged from twenty to forty dollars, and, as money was scarce, was often paid in barter, salt pork, and articles of home manufacture; and even mules were taken in trade, brought north and sold to farmers.

Captain Stedman was town clerk and treasurer, and collector. He lived on his father's homestead on the

The Legends below refer to the following
pages of pictures.

56a

56b

SOUTH BIGELOW and HOWARD VALLEY

1. Map—J. M. Smith, Howard's Valley. Birthplace of Gov. Cleveland. Owned by Edmund Osborne.
2. Map—E. L. Beers. Before 1900 was home of Joseph Clark. Later Fish and Game Club. Razed in 1949. South Bigelow.
3. Map—L. & S. E. Bennett, Howard's Valley. Owned by Wm. Henry Bennett Est.
4. Map—Mrs. Searls. Owned by Carl Jewett. South Bigelow.
5. Howard's Valley Church. Retains original lines and furnishings.
6. Map—W. Greenslit. Owned by Sharon Brown. South Bigelow.
7. Last of the horse and buggy days. Frank Smith going to Howard's Valley Church.
8. Map—W. Abbott. Owned by Mrs. Chester Jewett.

56c

HOWARD VALLEY 1

1. Home of R. B. Eldredge, minister of Howard Valley Church 1856. Long owned by F. A. Burnham, grandson of Jesse Burnham.
2. Map—J. Burnham used as summer home by William Potterton. Home of 4 generations of Burnhams, whose ancestor, Ebenezer Burnham, came to Hampton from Ipswich before Oct. 30, 1734, the date they joined the Parish Church. One of Hampton's oldest houses. Home of Jesse Burnham 1797-1875, leading citizen, a Republican, Abolitionist, and Town Representative. Joined in founding the Howard Valley Church 1843. Jesse Burnham of Hampton Hill is 7th generation.
3. Map—E. Greenslit, owned by R. Cleveland Hastings. See "Fuller Inn" "The Old Ball".
4. Map—F. Farnham. Patrick McLaughlin Farm. Owned by Mrs. Geo. Rupert Porter.
5. Map—L. S. Atwood. Curtis Tavern Stand 1800-1845. Many years owned by Thomas McLaughlin, after 1900 by Henry Humes. Mention of it made in 1750, as a "Mansion House". Moved by John Holt a few rods north on Smith Road, and restored.
6. Map—C. M. Cumins. Owned by Harold Chick.
7. Map—Spaulding. Owned by Mrs. Evelyn Whiteside and Mrs. V. E. Cady.
8. Howard Valley School. Summer home of Mrs. Beatrice Burnham McAlpine.

56d

HOWARD VALLEY

1. Map—Eben Burnham. Owned by Raymond Rogers.
2. Map—H. Smith. Owned by Hector Borell
3. Map—Alfred Burnham. Owned by Hector Borell.
4. Map—E. Starkweather. Owned by Philip Lamantia.
5. Map—P. Farnham. Owned by Mrs. Wm. Harvey.
6. Map—H. E. Snow. Owned by Wilfred Scott, poet of the Providence Journal.
7. Map—D. H. Farnham, at the head of Shaw Lane. Owned by John Koski.
8. Map—S. Fuller. House was owned by Geo. Nichols. Now Burned. Site of ancient Indian Village on eastern knolls of farm, located by Everett Griggs, Archaeologist, of Abington.







valley road, a short distance south of Hemlock Glen. The house still stands; maps of 1856 show it under the name of Louis Fuller. Three children were born to Captain James and Hannah Griffin Stedman, daughter of Deacon Ebenezer Griffin, a Hampton pioneer family.

James Stedman died in 1788. He was the son of the pioneer Deacon Thomas Stedman, who settled in Hampton in 1731, when James was five years old. There were eleven children, four of whom were born in Muddy Brook, Brookline, Massachusetts. Thomas Stedman purchased one hundred and fifty acres of Nathaniel Kingsbury, one and one-half miles northeast of the meetinghouse, where he built a two-story house. He deeded his farm to his son, James, and afterward lived with his son, Daniel, on an adjoining farm. Deacon Thomas was killed in 1775, at seventy-five, by falling from a load of logs, and wheel passing over him.

Ebenezer Griffin, brother of Hannah Stedman, was the innkeeper at the home long owned by Alfred Kimball in northeastern Hampton. All that remains is the old-fashion garden run wild, and a stone chimney. A daughter, Hannah, born August 1, 1763, baptized August 1, 1763, married in 1785 Lieutenant Calvin Munn of Greenfield, Massachusetts. He entered the service at seventeen. He was with Lafayette in Virginia, and was at the evacuation of Yorktown, and the taking of Cornwallis. He witnessed the execution of Major Andre. At one time he was drill-sergeant, and had in his squad one Robert Shurtlift, who served throughout the war. In reality Shurtlift was a young girl, Deborah Sampson. After the war she married a Mr. Garnett, also a Revolutionary soldier. After his death, President John Quincy Adams was active in getting her a pension.

We know more of the life story of Captain James Stedman's daughter, Mary — born in Hampton, January 16, 1772 — than of any other girl of the period. At the age of eleven, when her father was in the war, besides working in the fields with the hired women, she carded the tow for a web of cloth, spun and wove it, and carried it to Windham on horseback, where she exchanged the cloth for six silver teaspoons — that are still heirlooms in the family.

At twenty she married John Wilks Chandler of Pomfret, whose busy life was cut short at thirty-eight by a hernia brought on from injury while sledding wood. She was left with eight children, and the ninth was born three months after the death of her husband.

Then thirty-six years old, Mary Stedman undertook the management of three hundred and forty acres, stocked with fifty cows. With a good farmer for the outdoor work, and a colored woman in the house, she devoted herself to educating her children; all were trained to work. While her sons were in the fields her daughters attended to the household, spun and wove all their garments, and blankets for the home. Mrs. Chandler was above medium height, and an intelligent, energetic woman; she proved herself a capable business-woman, and a fine mother. She passed away January 5, 1832, at sixty, at the Chandler homestead where she had spent most of her life. The homestead is on the Pomfret - South Woodstock road, and is now owned by General John Carson.

THE BENNETTS

William Bennett of Ipswich, Massachusetts, settled

in 1736 on land south of Thomas Fuller, bounded west by the highway and east by Little River, where for centuries had been the corn fields of the Indians.

A log cabin sheltered him the ten years he was clearing the land and making ready the timbers for the present dwelling, which, from sills to shingles was the labor of his own hands. Nails forged at the blacksmith shop, and small panes for the eighteen windows, were the the only outlay. Partitions were not set for the twelve rooms for many years; the house consisted of one great room with the bare stone chimney in the middle for warmth, and light by night. A broad staircase on the east, over the cellar-way, led to the unfinished chamber.

William Bennett died in 1766; a rough field stone in the South Burying-ground marks his grave. He, like a long line of descendants, was a leader in town and church.

His son, Isaac, thirty, remained on the homestead. He was a veteran of the French and Indian War, and of the Revolution. He also belonged to the parish military company in 1758, when Connecticut sent five thousand men to war. Windham furnished seven companies; two of these went from her second society (Hampton). A troop of cavalry, under Captain John Howard, were: Thomas Brown, Jabez Fitch, John Warner, James Hoston, William Ripley, Henry Brown, Amos Clark, Jacob Waters, Isaac Barrows, Benjamin Hayward, James Halkins, Amos Lawson, John Walden, Andrew Burnham, Joshua Lasell. Captain Durkee's Company: Lieutenant Jonathan Kingsbury, Sergeant William Holt, James Purdie, John Curtis, Daniel Dennison, John Hammond, John Greenslit, Corporal Jeremiah Durkee,

Meletiah Bingham, Isaac Bennett, James Utley, and David Fish.

Those were troubled days for the brave people of New England; not only Indian trouble, but earthquake shocks, as described by the Windham County Association in 1756, when a day of fasting and prayer was set aside in Windham County, because of "frequent and amazing earthquakes, strange, unusual and distressing war and awful growth and spread of vice, infidelity and iniquity." Some authors claim, and it seems reasonable, that it was an earthquake shock in the vicinity of the frog pond on that June night in 1758 when the good folk of Windham were frightened out of their beds, believing that they were about to be attack by the French and Indians; they mistook the rumblings, and the din of frogs for battle cries of the enemy. (See accounts by Follette, and Peters.)

Isaac Bennett was twenty at that time. He had returned after service, married, and settled on the farm. Before going to war again, he made his will, as follows, under date of May 8, 1776: "To my wife, Margaret Bennett, I bequeath the use of the east square room and garret room above in my dwelling house. (This room was not finished off before 1850.) A privilege of using the oven in the wall and one in the cellar. Sufficient fire wood cut for her room and brought in as she needs it, the privilege of having a good cow for her use winter and summer and 5 bushels of Indian corn a year, 3 bushels of rye a year and 2 bushels of wheat, a sufficiency of beans, potatoes and turnips, a sufficiency of sugar and molasses, and in case of sickness a nurse and doctoring, one pair of shoes a year, 8 pounds of wool, and 10 pounds of good flax yearly as long as she lives,

also she is to have a horse to ride and a saddle for her to ride, also she is to have what cider, beer and apples she needs."

To his daughters he willed sums not exceeding three pounds S. M., with request that each receive suitable house furnishings upon marriage (which meant wool and flax to spin and weave for blankets, etc., bedding, beds, tables, chairs, pewter, tongs, shovels, kettles, etc. Furniture was made from home timber, by a joiner employed by the month to make the girls' setting-out. Iron utensils were made at the blacksmith shop.) In case the daughters remained unwed they were to have a home in his dwelling.

To William, the eldest, he gave the farm, tools, and stock; to other sons, the great Bible, law books, and thirty pounds S. M., to be paid when they came of age.

For his son, Isaac II, then an infant, he provided for his common school education, and learning a trade. Isaac later became a cobbler, and although blind for twenty years, lived to great age. He died in 1861.

Isaac Bennett lived to return from many battles. He carried on the farm in summer, and in winter peddled the wooden, grand-father's clocks made by Captain James Stedman, to Virginia. The trip was made in a thorough-brace wagon, drawn by two horses in tandem. It was a cumbersome, four-wheel creation, scow-shaped, built tight for fording streams, with a movable seat where two could ride.

A thrifty man, Isaac Bennett kept a ledger of every transaction. Nearly all his business was in "barter and trade"; a record of business for one year showed only \$80, cash. His records also contained more than debits and credits, as the following show: "Sympathy is the

alphabet of love, it makes no friendship with the angry man"; and (1772) "There was the most severe drought ever known in this part of the world — no rain did fall until ye 7 day of Oct."

Mr. Bennett died in 1817. His grand-sons, Samuel, and Isaac III, spent lifetimes on the farm. They were reverent men, and every Sunday morning the faithful horse was harnessed and left hitched in the old shed while they made ready for church; and on their return the horse again stood in the shed while the brothers brushed and put away their clothes for the next meeting. Thus a suit lasted a lifetime, and was used at burial.

Samuel Bennett was a teacher of the old school-master type, and taught the big boys of the neighborhood in winter. His one son, William Henry, like his father, also taught the district schools; later attending Foster High School on Hampton Hill, and was graduated from Yale Law School in 1868. During college vacations he taught a Latin Select School in Scotland, for youths preparing for college. Mr. Bennett went west, and became a lawyer. He died in Minneapolis in 1908. His family accompanied the body to Hampton to be laid to rest beside his ancestors.

Few young men have gone out into the world who clung so closely to old associates, or who better loved the hills of Hampton than did William Henry Bennett. For many years after the death of his father, Samuel Bennett, the furniture in the old home was kept in place, though in charge of tenants.

