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A

COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY,

ECCLESIASTICAL AND CIVIL,

OF

EASTHAM,

WELLFLEET AND ORLEANS,

COUNTY OF BARNSTABLE, MASS.

From 1644 to 1844.

BY

REV. ENOCH PRATT, OF BREWSTER.



YARMOUTH :

PUBLISHED BY W. S. FISHER AND CO.

1844.

INDEX.

	Page.
Situation and Boundaries of the Town—Description of the Town,	1 to 5
Notice of the place before the settlement of the English—Of the Indians, and the purchase of the territory from them, with the grant of the Colony Court	6 to 12
Notice of the seven first settlers of Eastham, viz., Thomas Prince, John Doane, Nicholas Snow, Josias Cook, Richard Higgins, John Smalley, and Edward Bangs,	12 to 22
Notice of other settlers in the town, from 1646 to 1700,	22 to 31
Votes and proceedings of the Town, with some Acts of the Colony Court, from 1646 to 1690—Settlement of the Rev. Samuel Treat, with a sketch of his character, &c.—Men and money to carry on the War with the Narragansett Indians—King Philip's War, &c.—Letters from Bridgewater, Rehoboth, and Taunton, in answer to an invitation from the Cape Towns to come and live with them until their troubles with the Indians should be over, &c.	31 to 47
From the Union of the Old Colony with Massachusetts, in 1691, to the separation of Wellfleet, in 1763—New Patent granted by the King and Queen of England—Fisheries regulated by law—Money for support of the War—Meetinghouse repaired—Scarcity of Money—The Town School—Line settled between Eastham and Harwich—Death of Rev. Samuel Treat—Two new Meeting houses built—Settlement of the Rev. Mr. Osborn; his life and character; dismissal by Council, and their result—Benjamin Webb settled; his character and death—Bills of Credit by General Court—Land	

	Page.
Bank—Petition for a new County below Yarmouth—Settlement of Rev. Joseph Crocker in the South part of the Town; his life and death, &c.—Settlement of Rev. Mr. Cheever in the North part,	47 to 73
Principal events and doings of the town from 1772 to 1797, when Orleans was separated—Settlement of Rev. Mr. Bascom in the South part of the Town—The part which the Town took in the Revolutionary War—Their Resolutions, Money, and Men, to carry it on—New Constitution—Paper money depreciated—Governor and other State Officers chosen by the People—Termination of the War—Settlement of Rev. Mr. Shaw; his character and death, &c.—Shipwrecks, &c.	73 to 85
From 1797 to 1844—Division of the Town—Orleans incorporated—Death of Gen. Washington—Town Records to belong to Orleans—Meeting house repaired and enlarged—War declared with England, &c.—The part the town took in it—Shipwrecks—Methodist Episcopal Church, 1820—Camp Meeting—Revision of the Constitution—Rev. Mr. Babcock settled—Dismissed, 1840—Rev. Mr. Hardy, his death, &c.—Church, third Congregation from Plymouth,	85 to 99
Education,	99
Census,	101
Deputies to Colony Court,	102
Representatives to the General Court,	103
Town Treasurers and Clerks,	105
Selectmen,	107
Description of Wellfleet,	110
Notice of some of the first settlers,	113 to 116
North Precinct organized, &c.	117
Rev. Mr. Oaks first Minister,	117
Call and Settlement of Rev. Mr. Lewis,	119 to 122
Wellfleet set off as a District,	123 to 125
The votes and transactions of the District,	125
Oyster Fishery,	126
Resolutions and doings in reference to the Revolutionary War,	127
County Congress, &c.	128
Treaty concluded,	131
Rev. Levi Whitman settled,	133

	Page.
Death of Rev. Mr. Lewis,	133
District Schools,	134
Meeting house enlarged,	135
Episcopal Methodist Society,	136
Rev. Mr. Whitman's dismissal,	138
Ordination of Rev. Timothy Davis,	139
Declaration of war with Great Britain,	140
Rev. Mr. Davis' Dismission,	142
Congregational Church, South part of the Town,	143
Rev. Stephen Bailey,	143
Call of Rev. Joseph Merrill,	144
Rev. W. H. Adams and Rev. J. Dodd,	144
Education,	145
Census,	147
Town Clerks, Representatives, and Selectmen,	149
Orleans, description of	150
One hundred and thirty-seven Proprietors,	166
Universalist Society,	169
Ordination of Mr. Stillman Pratt,	170
Rev. Jacob White,	172
Education	172
Census,	172
Selectmen,	173
Representatives,	174
Ancient manners and customs,	177

P R E F A C E .

AT the solicitation of many intelligent and respectable individuals of this ancient town, the writer undertook this most difficult and important work; and now, after almost two years of careful and diligent research, with much diffidence, submits it to the public.

He has not adopted the arrangements of many able writers of town histories, but has been more minute and comprehensive—which has led him to fear that this course may detract from the merits and interest of the history, in the minds of many who are better judges of a work of this kind, than he can pretend to be. That there may be found in it, imperfections and errors, is readily admitted. In the course of two hundred years, many important facts have been lost, which would, no doubt, have added much interest to this history. Such facts and transactions only, as the writer found established by unquestionable authority, have been introduced; and these he has endeavored to use with fidelity, without pretending to perfect accuracy in every case. The ancient records of the town, on which he has depended to a considerable extent, are difficult to read, and some parts are torn and lost, making it extremely difficult to make out a regular and continuous history.

The writer has, however, the satisfaction of knowing that he has saved from oblivion many important facts, in which the present and future inhabitants of these towns have a direct and personal interest. It is for them, especially, that this work has been produced, and to them it is now respectfully dedicated, hoping they will overlook its errors and imperfections, and find it to be a useful and interesting family book, as the author has designed it to

be; and his prayer is, that, as the descendants of the Pilgrims, they may ever prize and enjoy the same spirit of civil and religious liberty, which induced their forefathers to leave their persecuted homes, cross the trackless ocean two hundred years ago, and settle on these shores, where they might enjoy these heaven born privileges unmolested, and transmit them to their posterity. It is also his prayer, that they may enjoy all that prosperity, religious hope, and happiness, which can result only from a cultivated mind, industrious and frugal habits, plain manners, good morals, and religious principles.

ENOCH PRATT.

P. S. The author has obtained materials and facts for this work, from Mather's *Magnalia*—Winthrop's *Journal*—Morton's *New England Memorial*, enlarged by the Hon. John Davis—Hutchinson's *History*—Belknap—Neal—Dwight's *Travels*—Collections of the *Massachusetts Historical Society*—Thatcher's *History of Plymouth*—Dr. James Freeman,—the *Laws and Records of the Old Colony Court*—and the *Town and Church Records*. He has also been assisted by Mr. Barnabas Freeman Mr. William Myrick, Jr., Mr. N. H. Dill, and some others.

SITUATION AND BOUNDARIES.

Eastham is in latitude $41^{\circ} 51' N.$, and longitude $69^{\circ} 56' W.$ The original township was bounded on the East by the Atlantic Ocean, on the West by Barnstable Bay and Namskaket, (now Brewster,) on the North by Herring-brook, at Billingsgate, (now Truro,) and on the South by Monamoy-ick, (now Chatham.)

This territory was in length fifteen miles, and in breadth about two and a half.

In 1762, the North part was set off into a district, called Wellfleet. In 1797, the South part was set off into a township, by the name of Orleans. Eastham was left with a territory only six miles long and two and a half broad, bounded on the East by the Atlantic Ocean, on the North by Wellfleet, on the West by Barnstable Bay, and on the South by Orleans.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN.

The only opening into the beach, from Race Point to Chatham, which forms any harbor for vessels, was formerly found in Eastham. It has been for many years moving south, and is now found in Orleans. This is small, and called Nauset, or Stage harbor. The entrance is narrow, and obstructed by a bar, on which there is not more than eight feet of water at full sea.

It is divided into two arms, one of which extends north, and has but little depth of water. A body of salt marsh, containing about two hundred acres in it, is protected from the ocean by a narrow sand beach.

The south-western arm, which is called Town cove, has deeper water, but is sufficient, at high water and common tides, to admit only small vessels.

On the west side of the town is a sandy flat, a mile wide, which is nearly dry at low water, and may be easily crossed by horses and carriages: of consequence, there is no good harbor on this side of the town. Large stumps of trees are seen nearly a mile from the shore, and peat swamps have been found, from which fuel is now dug. No doubt, therefore, can be had, that this bar was formerly a part of the upland, which has been washed away by the action of the wind and water. The shore on the back side of the town has washed away, in many places, more than one hundred yards, since the remembrance of some of the inhabitants; and a large peat swamp, which had been buried many feet deep by the sand, has been washed out in the bluff, and is dug by the owners of the land for fuel.

Billingsgate point is on the west side of the town, about six miles from the main land, with which it was formerly connected; but for many years it has been an island—the sea having broken over and washed it away in two places, where is sufficient water for small vessels to pass through. It is a mere sand beach. A light house was built on this Point, in 1822. The plan was originated by Capt. Michael Collins, who prosecuted this object with great zeal, until he obtained the grant from the Government to build it. Much credit is due to his memory for his exertions and success.

Experience has shown it to be exceedingly beneficial to the interests of navigation generally in the bay, and especially to guide vessels into the safe and commodious harbor of Provincetown.

Some years after this Light was erected, the point had so washed away, that it was in danger of falling, when it was taken down and rebuilt higher up on the point, and a break-

water was made to secure it from further depredations.—The packets in the bay, fishing and other vessels, frequently run under this point when met by head winds or storms, or when they have to wait for the tide to enter their harbors.

In 1833, three light houses were erected on the Atlantic side of the town, about one mile north of Nauset harbor, which have proved to be a great benefit to vessels coming into Boston harbor from foreign countries, or passing round the Cape—as no one has been shipwrecked on this part of the shore since they were built, which was frequently the case before. It is understood by the writer, that they were built in this place, principally by the advice and exertions of Mr. Collins, the present keeper.

There are several creeks, on the west side, which at high water admit small vessels into them.

The first is Great Meadow river, the mouth of which is south-west from the meeting-house. East of it is a body of salt marsh.

About half a mile south of this river, is Boat Meadow river, which runs from the south-east. Its entrance lies about the same direction from the meeting-house, and is eight feet deep at high water. A body of salt marsh extends from the mouth of this river to within four rods of Town cove, leaving only a narrow ridge for a road. The marsh is not more than fifteen rods from the swamp, which is the head of Jeremiah's gutter; and as the land is low between them, in very high tides, the sea flows across from the bay to the Town cove, completely insulating the northern part of the county. At this place a navigable canal was attempted to be made, but the project failed.

Besides these creeks, there are three small brooks, which empty themselves into the bay. The first is Indian brook, which forms the boundary between Eastham and Wellfleet, and runs into the harbor at Silver springs. South of this is Cook's brook, which is dry half of the year. One mile south of this is a small brook, called Snow's. One mile south of this is Grape swamp, which sometimes discharges water into the bay.

On the eastern side of the township, in the fertile tract, the road passes over a small stream of fresh water. Jeremiah's gutter is a small brook, very narrow, and not more than fourteen rods in length.

There are eight fresh water ponds in Eastham.

The most remarkable are Great pond and Long pond.

Great pond is a quarter of a mile from the western shore. A communication was opened between it and the bay, for the purpose of suffering alewives to pass into it, but it soon closed.

A narrow neck, about forty feet wide, separates it from Long pond, the distance of which from Mill pond, connected with the northern arm of Nauset harbor, is not more than a furlong.

The soil of the town is various. A large proportion is sandy and barren. On the west side, a beach extends from the north line, near a half of a mile wide, till it comes to Great pond, where it stretches across the township almost to Town cove. This barren tract, containing about seventeen hundred acres, which now has hardly a particle of vegetable mould, formerly produced wheat and other grain. The soil, however, was light.