Extract from the Abner Follett account of the Frogs of Windham:

"The event took place in June, 1758. The pond

was n't dry, as it is generally believed, being on a never-failing stream. Frogs did n't leave the pond, and there was no evidence of fighting, as many supposed. Many dead frogs were found about the pond the next morning with no visible wounds. The outcry was loud and extraordinary; noise seemed to fill the heavens, thunder-like, some nearby declared they could feel their beds vibrate under them. Knowing it came from the pond they were not as frightened as the inhabitants of the village. The real cause will never be known, many opinions were entertained at the time; some attributed it to disease."

The Follett family settled in Windham on the stream now called "Frog Brook." Abner Follett owned and operated a paper mill at the pond (1806), and gave as reliable an account as any of the "Fight" at the Frog Pond.*

The Rev. Samuel Peters of Hebron gives another account: "Windham resembles Rumford and stands on the Winnomantic River. Its court-house is scarcely to be looked upon as an ornament. The township forms four parishes, and it is ten miles square. Strangers are very much terrified at the hideous noise made on summer evenings by the vast number of frogs in the brooks and ponds. There are about thirty different voices among them; some of which resemble the bellowing of a bull. The owls and whip-poor-wills complete the rough concert, which may be heard several miles. Persons accustomed to such serenaders are not disturbed by them at their proper stations; but one night in July 1758, the frogs of an artificial pond, three miles square, and about five from Windham, finding the water dried up, left the

* William Weaver's Papers

place in a body, and marched, or rather hopped, towards Winnomantic River. They were under the necessity of taking the road and going through the town, which they entered about midnight. The bull frogs were the leaders, and the pipers followed without number. They filled a road forty yards wide, for four miles in length, and were for several hours, in passing through the town, unusually clamorous. The inhabitants were equally perplexed and frightened; some expected to find an army of French and Indians; others feared an earthquake and dissolution of nature. The consternation was universal. Old and young, male and female, fled naked from their beds with more shriekings than those of the frogs. The event was fatal for several women. The men after a flight of half a mile, in which they met with many broken shins, finding no enemies in pursuit of them, made a halt, and summoned resolution enough to venture back to their wives and children; when they distinctly heard from the enemy's camp these words: Wight, Elderkin, Dier, Tete. This last they thought meant treaty and plucking up courage they sent a triumvirate to capitulate with the supposed French and Indians. These men approached in their night shirts and begged to speak with the general, but it being dark, and no answer given, they were sorely agitated for some time betwixt hope and fear; at length, however, they discovered that the dreaded inimical army was an army of thirsty frogs going to the river for a little water. Such an incursion was never known before or since; and yet the people of Windham have been ridiculed for their timidity on this occasion. I verily believe an army under the Duke of Marlborough would, under like circumstances, have acted no better than they did."

CHAPTER IX

FULLER'S INN, "THE OLD BALL," ON CIDER LANE

THIS fine old "salt-box" house, now owned by Cleveland Hastings, was built by Thomas Fuller, and is the oldest tavern-house in Hampton. Pioneer Thomas Fuller, in 1715, purchased of Thomas Bingham of Windham one hundred acres, which, according to old Windham records, Book E, page 52, lay on "both sides of Little River, bounded east by the common (undivided land), west by the highway (upper road Howard's Valley)." The one highway through the new settlement was surveyed in 1706 from the southwestern boundary of Windham (Scotland) to the northeastern bounds (Appaquag), now Route 97, along which pioneer homes were built.

The Fuller cabin was built on the Nipmuck Path and early became the stopping place for homeseekers. His one neighbor, Stephen Howard, lived about a mile west of him. Easterly lay an unbroken wilderness to the Holt Brothers' homestead. Beyond them lay the tract owned by Samuel Ashley. The present Fuller property of North Bigelow was originally part of the Ashley plot.

Thomas Fuller married Martha Durkee of Windham Village. By a first marriage he had five sons, who helped him to conquer the wilderness and build a commodious dwelling which was licensed for public entertainment in 1716.

His son, Stephen, built a dwelling on his father's farm, adjoining north, which place remained in the Fuller family more than a century and a half (now owned by George Nichols.) This section of the farm is of special interest, for, according to Everett Griggs, Abington archeologist, the knolls east of the highway were the site of an Indian village, which tradition has credited to the valley. Here the tribe cultivated the river lands, and in winter were sheltered by the Cowantic Ledges; a fireplace excavation made there by Mr. Griggs yielded valuable and interesting relics.

Upon Thomas Fuller's death, his widow, Martha, was granted a license in 1722. In 1742 she married Thomas Farnham, Jr., of the Farnham homestead on the the upper road (the Mrs. William Harvey place), which undoubtedly is one of the oldest homes in town.

In 1760 Deacon Ebenezer Bingham was granted a tavern license, and thereafter the inn was known as Fuller's, Bingham's, or the Old Ball. In *Connecticut Inns* we also find a story of the two strangers who stopped there, and asked for doughnuts a yard long and cider to wash them down. Hampton's old-timers recount that the host quickly swung a great kettle of lard over the fire, while dough was rolled to the required length, and doughnuts a yard long were served at the Old Ball that day. It was a favorite prank to call for something the Inn could not serve, or to have the party large enough to "eat them out of house and home."

About 1800 the property passed to Elijah Greenslit; and the old sign, a golden ball, remained suspended between two elms until the middle of the nineteenth century. The house was later owned for thirty years by the family of Reverend R. J. Nichols, a minister of the

Christ-ian faith, who served for twenty years, up to 1890, in the Howard's Valley Church.

The second inn on Cider Lane (1760 - 1828) once known as the Coffee House is now owned by Cleveland Hastings. Captain John Howard of the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars, leading churchman and citizen, opened his house for public entertainment during a period when the roads were heavily travelled by emigration and marching companies of soldiers. His house stood just off the old turnpike on the present road to Hampton Hill.

When turnpike days were over, the property was owned by Deacon Oliver Ingalls of the little Valley church. Deacon Ingalls was a well-to-do man; it is tradition that when he moved into the old tavern stand he came with the largest six-horse load of furniture ever brought into town.

A postoffice sub-station was opened at Howard's Tavern soon after Pomfret's postoffice was established in 1795. Mail was carried weekly by Gideon Popple, employed by Howard, making the trip astride a jackass and his long legs drawn up to keep his feet off the ground. Popple lived in a small house west of the Valley schoolhouse on the Cowhantic Lane. In 1828 the postoffice was moved to the Walcott Mill company's store at the foot of the hill west of the three bridges; the store burned in 1893 and the postoffice was moved to Humes Corner. Isaac Hawks was the last postmaster in 1903. Mail was delivered to this office thrice weekly from Hampton Hill.

The Zaphaney Curtis Tavern (1800 - 1845) on the

Providence-Hartford turnpike was well patronized in stage-coach days. According to oldtimers, patrons were sometimes obliged to sleep under their wagons by the roadside, content to be fed from the great kitchen. The fine ball-room was also popular, especially for sleighing parties, when young people came in bob-sleds, four-horse sleighs filled with straw, cutters and pungs, ate, and danced to the fiddling of Thomas Neff.

Of a quaint sign that hung before the door — a man coming out of the little end of a horn — it is said to have been suggested by Mrs. Curtis as a personal reflection on her husband's business ventures.

After the Civil War many Irish came to Hampton, among them were Thomas, Michael, and Patrick McLaughlin. Michael bought the old Henry Huntington farm at the head of the Cowhantic Lane; Patrick, the Burnham homestead north of his brother, while Thomas purchased the Curtis Tavern house. He cultivated the farm for many years, and was a useful citizen in town affairs. Being the eldest son, he had received a good education in Ireland, and was a remarkable penman. The farm has since been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Humes.

A story has been handed down of a certain tavern-keeper in coaching days who collected the price of dinner in advance; and then, as the guests were seated, the stage-driver would drive up and blow his horn for departure, so that passengers would rush out leaving their dinner uneaten. One day a stranger remained at the table while the stage whirled out of sight with the undinnered passengers. After an interval the stranger called the landlord's attention to the fact that the silver

spoons were missing. A messenger was dispatched to overtake the stage, while the stranger finished his dinner. As the coach again drew up to the door the guest thanked the landlord for recalling the coach, and remarked that he would find his spoons in the coffee pot.

DOMESTIC BLISS A CENTURY AGO

Henry B. Huntington owned the farm at the top of the hill above the Cowhantic Ledges, now owned by Charles Chester. The fine old house has long since burned. The Huntingtons were a proud family, and resented the marriage of Henry with the daughter of Willis, the toll-gate keeper. After some years, the disapproval led to a divorce in Brooklyn court; and the couple drove homeward in separate carriages on the best of terms. In the separation he had given her a considerable sum of money. They were remarried immediately, he saying that this time he had married a rich wife. He was for some reason familiarly known as Santa Ana Huntington.

In 1860 the following were residents in Howard's Valley: General Isaac Howard, Reubin Tingley, Joel Searles, William Snow, Nathan Harris, Dyer Holt, Oliver Ingalls, Theodore and Philander Fuller, Rowland Gardiner, Charles and Joseph Spaulding, William Bennett, Esq., Isaac, Samuel and Edmund Bennett, Ebenezer, Elijah, John and Lyman Greenslit, Albert and Hurlburt Greenslit, Reverend George Greenslit, Elder Alfred Burnham, Albert, John, Philetus, Festus, Henry, Septimus, George and Jesse Burnham, Henry Huntington, Thomas Barber, Philetus Farnham, Thomas and George Hurlburt, Henry Sanford, Leonard and John

Cocking, Stephen, Edmund, John, George and Charles M. Comins, George D. Spencer, Reverend Richard B. Eldredge (pastor of the Valley church), Archibald Olds, Hosea, Jared and A. Fry Hibbard, Bingham Fisk, and Lester Apley.

Of this list, Charles Spaulding was the last survivor, living for more than eighty years in the little red house by the school. In his last years he suffered blindness; he passed away in 1904.

The present Vinigrad place, originally part of the (Thomas Fuller) Cleveland Hastings farm, was owned in 1856 by the Greenslit family, and in 1870-1910 by John Braney. His son, Patrick, will long be remembered as handicapped by blindness for twenty-eight years. A son, the late Michael Braney, owned the Edward Greenslit farm on the south slope of Hampton Hill.

Most of these men lived in the factory village near the three bridges. About twenty houses remain in the district; and the school is closed for lack of pupils, where once was an attendance of eighty.

An early church called the Burnham meetinghouse stood between the turnpike and the Brook road until about 1920. It had long been used for a dwelling.

The Howard's Valley Church was built as a Baptist meetinghouse about 1843, and was later known as a *Christ-ian* church. About 1915 it was returned to the Baptists. Since 1933 services have been maintained by the Danielson Baptist Church. The house owned by the Fred Burnham estate was the residence of the pastor, R. B. Eldredge in 1855. When the church was organized thirty of the members bore the Burnham name. Other preachers were Reverends Isaac and Henry Coe.

At one time there was a fine choir led by Jacob

Kimball of Brooklyn. Among the choir members was Mary Starkweather of the old Starkweather farm on the hill east of Curtis Tavern (Humes Corner). She married her neighbor, James Burnham, son of Jesse Burnham, whose farm adjoined her father's on the south. She lived many years on the homestead, which later passed to her son, Fred A. Burnham, who also purchased his grandparent's (Starkweather) farm. The Jesse Burnham homestead has been restored and is now the summer home of Dean William Potterton.

LATER INDUSTRIES IN HOWARD'S VALLEY

Ludwig and Erastus Walcott, brothers, bought land and water privileges, dammed the Little River at the three bridges, and built a cotton mill and company store. Some years later the postoffice was kept there, until the property was destroyed by fire.

In 1828 Charles and Edward Comins bought part of the old Howard farm and erected two building for wagon and harness making. This was later the home of the Mr. Miller, who was murdered in 1922, and the house burned to cover the crime.

A woolen and satinet mill owned by John Conklin stood at the site of Skinner's Pond in 1850. A story handed down of John Conklin, a man of considerable means, recounts that on one of his frequent business trips to New York his boat was wrecked. Not hearing from him, the family supposed he had drowned. Friends gathered for the funeral, after which the family set about to divide the property. In the meantime Conklin returned, and stood outside the window where he listened to the service and the disagreement over the

property. He put an end to the squabbling by announcing to the mourners that he intended to keep his property for some time yet.

THE CONGDON PLACE—HOWARD'S VALLEY

James M. Congdon purchased the old Howard farm in 1874, removing from the Elliott section of Pomfret (the present Albro place) because of damage when the railroad right-of-way was laid through his farm. He was followed by his son, Joseph, long one of Hampton's most respected citizens, and his grand-son, Frank W. Congdon, who for several years was assistant superintendent of the Capitol Building at Hartford. The Congdon farm was a model of thrift and neatness before the coming of rural electrification.

James Congdon built the present farmhouse, on the east side of the road nearly opposite the old dwelling. Here, too, was the toll-gate tended by Willis, when the turnpike diverted main travel over the Brooklyn road.

Benjamin Howard purchased in 1709 a vast track between Merrick Brook and Little River. In 1713 his son, Stephen, took possession, and after him Captain James Howard who not only improved the fine valley farm but developed the water privilege on the property with grist, cider, and saw mills, the first in the parish. He also had a tannery on the lane to the mills; and on this site John Conklin's woolen and satinet mill stood in the fifties. Later Theodore Fuller ran a cider mill, owned after 1900 by John Skinner.

Floods in 1936 carried away the dam and last landmark of Howard's Valley industries, after the mill privilege had served the community nearly two centuries.

The Legends below refer to the following
pages of pictures.

72a

72b

CLARKS CORNER

1. Map—Misses Smith. Owned by Mrs. Viola Clapp.
 2. Map—S. Robinson. Owned by Mrs. John Hammond.
 3. Allen Jewett homestead. Map—Mrs. Smith. Owned by Flourde Bros.
 4. Map—B. B. Potter. Owned by Albert Hoffman.
 5. Map—Asa Burnham. Owned by E. A. Roure.
 6. Map—Alva Burnham. Now owned by Edward Bishop.
 7. Liberty Pole Sign Post Restored by Elmer Jewett.
 8. Clark's Corner School.
 9. Map—J. G. Clark Tavern. Burned in 1946.
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72c

NORTH HAMPTON

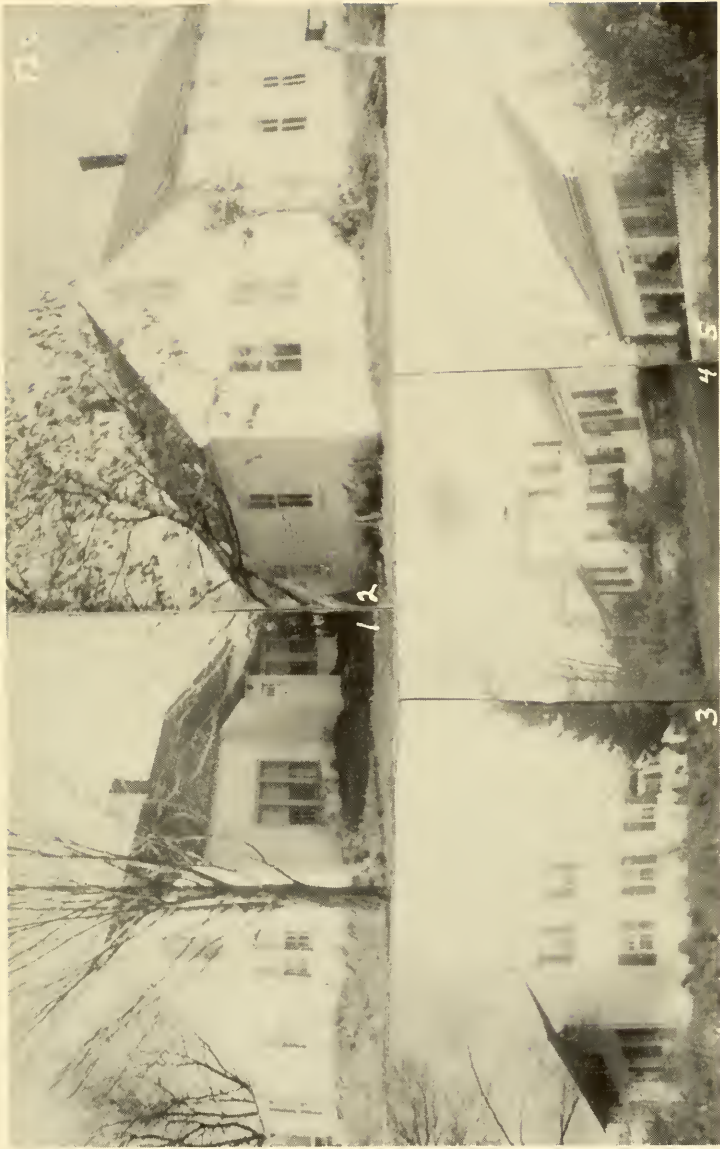
Windy Hill—one of Hampton's most beautiful views.

1. Map—C. H. Davis. Owned by J. M. Perillo.
2. Map—D. Clapp. Owned by H. H. Dobberteen.

HEMLOCK GLEN

3. Map—J. Greeley. Owned by Geo. Miller.
4. Map—L. Rockwell. Owned by Mrs. Lena Wilson.
5. Map—E. Ashley. Owned by Ferdinand Jacobsen. No. Bigelow Rd.





The property now belongs to Cleveland Hastings, who has razed the old house where the miller lived.

TOM SMITH PLACE—GOV. CLEVELAND HOMESTEAD

Here Frank Smith and his mother lived for many years, on the lane once a travelled road connecting Howard's Valley with the Canada neighborhood. The house is claimed to have been built by an ancestor of Governor Cleveland; and it is said that Governor Cleveland was born on the discontinued road between the Smith and Poloski places.

Fuller is a noble name in Revolutionary history in Hampton; seventeen cousins by that name were on the muster roll. It is claimed that Sergeant 'Bijah Fuller could throw any man in the army except Ralph Farnham, "and he carried him off on his back when he was wounded at the battle of White Plains, when the enemy was close upon them, and the bullets were falling like hail around them."

The Fuller family came from Salem and Rehoboth, Massachusetts, of English and Scotch extraction. Their forebear Robert Fuller sailed for America in 1656, and was the first, and for many years the only bricklayer and builder of brick houses in all New England.

David Fuller, his descendant in the third generation, born 1710, settled in Hampton before 1741, where he married Hannah Fuller. They were the parents of Sergeant Abijah, born in Hampton in 1753, died 1835. He served under General Israel Putnam, and had charge of throwing up the earthworks the night before the battle of Bunker Hill. In private life he was a farmer and

cooper, and a deacon of the Congregational Church; it was said that he could pray just as well as he could fight.

Sergeant Abijah was the grandfather of the late Lucius Fuller of Putnam, who died in 1933, and who during his long life developed one of the leading insurance businesses in eastern Connecticut, and had the first telephone in town. His father, Lucius, also an insurance man, lived in Tolland. In that period it was customary to tack a steel plate over the door when a house was insured. One such marker in the possession of Elmer C. Jewett of Clark's Corners, reads, under date of 1872: "Insured — Tolland". The policy shows that the insurance was written by Lucius Fuller of Tolland.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Loren Rockwell carried on extensive saw-mill, grist-mill, tanning and curing business at Hemlock Glen.

CHAPTER X

STORIES OF HAMPTON—BY JOEL FOX

THAT the Constitution is not a new dispute is shown in a story from one of Hampton's old-timers, Joel Fox of Bigelow. At a townmeeting in Hampton Captain Harvey Fuller, who died in 1860, was opposed to the Constitution when it was accepted in 1818, declaring, "I want to see who the men are who dare to vote for the Constitution," and called for a rising vote. David Fox, Joel's father, said, "I second that motion; I want to see how many men there are here who dare to vote against the Constitution." The vote was, of course, a majority for acceptance.

The Buttons were one of the oldest families in town, and influential in town affairs for nearly two hundred years. Joel Fox gives us the following story of Charles C. Button, proprietor of the Inn in 1800, and also of a harness business on Hampton Hill; his shop was opposite the church. Mr. Button, because of close work, had put on glasses. A neighbor, John Lincoln, noticed this, and asked in surprise, "Button, do you have to wear glasses?" "Yes," was the reply, "my eyesight is failing me." Said Lincoln, "My eyesight is as good as ever it was. Why, I declare, there's a mouse running around the belfry of the church!" Button, putting his hand to his ear in a listening pose, said, "I can't see him, but he's there — I can hear him run."

The last of the family now remembered was Lindon Button, who lived in the dwelling now owned by Hampton's present physician, Dr. Arthur D. Marsh. He was an old fashion horse-trader, and many were the stories told of his sharp bargains.

In the time of Governor Cleveland, Hampton had a male quartette, John Cleveland, son of the Governor, Worthing Button, William Mosley, and Gilbert Snow. On summer evenings they would climb to the church belfry and sing. They might be styled Hampton's first "broadcast" as they could be heard distinctly the length of the street.

The first day of May was always Training Day. The townsfolk would gather on the lot at the southwest corner of the highway (where Route 6 turns west) to see the militia drill to the music of fife and drum, and to watch with pride the horsemanship of their kinfolk who were fortunate to be officers.

The first grand celebration on Hampton Hill was the semi-centennial July 4, 1826, when forty-two veterans of the old Revolutionary company paraded under their old leader, Abijah Fuller, with Nathaniel Farnham as drum-major, and Joseph Foster and Lucius Favill as fifers. Although Joseph Foster did not belong to the original company, he was no less appreciated, for he was one of a family of twelve sons who fought in the strife for freedom.

In 1828 there was a widespread temperance movement in Windham County. In 1830 each town was represented with a society; Hampton's numbered eighty members. By 1840 temperance meetings were being

held in all the churches. At a Hampton meeting, Ebenezer Jewett III, then fourteen, signed the first pledge, which he always kept. About that time Hampton voted "no license" and has ever since been a dry town. Rum had been sold in the grocery stores, making them unfit places for women and children to enter. It is tradition, Taintor once remarked, "A rum-seller should get rich; it's such a dirty business!"

Hampton is built upon hills which are unrivalled in beauty. Robinson Hill in the western part, rises 827 feet above sea level. A fine farm once crowned this summit where now stands Cartwright Sunset Cottage, built in 1910. Kimball Hill, on the Brooklyn line, rises 766 feet. This was settled by the Kimballs who came with the Grows from Ipswich in 1732. Here five generations of Kimballs lived up to 1862. It was the birthplace of George H. Kimball, who for many years owned the Ebenezer Griffin, and Hezekiah Hammond farms. He spent the last twenty-five years of his life on the Woods Hill Farm in Brooklyn. In 1895 Jerome Woodard bought the Kimball farm and brought it to a high state of cultivation. But like many of our fine old homesteads, the century-old house was destroyed by fire in March, 1940.