North of the fertile tract, on the eastern side of Eastham, the land is light and sandy; but, except for the distance of a half a mile from the bounds of Wellfleet, is good for the lower part of the county. In this part of the town the greatest quantities of corn and rye are grown. As very little of the land is good for English grass, the raising of grain is the principal business to which the farmers attend. More corn is produced than the inhabitants consume. More than a thousand bushels are sent to market, and in years past more than three times that quantity has been exported. Formerly several farms raised five hundred bushels of grain annually, and one eight hundred bushels. This is the only town in the county that raises sufficient for its own consumption.

Except a tract of oaks and pines, adjoining the south line of Wellfleet, and which is about a mile and a half wide, no wood is left in the township. The forests were imprudently cut down many years ago, and no obstacle being opposed

to the fury of the wind, it has already covered with barrenness the large tract above described, and is still encroaching upon other parts. It is however protected in some measure by planting beach grass. This township is chiefly a plain.

There were, in 1802, in the town, one hundred and twenty-two families, who inhabited ninety-nine dwelling-houses, seven only of which were two stories in height. The other buildings were, besides barns, two windmills, two school-houses and a meeting house.

The different parts of the town are distinguished by appropriate appellations. The north-east part retains the ancient name, Nauset. The north-west part is called Half-ponds, and received its name from two small ponds in the vicinity. The part north of the Great meadow, and adjoining to it, is denominated Great Neck.

In 1800, three fishing vessels only were owned by the inhabitants, and three coasters, which in the summer were employed to bring lumber from the state of Maine, and in the winter made voyages to the West Indies. Not so many of the young men were then engaged in the cod fishery, as in other lower towns in the county, but many of them were employed in the merchant service, and sailed from Boston. The same kinds of fish are taken here as on other parts of the coast.

By the act of incorporation which separated Orleans from Eastham, the benefits of the shell fishery in Town cove were to be mutually enjoyed. At that time about one hundred barrels of clams for bait were annually collected in this town, which were worth five dollars per barrel.*

* Partly from a survey of the town in 1800.

SOME NOTICE OF THE PLACE BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT BY THE ENGLISH; OF THE INDIANS, AND THE PURCHASE OF THIS TERRITORY FROM THEM; WITH THE GRANT OF THE COLONY COURT.

The place was first visited by the English in the month of November, 1620, being a part of the company and crew of the *Mayflower*, which anchored in the harbor of Cape Cod. On the 6th of December, ten of the principal men, and a number of the seamen, left the ship in the morning, to coast along the shore, to seek a suitable place for their settlement. They passed Pamet river and Billingsgate point, and came to the bottom of the bay towards evening, and landed a little north of Great pond, near to the present camp-meeting ground.

On their approach to the shore, they discovered a number of Indians, engaged in cutting up a grampus, who, on seeing them, immediately fled into the woods.

The English built a barricade, planted sentinels, and laid down beside a fire which they had kindled.

They saw the smoke of the Indians' fire, four or five miles from them. Early the next day, they went a little way into the interior, where they came upon a large burial place, partly encompassed with a palisado, like an English churchyard, and filled with graves of various sizes.*

They returned on board their shallop, and at about midnight, hideous cries were heard, and the sentinel called, "arms! arms!" but by firing two guns, the noise ceased.

About five o'clock in the morning, the same noises were heard again, and they had only time to cry out, "Indians!" when the arrows came flying thick about them.

The English seized their guns, and in a moment, bullets were exchanged for arrows, but no exchange could be a match for the dreadful Indian yells.

*The spot where this deposit of Indian remains was, cannot now be pointed to. It was somewhere between the shore and Great pond.

They fled, except a lusty Indian, supposed to be their captain or chief, who placed himself behind a tree, discharged three arrows, and stood three shots from a musket, which struck the tree, when he gave a horrid yell and fled. They picked up eighteen of their arrows—some were headed with brass, some with deer's horns, and others with eagle's claws. This contest with the Indians in this place, the Pilgrims called, "The First Encounter."

It is supposed that the Indians were excited to this act of hostility, by the treacherous conduct of Capt. Hunt, who came into the bay a few years before, and under the pretence of trading with the Indians, enticed a number of them on board of his ship, and carried them to Spain, where he sold them as slaves.

No harm was done to them or the Indians, but they left the place immediately, to make further discoveries; and had no further knowledge of the place, or of its inhabitants, until the next spring.

After the company had settled at Plymouth, they were informed by Samoset, an Indian, that the place where they had the encounter with the natives, was Nauset, and the tribe there were called the Nauset Indians, who had about one hundred fighting men; and the English boy who had been lost in the woods, was there.*

On receiving this intelligence, in July, 1621, Governor Bradford sent ten men in one of their large boats to recover him. The object of their visit to Nauset being made known to Aspinet, the chief sachem of the tribe, the boy was restored, and having concluded a peace with them, the deputation returned to Plymouth.

Massasoit, the sachem of the Wampanoag Indians, made a treaty with the English at Plymouth, in which he acknowledged the king of England as his sovereign. The sachems of Nauset, Pamet, (Truro,) and Chammaquid, (Barnstable,) who were under him, submitted to the same authority.

After this, a friendly intercourse existed between the Eng-

*A boy belonging to the Plymouth company, wandered into the woods near that town, and was lost. He was found by the Indians, and carried to Nauset.

lish company at Plymouth and the Indians at Nauset, whom they frequently visited to procure corn and beans.

In 1622, the Plymouth company were reduced almost to a state of famine.* Their only recourse was to the Indians, to supply their wants ; their trade with them was conducted with fairness and honesty, and they were treated with respect and kindness by them.

But this kind intercourse was for a time interrupted. Early in the year 1623, a conspiracy among the Indians was made known to the English by Massasoit, who continued faithful, and in this conspiracy the sachems of Nauset and Pamet were concerned.

Strong and severe measures were immediately taken to quell and put an end to this conspiracy.

Capt. Standish, with a considerable force, was despatched to Massachusetts Bay, where the principal conspirators resided. He put a number of them to death.

This produced such fear in the minds of others, that they concealed themselves in swamps and other secret places, where they perished. Such was the fate of Aspinet, the sachem of Nauset, and his subjects were reduced to humility and subjection to the English. After this, Capt. Standish and others came to Nauset, and having occasion to lodge on the shore during the night, left their boat in a creek not far from them. An Indian went on board of it, and stole some beads, scissors, and other trifling things ; when the captain missed them in the morning, he took a part of his company and went to the sachem, telling him what had been done, and requiring a restoration of the articles, or the person who stole them, he being known to the Indians, or else he would take revenge on them before he left ; and refusing whatsoever kindness they offered, he left them for that night. In the morning, the sachem came to them, with a large number of his people, in a stately manner, and saluted the captain by bowing and thrusting out his tongue, so that one might see the root of it ; then licked his hand from the wrist to the fingers' end. Having done this, he delivered the articles to

* Winslow, Hazzard's Coll.

the captain, saying he had much beaten the person for doing it, and had caused the women to make bread and bring them, according to their desire, seeming to be sorry, and glad to be reconciled. They now obtained the corn, which was the object of their visit, and returned home.*

An amicable trade was continued between them, and supplies of corn were purchased of them, whenever they were needed. The Plymouth colony repeatedly visited this place, for the purposes of trade, and maintained a friendly intercourse with the natives for twenty years, during which time no attempts were made to purchase the land or to begin a plantation at Nauset.

1640. This year, 'the purchasers, or old comers,'† of Plymouth colony obtained of the Court the grant of a tract of land, from the bounds of Yarmouth, three miles to the eastward of Namskeket, and across the neck from sea to sea.— But it remained unimproved ; no township was begun.

1643. Several members of the church of Plymouth became dissatisfied with their situation, notwithstanding the favorable opinion which they had first conceived of the place. They had now discovered that they had built their town in

* Winslow's Relation.

† The *purchasers, or old comers*, may need explanation. Phineas Pratt and others were called purchasers, or old comers. The Leyden company of Pilgrims, before they embarked for this country, formed a partnership in trade with London merchants, commonly called merchant adventurers. The connection was to continue seven years, at the end of which time all the common property was to be divided. In 1626, the Colony of Plymouth bought out the interest of the adventurers, for £1800. Soon after, the Colony hired to Gov. Bradford and his eight associates, the trade of the Colony for six years, they on their part undertaking to pay therefor the £1860 to the adventurers, and all the other debts of the Company, amounting to £2600 more; and also to bring over yearly £50 in hoes and shoes, and to sell corn for six shillings a bushel. Those who were engaged in this contract were called purchasers. The old comers were certain of those who came over in the three first vessels, viz. the Mayflower, the Fortune and the Ann.

When, in 1640, Gov. Bradford, in whose name the Patent from the Plymouth company in England had been taken out, surrendered that instrument to the body of freemen three tracts of land, the first comprehending Eastham, Orleans and Brewster, in the county of Barnstable ; the second, a part of New Bedford and Dartmouth, in the county of Bristol ; and the third, Swanzey and Rehoboth, in the same county ; and Barrington, Warren, and perhaps Bristol, in Rhode Island, were in the surrender to these purchasers, or old comers. They were in all fifty.

the neighborhood of one of the most barren parts of New England. Consequently, it was impossible that Plymouth should ever be raised into a flourishing and opulent capital. Many of their number had already left the town, and now a number of respectable members requested a dismissal.—The whole body of the church began seriously to consider whether it would not be best to remove in a body to another place, than thus to be weakened by degrees. Many meetings were held by the church on this subject, and their views and opinions were very different. Some were for still remaining together in Plymouth. Others were determined to remove, declaring that if the whole church would not go, they would go by themselves. But, notwithstanding these various opinions, brotherly love still continued among them.

At length, those who preferred staying at Plymouth, yielded to the sentiments of the others, and a removal was unanimously agreed to, on the condition that a place might be found, which would conveniently receive the whole church, with the addition of such persons as might afterwards join them.

The place selected was Nauset, on Cape Cod; and the purchase of the place was now made of the Indians, by the committee who came down to examine it. This territory, on further examination, disappointed their expectations, and they changed their resolution to remove in a body to this place. It was found to be fifty miles from the centre of the settlement, and inhabited only by savages.*

Its extent was too limited to be sufficient to accommodate the whole Society, much less capable of receiving increasing numbers; and the harbor was incomparably less commodious than Plymouth.

1643. In a voyage to Cape Cod, † the Governor took Squanto ‡ with him, as an interpreter and pilot, where the latter was seized with a fever, of which he died. This loss was severely felt, as his place could not be supplied. Although, on some occasions his conduct was somewhat exceptionable,

* Thacher's History of Plymouth.

† Chatham.

‡ An Indian.

yet, as an interpreter and pilot, the English always found him faithful.

A short time previous to his death, he requested the Governor to pray that he might go to the Englishmen's God in heaven ; and he bequeathed his little property to his English friends, as remembrances of his love.*

1644. The church again sent a number of persons to examine the territory more extensively.

These were Thomas Prince, John Doane, Nicholas Snow, Josias Cook, Richard Higgins, John Smalley, and Edward Bangs, with the Governor, and many other members of the church. On examination, they judged that it was not capable of containing more than twenty or twenty-five families ; and consequently that it was not large enough to accommodate the whole church, much less to afford room for future increase. They however renewed their purchase of the natives. How much they paid for it is not known, but it is supposed to have been a valuable and honest consideration.

The lands which were bought of the natives were as follows: A tract of land called Pochet, with two islands lying before Potanumaquiet, with a beach and a small island upon it ; also, all the land called Namskeket, extending northward to the bounds of the territory belonging to George the sachem, excepting a small island, which was purchased afterwards. These tracts were bought of the sachem of Monamoyick, Mattaquason, and of George, probably the immediate successor of Aspinet. They extended northward from the bounds of the territory claimed by Mattaquason, excepting a small neck of land, lying by the harbor, † on the east side of the tract, which the purchasers stipulated to fence, that the Indians might use it as a corn field, and that they should have liberty to get shad and other fish in the cove, ‡ and have a part of the blubber of whales that should be driven on shore, the proportion to be determined by the English. It was also asked who owned Billingsgate, which was un-

* Thacher's His. of Plymouth.