CHAPTER XI

WINDHAM COUNTY HURRICANES

IN the old Grove Street burying-ground is a stone with the following inscription:

*In Memory
of Susana Brown,
wife of Othniel Brown
Born 1763
Died Aug. 23, 1786
Aged 23.*

*That awful day,
The hurricane,
When I was in my prime,
Blew down my house
And I was slain
And taken out of time.*

The above is the only record we have of this hurricane, although history makes mention of a hurricane at that date.

According to *Winthrop's Journal* there were hurricanes in 1635 and 1638 that equalled in severity the one of September, 1938. They were preceded by heavy earthquake shocks, recurring at intervals for twenty days. Thus, when the first settlers penetrated the vast wilderness of western Massachusetts and Connecticut,

they found the Indian trails badly blocked with fallen trees, and the hills swept bare, making settlement easy on the hilltops.

It may have been at the time of these earthquakes that Alexander's Lake (Mashapague) was formed. An Indian legend runs that where the lake now is, was a sandy, pine-clad hill. The tribes had gathered for a powwow, but the Great Spirit was angry because of their wickedness, and caused the hill to "give way" and sink; water came up and all were drowned, except an old squaw left standing on the hilltop, Loon Island. The legend true or not, the fact remains that for many years, in the deepest part of the lake, tops of great pines could be seen in the water, and in recent years branches from these trees have been recovered.

We also have record of tremendous gales in 1723, 1786, 1804, 1818, 1821, 1836, 1841, 1851, 1859, 1860, 1869. The gale of 1815 seems to have been the hardest known up to 1938. In many respects the devastation was similar in Providence, and Windham County. As towns were not so numerous in 1815, and seashores not developed, the damage could not have been so terrible. Seaboard grass and vegetables were killed by salt spray, which was driven inland many miles, and wells were rendered unfit for drinking.

Damage done in Windham County in 1938 will not be overcome in half a century. Much of the natural beauty has been destroyed; floods have washed away picturesque dams, oftentimes a century old. Giant trees have fallen, that were long the pride of New England. The autumn was without the usual foliage, for leaves were either stripped off, or ruined by the wind and salt spray far inland. Property damage was immense.

As in 1938, churches were damaged or demolished in the hurricane of 1815. Plainfield meetinghouse was demolished, but rebuilt in 1818. Woodstock, Hampton, Canterbury, Westminster, Abington, Thompson, and Ashford steeples went down. The Pomfret, and Killingly (Putnam Heights) churches were badly damaged, and replaced by new; the former in 1832, the latter, 1818.

Hampton, Woodstock, Abington, and Thompson churches likewise lost their steeples in 1938. In Brooklyn, the church built by Israel Putnam lost its steeple, which has been replaced and the church restored, but the Congregational meetinghouse was so badly damaged that it was razed to the ground. The Westfield Church in Danielson lost its steeple, since replaced.

Ashford church was wholly demolished, and has not yet (1940) been rebuilt. Eastford, and Putnam Heights churches were not damaged.

WINDHAM COUNTY CHARACTERS

Among many prized documents, the writer has a paper written by William Henry Bennett, a Hampton boy, who was graduated from Yale in 1867, and later became an attorney in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Written in a clear hand, the paper reads:

The Old Darn Man

Wm. H. Bennett

October 1860.

While I was endeavoring to give you a short sketch of this well known pitiable person, he is sitting before me, enjoying the warmth of a glowing fire . . . a form tall and gaunt, slightly bent, the

frosts of sixty winters have changed the once glossy black hair to snowy whiteness, a countenance pale and emaciated, with lines of sorrow and hardship, with dull meaningless eyes, which always seem fixed on vacancy. . . . His limbs clad with garments whose darns have given him the name of "Old Darn Man". He has wandered around the countryside for more than thirty years, depending on charity for his few wants, and an occasional visit to his relatives in the eastern part of Massachusetts, whose efforts to induce him to remain with them . . . are totally useless, . . . and he wanders away again and pursues his endless round of travel, which formerly extended over New London and Windham Counties, and adjacent portions of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. . . . and stopping only to obtain food and lodging, apparently enjoying nothing, pursuing no object, thankful for any kindness . . . and repaying the giver with a low bow, and "many thanks, kind friend".

His true name is George Thompson, and he was a native of Taunton, Mass., but his relatives now reside in New Bedford. He was a merchant by profession, and it is reported that he possessed talents of a high order (some say he was a good violinist). He at an early age sought the hand of a young and amiable lady in marriage, his suit was accepted and the nuptial day drew near. But alas for human foresight, ere that day came the bridal robe was exchanged for a shroud, the eyes that a few days ago sparkled with hope were closed, and the limbs animated with elastic spirit of youth were straightened for the grave. She was borne to the tomb,

and as the clods fell on her coffin and shut out the blue sky . . . and busy world, despair fell upon his heart, and he turned away hopeless. He wears the garments designed for his bridal until they present only darned patches, and it is said, intends to wear them as long as he lives.

Thus his singular appearance instead of creating pity as it should is ridiculed by many, and he is harshly bidden to return to his friends and not eat the fruits of the labor of others. But let us not condemn him too harshly, because the Giver of All Good may deprive us of the light of reason, and leave us to wander in mental darkness until death comes to end our misery.

The Old Dog Man, Old Blue Bag, and Eggelston followed the day of the Darn Man. The Dog Man may have been so named for his wont to pick up stray dogs, sometimes selling them, his only livelihood.

Blue Bag carried his worldly goods in a blue cloth bag over his shoulder; a harmless fellow, who made regular trips through the neighborhood, filling the wood-box where he called, then waited to be fed. He was very clean, would wash his clothes in the brooks, and dry them on the bushes. In mud and slush he would go barefoot to save his footwear.

Old Eggelston, though honest and harmless, was untidy. He came to the door regularly spring and fall. It was said that he was from a good family, but that scarlet fever had affected his mind. He would say, "I am not to blame for being a fool, am I?" One winter he froze his feet, and came back to our home in Hampton in a pitiful condition, and was cared for. Later, he

returned and paid his benefactress by saying, "You are the only Christian I have ever met."

Old Gard Wright

In his day he was counted one of Putnam's moneyed men. Yet his wealth was not apparent as he drove about with an old sway-backed horse and delapidated wagon, gathering garbage for his swine. Around his old hat was a cord that once belonged to a bathrobe. In summer he always went barefoot.

His philosophy of life and death was expressed by the lines: *Going, but don't know where*, on his tombstone. "Them's true words," said Wright, "but there ain't many folks got honesty and courage to say the same thing." With great care he had a fine bust of himself cut in his monument. The stone is near the front of the yard, and the strong features of the image can plainly be seen by passers-by. The keen eyes seem to gaze beyond the world he knew so well, to the world he was "going to". The inscription reads:

Phineas H. Wright
Born in FitzWilliams, N. H.
April 3, 1829
Died in Putnam, May 2, 1918.

After the monument was completed and properly set, Gard dreamed that he could not enter heaven with his beard parted; so, at a cost of \$400, a sculptor bunched his whiskers on the stone. The large grave is bricked up; so, as he said, the earth would not crowd him, and he would have room to turn over and move about. He

placed demi-johns of gin and whisky in the grave when it was made, some fifteen years before he died, for the men who would bury him.

His mother and sister are buried in the same plot. His father, a gold hunter, died in Stockton, California in 1849. The family was poor, and from youth Wright had to work hard. He claimed that he broke the first earth for the old Air Line Railroad. He also had worked as hod-carrier, for seventy cents a day. After many years he dealt in lumber, and by his frugal habits and industry amassed a fortune of \$125,000.

He was disappointed in love in his younger years, and was a woman-hater. He wrote reams of verse on the perfidy of woman, and used as a slogan, "Never beat by a man, but by a woman." He lived in a plain house, with his niece as housekeeper. She cut his hair, shaved him, and washed his face and hands for him. As a reward he left her the bulk of his property.

To the City Directory he gave his occupation as, "having no business but minding my own."

Under his buggy seat he kept a "little brown jug" which was filled in Webster, never in Putnam. He remembered (according to old-timers) a prank played on him by "the boys". They grew weary of his asking them to "set 'em up", so one night they set him up to one too many, and when he sobered up he found himself in a coffin packed in ice.

Thrifty, he gathered hay from fence corners and roadside for his horse, salvaging what others wasted. This habit, in youth, while employed by George Morse, Sr., at the old Bundy brickyard in Harrisville, led to an accusation of taking away good brick; he was sentenced to attend Sunday School, barefoot, through the season.

Gurdon Cady

In the days of the old square dance one of the most famous of Windham County's dance prompters was Gurdon Cady of Central Village. The present Abington Grange hall was built in 1880 to hold the crowds that followed the dances when R. L. Bullard fiddled and Gurdon Cady prompted.

When the gay company was on the floor, all would shout, "All ready, Mr. Cady!" It was a real art to dance to his instructions; and if a mistake was made, all had to begin over again, as he sang in perfect rhythm:

Balance the lady at your left,
Swing the old man's daughter;
Leave her alone and swing you own,
The old man swings his daughter.

And then on to

Down the center away we go,
Come right back and don't be slow.

Old Zip Coon, French Four, Money Musk, The Jim Jam, and Pop, Goes the Weasel, and break-neck jigs kept the "old timers" limbered up. Many men eighty could dance a break-down in Gurdon Cady's day. Most of his time was taken up in fiddling and prompting, but he also owned a fine farm, and was very proud of his cattle.

He placed his own monument, on which, beside his name and dates, (born August 15, 1822; died March 3, 1897), was inscribed a picture of his first cow, and her record:

Rosa, my first Jersey cow
Record — 2 lbs., 15 oz. butter
From 18 qts., one day's milk

A fiddle is also inscribed on the opposite side of the stone. The monument can be easily located down the outside, right-hand drive in the Evergreen Cemetery in Central Village, Connecticut.

CHAPTER XII

CLARK'S CORNER

THE one industry of Clark's Corner was a tin shop. Old families were Clarks, Jewetts, Martins, and Neffs. The Cady house still stands on the brook road. The Martin house, once one of the finest farms in the section, is now a deserted homestead, since the hurricane of 1938. The late Frank Martin of Willimantic was the last of the family to reside there.

Clark's Corner took its name from Jonathan Clark, (descendant of the first settler, John Clark), who was one of the early settlers; his homestead was the old Allen Jewett farm, where he built the first sawmill on Merrick Brook.

Jonathan was a famous character, carpenter and builder of bridges, not only in Windham County, but also in western Pennsylvania. His fame was noteworthy as is shown by the following story of a Hampton boy, who, when asked by the minister, who made the world, replied, "Jonathan Clark, he makes all things."

He also kept a diary of all Hampton events, covering half a century, a copy of which is in the Town Clerk's Office in Hampton.

The fine, old Jonathan Clark tavern-house is now owned by James Oliver. It was forty years in building, and was completed in 1844.

On the corner where he lived Jonathan Clark kept a Stage Coach Tavern. He erected a Liberty Pole (1849), which not only proclaimed him a member of the Free Soil Party, but also supported a signboard with seven hands pointing seven index fingers westward, giving distances to Hartford, South Manchester, Willimantic, New Boston (North Windham), South Coventry, Coventry, and Chaplin, under the heading *Free Soil Stage Daily*. No towns or mileages were given eastward, although the route ran from Hartford to Providence. No doubt Jonathan was an extremist in supporting the western cause. He was a staunch Van Buren man in the Free Soil Party of 1846, which opposed the extension of slavery in the Territories. The Free Soilers merged with the Republican Party in 1856; thus we find Windham County's last Liberty Pole was erected by a pioneer in the Republican Party.

The pole was replaced in 1893, and again in 1917 and dedicated to the cause of Liberty. Unfortunately it was felled three years ago by a wreckless driver, but reset by the State Highway Department through the patriotism and efforts of Elmer C. Jewett, Clark's Corner, and re-dedicated on July 4, 1939 with appropriate exercises. The pole is crowned with a shining ball that was tinned, originally, by the village tin-smith of Clark's Corner. The signboard has each time been replaced with a duplicate of the original put up in 1849.

Windham County patriots in 1776 on Killingly Hill had raised a Liberty Pole, which, during the Revolution, was used as a signal station. Smoke from a kettle of burning tar hoisted to the top could be seen for miles around. Southwest from Killingly Hill another Liberty Pole was erected on Liberty Hill, Columbia, then called Lebanon.

OTHER LIBERTY POLES AND WHAT THEY MEANT

Prior to the Revolution, poles were erected in various places in the northern colonies, and dedicated to the Immortal Goddess of Liberty. In his address in 1775, Dr. Warren called them "your adorned Goddesses of Liberty."

Calkin's *History of Norwich* has an interesting account of Liberty Poles. On Norwich Town Green about 1764 was raised a Liberty Pole, or Liberty Tree, as they chose to call it. Its size was the pride of the town. No doubt it was comparable to the eagle-crowned seventy-five-foot pole removed in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., July 4, 1939, when its age rendered it unsafe.

The Norwich Liberty Tree stood adjoining Peck's Tavern, decked with "standards and appropriate devices, and crowned with a cap"; and a tent or booth called a pavilion, was erected under it, where news was received and discussed, and speeches made, almost daily, against the oppression of the Stamp Act.

On June 7, 1768 at Peck's Tavern the election of John Wilks to the English Parliament was celebrated. An ardent friend of Freedom, he made himself obnoxious to the ministries as publisher of the *North Briton* in an editorial called No. 45. At the entertainment, flags, plates, bowls, tureens, tumblers, and napkins were marked "No. 45 Wilks and Liberty." The Liberty Tree was bedecked with a flag emblazoned with the same emblems.

"Wilks and Liberty" was familiar in Boston and Norwich as in London. "To our forefathers," Calkin's *History* says, "the highest personification adopted was calling their magnificent Pole a Liberty Tree. They did

not worship Liberty . . . but cherished it as a principle."

Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1774, erected a pole on her town square with a flag and motto, "Liberty or Death". To make this symbol more realistic, they decided to move the Rock to rest beneath the pole. In the attempt the upper part of the Rock was found split from the base, probably by frost action. The upper part was removed to the Square where it remained until 1834, when it was moved to the front area of Pilgrim Hall. This date may have marked the removal of the pole from the oldest town square in New England. Again, in 1880 the historic Rock was restored to its original foundation, as the result of confusion when strangers visited Plymouth. A monumental canopy over the Rock was replaced in 1920 with the present portico, and enhanced by extensive landscaping along the shoreside.

Might the visitor, as he surveys the historic marker, reflect upon the inscription on the marble obelisk over the grave of Plymouth's second Governor, William Bradford — on Burial Hill, high above the bay, the Rock, the Square — which reads:

*Do not basely relinquish what our fathers
with difficulty have obtained.*

In 1764 the statement was made that "North America's Liberty is dead." The people replied, "She is dead, but happily she has left one son, the child of her bosom, prophetically named Independence, now the hope of all, when he shall come of age."

In 1766 Boston lighted the first Liberty Tree. It was a day of rejoicing; for the colonies, after two years of protest, had forced the King to abolish the Stamp Act. Bells were rung, the meetinghouse steeple was bedecked

with banners, pennants floated from house-tops, and the "Liberty Tree, itself, was decorated with lanterns until its boughs could hold no more. . . . At evening the town shown as though night had not come. . . . During the day all prisoners of debt were released by subscription."*

Boston led the fight against the Stamp Act. On the memorable August 14, 1764, an effigy of Oliver, who had been appointed Stamp Master, was hanged from a bough of a stately elm, the pride of the neighborhood, standing near what was then the entrance to the town.

Secretly the effigy had been made by seven "sons of Liberty," all "fiery haters of the King— Benjamin Edes, the printer; Thomas Crafts, the painter; John Smith, and Stephen Cleverly, the braziers; and the younger Avery, Thomas Chase, Henry Bass, and Henry Welles."

Throughout the day the "grotesque spectacle" hung on the tree, while crowds gathered in Boston. Chief Justice Hutchinson ordered the colonel of the militia to beat an alarm, but the "drummers were in the mob," and then "Hutchinson, himself, with the sheriff, went out to disperse the crowd," but "no man would give way," and Hutchinson, surrounded, was obliged to run the gauntlet, "escaping with one or two blows."

"At evening the multitude, moving in the greatest order and following the image borne on a bier," marched down the main street, through the old State House, and under the Council Chamber, shouting, "Liberty, property, and no more stamps!" After demolishing the frame of the new Stamp Office, which Oliver was erecting, they burned the effigy on a pyre in front of his home on Fort Hill.

* Bancroft's History, Volume V

Subsequently Oliver was forced to march out to the old elm, (thereafter called Liberty Tree) and under the bough from which his effigy had hung, was compelled to sign a statement to the effect that he would sell no more stamps. So ended the first episode in Freedom's battle.

CONNECTICUT'S STAMP ACT REBELLION — 1765

In wealth, population, and military resources, Connecticut was second only to Massachusetts. However, her citizens were reluctant to be involved in legislature for fear of losing their Charter. Thus Stamp Master Jared Ingersoll, of New Haven, was asked privately to resign; he refused, saying he would "see how the General Assembly was inclined." This was exactly what the cautious wished to avoid, for it would lead to conflict with Parliament.

Ingersoll was disliked, and was accused of "trying to stab his country." Ironically it was noted that his initials were the same as those of another traitor, Judas Iscariot.

Having been in Boston during the stamp roit, Ingersoll anticipated a similar outbreak. In company with Governor Fitch, "a luke-warm Royalist," he set out for Hartford to put himself under the protection of the Assembly then convening. Near Weathersfield they were met by five hundred farmers and freeholders, from New London and Windham, riding two abreast, armed with freshly-barked cudgels, provisioned for an eight-day march, and led by Colonel Israel Putnam and Captain Robert Durkee in full military uniform. "They opened and received Ingersoll, and then to the sound of trumpets rode forward" to Weathersfield. "There in the

broad main street, twenty rods wide, . . . the cavalcade halted," and bade Ingersoll to resign. "Is it fair," he asked, "that the counties of New London and Windham should dictate to all the colony?" His arguments were in vain, and he was forced to resign, and to write a declaration that it was his own free act.

The cavalcade, which had increased to a thousand men, then escorted Ingersoll to Hartford, where, within hearing of the Legislature, he was compelled to read his declaration.

They, of whom it is recorded, "Better men never walked in glory behind a plow," rode home to their villages. It is to be regretted that we have no record of the Pomfret men who were members of this group. But this we do know — where Col. Putnam led, Pomfret followed.

This was a critical period for the colonists, for the power of the British Oligarchy was at its height, under the revolution of 1688. The king subdued, a system of taxes was imposed on America with the following results: these products of the colonies could not be exported — tobacco, cotton, wool, indigo, ginger, fustic, or other dyeing woods, molasses, rice, beaver, peltry, copper, ore, pitch, tar, turpentine, masts, yards, nor bow-sprits, coffee, pimento, cocoa-nuts, whale-fins, raw silk, hides, nor pot, nor pearl ashes, to any place except to Great Britain, not even to Ireland. No foreign ship could enter a colonial harbor. In all respects Great Britain was the sole market and storehouse.

Dependent on their flocks, the colonists could not use a ship, or boat, carriage, or pack-horse to cross from one province into another. They could not land produce from harbor islands, nor bring it across a river. Manufacturer of beaver hats was forbidden; no hatter

could employ more than two apprentices, and they must serve seven years. No American hat could be sent from one plantation to another, or "loaded on any cart, or carriage, for conveyance."

The same rule applied to wood, coal, slitting mills, steel furnaces, and plating forges. Tilt-hammers were prohibited as nuisances, while duties were collected on all foreign goods imported.

In truth American Liberty was dead, but the Spirit of Independence was thoroughly alive. Connecticut declared "their freedom came from God, to be defended by their lives." In 1766 Israel Putnam rode all over eastern Connecticut to determine how many men could be relied upon, and reported back ten thousand men available for defense.

CHAPTER XIII

NORTH-WESTERN HAMPTON

THE northwest part of Hampton was sparsely settled before 1800. Benjamin Chaplin, son of Deacon Benjamin Chaplin, took up land on the west side of the Nachaug and cleared his homestead. He lived single, and supported himself by making baskets and wooden trays. In 1747 he married Mary Ross, a widow, and soon after acquired more land, paying for it in prospective wheat, at a bushel an acre, and wooden trays. His was the first industry at South Chaplin. He owned seventeen hundred and sixty-five acres, mostly in Hampton. The river crossed his land in nine places. (Nachaug means "crooked river".) The house burned in 1930.

Benjamin Chaplin was a good and enterprising man. He attended worship in Mansfield, traveling the six miles on horseback with his small daughter who jumped down to open barways, for only footpaths ran across or between farms to the meetinghouse green.

Deacon Chaplin died in 1795. In his will was a bequest for building a meetinghouse within a mile and a quarter of his dwelling. There seems to have been much delay, for the building was not ready for occupancy until September 14, 1815. It was described as situated on Chaplin Hill "on the west side of the road, west of the gate letting into Captain Hough's north pasture." In the

construction of the building Chaplin manifested "a progressive spirit by enacting that seven hours should constitute a day's work, pay for a man's labor 10 cents an hour, oxen 6 cents an hour, for use of cart 6 cents, sled 3 cents an hour." Services had been maintained for years in the old South Chaplin schoolhouse, conducted by the Reverend David Avery, who married Hannah, daughter of Deacon Chaplin. The Reverend Avery was the first pastor of the Chaplin Society organized in 1809. His daughter married James Howard, who operated a sawmill at South Chaplin. In this mill the timbers were sawed for the new church. At this period a minister received six dollars a Sunday, with his horse's keep, or three hundred dollars a year and twenty cords of wood. Chaplin was incorporated into a town in 1822.

NORTH-EASTERN HAMPTON

The Grow Meetinghouse was crowded each Sunday. To the congregation the introduction of our type of hymn was an inspiring attraction. "The Sabbath," a hymn written by John Newton in 1779, was indeed a real expression of their devotions:

Safely through another week,
 God has brought us on our way;
 Let us each a blessing seek,
 Waiting in His courts today;
 Day of all the week the best,
 Emblem of eternal rest.

That and the old Baptist stand-by:

Oh, how happy are they,
 Who their Saviour obey . . ."

echoed from the old meetinghouse door. For a century or more the Grow Baptist Church prospered. Deacon Thomas Grow, whom our grandsires remembered as furnishing doughnuts and gingerbread, made his home (now the Elmer Stone farm) a favorite haven in the cold seasons; the meetinghouse, as were all early houses of worship, was unheated or very poorly heated.

The meetinghouse has long since disappeared, and only a remnant of the foundation wall can be seen on the east side of Highway 97, a few rods south of the old Grow homestead.

Deacon Thomas Grow was born in 1743, one of five sons of Thomas Grow, the first settler. He was a soldier in the Revolution. The Grows were pioneers in defense of the doctrine of religious freedom. Thomas, Sr., was among the first families belonging to the Abington Parish in 1751.

Prior to the erection of the Grow Meetinghouse, Thomas Grow opened his home for services. His son, William, studied for the ministry, and was the first ordained pastor of the Grow church in 1776, remaining until 1783, when he removed to New Hampshire. Gifted with power and ability, he was, as we would say today perhaps, "too modern," for we are told he "greaved the *sperit* of his *breathern*," and his labors were not altogether harmonious.