† Nauset.

‡ Town cove.

derstood to be all the land north of the territory purchased of George the sachem. The Indians said, none owned it. Then, said the purchasers, that land is ours. They answered, It is.

1644. This year the grant of Nauset was made by the Court, as follows: 'The Court doth grant unto the church of New Plymouth, or those that go to dwell at Nauset, all that tract of land lying between sea and sea, from the purchasers' bounds at Namskeket to the herring brook at Billingsgate, with the said herring brook, and all the meadows on both sides of said brook, with great bass pond there and all the meadows and islands within the said tract. Nathaniel Morton, Secretary of the Court.'*

It was concluded that the whole body should not remove from Plymouth, but liberty was given to those who desired, to go and begin a plantation at this place, they agreeing to pay for the purchase which had been made in the name of the whole church.

SOME NOTICE OF THE SEVEN FIRST SETTLERS OF EASTHAM, VIZ: THOMAS PRINCE, JOHN DOANE, NICHOLAS SNOW, JOSIAS COOK, RICHARD HIGGINS, JOHN SMALLEY, AND EDWARD BANGS.

These men, in April, 1644, having obtained possession of the grant of the Court, as above, and the right of this territory from the Indians, came immediately to Nauset, with their families, and began the settlement.

The east side of the town still retains the name of Nauset.

Thomas Prince pitched his tent, and commenced the labor of cultivation on about two hundred acres of the richest land in the place. Some of the bounds to the farm, which

* Nauset records.

were erected by Mr. Prince, or more probably by his son-in-law, Samuel Freeman, still remain. This farm extended from the bay to the Atlantic.

The house of Governor Prince stood about forty rods to the eastward of the road, on the farm of the late Samuel Freeman, Esq.

These first settlers are said to have been among the most respectable inhabitants of Plymouth. Their departure from that place was deeply regretted by those who remained. But lamented as it was, at that time, it was productive of great good to the whole colony. It did not essentially injure that settlement, for their numbers were soon supplied by others; and it contributed eventually to the settlement of all the lower part of the county of Barnstable; the consequence of which was, that the Indians, still a formidable body, were overawed, their good will obtained, and they were thereby prevented from joining in any hostile attempts against the English, in the wars which ensued soon afterwards with other Indians.

THOMAS PRINCE, the distinguished leader in the settlement of this town, was born in England. He came to Plymouth in the ship *Fortune*, which arrived in 1621, being then in the twenty-second year of his age.

1624. He married Patience, the daughter of Elder Brewster.

1634. He was chosen Governor of the colony.

1635. His wife having died, he married Mary, the daughter of Mr. William Collier, of Duxbury. This year he was appointed an Assistant to the Governor.

1638. He was again chosen Governor of the colony.

1657. While residing in Eastham, he was the third time chosen Governor.

The law required that the Governor should live in Plymouth, but a dispensation by the Court was granted in his favor, and he continued, while holding this office, to reside here for seven years.

1665. He removed to Plymouth, and was not afterwards a citizen of Eastham.

Governor Prince lived in the house in that town which was provided for him by the government, until his death, which was March 29th, 1678, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

The Governor's salary was £50 per annum.

He lived in rather troublesome times, and his administration, it is said, was inauspicious and perplexing. Many unhappy jars and animosities prevailed in consequence of the measures which were pursued against the sectaries of that day, and especially against the Quakers. He had also to encounter many difficulties with the Indians. But, amidst these various perplexities, the government appears to have pursued a firm and steady course, with its most substantial interests in view. The Hon. John Davis says: 'If we except the lamented departure in some things, from a just and prudent toleration on religious subjects, a critical and candid examination of Governor Prince's conduct, during the eighteen successive years of his magistracy, will find, it is believed, little to reprehend, and much to approve.'

He is particularly to be applauded for his solicitous attention to the establishment of schools in the colony, and the cause of general education; and in opposition to the clamors of the ignorant and selfish, he used his influence to procure means for the support of grammar schools. He was also a firm supporter of an educated and regular ministry. The friends of learning thought that no method would be more effectual in preventing the churches from being overwhelmed with ignorance and fanaticism.*

He left seven daughters, all of whom were married while he lived. His son Thomas went to England, where he married and died young.

His appearance, it is said, was peculiarly dignified and striking. He was excellently qualified for the office of Governor, had a countenance full of majesty, and was therein a terror to evil doers.†

* Governor Winslow.

† Dr. Thacher.

There is a pear tree now standing on the farm of Governor Prince, in this town, near the spot where his house stood, planted by himself, to which the following lines are addressed, by Mr. Heman Doane, a descendant of Deacon John Doane, one of his companions:

Two hundred years have, on the wings of time,
 Passed, with their joys and woes, since thou, Old Tree!
 Put forth thy first leaves in this foreign clime,
 Transplanted from the soil beyond the sea,
 Whence did our pious Pilgrim Fathers come,
 To found an empire in this western land,
 Where they and theirs might find a peaceful home —
 A safe retreat from persecution's hand.
 That exiled band long since have passed away,
 And still, Old Tree! thou standest in the place
 Where Prince's hand did plant thee in his day —
 An undesigned memorial of his race
 And time — of those, our honored fathers, when
 They came from Plymouth o'er and settled here —
 Doane, Higgins, Snow, and other worthy men,
 Whose names their sons remember to revere.
 Full many a summer breeze and wintry blast
 Through those majestic boughs have waved and sighed,
 While centuries with their burdens by have passed,
 And generations have been born and died.
 And many a sister tree has had its birth,
 Performed its labors, and fulfilled its day;
 And mighty kings and kingdoms of the earth
 Have lived and flourished, died and passed away.
 There didst thou stand in times of bloody strife,
 The youthful days of Boston's famous tree,—
 And when our patriot fathers sold their lives
 To buy their country's glorious liberty!
 Old time has thinned thy boughs, Old Pilgrim Tree!
 And bowed thee with the weight of many years;
 Yet, mid the frosts of age, thy bloom we see,
 And yearly still thy mellow fruit appears.
 Venerable emblem of our sires of yore!
 Like them thou hast performed life's labors well;
 And when, like them, thy days are passed and o'er,
 These lines may help thy lengthened stories tell.

This celebrated pear tree, planted by Governor Prince, in this place, two centuries ago, and which still annually yields its delicious fruit, down to the seventh generation, is surely a fit emblem of that church which was planted by him on the same soil, and at the same time. If the rich harvests of this old tree are computed to be thousands of bushels, so from that church, we may believe, that thousands of golden sheaves have been gathered into the garner of God, as well as many of the native tribe of Indians, who lived here. 'It is especially gratifying to know, that from this church first sounded out the words of life and salvation to many natives, whose bodies now sleep in the sands of the Cape, but whose spirits have gone to God who gave them, to swell the number of the blood-washed throng.'

The next to Governor Prince, of the planters of Nauset, was Deacon John Doane. He came to Plymouth soon after the settlement of that place, in one of the three first ships.

1633. He was chosen one of the Assistants to the Governor.

1636. 'It was ordered, that Mr. Ralph Smith, Mr. John Doane, and John Jenney for the town of Plymouth, with others for other towns, should be added to the Governor and Assistants, as a committee for the whole body of this colony, to meet together the fifteenth of November at Plymouth, and there to peruse all the laws and constitutions of the plantations within this government, so that those that are still fitting might be established; and that those that time hath made unnecessary, might be rejected; and others that were wanting, might be prepared, that so at the next Court they might be established.'

They assembled according to the order, and having read the combination, made at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November, 1620, on board of the Mayflower, they performed the important work for which they were appointed. This was the first revision of the laws of the colony; and to be appointed one of the committee for this work was a mark of distinction, showing that Deacon Doane was respected for his wisdom and integrity.

1642. He was again chosen as one of the Assistants to Governor Winslow. Before his removal to Eastham, he was one of the deacons of the church of Plymouth, and was a zealous supporter of the cause of religion. He still held this office in the church here, and was often chosen to offices of trust and importance, both in the colony and in the town.

He was forty-nine years old when he came here, and lived sixty years afterwards, when he died, in 1707, being one hundred and ten years old. Tradition says that he was rocked in a cradle several of his last years.

Deacon Doane took possession of about two hundred acres of land, north of the harbor, and erected stone monuments, as bounds to his farm, some of which are standing at the present day, having the initials of his name cut in them.

The spot where his house stood, is pointed out by his descendants, near the water, and the remains of the cellar are still visible.

Few men have lived so long and usefully, and been gathered to their fathers in peace, at such an age.

1663. John Doane, Jun., son of the former, was appointed by the Court, a receiver of the excise, or duty, on the Cape Cod fisheries.

1662. He married Hannah Bangs, daughter of Edward Bangs, and was the father of Samuel Doane, who had three sons, Solomon, Noah and Simeon.

The sons of Simeon Doane were Deacon John Doane, Benjamin, Isaiah and Ephraim.

The sons of Deacon John Doane were Timothy, Heman, Simeon and John.

The sons of Benjamin Doane were Joseph and William.

The sons of Isaiah Doane were Freeman, Myrick and Heman. The descendants of the first settlers, through their various branches, are very numerous, many of whom remain in this and the neighboring towns, and others have removed to different parts of the country.

Doctor Daniel Doane was probably a brother of Deacon John Doane. He was the first physician of Eastham, and

continued in the practice until near the time of his death, which was in 1712. Doctor David Doane was a son of the former, and succeeded him in the practice. He married Doretha Horton, on the 30th day of September, 1701. He had five children, Jonathan, Hannah, Keziah, John and Nathan.

Jonathan Doane, Esq., was the son of Doctor David Doane. He was the father of Sylvanus Doane, the father of Capt. Obadiah Doane.

EDWARD BANGS. In the earliest Plymouth records mention is frequently made of Edward Bangs, who was the first of the family that emigrated to this country. He is repeatedly mentioned as serving on the grand jury, as an overseer or captain of the guard against the Indians, as an appraiser of lands, and as engaged in other public employments.

In 1623, a division of lands appears to have been made, and a record was made of their grounds who came over in the ship *Ann*; among them is the name of Bangs, to whom four acres were assigned, which was a little more than the average quantity — some having six or eight acres, and some only one. This was probably owing to the number of which their respective families were composed.

The land assigned to Mr. Bangs was among those described as lying on the other side of the town, towards Eel river.

In 1627, at a public Court held the 22d of May, it was agreed to divide the stock by lot among the companies of the three ships. The whole were divided into twelve companies, and lots were drawn. Edward Bangs was in the twelfth, with ten other persons. To this lot fell the great white back cow, which was brought over in the *Ann*.

January 3d, 1627, a new division of lands, twenty acres to each person, (in addition to lands formerly divided,) was made. Six persons were appointed layers out, viz. William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cook, Joshua Pratt and Edward Bangs.

In 1633, we find him on the list of freemen of Plymouth.

In 1636, he was on a jury of trials.

In 1640, ten acres of land were granted to him.

In 1641, fourscore acres of land were granted to him, on condition that he contribute one-sixteenth part towards building a barque of forty or fifty tons. He was one of the purchasers or old comers.

In 1644, Edward Bangs was appointed, by the Court, an appraiser of land.

In the same year, he removed from Plymouth to Nauset, with his family.

In 1647, he was a deputy to the Colony Court ; also, a surveyor of highways in Nauset.

In 1650, a deputy to the Court.

In 1651, a surveyor of highways for Eastham.

In 1654, he was appointed, with others, to lay out a road from Sandwich to Plymouth.

In 1657, he was licensed as a retailer in Eastham, meaning shop-keeper.

In 1663, he was a deputy to the Court ; also, in 1664.

He died in Eastham, 1670.

Capt. Jonathan Bangs, son of the preceding, was probably born in Plymouth, and came here with his father, and other children.

He was married July 16th, 1664, to the daughter of Rev. John Mayo. He was twice chosen as a deputy to the Colony Court, and once to the General Court at Boston.

About 1674, with his family, he moved to Harwich, where he died in 1728, aged 88 years.

His wife Mary died in 1711, aged 66 years.

His son, Capt. Edward Bangs, was born in Eastham, Sept. 30th, 1665. He died in Harwich, May 22d, 1746, aged 81 ; his wife Ruth died June 22d, 1738, aged 64.

His son, Edward Bangs, was born in 1694, in Harwich, and died June 3d, 1755, aged 61 ; his wife Sarah died August 8th, 1727, aged 25. They had two sons, Elkanah and Benjamin.

Benjamin Bangs was born June 24th, 1721 ; married to Desire Dillingham, January 4th, 1749, by Rev. Isaiah Dunster ; and died Oct. 31st, 1769. His children were

1st. Joshua, born March 26th, 1751 ; died February 3d, 1778.

2d. Isaac, born December 11th, 1752 ; died 1780, unmarried.

3d. Edward, born Sept. 5th, 1756 ; married, 1788, to Hannah Lynde, by Rev. Mr. Bancroft of Worcester.

4th. Benjamin, born July 21st, 1758 ; died March 9th, 1814, aged 56 ; leaving five sons and two daughters, viz. Benjamin, Isaac, George, William and Jonathan, Desire and Nancy.

Elkanah Bangs, the son of Edward, great-grandson of the first Edward, had four sons, viz. Deane, John D., Bela and Elkanah.

Deane married Eunice Sparrow of Eastham, and had five sons, Elkanah, Deane, Bela, Isaac Sparrow and Edward.

Elkanah married Reliance Berry, Sept. 5th, 1812, and had four sons, William Henry, Hiram Berry, Elkanah and George Franklin.

Elkanah Bangs, youngest son of Elkanah, married Sally Crosby, in 1791, and had six sons, Dillingham, Elkanah, Abraham, Elisha, Freeman and Henry.

Dillingham married Louisa Tilley ; Elkanah married Sally Freeman ; Elisha married for his first wife, Martha Crocker, for his second, Olive Snow, and for his third, Sarah H. Foster ; Freeman married Susan Griffith ; Henry married Roxa Morse.

RICHARD HIGGINS was born in England, and came to Plymouth soon after that town was settled, as his name appears in the list of freemen, 1633. He married Mary Yates of Plymouth. He was chosen deputy in 1649, 1661 and 1667, and was selectman three years. His son Jonathan was married to Elizabeth Rogers, 1660, and had eight children. From these have descended all the families of this name in this and other towns in the county, which have been numerous, and many of them distinguished as good men and worthy citizens.

NICHOLAS SNOW was born in England, and came here from Plymouth. He was a man of considerable distinction,

and was employed in the public transactions of the colony and of this town. He was a deputy, selectman seven years, and town clerk sixteen years. Died 1671. His wife died 1676. He had one share in the division of lands made 1623.

Mark Snow, his son, was married to Jane Prince, daughter of the Governor, 1660, and had eight children. He succeeded his father as town clerk, in 1663, and held the office twelve years, and he was deputy three years.

Jabez Snow, his son, had five children. He was selectman and town clerk, and lieutenant of the military company. Died in December, 1690.

Thomas Snow, son of the last, married Hannah Sears, 1692. Their son Thomas was born 1693.

JOHN SMALLEY and JOSIAS COOK were of the first settlers of this place. Mr. Smalley's descendants are numerous in Harwich. The name is now generally abbreviated, and written Small. No mention is made of him in the records of Plymouth, so that it cannot be ascertained when he came to this country.

JOSIAS COOK. The descendants of Mr. Cook are not numerous. Francis, John and Jacob Cook, were early settlers of the colony, and probably he was the son of one of them.

Francis Cook came in the Mayflower, and signed the compact in Cape Cod harbor. He had two shares in the division of lands.

1639. John Cook was chosen a deputy to the Court.

1642. He was again chosen to this office.

1631. He was appointed a deacon to the Plymouth church, but was subsequently excommunicated, for occasioning many dissensions among them.

1644. These persons, having bought the whole territory of Nauset, began the settlement, and soon admitted many others to join them, to whom they set off lands.

Only two years afterwards, they had such an accession of numbers, that they applied to the Colony Court for an act of incorporation, which was granted: '1646, June 2d. Nauset is granted to be a township, as other towns within the government have been.'

The inhabitants of Nauset soon experienced the inconvenience of having the natives located at both ends of the town, and accordingly made an agreement with those who had been the subjects of George the sachem, (he being now dead,) respecting the neck of land at the mouth of the harbor, called Tonset. For this tract they paid a valuable consideration, and gave the Indians, besides, a piece of land at Quesquoqaset, which they were to enclose themselves.

1651. The Colony Court ordered that the town of Nauset be henceforth called and known by the name of Eastham.

The same year, it was ordered by the Court, that if any lazy, slothful or profane persons, in any of the towns, neglect to come to the public worship of God, they shall forfeit for every such default, ten shillings, or be publicly whipped.

The early records of the town are brief, and much decayed by time ; but they are sufficient to show, that no sooner had the first settlers taken possession of the place, than they organized their township, by the choice of town officers, and elected the required number of deputies to the Colony Court. Mr. Edward Bangs and Deacon John Doane were chosen deputies ; Nicholas Snow, town clerk ; Josias Cook, constable ; John Smalley, grand jurymen and surveyor of highways.

They very early built a small meeting-house, twenty feet square, with a thatched roof, and holes on all sides, through which they might fire their muskets. Near to it, laid out a burying-place, not far from the town cove, which still remains, and is enclosed, though no persons have been buried there for many years. Here are seen the graves, and, in some instances, the stones which denote the particular spot where the ashes of the first settlers remain.

1643. Hubbard, in his History of New England, says, ' Thus went on the affairs of this small colony, not by might or strength of man, but by the special presence and blessing of Almighty God, in some convenient measure of prosperity, till this time, when we were furnished with many worthy ministers in the several townships,' among whom was Rev. John Mayo.

SOME NOTICE OF OTHER SETTLERS OF THE TOWN,
FROM 1646 TO 1700.

Rev. John Mayo came to Eastham, and took charge of the church in 1646, and continued till 1655, when he was settled over the second church in Boston, where he continued till 1672 ; he was then dismissed, and returned to Eastham, where he died.

He had two sons, John and Nathaniel.

1651. Mr. John Mayo, son of the minister, was married to Miss Hannah Lecraft. They had eight sons, John, (born 1652,) William, James, Samuel, Elisha, Daniel, Nathaniel and Thomas.

John, the third of that name, resided at Eastham until 1694, when he moved to Harwich (now Brewster.) He was the first representative sent from that place, and was successively chosen to that office for fourteen years. Died in February, 1726, aged 74 years. Mr. Mayo left three sons, viz. Samuel, John and Joseph. Samuel settled in the southerly part of Orleans. John is supposed not to have left any children. Joseph, the late Deacon Mayo, died in Brewster, leaving five sons, viz. Thomas, Moses, Joseph, Nathan and Isaac. Thomas* left five sons, viz. Thomas, Asa, Ebenezer, Isaac and Elnathan. Asa died in 1823, leaving five sons, viz. John, Jeremiah, Benjamin, Josiah and David. Jeremiah and David now reside in Brewster.

In 1655, Mr. Thomas Crosby was employed by the church to carry on the public services of the Lord's day, to whom they paid a salary of £50 a year until 1670. He had seven sons, Simeon, Joseph, Thomas, John, William, Ebenezer and Eleazer. Their father came from England, with his family. He was a religious teacher. His son Simeon married Mary Nickerson. From him descended all of this name in this and other towns on the Cape.

* Thomas was in the Revolutionary service. He was a prisoner on board the noted Jersey prison ship for six months, was discharged sick, and died on his way home, at Rhode Island, in 1778.

The ancestor of the Freeman family, who came first to this country, was Samuel, who was born in Devonshire, England, and settled in Watertown, near Boston, 1630. He had two sons, Henry and Samuel. It is said that he owned a seventh part of the township, and was one of the principal planters of that place. He returned to England, after a few years, where he died, and left his estate to his son Henry.

Governor Thomas Prince married his widow, and brought her, with her son Samuel, to this place.

Henry Freeman, son of Samuel, married in Watertown, and had one son, James, and died 1672. James settled in Boston, and had one son, Samuel, who died without leaving any children. Thus this branch of the family became extinct.

Samuel Freeman, who came to Eastham with Governor Prince, was born in Watertown, 1638. Succeeded to his estate, and married Mary, daughter of Constant Southworth, of Plymouth, 1658, who was an Assistant in the government of the colony. He had seven children, Samuel, Constant, Edward, Aphia, Elizabeth, Mercy Cole and Alice Myrick. He was deacon of the church for many years, and an active and worthy townsman. He died in 1700, and his wife about the same time. Samuel, his son, lived in this town, and inherited his estate.

1689. Samuel Freeman, eldest son of the first Samuel, married Elizabeth Sparrow, and had twelve children. He was captain of the militia company, selectman six years, negative man nineteen years, representative two years, and was afterwards employed in the public affairs of the town and colony.

1712. Samuel Freeman, son of the last named, was married to Mary, daughter of Deacon John Paine, by Rev. Samuel Treat. They had fourteen children. He was a deacon of the church.

Barnabas Freeman, the youngest son of the last named, lived on the paternal estate in Eastham, and married Bethia, daughter of Willard Knowles, and had nine children. He was a justice of the peace, often represented the town in the

General Court, and held other offices of importance, as will be seen hereafter.

Samuel Freeman, Esq., was the eldest son of Barnabas, and inherited and lived on the same estate, which was bequeathed to this family, by the will of Gov. Prince. He married Bial, daughter of Solomon Doane, Jun. She had seven children. After the death of his first wife, he married the widow of Capt. Barnabas Cobb of Brewster. He was for many years a representative of the town in the General Court, a justice of the peace, and otherwise employed in town affairs. He died May 24, 1837. He had five children: Paulina, who married Mr. Heman S. Doane of Boston; Barnabas, married Miss Elizabeth Knowles, and have three children, Elizabeth, James and Samuel; Joshua, married Miss Clementina —; Mary, married Warten Lincoln; and Clarissa, married Francis Nickerson.

Mr. John Freeman is believed to have been the uncle of the first Samuel Freeman, of this town; and also of Edmond Freeman, one of the earliest settlers of Sandwich.

John Freeman was here as early as 1655. He was a deacon of the church, and a prominent man in the town. He is called one of the Fathers of Eastham.

1660. He was an Assistant to the Governor in the Colony Court, and for several years afterwards.

1672. His son John was married to Sarah Myrick, and they had a son John; but it is impossible, now, to trace the genealogy of this branch of the family.

This name is extremely common in the county of Barnstable, and has sent out its branches widely into all parts of the country.

1660. Joseph Harding was married to Bethia Cook, and had ten children. This is the first notice of him. He was the ancestor of all of this name. His sons were John, Joshua, Josiah, Jesse and Ebenezer.

1660. John Rogers and Elizabeth Twining were married, and had seven children. His sons were John, Judah, Joseph, Eleazer and Nathaniel. John married Priscilla Hamblin, 1696. There are many of this name at the present day.

George Godfrey was here previous to this date, and had eight children. His sons were George, Samuel, Moses, Richard and Jonathan.

George Brown settled here before this time. His son Samuel married Martha Harding, and had a son, Samuel, who settled in the north part of the town.

The first of the name of Atwood was Eldad. His descendants are numerous.

Lieut. John Cole, an early settler, died 1667. His son John married Ruth Snow, and had eight children. His son John had eleven children. His son Jonathan was born 1694, and from them have descended all of this name.

John Smith was the first of this name who settled in this town. He married Mary Eldridge, 1667, and had eleven children. The sons were John, Jeremiah, William, Beriah and Ebenezer. From him all of this name come. His son John married Hannah Williams, and had nine children. The sons were Joseph, William, Seth and John.