Ebenezer Grow, son of Thomas, Sr., served throughout the Revolution, much of his enlistment under Gen. Israel Putnam, and died in 1827, aged seventy-seven. His home was at the top of the hill at the town line between Hampton and Pomfret. On his land is the old Grow-Cady Cemetery — the first in south-western Pomfret — where many of the Grow family rest with many other pioneers.

The family first settled in Woodstock before coming to Pomfret. James Grow, cousin of Thomas, settled "one mile west of Pomfret Center." He was a farmer, then a schoolmaster, and Baptist minister. From 1788 to 1805 he was pastor of the Hampton Grow Church. He was ordained at Gary Schoolhouse, September 9, 1805, and became the first pastor of Pomfret Baptist Church. During his labors at the Grow Meetinghouse in Hampton, he often conducted meetings at Hampton, Pomfret Landing, and Gary Schoolhouse, making the round on horseback.

About this time a pound was ordered built, between Mr. Weld's place and the main street. The walls were six feet high and four feet thick; bound at the top, and finished with four timbers hewn ten inches thick, linked together, and with a gate four feet wide. It was built to withstand the most unruly animal, and the ravages of time. This pound remained in fairly good condition until about 1918, when the stones were used in construction of the State road to Hampton station — a desecration to be deplored.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, farming in the region had returned to normal, and good breeds were being imported. After the hurricane of 1815 new homes were being built on the street and in other parts of the town. Philip Pearl was appointed agent to see that no one kept transients. We are not told whether this was to protect the business of the tavern-keepers, or to prevent the harboring of tramps. In 1788 the town poor were bid off, "to be kept in sickness and health," and the bidder was allowed the benefit of their labor. A special sum also was allowed to pay doctor's bills, for many of the poor were sickly or aged.

The old military spirit ever shown in Hampton was kept alive in the especial pride for the company of grenadiers, formed soon after the Civil War, and sustained with much spirit for many years. Size and strength were indispensable qualifications to this honored company: all members were at least six feet tall.

In 1789 Shubael Simons built a dam across Little River in the picturesque valley northeast of the Hill. This grist-mill and lovely pond, overshadowed by graceful hemlocks, and the miller's weatherbeaten dwelling, were long a rare picture of early Hampton. The property is now owned by Mr. Hall, and, remodeled and improved, it nestles still beneath the hills, the mill pond unchanged.

In 1844 the sect known as the Millerites had gained many followers in Hampton. Among them were some of the first families.

Two amusing incidents among this sect, who proclaimed the second coming of Christ and the end of the world, have come down to us. Certain members of the Kimball family robed themselves in white on the day appointed for the "Judgment," and spent the day on a shed roof awaiting the "last Trumpet"; so, also, Reuben Elliott — who then lived on the present Postemski place on the Hamton-Pomfret line — dressed in white and climbed a tall pole to be ready for the "coming."

Rev. Ludovicus Weld Homestead, situated on the old road north of the Catholic Church, where it overlooks the northeastern hills.

Rev. Weld, Hampton's third minister (1792-1824), a man of much ability, had four sons, of whom two were notable, Louis as Principal of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and Theodore as an early leader in the Anti-Slavery movement.

That mention is made of Mrs. Weld is quite unusual, "being a woman of much intelligence and accomplishments and distinguished for eccentricities and excellencies of character"—Larned's History.

It is tradition that when the Weld Homestead was snow-bound and men came to shovel out, Rev. Weld would treat them with the West India goods he always kept in the cupboard under the stairs.

Rev. Weld's successor, Rev. Daniel G. Sprague, on the contrary, was an ardent leader of the great temperance movement of that period.

The Weld homestead is on the map of 1856 as M. Perkins. Present owner—

Robert Holt, of Andover, Mass., whose name is on the first church list in Hampton, came in 1722 into the wilderness, bringing the millwright tools for the purpose of building a saw mill and corn mill on Cedar Swamp Brook, on the southern boundary of his 100 acre tract. The long deep ravine through which the brook courses to Little River afforded a natural mill site.

His land was bounded on the south by Windham's first highway of 1704, which crossed the triangle between the two present roads by the burying ground, where an ancient stone bridge, that once bridged a rivulet remains, although the great stones have been set apart now for drainage. From the stone bridge it crossed the cemetery knoll, where a section of the old walled-in road reminds us of the time when the only crossing of Cedar Swamp Brook was an Indian fording place on the Nipmuck Path (South Bigelow Road). The burying ground was laid out in 1715 (see Larned's History of Windham County, vol. 1, page 95). The original laying out was 20 rods front, to which 8 rods front was added about 1850.

Robert Holt was twenty-six years old when with his bride, Rebecca Preston, he built his cabin near the site where he eventually built a grist mill, high walls of which still stand, adjoining the bridge.

His first substantial house was a rough board structure, near the brook, built 30x12, with 12 foot stud, the roof and sides covered with two foot boards eight inches wide, and one inch thick, laid as shingles. There were eight small windows, two on a side, a north front door and an east kitchen door. A great stone chimney filled the center, with big kitchen fireplace on the east side. There were two rooms, with attic above, reached by very steep stairs, near the north door. The inside walls were finished with perpendicular wide oak boards. A basement cellar opened towards the brook.

In this primitive dwelling, Robert and Rebecca Holt lived comfortably, and six children were born to them. After a few years of hard labor and planning, a new gambrel roofed house was built across the driveway, opposite the first dwelling. This too had a great stone chimney in the center, with but one fireplace, that in the east kitchen, which was the center of all home comfort.

The old house stood until in the 1880's when it was taken down by Joseph Clark, the then owner. It was still in good condition, and had long been used as a shop. Descriptions of this last pioneer house of Hampton were given by Mrs. Chester Jewett, daughter of David Weaver, who was born in the little gambrel roofed house, and Mr. Thomas Riley, two of Hampton's old residents. Mr. Riley states that when he was a small boy before 1870, the first grist mill by the bridge was still operating.

A second gambrel roofed house was built by the Holt family, a few rods north on the pleasant hill above the brook, also of the architecture of before 1750. It is now owned by County Commissioner Carl Jewett.

This second gambrel roofed house stood near the road, which was then included in the old Fiske Road, which according to tradition, was once a section of an Indian Trail that had connected the Natchaug River in Chaplin with the Quinebaug River in Canterbury. The Canadas, Hampton's first settlers, followed this trail to Little River.

In 1789 Jedediah Holt leased a mill privilege to Thomas Stedman, for a bushel of corn, a barrel of cider, or the equivalent in money (Town Record). This mill was down the brook, east of the first little house, and is remembered by Mrs. Chester Jewett. The old millstones were removed by Joseph Clark, and used as door stones at the south door. They were salvaged by the Fish and Game Club, and will be used again when their new club house is built.

A small stream, on maps as Holt's Brook, empties into the head of the old saw mill pond. There have been five dams built on the brook, two for grist mills, one for a sawmill, one for irrigation of the Wolcott Cary place, now the property of the Fish and Game Club (the irrigation ditches can still be traced), and further upstream to flood a cranberry marsh, on what was once known as the "cranberry farm," now owned by Thomas Riley.

Abiel Holt, brother of Robert, came first into the settlement in 1718, and purchased 100 acres of land. Abiel chose the eastern slope of the hill. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fuller, descendants of the Holt family, live on homestead lands.

Not until after Hampton became a town was the road built between Hampton Hill and the Cedar Swamp Brook. One of the first acts of the new town was to "procure a deed of the trodden path that leads from Hampton to Scotland, where it crosseth individual lands."

This was the road through Howard's Valley. At that time the first bridge was built over the brook by the burying ground, and when the present bridge was built, nearly 150 years later, the original foundations were found to be intact.

On the west side of this road, near the brook, once stood the first South Bigelow schoolhouse, built in 1762. For several years after the new school was built, the old building was used by a sect known as the Varnumites. Varnum was a magnetic personality attracting many people. He claimed to have received special revelations from God, and at one time succeeded in obtaining a horse from a partisan by claiming that the Lord had revealed to him that the man would give the animal to him.

Varnum required his converts to make full confessions of sins in public, regardless of what the "sin" might be, adding spice to many of his meetings. Ebenezer Jewett III, as a boy, often attended the meetings "for the fun of it." He delighted to tell of sitting beside a Varnum follower one night, who put his hand on his head to keep him quiet, and as they rose to sing the old time hymn "Here I raise my Ebenezer," brought young Eben to his feet by the hair of his head.

Varnum finally went to Ohio to establish a New Canaan. Some Hampton people followed him, only to return disappointed.

On the map of 1856 the old schoolhouse is shown as a dwelling occupied by Alva Burnham. For many years the site was marked by a growth of wild roses.

In 1810 Hampton carried on much agriculture, with dairies producing butter and cheese, beef and pork marketed, sheep raising and wool manufactured domestically; also large quantities of tow cloth made from home grown flax.

There were 5 grain mills, 3 fulling mills, cloth works, 2 carding machines, 3 tanneries, 3 mercantile stores, 1 tavern, 1 Congregational Society, 2 Baptist Societies, 10 school districts, 1 Social Library, 20 dwellings on Hampton Hill, and 180 dwelling houses in town.

The population was 1274, with 22 electors. There were two companies of militia.

Taxable property including polls was \$37,740.

There were 2 ministers, 3 doctors, and 1 attorney in town.

Hampton, incorporated in October 1786, was originally a part of Windham and Pomfret, and comprised 25 square miles.

In 1850 the population was 946.

WE THREE OLD MEN OF HAMPTON

by Elizabeth Jewett Brown

Written August 1897, in honor of Patrick Pearl, Wolcott Carey, and David Grinslit, life time residents of Hampton.

We gather in the village store,
And there relate our early lore,
And tell the tales of boyhood o'er—

 We three old men of Hampton.

We bring old scenes to mind again,
And we forget we're aged men,
And never more shall see again

 The days we've seen in Hampton.

We view the changes time has wrought—
The training days where battles fought
In mimic war have passed to nought—

 Since we were boys in Hampton.

For gone are boyhood friends for aye,
For time has called the roll each day;
They've mustered silently away—

 The friends we've known in Hampton.

For faces then are seen no more,
The same trees bend their branches o'er,
The sun shines bright as days of yore—

 When we were boys in Hampton.

We sit in each accustomed seat
And gaze upon the quiet street
The bordered walks and houses neat

 As years gone by in Hampton.

But still the sun shines just as bright,
The winding roads with trees bedight
The pond which sparkles in the light

 When we were boys in Hampton.

We love each hill and fertile glade
The fairest land God ever made;
The lanes our infant feet have strayed—

 When we were boys in Hampton.

And when our earthly race is run,
And o'er our lives the setting sun
Has cast its rays, may each and one—

 Be laid to rest in Hampton.

Laid near the place which gave them birth,
God's Acre in the fair green earth,
From Death to Life, the newer birth—

 We three old men of Hampton.

Hampton in 1900 was a prosperous farming community that shipped milk by train to Boston. Buildings were kept painted and repaired with home sawed lumber, from Hyde's Mill at Bigelow. There were no modern improvements in homes, but they were comfortable, warmed by wood fires.

Churches were well attended, George Fuller was taking his large family of singers to church every Sunday in a big three seated spring wagon, drawn up Bigelow Hill by two strong horses. Hampton Church would not have been complete without their voices in the choir.

Rev. Morgan was pastor, and lived in the Albert Mills house. There was a large Sunday School, and the annual observance of Children's Sunday, with its crowd of young people and lovely flowers could not be forgotten. The beautiful stained glass windows had not then been placed in the church.