Jonathan Sparrow was here sometime before this date. He belonged to a troop of horse for this town, 1664; represented the town in the Colony Court and in the General Court twelve years; was a selectman ten years; was captain of the military company, and in many other ways was employed by the town. His son John was married to Apphia Trase, 1683, and had four children. The sons were John and Stephen.

Stephen Hopkins, supposed to be a son of Stephen Hopkins, who came to Plymouth in the Mayflower, married Mary Myrick, 1667. His father had eight persons belonging to his family, being probably his wife and children.

He was one of the party who travelled into the interior around Pamet river, now Truro, to view the land, and endeavor to discover the inhabitants. Whilst wandering in the woods, they observed a sapling bent down to the earth, and some acorns strewed underneath. Stephen Hopkins said it was a deer trap. Mr. William Bradford, afterwards Governor, stepping too near, it gave a sudden jerk up, and caught him by the leg.

Stephen Hopkins, 3d, married Sarah Howes, and had one son, Jonathan. Stephen, son of the last, married Bethia Atkins, 1701.

Jonathan Cobb was here before 1670. He came from Harwich in England. His father, whose name was Sylvanus, had four sons, Jonathan, Eleazer, Sylvanus and Benjamin. The three first came early to America; the last remained with his father until his death, when he came also, but it is not known where he settled. Jonathan settled in this town. Isaac Cobb, a son of Benjamin, was Port. Admiral of Yarmouth, England. Eleazer settled in Hingham, and Sylvanus north of Boston. Jonathan had a son of the same name, and was the father of Scotto Cobb, the father of Gen. Elijah Cobb of Brewster, who married Mary Pinkham, 1793, and has four children: Deborah, who married Doct. Joseph Sampson; Elijah, who married Caroline Snow, and had seven children, viz. Caroline O., E. Winslow, Helen, Mary L., Alfred S., Annette T., and Emily C.; Mary P., who married Rev. T. K. Taylor; Ann P., who married Capt. Frederic Freeman.

George Crisp was here before 1667, when he was married to Hephzibah Cole; died 1682, leaving two daughters, Mercy and Maria.

Crisp Rogers, son of Joseph, was the father of Mr. Crisp Rogers of Brewster, and was named by Mercy Crisp, daughter of George.

William Myrick was one of the second comers to this town, and had six children. The sons were Joseph, Benjamin and Isaac. Joseph married Elizabeth Howes, 1684, and had three sons, Joseph, William and Isaac. Joseph married Elizabeth Remick, 1712, and had but one child, a daughter. This family descended by the other brothers.

William Walker was here about 1654, and married Sarah Snow, daughter of Nicholas, and had three sons, John, William and Jabez.

Jonathan Higgins married Elizabeth Rogers, 1660, and had four sons, Beniah, Jonathan, Joseph and James.

Benjamin Higgins, brother of Jonathan, married Lydia Bangs, 1661, and had eight sons: Ichabod, Richard, John, Joshua, Jesse, Benjamin and Samuel.

Richard Higgins, also a brother of the above, married Mary Yates, 1651, and had four sons, Eliakim, Jadhah, Ezra, and Thomas. From these have descended the numerous and respectable families of this name. Richard served the town four years as a deputy to the Colony Court, and was selectman three years; and many others of this name have held offices in the government and in the town.

William Twining, the ancestor of this name, died in this town, 1659, and some of that name who were his descendants, have since lived here.

Stephen Twining, a grandson of William, married Abigail Young, 1683, and had four sons, Stephen, Eleazer, Nathaniel and John. William, brother of Stephen, married Ruth Cole, 1688, and had two sons, William and Barnabas.

Henry Akins was here in 1651, and had eight sons, Samuel, Isaac, Henry, Joseph, Nathaniel, Thomas, John and Stephen; and from these have descended those of this name.

John Young was here in 1649, and had six sons, John, Joseph, Nathaniel, David, Robert and Henry.

Eldad Atwood, son of Obed, married Ann Snow, and had four sons, John, Eldad, Ebenezer and Benjamin.

John Knowles was here before 1670, and settled at Tonset. It is believed that he was the son of the Rev. John Knowles, who came to this country about 1660, who remained a few years as a minister, but returned and settled in England. In 1674 he wrote a letter to Governor Leverett, in which he expressed a strong interest in the prosperity of the College and in the affairs of New England generally. John married Apphia, daughter of John Bangs, and had three sons, Edward, John and Samuel. Edward married Ann Ridley, and had two sons, Thomas and Edward. The last married Sarah Mayo, and had two sons, Samuel and Edward. Samuel died 1751. Thomas Knowles, son of Samuel, died 1760. Edward was a deacon of the church, and died 1740. He had two sons, Elijah Knowles, Esq.,

the father of the late Harding Knowles, Esq., and John, who was the father of Col. Willard Knowles. The last was the father of Capt. Winslow and Mr. James H. Knowles.

Thomas Newcomb, the son of Simeon Newcomb, who was the first of this name, married Elizabeth Cook, 1693, and had three sons, Edward, Thomas and Simeon. Settled in the north part of the town.

Thomas Paine was here before 1670. He had two sons, John and Thomas. He was four times elected by the town a deputy to the Court; was town clerk eight years, and a selectman nineteen years.

John Paine was a son of Thomas. He represented the town in the General Court eleven years; was town clerk twenty-five; town treasurer twenty-one, and a selectman. He had two sons, John and William. John Paine, Jun., represented the town four years; William, five years.

Thomas Paine was the son of John. Joshua was the son of Thomas. Benjamin was the son of Joshua, and the father of Joshua, who was the father of Isaac Paine, who was the father of the present Deacon Ebenezer Paine,—all of whom have held important offices in the town. The last has been town clerk and treasurer nineteen years, and is now living. Thomas Paine, son of the first Thomas, married Hannah Shaw, 1678, and had nine sons.

Joseph Collins came from Ireland, and was here before 1670. He settled in the north part of the town, and married Ruth Knowles, 1672, and had five sons, John, Joseph, Jonathan, Benjamin and James.

Joseph Collins married Rebecca Sparrow, and had one daughter, Lois. Jonathan Collins married Elizabeth Vickerie, and had sons and daughters. John Collins, son of the first Joseph, married Hannah Doane, and had five sons, Solomon, Samuel, John, Joseph and David. Benjamin was the father of Captain Michael Collins, who represented the town of Wellfleet in 1788 and 1791, who was the father of the present Michael Collins, Esq.

John Young came to this town before 1649. His sons were John, Joseph, Nathaniel, David, Robert and Henry.

Jonathan Linnell was here early in the settlement of the town. He had four sons, David, Jonathan, Thomas and Elisha.

Isaac Pepper appears to have been the first of the name who came to this town. He was married to Apphia Freeman, 1685, and had four sons, Isaac, Robert, Joseph and Solomon. He represented the town two years in the General Court, and was one of the selectmen eleven years. Capt. Jonathan Pepper was his grandson, and Solomon was the son of Jonathan, both distinguished men in the town. Joseph, son of Joseph, had two sons, Daniel and John. Daniel was deacon of the church. Mary, his daughter, married Francis Krogman, and had eight children.

William Nickerson married Mary Snow, a grand-daughter of Nicholas Snow. He had two sons, William and Nicholas.

John Witherell came here some time before 1700, and settled in the north part of the town, but the records are lost respecting him and his family. There have been many of this name in the town, and some families still remain in that part now called Wellfleet.

William Dyer was here before 1700, and married Hannah Strout, and settled in the north part of the town.

George Ward was the first of this name, and married Rebecca Newcomb, and settled in the north part of the town. From him have descended the families of this name.

John Herd was here before 1675; he had two sons, John and Jacob; settled in the north part of the town.

George Herd was here and married Constant Doane, 1690, and had three sons, Eleazer, John and Jonathan. Died 1720.

The first of the name of Hatch was Moses, who married Mrs. Hannah Bangs. The names of their children are not known. Settled in the north part of the town.

Samuel Horton appears to have been the first of this name who settled in the town, and was probably here before 1700. He had four sons, John, Nathaniel, Samuel and James.

The families, thus briefly noticed, were settlers and in-

habitants of the town before 1700. From what places those came after the first emigration from Plymouth is not known, nor is it possible to trace their families in a direct line of descent to the present day. There were a number of other settlers whose names have become extinct, and others who removed to other towns and parts of the country.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN, WITH
SOME ACTS OF THE COLONY COURT, FROM 1646
TO 1690.

1646. It was enacted by the Court, that every town within the government shall have a clerk, or some one appointed to keep a register of the day and year of the marriage, birth and burial of every man, woman and child within their township.

Eastham, being a regularly incorporated town, complied with this requisition, and made choice of Nicholas Snow as town clerk.

Another act of the Court, passed this year, was, that the Court shall meet at seven o'clock in the morning, in the summer, and eight in the winter, upon the penalty of sixpence for every default,—and continue until eleven, and then rise to dinner,—and after dinner continue till evening, as the Governor shall think proper; and every hour any of them shall be absent, after they are called, shall pay sixpence, if they offer no good excuse.

This was working long and hard for the pay of two or three shillings a day.

1652. The town held many meetings for the division of the common lands; also respecting ear marks for horses, cattle and swine.

A division of lands was made to the first settlers and new comers. It was granted that Mr. Thomas Prince shall have his proportion of land, that is due to him, laid out at Tonset.

Every town was required to procure a book, in which should be recorded the division or purchase of lands, and these should be duly bounded to prevent disputes concerning them.

The town ordered that the constable have power to collect the fines imposed on persons who were negligent in coming to town meetings, on information being given by the town clerk. The constable to have one half, and the town the other.

1658. The following Rate was made to defray the expenses of the town :

For town officers' wages	£3	4s	0d
For magistrates' and commissioners' charges	2	5	0
For a drum for the military company . .	3	0	0
For deputies' wages	5	0	0
For Mr. Bangs' going to Yarmouth on town business	0	3	0
For Indians' killing wolves	1	3	0
For freight of corn to Plymouth	0	5	9
	<hr/>		
	£15	0	9

1659. Rates :

For the assessors' wages	£2	14s	0d
For the magistrates' services	1	7	6
For pikes	2	16	4
For record book	0	1	10
	<hr/>		
	£6	19	8

A military company was early formed and equipped. The officers were: captain, Mark Snow; lieutenant, Jonathan Higgins: and ensign, Jonathan Bangs.

The town's proportion of a troop of horse was also raised. Thomas Prince and Edward Bangs agreed to find a man and horse each, at their own expense, for two years, three being the number for this town.

1660. E. D., of this town, was fined twenty shillings for slandering and belieing his neighbors.

The Court ordered that Nauset pay by rate forty shillings for the last, and the same amount for this year ; and all other townships pay their rates according to the same proportion they did the last year.

1661. It was provided and enacted by the Court, that freemen may vote by proxy, in the election of magistrates, provided their votes are taken in open town meetings.

Previous to this time, all the freemen of each town were required to go to Plymouth for this purpose.*

1662. The town purchased the fertile island of Pochet, which, in the first sale, was reserved by Mattaquason, for the Indians.

The town agreed, that a part of every whale cast on shore be appropriated for the support of the ministry.

A tax was put on liquors, sold by retail, by the Court, and the town took strong measures to suppress intemperance, and to prevent the sale and use of spirituous liquors.

At this period it was ordered by the town, that no Englishman or Indian should furnish any man with any liquors within the township, directly or indirectly, on the penalty of paying five shillings.

1663. It was required by the Court, that the towns within the government should choose three or five selectmen out of the freemen, such as the Court should approve of, for the better managing of the affairs of the townships ; and the selectmen in every town, or the major part of them, were empowered to hear and determine all debts and differences arising between person and person within their respective townships, not exceeding forty shillings. Also, they were empowered to hear and determine all differences arising between any Indians and the English of their respective townships, about damage done to cornfields, by cows, swine or any other beasts belonging to the inhabitants of the said respective townships.

It was further enacted by the Court, that the said select-

* Old Colony laws. Eastham records.

men in every township, approved by the Court, or any of them, should have power to give forth summonses in his majesty's name, to require any persons complained of to attend the hearing of the case, and summon witnesses to give testimony upon that account, and to determine the controversies according to legal evidence. This was the origin of the office of selectmen, in all respects as the duties now are, except that they were also a court of justice. The first selectmen of this town were John Freeman, John Doane and Nicholas Snow, chosen 1663.

1664. It was agreed between Mr. Samuel Freeman and the town, that he should pay the Rate, for which the town was prosecuted by the Court, as their part of the expenses of the government, one half in money, and the other in peas and wheat; and for so doing, he should have a black horse running at large at Pamet, it being the town's property; and that he also should serve as a trooper for the town three years.

1665. The Court passed a law to inflict corporal punishment on all persons who resided in the towns of this government, who denied the scriptures. Also, that no minister, in any town, should leave his congregation till complaint was made to a magistrate, and that magistrates should compel the congregations to do their duty.

This law was made to enforce the comfortable support of those who labored in the work of the ministry.

The town voted that all the horses belonging to the inhabitants should be marked on the fore shoulder with the letter E, to distinguish them from those which belonged to the inhabitants of other towns, they having a different mark.

The town voted that the sale and price of liquors should be governed by a law, made by the Court for this purpose.

It was also voted by the town, that all persons who should stand out of the meeting-house, during the time of divine service, should be set in the stocks.

The Court at Plymouth held three sessions each year, for the trial of causes, civil and criminal, composed of the Governor and at least three magistrates, while the selectmen tried

all cases under forty shillings, in their respective towns, from which appeals were allowed.

These officers were required to complain to the Court of all persons who absented themselves from public worship on the Sabbath.

Jonathan Sparrow engaged to be a teacher for Eastham.

1667. The town voted that every housekeeper should kill twelve blackbirds, or three crows, which did great damage to the corn; and this vote was repeated for many years.

A census was ordered to be made by the town of all the male inhabitants, from sixteen to sixty, who were able to bear arms. Also, a valuation of all the property in the town was made by the selectmen.

1670. It was the practice for the minister to collect his own salary. This was attended with much trouble, and often impaired his usefulness. It was therefore voted by the town, 'that, forasmuch as it appears to be greatly inconvenient for the minister to be troubled to gather in the rates for his own maintenance, and is also an occasion of prejudicing some persons against him and his ministry. that two meet persons in the town be appointed, who shall take care to gather in the minister's maintenance, and incite the people to do their duty in this respect.'

This vote was passed by the authority of a law of the Colony Court, made and provided for this purpose, and for all the towns in the government.

Also, in all such towns where the people declined or neglected to settle a minister, the Court taxed them for the support of public worship.

Also, a penalty for refusing to serve as a selectman when legally chosen by the town.

The fisheries of Cape Cod were regulated by law, and a duty was put upon mackerel and other fish caught, for the support of a free school, which was established in Plymouth, in 1671, under a grant, made by the government of the colony the preceding year, of all such profits as might or should annually accrue to the colony, from time to time, for fishing with nets or seines at Cape Cod, for mackerel, bass or her-

rings, to be improved for and towards a free school in some town of the jurisdiction.

The confederation, which was agreed to at the first, between this colony, Massachusetts and Connecticut, was renewed.

At this early period, the town began to be alarmed on account of a scarcity of wood and timber, and passed a vote, forbidding all persons to cut and carry it out of the town. Voted, to contribute £6 for the support of Harvard College, the ministers and elders of the several towns being requested to take measures to raise money for this object.

The church was gathered and organized at the first settlement of the town, but until this time, 1672, the number of the inhabitants, and their ability to support an ordained minister, had not been sufficient.

They now gave a regular call to Mr. Samuel Treat to settle with them as their minister, which he accepted, and was ordained. Mr. Treat was the eldest son of the Governor of Connecticut, Robert Treat of Milford, who was the father of twenty-one children.

It was agreed and voted by the town, that Mr. Treat's salary should be £50 per annum, and a sufficient quantity of wood brought to his door for his use.

Also, a parcel of meadow and upland, given to the town by Manasseth Compton, an Indian; and a parcel of upland and meadow, bought of John Young.

Also, three acres of meadow called the White meadow.

Also, an island at Billingsgate, with the meadow about it.

Also, a parcel of marsh, in Great meadow.

Also, twenty acres of upland at the head of the Cove.*

Also, that the town build a suitable house for him on this land. This was the salary which the town voted and agreed to give Mr. Treat, which was no doubt sufficient for his support in those days.

In 1674, he married Miss Elizabeth Mayo, daughter of the

* This farm is now owned by Mr. James H. Knowles, and was purchased in 1723, by his grandfather, Willard Knowles, of a son of Mr. Treat, after the death of his mother.

Rev. John Mayo of Boston, by whom he had eleven children, viz. Jane, Elizabeth, Sarah, Samuel (died in infancy), Mary, Robert, Abigail, Samuel, Joseph, Joshua, John and Nathaniel. The most of the daughters married in this town. The name is extinct. Mrs. Treat died in 1696, aged 44 years.

In 1700, Mr. Treat married the widow Abigail Easterbrook, daughter of Rev. Samuel Willard, pastor of the South church, Boston, by whom he had three children. Eunice was the mother of Robert Treat Paine, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. The other daughter was the wife of Joseph Greenleaf, Esq. of Boston; and a son, by the name of Robert, died young.*

Mr. Treat is peculiarly entitled to a distinguished rank among the first ministers of New England, as by his zeal and labors he was the instrument of the conversion of many of the natives to the faith of the gospel, and of reducing them to a state of order and civilization. He studied and obtained a knowledge of their language.

The Rev. Mr. Elliot of Roxbury, had previously and successfully engaged in this great and benevolent work, and justly deserves the highest praise; but next to him stands Mr. Treat of Eastham. After preaching to the Indians in his own town with great success, he travelled into the westerly part of the colony, and preached to many of the native tribes. Not satisfied with what he could do, he wrote letters to several persons in the colony, urging them to prepare themselves for this work. His example made such impression on the mind of Mr. Richard Bourne of Sandwich, that he soon entered into the service with activity and zeal. He studied the Indian language, and preached to the Indians living in Barnstable, Yarmouth and Marshpee.

His labors were greatly blessed; many were converted to the faith of the gospel of Christ, and several were taught to read and write. In a letter written by him to Mr. Goodkin,

* Doct. James Freeman of Boston, says that many of the facts in the life and character of Mr. Treat were derived from Joseph Greenleaf, Esq. and his lady. Mrs. Greenleaf, at that time, 1802, was 78 years of age. Mrs. Treat died Dec. 27th, 1746, thirty years after the death of her husband.

in 1674, he says: 'There are, in the several villages of Indians below Sandwich, above three hundred who meet together on the Lord's day to worship God.' Those under the care of Mr. Treat were not included. He engaged with great earnestness in this work for a number of years.

1685. Governor Hinckley sent to the corporation in England an account of the praying Indians in the county of Plymouth, being fourteen hundred and thirty-nine, besides boys and girls under twelve years old. There were five hundred men and women, besides children, within the limits of Mr. Treat's parish.

1693. In a letter to Rev. I. Mather, Mr. Treat writes:

Reverend and Worthy Sir:—

Being advertised that it would not be unseasonable and unserviceable, at this juncture, to give you a true and impartial account, both of the number and the present state of our Indians, and of the acceptance and entertainment of the gospel among them, and their professed subjection thereunto; whereof, sir, you may be assured as followeth.

That there are five hundred Indians within the limits of our township, unto whom these many years past, I have, from time to time, imparted the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in their own language; and truly hope, not without success. I continue in the same service, earnestly imploring, and not without hopes of a more plentiful downpouring of the spirit upon them.

And I verily do not know, nor can I learn, that there is so much as one of these Indians that does obstinately absent from, but do jointly frequent and attend upon seasons of the preaching of the word, and countenance the same, not only on the Lord's day, but upon public thanksgiving and fast days.

They have four distinct assemblies, in four villages, belonging to our township, in which they have four teachers of their own choice, of the more sober, well-affected and understanding persons among them, who duly preach to them when I am not with them. These Indian teachers repair to my house once a week, to be further instructed in the concerns proper for their service and station.

There are in the above said villages four school-masters of the best accomplishments for that service, who teach their youth to read and write their own language.

There are also six justices of the peace, or magistrates, in these villages, who regulate their civil affairs, and punish criminals and transgressors of the civil law. They have three stated courts, and

other inferior officers. Many of them are of a serious, civil, sober conversation and deportment, who are making essays towards a further progressive step of obedience and conformity to the rules of the gospel, having a great desire to be baptized.

They are very servicable by their labor to the English vicinity, and have all along, since our wars with their nation, been very friendly to the English, and forward to serve them in that quarrel; their deportment, converse and garb being more manly and laudable than any other Indians that I have observed in the province. But, sir, I would not be tedious; only craving your interest at the throne of grace, that we may be serviceable to the name and kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

So I subscribe willingly,

SAMUEL TREAT.

EASTHAM, *August 23, 1693.*

There were two school-masters at Potanunnaquiet, one of whom, Thomas Coshannag, was the preacher.

The magistrates were William Stockman and Lawrence Jeffreys. Daniel Munshe was the preacher, and Daniel Samuel, the ruler at Meeshawn and Punonakanet, which was Eastham and Billingsgate.

1693. John Quason and Menekish, the rulers at Monamoyick, and John Cosens the preacher and school-master.

Manasseth was the preacher, and Joshua Shauntam the ruler at Sakatucket.

Mr Treat could speak and write the Indian language with facility. Every month he visited and preached in these several villages. At other times, the Indian teachers read to their congregations the sermons which he had written for them. In addition to these weekly tasks, and preaching to his own people, he translated the Confession of Faith into the Nauset language, for the edification and improvement of his converts. Believing that it would be impossible to make much impression on the minds of the Indians, unless he gained their affections, he exerted himself to secure them. Besides treating them on all occasions with affability and kindness, he frequently visited them in their wigwams, and with cheerfulness joined them in their festivals.*

The consequence was, that, won by his engaging manners,

* Dr. Freeman.

they venerated him as a pastor and loved him as a father. But notwithstanding all that could be done for the Indians by him, and his worthy coadjutors, they could not save them from wasting away. A blasting wind swept over them as soon as the English took possession of their country, and they withered and died.

1745. But few Indians were left in the township of Eastham.

1764. According to the census then taken, there were found remaining only five in Wellfleet, eleven in Eastham, and ninety-one in Harwich. The greatest part of the latter number lived at Potanumaquiet, where they had a meeting-house, and a missionary who continued to preach several years after this period.*

Mr. Treat was a laborious and faithful minister to his own church and people, and often had reason to bless God for the visits of the Holy Spirit on his labors, in the conversion of many of his hearers, by which many were added to his church. He was a strict Calvinist, which Dr. Freeman says, 'is established beyond all dispute, by a volume of sermons in manuscript, now in possession of his grandson. These sermons,' says the Doctor, 'are connected in their subjects, are correctly transcribed, and appear to have been designed for publication. They exhibit learning, and his doctrines are defended with ability and ingenuity, and the applications of his subjects are tremendous.'

But, says the same writer, 'with the advantage of preaching the doctrine of terror, which is naturally productive of a sublime and impressive style of eloquence, he could not attain the character of a popular preacher. His voice was so loud, that when speaking it could be heard at a great distance from the meeting-house, even in the midst of the winds that howled over the plains of Nauset, but there was no more music in it than in the discordant sounds with which it was mingled.'

An anecdote is told of Mr. Treat, which shows how much the excellence of his matter was injured by the badness of the manner of his delivery.

His second wife, being the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Willard of Boston, he was invited to preach in his pulpit. Mr. Willard possessed a graceful delivery, his voice was masculine and harmonious, and consequently he was generally admired.