All entertainments came through the Grange, church or school. Telephones had reached Hampton Hill, and phonographs were coming.

Young people attended High School in Willimantic, driving "teams" to the depot, leaving them in a hitching stable for the day and going by train to Willimantic. Six trains stopped daily at Clark's Corner and Hampton.

Rural Delivery came in 1904, and two of the veteran mail carriers, Will and Reuben Pearl, are still on the Hampton routes.

Andrew Rindge was a noticeable character of the nineteen hundreds not to be forgotten. In poetic wit he chronicled all the highlight happenings of the town. Caring little for "style", he drove an old sorrel horse and buckboard, with wheels all of different makes and sizes. A bean pole with a lash answered for a whip. But alas one night when he had "looked long upon the wine" old Andrew was found dead in the road near his home. He was the last of the Rindge family who once owned a farm on Griffin Road. His home is now owned by Alex Marcus.

Hampton in 1950 is one of the most beautiful towns in the state. God did something for Hampton, in rolling hills, valleys and streams, that makes us feel—this is our home—it's Hampton.

Great changes have taken place in 50 years. Many of the old colonial homes are now owned by summer people who have carefully restored them, and many new houses are being built—not the twelve room houses of our forefathers, nor the eight rooms of a half century ago, but neat four room cottages, many by veterans. Hampton is becoming a residential town.

The restoring of the many Hampton houses has been a task of great undertaking, as is shown in the home of Dr. Wilfred Pickles in north Hampton. When he acquired the Baker farm and began to restore it to its original colonial lines, Dr. Pickles faced a very discouraging situation. The house had been moved from its original foundation on

the farm many years before, probably about 1850, when stoves had come into use, and colonial chimneys were not valued. The great summer trees had been covered with plaster ceilings, making it a "modern dwelling." Today the house is fully restored to all its original beauty.

This is undoubtedly one of the oldest houses in Hampton, the history of which we have been able to trace to some extent. This section of Hampton belonged to Pomfret before 1786. One of the first twelve proprietors of Pomfret was Joseph Griffin. In his allotment of 540 acres, divided in upland and lowland in different parts of the town, he received 256 acres in the south west part of Pomfret, as shown on the Lithographic Map, Larned's History of Windham County. Members of the Griffin family settled there at an early date and their home sites are shown on the map, on the long discontinued road through the Pickles' land.

Lyman Baker, former owner of Dr. Pickles' house was one of fifteen children, and was obliged to go out to work at fifteen years of age. In a few years he was able to buy what was then called the Cannon farm. He brought his 150 acres up to high cultivation and laid away a substantial sum for his old age. He was very thrifty and only if eggs sold for less than a cent apiece would he eat one. Only once did he ride on a train or visit a city. Then he went to Hartford and to the Capitol.

Now many former farms are, for lack of cultivation, returning to woodland. There are some dairy farms still being highly improved, such as those owned by Elmer Stone, W. W. Pearl, Frank Postemski, Wilmer Jones, C. F. Merrill, J. J. Donahue, Ray Fuller, Carl Jewett, Morton Burdick, Asa Burdick and Alfred Vargas.

Hampton has a Volunteer Fire Co. and Fire House. In 1949 Hampton began construction of a new community school, situated south of the Grange Hall. American Legion Post No. 106 is starting work on a Legion Home.

Hampton has 107 children enrolled in Grammar and High School. There are 351 voters and 28 miles of improved road. So every house in town is on a hard surfaced road. Much credit for the improvement of town roads is due to Selectman Carl W. Jewett.

There is 1 Catholic Church, Rev. Markowicz in charge. The Congregational Church has Rev. Charles L. Peeples as minister. The Howard's Valley Church holds monthly services during the summer, with Rev. Philip J. Cleveland, of Westminster, as supply.

All passenger train service is discontinued. Hampton sent 19 men and women to World War I, and 45 to World War II.

Stores in town are owned by J. T. Looney and George Meredith; garage by Robert J. J. McDermott.

The 1940 census of Hampton was 535.

PINE ACRES FOREST

One of the notable private improvements in Hampton in the past 30 years has been the development of Pine Acres Forest, by James L. Goodwin, on Route 6, between Hampton Hill and Clarks Corner.

Planting of the Forest began in 1920. The entire acreage of Pine Acres Forest is now 1,710. A beautiful lake two miles long now floods the Cedar Swamp section, formed by damming up Cedar Swamp Brook near Route 44, adding much to the scenic beauty of the highway. At the head of this lake is a small island and bird sanctuary, which was once an Indian camping ground.

Many years ago Pine Acres Hill was known as Moulton Hill, so named for an old woman who was believed to be a witch, even that she had charmed an immense gray squirrel that ran chattering along the road side walls, defying the sharpshooters' skill.

The first improved highway through Hampton came in 1910, when Hampton Hill was got out of the mud, something the present generation cannot appreciate. 1949 marked the rerouting of U.S. 6, diverting heavy traffic from Hampton Hill village, so that again much of the peace and quiet of early days seems to linger there.

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ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS
TO
“Folklore and Firesides
of Pomfret, Hampton
and Vicinity”

Following the publication of the first edition of “Folklore and Firesides of Pomfret, Hampton and Vicinity,” new information was obtained which I feel will be of interest to the reader.

Therefore, the following pages give the reader additional information not incorporated before. Pictures not obtainable previously, as well as data which had not come to the writer’s knowledge, are added to give as complete a picture of the life and times in eastern Connecticut of that era.

Susan Griggs

Pomfret

EXCERPTS FROM THE WINDHAM COUNTY TRANSCRIPT DURING THE CIVIL WAR

FEBRUARY 13, 1862

Putnam's Wolf Gun—The editor of the Pawtucket, R.I. Gazette says he has been made custodian of the gun with which Gen. Putnam killed the wolf in the den at Pomfret. It is an old Tower musket and bears the English coat of arms. This gun is the property of Mr. Samuel T. Mallery of Central Falls, in whose family it has been for many years.

A Pennsylvania girl, who has been serving as a soldier in the Army of the West for ten months, says she has discovered a great many females among the soldiers, one of whom is now a lieutenant. She has assisted in burying three female soldiers at different times, whose sex was unknown to any but herself.

Another call on Windham County—Mr. Jerome Tourtelotte, one of the three months volunteers, who has just returned from the seat of war, has under the authority of Gov. Buckingham, opened a recruiting office in this town, for the purpose of forming a Windham County Company for the 7th Connecticut Regiment. Several of the members of the 2d and 3d Regiments will return to Washington with him.

Major Burton has opened an office for the same purpose in Danielsonville.

OCTOBER 9, 1862

Besides those who are exempt from military duties under the United States and State laws, the law of Moses exempts another class. We find it in Deuteronomy, 24th chapter, 5th verse, the following statute: "When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go to war, neither shall he be charged with any business; but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he has taken."

OCTOBER 30, 1862

Putnam—A box containing the annexed articles was last week forwarded to the Connecticut Soldiers Relief Association at Washington by the Putnam Soldiers Aid Society:—Twenty-five new shirts, 6 old shirts, 19 pairs of new drawers, 38 towels, 3 dozen handkerchiefs, 9 pairs of pillow-cases, 3 sheets, 1 pair pants, 1 piece of fly-netting, 3 cans jelly, 1 bag dried raspberries, 1 bag whortleberries, 1 bag dried apples, 63 pamphlets, 1 cake mutton tallow, 9 pounds lint, 10 wrappers, 1 pair socks, 21 fans, and a lot of bandages.

Pomfret raised her needed men by volunteering. We hope Scotland has done likewise, and then we shall be able to say that not a conscript has left Windham County.

(Evidently there had been a draft on the Monday previous.)

NOVEMBER 6, 1862

A released prisoner from Richmond, who says he was on board the Merrimac No. 2, reports that vessel is thoroughly and heavily clad with iron, and is in every way a tough customer. She has been completed about a month, and has made several trips to Fort Darling. She has as yet but one gun on board, but the other guns for her were all ready. The machinery works well, and she can easily make eight miles per hour.

Thomas Stewart, aged ninety-two years, of East Newton, Ohio, was a private in the 101st Ohio Regiment, and took part in the battle of Perryville, where he was complimented for his bravery and soldierly daring. He has four sons, two grandsons, and three sons-in-law at present in the army. He was born in 1770, at Litchfield, Conn., where his father now resides, aged one hundred and twenty-two years.

AUGUST 27, 1863

TEN COMMANDMENTS TO SOLDIERS' WIVES

I. Thou shalt not put on important airs because thy husband receives thirteen dollars a month, with clothes and rations, nor because thou, thyself receivest a nice little sum from the State; nor shalt thou whine and pine thyself pale at thy husband's absence, but thou shalt bear all thy sorrows and perplexities with a patient and womanly manliness.

II. Thou shalt not spend thy husband's bounty money for finger rings and other brass trinkets and flumydiddles to adorn thyself, nor for confectionary; nor to ride on the cars when thou hast nothing to ride for, nor accordeons and jewsharps, but thou shalt buy with much prudence and only what is useful to thyself or the children, and lay by some till thy husband's return.

III. Thou shalt love thy country, but thou shalt love thy husband better, and wish him a safe return, and always remember that husbands will be scarcer after this war.

IV. Thou shalt not gad as a tattler and tell Mrs. Hornblower more than you know because she promises she sartin wont tell on't, nor make any calls till thou hast washed and combed the children and thyself; but moreover thou mayst join the knitting society and work diligently to furnish clothes for the needy soldiers all through the cruel winter.

V. Thou shalt behave thyself with discretion towards all mankind, especially such as have black mustaches, gold finger rings and smooth speech; thou shalt not take oyster suppers with them, nor shalt thou allow their fair speech or arch looks to turn thy head or thy heart lest shame come upon thee.

VI. Thou shalt anticipate thy husband's return with the loss of a limb, or an eye, and be a cripple for life; thou shalt treasure up much love for him; thou shalt cherish, honor and respect him all the days of his life.

VII. Thou shalt not fret thyself because thou dost not receive letters from thy husband as often as thou thinkest meet; nor shalt thou burden him in thy epistles with any imaginary ills of thyself or children; thou shalt not let tears fall on them (especially of the crocodile genus); thou shalt cheer and encourage him, now and henceforth.

VIII. Thou shalt not buy Wood lottery tickets.

IX. Thou shalt not go to balls nor dancing schools, nor envy those who ride in costly vehicles drawn by fine horses; nor shalt thou go to the circus to see the elephants and bipeds.

X. Thou who art unmarried shalt act soberly; thou shalt write long and cheerful letters to thy betrothes; thou shalt comfort and encourage the mother or wife of the deceased soldier.



PAGE 37. 4th paragraph. The festivities on the occasion of the raising of the mansion were notable, particularly when an Indian delighted the crowd by dancing on the ridgepole, not as stated on the occasion of George Washington's visit.

RUGGLES & DENNIS FAMILIES, CONT. FROM P. 125—POMFRET

“Edward Ruggles purchased...98 acres of land for ninety-eight pounds.”

Apparently the only tavern ever kept on the King's Highway to accommodate the traveling public was built by Edward Ruggles, who settled in Pomfret in 1723. The large old tavern house was purchased by Asa Dennis about 1800, and stood until 1850. According to Dennis tradition, the old Darn Man often rested by the fire place in the tavern kitchen. (See Darn Man, page 80, Hampton). The tavern barns stood many years after the present dwelling, home of Col. E. B. Dennis, U.S.A. was built.