Mr. Treat having preached one of his best sermons to the congregation of his father-in-law, in his usual unhappy manner, excited universal disgust, and several nice judges waited on Mr. Willard, and begged that Mr. Treat, who was indeed a worthy, pious man, but a wretched preacher, might never be invited into his pulpit again. Mr. Willard made no reply; but desired his son-in-law, before he left Boston, to lend him the discourse. In a few weeks after, he delivered it to his people, without any alteration. His hearers were charmed with it, and came to Mr. Willard, and requested a copy for the press. 'See the difference,' they cried, 'between yourself and your son-in-law! You have preached a sermon on the same text as Mr. Treat's; but while his is contemptible, yours is excellent.'

Mr. Treat was a man of piety. He addressed his Maker with humble devotion, and his prayers were copious and fervent. It is said, that his natural temper was mild; and his conduct in domestic life, as a husband, a parent, and a master, was kind and indulgent. His manners were cheerful, his conversation pleasant, and sometimes facetious, but always decent.

It is supposed that the society for the propagation of the gospel made him some compensation for his services among the Indians, and he received a small salary from his parish of £60. It is said that, in the latter part of his life, he engaged in trade, and by this means, with the addition of a small inheritance from his father, he left a good estate to his family.

There was a remarkable snow storm at the time of his death, and the snow fell so deep that he could not be buried for many days. The Indians dug an arch through it, a quarter of a mile long, and, such was their attachment to him, that they insisted on carrying his remains on their shoulders to the grave.

Samuel Rich was here about 1665. He had a son named

Thomas. His son, John Rich, married Mary Treat, daughter of the minister, 1700. He had five sons, Robert, John, Reuben, Joshua and Moses. Their mother died 1723.

1764. A number of men were raised in this town, by order of the Court, for the service against the Indians; also £66 for the purchase of guns, and £4 for ammunition.

Jonathan Sparrow was appointed and commissioned as ensign of the military company of the town.

Thomas Mulford was a freeman of the town before this period. He had four children, but the name is extinct.

Stephen Myrick and Mary Bangs were married, and had one son, Stephen.

1675. The town raised £66, 16s. 6d. to pay the soldiers against the Narragansett Indians.

In 1675 the war with Philip, who was the sachem of the *Wampanoags*, commenced. Philip's rule extended over the whole of Plymouth county, the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod and a part of Rhode Island. *Mount Hope* was the seat of the chieftain.

Philip was an ambitious, shrewd and bold warrior. He designed the utter extermination of the English settlers.

The most of the tribes of Massachusetts and Rhode Island were engaged with him. Swanzev was the place where he commenced the work of death. This war was a sore calamity. It is estimated that about six hundred of the inhabitants of New England were either killed or otherwise cut off by the Indians. Twelve or thirteen towns were entirely destroyed, and about six hundred dwellings were burnt.

1676. Three hundred men were ordered to be raised by the council of war at Plymouth, and eighteen was the number required of Eastham. The whole army raised in the colonies at this time was one thousand, and different respectable historians of that day estimate the whole population of New England somewhat differently, but from the best accounts given, it appears to have been about fifty thousand.

At this time a generous and cordial invitation was given by a committee of the Cape towns, to the inhabitants of Rehoboth, Taunton and Bridgewater, to come to them with their

moveable property, for their preservation and safety.* Suitable answers were returned, with grateful acknowledgments for that expression of kindness, but declining the proposal.

The committee of Taunton say, 'We bless God that He has given us so much room in your hearts—that you so freely tender to us a part with you in your houses, fields and provisions, at such a time, when the Lord is threatening us with bereavement of our own.

'It much comforteth us, in this day of darkness and distress, that we shall want no succor you are able to afford us. We therefore return you all serious thanks for your sincere and abundant love, beseeching the Lord still to continue and increase your peace, ability and promptness to relieve the distressed in this evil day. Nevertheless, upon our serious and mature deliberation upon and consideration of your offer, we cannot at present comply with a motion to remove and quit our places, and leave our habitations to be a desolation, and that, because we fear, that in so doing, we be wanting to the name of God, and the interest of Christ in this place, and bewray much diffidence and cowardice, and give the adversary occasion to triumph over us, to the reproach of that great and fearful name of God that is called on us.'

Signed by Richard Williams, Walter Deane, G. Macy and William Harvey.

The reply from Rehoboth, contains similar sentiments of holy resolution, and several prudential reasons against removal, such as the danger of being observed by the enemy and cut off, and the quantity of grain which they had in the ground, and the hope of a plentiful supply from an early harvest, which they were unwilling to abandon.

Signed by Thomas Cooper, senior, Peter Burt, senior, Henry Smith, David Smith and Nicholas Peck, in behalf of the inhabitants.

The reply in behalf of Bridgewater, was given by Rev. James Keith.†

The war was an awful calamity to the colonies, but this

* Dartmouth, Middleborough and Swansey were broken up. †

† New England Memorial, by Judge Davis.

and the other Cape towns were in a great measure exempt from its evils. 'The greater part of those who were killed were the flower and strength of the country. There were but few families who did not lose some near relation or friend, and a great part of the inhabitants were in deep mourning. A large debt was contracted by the colonies, when their numbers, dwellings, goods, cattle and all their resources were greatly diminished. Of this debt £124, 10s. was paid by a donation from Ireland, for the relief of such as were impoverished, distressed and in necessity by the war. The proportion paid by Eastham was £236, 5s. 6d.'

'The donation from Ireland is a gratifying instance of the generous influence of christian sympathies, and is supposed to have been procured by the exertions of Rev. Nathaniel Mather, at that time a minister of the Congregational denomination in Dublin.'

The daily pay of the officers and soldiers who served in the war in the year 1675, was as follows:*

General	6s 0d
Captain	5 0
Commissary General	4 0
Surgeon General	4 0
Lieutenant	4 0
Ensign	4 0
Sergeant	2 6
Corporal	2 0
Soldier	1 6

1676. The town raised £125, 8s. 3d. towards defraying the expenses of the war with the Indians. At this time a dispute arose between this town and Barnstable, Sandwich and Yarmouth, in reference to some public charges; and Jonathan Bangs was chosen to act in the town's behalf.

Men were appointed to take care of Mr. Treat's maintenance, so that he be not wronged. Samuel Freeman and Mr. Twining were deacons of the church. This year the town agreed to build a new meeting-house, as the old house was decayed, and was not large enough for the present number of

* Judge Davis.

inhabitants; and that it should be built by way of rates on their polls and estates. Deacon Freeman, Lieutenant Sparrow, Thomas Paine and John Doane were made a committee to carry on the building, and the town entered into an agreement to bind themselves, their heirs and administrators, to furnish the means of doing it. £153, 8s. was raised for this purpose. The town also agreed that the new house should stand near the burying place. Lieut. Sparrow and Thomas Paine were appointed agents to demand and receive from the town of Sandwich £12, 16s. 6d. due to this town, and prosecute for the same if that town refused to pay that sum.

1678. The town voted, that the inhabitants of Monomoy-ick should pay their proportionate part towards building the meeting-house and Mr. Treat's salary, and to prosecute them for it if not paid. The inhabitants of that place, though not within the limits of Eastham, attended this meeting, and therefore were required to assist in supporting it. This was the case also with the inhabitants of the first purchasers, as far as the bounds of Yarmouth, and to the other extremity of the Cape.

This year, lands were granted and divided both to old and new comers, and the school was continued.

1680. Complaint was made that the Indians did great damage to the town's commons, by cutting pine knots (for the purpose of making tar,) and other timber. Therefore the town ordered that no Indian or Indians shall cut pine knots, or wood, or timber, on the town's commons.

Eastham was the only township below Yarmouth on Cape Cod, until 1694, when the tract of land granted to the purchasers or old comers of Plymouth colony, being inhabited by a competent number of families, many of whom removed from this town, petitioned the Court for an act of incorporation by the name of Harwich, which was granted.

The settlement of Truro was also commenced by emigrants from this town.

Before churches were organized and meeting-houses were built in these places, Mr. Treat performed religious services

and parochial labors in both of them; and by a letter which he wrote to Dr. Mather of Boston, he considered the whole of the Cape below Yarmouth to be within the limits of Eastham.

Agreeably to the law, the selectmen could not require their fees to be paid until they declared their verdicts. It was ordered that they should be paid when the action was entered, and their power was so extended that they might summon witnesses from other towns.*

1681. The town voted that the military company should be filled by such of the inhabitants as were able to bear arms, and that every soldier be furnished with a sword or cutlass, as well as a gun, and that a part of the company should carry their arms to meeting on the Lord's day.

A committee was chosen to proportion and divide the money among the freemen of the town, which they were to receive—it being the town's part of the money in payment for Mount Hope;—and to request Mr. Freeman, one of the deputies to the Court, to obtain and bring it with him when he should return home.†

In 1683, an overseer of the Indians was appointed to determine certain causes between them, and to command their constable to serve legal processes.

One Indian in every ten was appointed overseer of nine. There were two Indian constables in the town. The Indians were required to pay taxes, and the whole body of them were called together once in each year, to hear the criminal laws read.

In 1684, Lieut. Sparrow and John Doane were appointed to receive the town's proportion of the second payment for Mount Hope, and they were authorized to divide the money among all the freemen of the town.

* Eastham records.

† After the war with the Indians, Mount Hope, and other tracts of land, were sold, by order of the Court, to pay the expenses of the war, which had been raised by a tax on the polls and estates of the inhabitants of the several towns in the colony, according to their proportions. They were now to be repaid by the proceeds of the sale of these lands, divided among them as they had furnished the means of carrying on the war. The amount received at this time by this town is not known.

The census was taken, and there was found to be one hundred and one voters, or freemen, in the town, and in all, nine hundred souls.

1685. Agreed to pay ten shillings for every head of a wolf, and half that sum for young ones, which any Indian should kill; and in 1686, the town offered as a bounty twenty shillings for every head of a wolf which should be killed either by white men or Indians, ten in silver and ten in corn.

At this time these wild beasts were numerous here, and did much damage in destroying cattle and sheep.

This town was required to send three grand-jurymen to the Court.

1690. The war with the Indians and French in Canada required the aid of all the towns of the governments of Plymouth, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and this town raised £187, 19s. as their proportionable part. Jonathan Sparrow was chosen and commissioned as captain of the military company; Joseph Snow, lieutenant; and Jonathan Bangs, ensign.

The difficulties with the Indians, and the war with them still continuing, the town voted by order of the Court, to raise by a tax, on the polls and estates of the inhabitants, £46 towards defraying the expenses.

FROM THE UNION OF THE OLD COLONY WITH MASSACHUSETTS, IN 1691, TO THE SEPARATION OF WELLFLEET, IN 1763.

Pursuant to an order of the General Court, the town expressed their unanimous opinion that a new patent should be petitioned for to their majesties the King and Queen of England, and agreed to pay their proportion of the money arising from the expenses of obtaining it.

This was an eventful period of the old colony government.

The people of the colony were extremely desirous to have their government continued as they had enjoyed it from the first; but if this privilege could not be continued to them by their majesties, they preferred to be connected with Massachusetts, rather than with New York. The agents appointed by the colonial government to apply to the English government for a new charter, were Sir Henry Ashurst, Rev. Increase Mather of Boston, and Rev. Ichabod Wiswall of Duxbury. In 1691, the General Court voted thanks to these gentlemen for their faithful services, and to Sir Henry Ashurst fifty guineas, and to Messrs. Mather and Wiswall twenty-five guineas each. This colony was included in the new charter of Massachusetts, and they became one government. It was signed October 7th, 1691. Thomas Hinckley of Barnstable was re-elected governor, and William Bradford deputy governor, by the last Court which was holden in Plymouth, in June, 1691. Taxes were again levied on the towns to pay the expenses of the war, and Eastham was required to pay £46, one half in money and the other in corn at two shillings a bushel. A company of sixty men was ordered to be raised, and four was the portion of Eastham. The selectmen were ordered to make a valuation of the estates in the town, according to certain prices. Joseph Snow and Thomas Smith were a committee to take care of the town's commons, to prevent timber and wood from being cut and sold to persons out of the place. The town mortgaged to John Freeman two islands at Billingsgate, as his security for paying £76, as their proportion of the expenses of obtaining the new charter from England. The town ordered a watch to be kept, of so many persons as the selectmen think necessary, each night.*

1692. On the authority of a warrant sent to the town of Eastham, directed to the constable, from the new governor, Sir William Phipps, two representatives were chosen to serve the town in the General Court to be held in Boston, and Captain Sparrow and Ensign Bangs were chosen. Sir William Phipps arrived at Boston, with the new charter, the

* Eastham records.