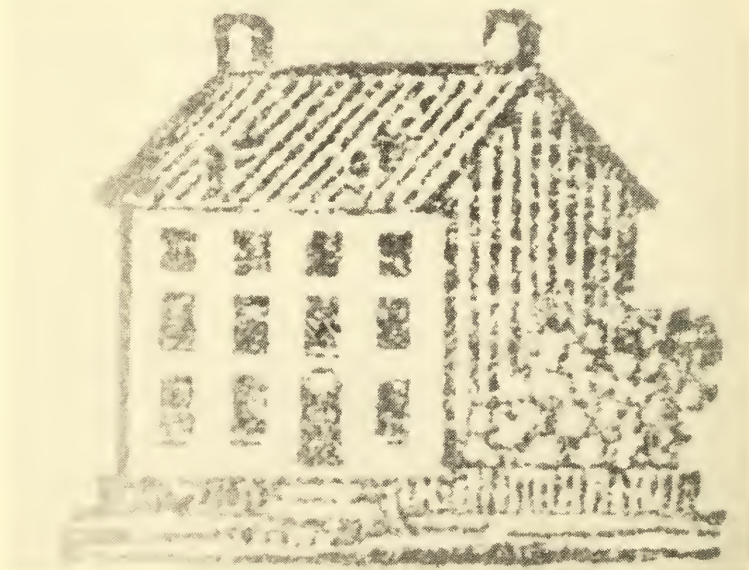
The Dennis family came from Portsmouth, R.I. They, the Clapps and the Congdons were Quakers, and were among the founders of the little Quaker Church of Pomfret. We learn from Col. Dennis that Rhode Island History states that General Prescott, after his capture, was brought to Pomfret, where he was held until exchanged for General Lee. Also that Joseph Dennis of Portsmouth, R.I., ancestor of Col. Dennis, was one of the forty men who took part in Prescott's capture. This seems one instance, at least, where a Quaker took some part in a war game. (Our R.I. neighbors, Pomfret, page 63.)

PAGE 146. Date of the Samuel Dresser homestead was 1793. The survey of Abington.

Parish Line passes directly through the house.

PAGE 154 Continued.

Pomfret was 40 years old when Nathan Griggs, yeoman, of Roxbury, Mass., purchased 91 acres of land in south west Pomfret, Jan. 18, 1737. Windham Road (Route 97) and the King's Highway were well traveled



F. B. PELLETT, PAGE 134 GRIGGS-PELLETT-DROWN HOMESTEAD

Owned and restored by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cunningham, of Elliott.

1. House as it was before 1900. Captain Pellett and members of Pellett family in foreground.
2. Surveyor's map of 1847, showing house as purchased by Captain Pellett. Map now in possession of Mrs. Cunningham.

through what is now Abington. James Ingalls' tavern was serving the traveling public (page 111) and William and Abigail Sharp had lived 15 years at the foot of Easter Hill (page 152).

The little meeting-house on Pomfret Hill had a large congregation not only of pious elders, but of young people who had an eye on each other. The long rides on horseback to and from meeting were ideal for young friendships, and Sunday night was courting night, as the Sabbath began at Saturday sundown. Thus our genealogy records the marriage of Nathan Griggs and Elizabeth Sharp, daughter of William and Abigail Sharp, in 1740, a southwest Pomfret romance.

Nathan Griggs had been resident in town three years in 1740, three busy years clearing a homesite and making ready the timbers of his dwelling. His 91 acres was very desirable because of its large tract of grass land, and uplands heavily wooded with American Hackmatack, from which boards and paneling as wide of 30 inches was cut. When all was ready, and the chimneys and foundations built, came house raising day, when the town folks turned out to raise the roof and, with cooperation, to enclose the walls. It was the work of a lifetime to finish a house, and seldom were partitions set before occupancy.

Nathan and Elizabeth Griggs' eldest child, Nathan, Jr., was born in 1741. Many years the little wooden cradle stood by the hearth, as they had seven children. It was customary for the mother's high post canopy bed to be in the kitchen as it was the warmest room, and under it by day was kept the trundle bed for the small children.

PAGE 155. GRIGGS-PELLETT FARM CONTINUED.

We regret to say that the date 1836 given for this house is erroneous. Following the history of an old house is always an adventure, and has been particularly so in the case of the Griggs-Pellett-Drown house. It passed to the ownership of Geo. Drown in 1892. After the death of his wife he lived alone by choice, until in January 1950 he was found dead, as so often happens.

This fine old house standing in the curve of the road was steadily going into decay, and when finally acquired by his nephew, Mr. Harold Cunningham, of Elliott, it was found to have been one of the very old houses of the town. From Town Records we find that Capt. Francis Pellett bought the property of Captain Elijah Griggs (War of 1812) in 1844. He had married the Captain's daughter, Sally, and there reared a large family of children. A lookout in the attic is understood to have been a relic of Capt. Griggs' time.

A surveyor's map of 1847 gives a drawing of the house as it appeared then. A reproduction on the opposite page shows that it originally had three stories and an attic. Since the house is but 18 ft. stud the ceilings were very low, as in all early dwellings. Note the planked north end and roof.

It was Capt. Pellett that "modernized" the house. Brick replaced the big stone chimneys, altho the stone foundations were kept. Two

floors with very high ceilings replaced the three floors, but the wide colonial paneling remains, with seven fine old fireplaces, iron door latches and square rooms with decorated hand painted walls.

On the wall in the upper hallway is a painted shield or emblem, also the date 1792, which might indicate when the walls were plastered. Although the crest is now dim, one can distinguish the red and white of the shield and the outline of the eagle and stars. A penny, dated 1798, was found when the old ell was torn down, possibly commemorating the date of the laying of the hearthstone.

It is tradition that Hessian soldiers working for their keep after the Revolution painted flowers and murals on colonial walls. Among old newspaper files we find an account of the Battle of Trenton where Washington took many Hessian prisoners who were amazed at the generosity of Washington, who sent them off with their baggage packs unsearched. They called him "a good rebel."

On a rafter is inscribed "Saint Patrick's Day, Mar. 17, 1749, George I. Dace." This is the first instance we have found where a Saint's Day was noted in a Puritan home. Probably Dace, longing for his native land, risked the anger of his employer to mark the day.

A large white granite sink has been found, turned bottomside up and used as a doorstone. The sink is of the type used by pioneer settlers, and the granite probably came from Cat Den Ledges in Pilsfershire.

The kitchen fireplace is unusually large, with a twelve foot hearthstone. It is tradition that logs for the fire were drawn in with a horse, entering by the west door and out through the south door, before the house was remodeled. A well near the south door, drawn by bucket and well sweep, furnished water for the house.

PAGE 156. Second paragraph. The law requiring a man to own land in order to become a voter went out of existence with the coming of Democracy. Hitherto a man, by marriage, could acquire his wife's property and become a voter.

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Old Goodell Homestead, on the Kings Highway. See Page 107.

West of the Mashamoquet—Abington. From an ancient drawing owned by Miss Adrianna Hutchins.

Hampton



1. W. Chapman. Purchased by Elijah Button in 1876, burned in 1932. Mr. Button was the last of the rugged men of Hampton who went west to Colorado, Nevada, Idaho and Utah in the great Gold Rush of the 1850's, making the trip twice with oxen and covered wagon, swimming his teams across the Mississippi. Making his last return trip at the beginning of the Civil War, he had one of his two horses and saddles confiscated by the Confederacy.

The Button family of Connecticut descended from Mathias Button, who settled at Salem in 1628 and died in Haverhill, Mass., at a great age. His son, Daniel, was killed at the battle of Bloody Brook, in Deerfield in 1675, and his daughter, Mrs. Hannah Dustin, was considered "the bravest woman of pioneer days" because of her escape from Indian captors.



Map — J. Grinslit. The Howard's Valley home of Mrs. Mary Grinslit, widow of J. Grinslit, when she married Elijah Button after his return from the Gold Rush. When she died, he married Miss Mary Stone of Howard's Valley and moved to the north end of the town. John Braney, an Irish emigrant, purchased the place in 1876. Like many others, he had come to work on the railroads, and then bought the little old farms left untilled after the Civil War. Mr. Braney could neither read nor write, and Mrs. Braney, who lived to a great age, dated herself by saying she was 15 years old at the time of the Great Wind in Ireland (1849). During the many years they resided there they were sometimes accused of selling unlawful liquor, but nothing was ever found on the premises. Years later a secret closet was found behind the stone chimney, which the law had always failed to discover. Of their two sons, Mike and Pat, Pat always remained at home, was blind in later life, yet traveled the old dirt highways with unflinching accuracy, and recognized a neighbor by the sound of his team. Mike Braney became a successful business man in Providence.

ADDITION TO PG. 94-5, PICTURES OF WESTMINSTER

1. Map—Pellett Tavern. 1719. Not standing. Later owned by John Parks, tavern Keeper, who in 1769 gave 4 acres land for meeting-house site, burial ground and common.

2. Map—Church. Westminster Meeting-house as it was before the Hurricane of 1938, when it was badly damaged. Now restored, it is enjoying a remarkable period of religious activity, through leadership of Rev. Philip J. Cleveland. Probably the only Congregational Church in the state to have a golden cross on the tower, which cross represents the blending of creeds and nationalities into one large congregation.

3. Map—Mrs. Carter. This very old house still stands in the fork of the Scotland-Hampton roads. Westminster's first post office in 1836, Peter Spicer, postmaster. Long owned by Mrs. Wood, a descendant.

4. Westminster Common, old sign post, and dwelling of parish's first physician, Dr. Rufus Johnson. Only foundation of burned dwelling remains.



CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS – HAMPTON

The oxen on the frontispiece were owned by George Nichols of Hampton.

Page 2. Of the early Canada settlement of 1708, a few cellar holes remain to mark these pioneer homes, last occupied by colored families, which gave the name to the locality of "Little Africa", its early history being quite forgotten. Recently Mr. Morton Burdick of North Hampton purchased 50 acres of land in this historic section, the road to which has long been closed. There are upland meadows where the houses stood, and low lands where tall cedars grow. From the swamp land flows a brook that carried water power for a dam, built by the pioneers, still in good condition. This is land owned by Edward Colburn on the Hampton-Canterbury town line (page 4). With water power to saw their timber and grind their corn for bread, the little settlement was a unit within itself. Fred Colburn of Pomfret is a direct descendant of Edward Colburn, pioneer.

Refer to Page 132, No. 4—Elliott's second school house was built in 1885. The first teacher was Miss Ella Sharp, of Hampton.

Refer to Page 117, No. 5—House owned by Samuel Rich.



TWINE MILL, POMFRET LANDING

The mill was built early in 1800 about the time the Hartford and Providence Pike went through. It stood until the hurricane of 1938, and had long been operated as a grocery by Horace Covell, brother of the late Willis Covell, also as post office and grist mill.



THE POMFRET LANDING SCHOOL HOUSE

It is located about 300 yards from the home of Adolph Jarvis (Jockey). This house was formerly owned by A. S. Bruce and is one of the oldest in the country.



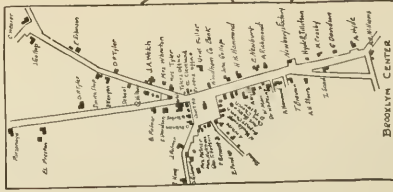
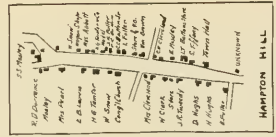
OLD POMFRET LANDING BRIDGE



PUTNAM SQUARE, PUTNAM, CONN.

"Horse and Buggy Days"

Copy of
E. M. WOODFORD
 Map of 1856
 With Additions
 WINDHAM COUNTY
 CONN.





University
Connecticut