14th of May this year. He issued his warrants for a General Assembly, which met the 8th of June.

Although a party was formed who opposed this charter, yet a majority of the Court wisely and thankfully accepted it; and appointed a day of public thanksgiving to God, who had granted a safe arrival to his excellency the Governor and the Rev. Increase Mather, who had industriously served the people, and brought over with them a settlement of government, in which their majesties had graciously given distinguished marks of their royal favor and goodness.

In 1693, the mackerel and other fisheries were regulated by law, and no stranger was allowed to take them without leave.

The town voted to raise £6, 5s. for ammunition; also £13, 11s. for the support of the war.

1695. A committee was now chosen to build a steeple on the meeting-house and purchase a bell, at the expense of the town. This was the first church bell used in the county, and the last in Eastham.

The town agreed that the order which was passed in 1675, for the destruction of crows and black-birds, should be continued, and that, in addition, every unmarried man in the township should kill six black-birds or three crows while he remains single;—as a penalty for not doing it, should not be married till he obeyed this order.

It was ordered and appointed that John Doane, senior, get a pair of stocks and whipping-post made for the use of the town.

It was agreed that if John Doane, senior, and his heirs would fence from the bay at Nauset to the corner of the cliff at the northern end of the valley commonly called the Farther Plumb Valley, and maintain the fence for twenty-one years, that he or they should have all the upland contained within said fence during that time. Capt. Samuel Freeman and Thomas Paine were appointed as the town's agents to confirm this agreement with Mr. Doane.

1696. It was ordered and voted by the town, that for the time to come, when any of the common lands are sold or

given by the town to any person, men shall be annually chosen to have a negative vote in the disposal of them, and if they approve of the same, they shall lay them out and bound them.

The Court of quarter sessions issued their warrant to the town of Eastham, requiring the selectmen to make a tax of £19, 5s. to defray their portion of the charges for building a bridge near Plymouth; but, considering it to be contrary to the laws of the province for the justices of the quarter sessions to require money to be raised to defray charges for this purpose out of the county, refused, and agreed to hold the selectmen harmless for not obeying this order.

1700. Difficulties arose respecting the scarcity of money, about which the town held many meetings, and petitioned the General Court to abate their taxes in part, which was granted.

The town school was continued. The town agreed to pay the schoolmaster ten pence per week for every child; and that the north part of the town might have a school, if they would pay the teacher to learn their children to read the English bible.

James Rogers and Nathaniel Freeman were accepted as townsmen.

£180 was raised to repair and enlarge the meeting-house. The meeting-house was enlarged fifteen feet, so as to make it square, and sufficiently large to seat all the inhabitants.

The town sent a petition to his excellency the Governor, to procure a protection to secure them from sending so many of their men into his majesty's service out of the town. The town clerk was deputed to present the petition.

1703 and 1704. To this time much of the upland and salt meadows remained in commons, having never been divided. Many town meetings were held, and committees were chosen to make a division of the greater portion of these lands among the proprietors. It was agreed that a large proportion of upland and hay ground belonging to the town of Eastham, should be divided to the true proprietors, their heirs and assigns, to have and to hold forever; and that a

committee of twelve men be chosen to determine the rights of proprietors, and to divide and set off the common lands and meadows to them; and that the town oblige themselves to abide by their doings; and that the expense of the division shall be paid by each one of the proprietors.

1705. In town meeting the following preamble and votes were passed:

‘Whereas there is much disorder and inconvenience in the town of Eastham, in not orderly attending town meetings; also by persons disorderly and tumultuously speaking in said meetings; also by disorderly departing without leave; it is therefore ordered by this town, that whenever there shall be a town meeting, duly warned, every person qualified to vote in said meeting, and living within seven miles of the meeting-house, who shall not attend at the time appointed, or at the time the meeting is called to order, shall be fined six pence for every such default; or shall depart, without leave of the moderator, before the meeting closes, or speaks without liberty, shall be fined the same.’*

It was further directed, that some person be appointed to assist the moderator in preserving order.

The above fines were to be added by the assessors to the rates of such offending persons, and be used to defray town charges.

These orders and by-laws being voted by the town of Eastham, and sent up to the Court of quarter sessions at Barnstable, for approbation, as the law directs, were allowed by the justices in session.

Attest: WILLIAM BASSETT, *Clerk.*

The town appointed three men, Samuel Knowles, Joseph Doane and Samuel Mayo, senior, to settle the line between Eastham and Harwich. They made their report to the town that they had agreed with the town and proprietors of Harwich, that the jurisdiction of the town should forever remain as formerly, but all the land lying between the bounds of said towns should forever be improved in common between the towns of Eastham and Harwich; and that, as a consider-

* Eastham records.

ation, this town should pay to the proprietors of Harwich £2, 10s. annually. This report was accepted, and the selectmen were ordered to pay out of the treasury this sum.*

The old purchasers, by their heirs, had so increased, that in 1703 there were two hundred and forty proprietors of the township; and to them, at this time, a large part of the common lands were set off and divided, generally in the following manner, viz.

Granted by the town of Eastham, at a town meeting on the twenty-sixth day of July, 1703, to Eldad Atwood, (and the other proprietors of Eastham,) to his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, to have and to hold forever, all the meadow or hay ground lying round the neck of upland contained and comprehended within the boundaries hereafter specified, which was not comprehended in the first grant to the old proprietors, &c., and after giving the courses and boundaries, &c. This grant was approved by the major part of the men appointed to have a negative in disposing of land of the town of Eastham.

The principal business of this town has ever been agriculture and the fisheries, while some have engaged in foreign voyages. For the former pursuit the soil in the middle and south parts of the town was well adapted, especially for corn and rye. Some of the land had been cleared and long improved by the natives.

A law of the Colony required all fishermen to report to the town clerk, under oath, the quantity of fish and oil which they obtained by each voyage they made; and that all persons who should find on the sea shore any wrecked vessel, or parts of such, or any other property, to report said property to the town, that the lawful owners, if known, might have it.

The town gave permission to Nicholas Paine to build a windmill on a hill near his house, which was near to the house of Deacon Ebenezer Paine.

* How large this intervening tract of land was, is not determined; but it was that on which the Portmunaachet Indians lived, one half of which Harwich afterwards sold to Eastham.

1709. The town was presented by the Court for not having a schoolmaster, and Joseph Doane, Esq., was appointed to answer this complaint, to the general sessions of the peace at Barnstable; and it was ordered that the selectmen take special care to obtain a schoolmaster for the town of Eastham.

1710. In town meeting it was ordered, that there should be ten acres of ordinary land laid out, and so proportionably as the lands should be better or worse, to accommodate the minister at Pochet, when there should be occasion for one to settle there, and the like quantity at Billingsgate; and that there be ten acres of woodland laid out and annexed to each lot; which lots of land respectively are granted to and shall be reserved for and set apart for the benefit of the ministry, and entailed for that use forever. The town agreed to raise Mr. Treat's salary £20, making it £70 in silver money.

1711. The town laid out for all the widows in Eastham four acres of land to each.

1712. This year the town chose Joseph Doane, Esq., as their agent, to join with Jonathan Bangs, Esq., who had been chosen by the town of Harwich to determine and settle a line between the said towns, running through the tract of land which was reserved for the Indians.

Voted to raise £136 to pay the salary of the representative at the General Court, the schoolmaster, and all other town and ministerial charges.

1713. Agreed with Mr. Peter Barnes to keep the town school.

This year it was agreed by the town to repair the meeting-house, and choice was made of Capt. Samuel Freeman and Mr. Samuel Mayo, to procure the materials and employ workmen for this purpose.

Joseph Doane, Esq., Mr. Samuel Mayo and Mr. Isaac Pepper, were appointed a committee to adopt some better plan for settling and regulating the school, for the time to come, and make returns to the town; upon which they reported, that it was their opinion that the most proper way to

settle the school for the general benefit of the town is, that the town be divided into two parts, southerly and northerly, and that the school be kept for one full year in the northerly part of the town, and then for one year in the southerly part, and so on from time to time; that the schoolmaster should be supported by the whole town, and that each part of the town should take care to settle the teacher in proper and convenient places for the general benefit of the said part of the town; and that the Town cove should be the dividing line between the northern and southern ends of the town; and those of one end shall not send their children to the other. This report of the school committee was accepted by the town of Eastham.

1714. The Indians living on the borders of Eastham and Harwich entered a complaint to the General Court, against this town, for trespassing on their lands and rights; whereupon, the selectmen received an order of notice from said Court, that they be heard thereon, on the first Friday of the next session of the Court. A town meeting was called, and after due consideration of the premises, John Paine was nominated and chosen as their agent in behalf of the town and selectmen, to appear at the Court in their defence of this complaint. They paid their agent for his services four shillings a day for all the time he spent in this business, over and above what was allowed him for services as a representative, allowing him three days for going and the same for returning.

Nehemiah Hobart was the schoolmaster. The town agreed to pay him £10, over and above his salary as schoolmaster, 'for assisting the Rev. Samuel Treat in preaching as there may be need.'

1715. By-laws and orders were passed by the town, which were presented to the Court of General Sessions holden at Barnstable, to prevent cattle and horses from running at large on the town's commons. These were approved and confirmed. *WILLIAM BASSETT, Clerk of the Court.*

Rev. Samuel Treat died this year, March 18th, aged 69, having labored in word and doctrine, with great faithfulness, forty-four years.

An agreement was now made with Mr. Hobart to supply the pulpit, and perform other ministerial duties for £1 a week until a candidate could be obtained. Joseph Doane, Esq., was chosen to seek for a minister, and his expenses were paid. A Mr. Lord was obtained, but preached only a few Sabbaths, and was afterwards settled in Chatham.

1718. The question about building a new meeting-house and its location, was now agitated. £600 was voted for this object. The old house stood near the old burying-place. This place did not appear to be the most central for the whole town, and it was proposed to erect the new house in some other place.

A spot a little south of Jeremiah's gutter was proposed, but the vote being put to the meeting by the moderator, it passed in the negative.

At a meeting held February 24th, it was proposed to build two meeting-houses, one of them to be placed in the south part of the town, and the other in the north or middle part; and if the town could not lovingly agree where the dividing line should be between the two parishes, the town should make choice of a committee, out of the neighboring towns, to determine that matter; and that Mr. Osborn, to whom they had given a call to settle with them in the gospel ministry, should have the liberty to settle in which end of the town he should see cause.

It was voted by a major part of the town, that they are willing that a meeting-house should be built where the town pound now stands;* but this was not done, and the town was divided into two parishes.

Joseph Doane, Esq., Capt. Samuel Freeman, Mr. John Knowles and Nathaniel Freeman, Esq., were a committee to treat with Mr. Samuel Osborn, relating to his settlement in the ministry, and the agreement touching his salary being unanimously concluded, he was ordained Sept. 18th, 1718.

The year after Mr. Osborn's ordination, he removed to the south part of the town, and took charge of that branch of the church, which was now organized. He was a native of Ireland, and graduated at the University of Dublin.

* Where Mr. Jabez Sparrow now lives.

It is said that he was a man of wisdom and virtue. He contributed much to the prosperity of the people, by introducing new improvements in agriculture, and by his example of industry and economy. He taught them the use of peat for fuel. After continuing with them about twenty years, difficulties arose between him and a part of his church, on account of the laxity of his religious sentiments, and he was dismissed by an ecclesiastical council of ten ministers and churches which was convened at Eastham, June 27th, 1738, at the desire of Joseph Doane and Nathaniel Freeman, with others, in the name of the major part of the south church. After earnest supplication to God for wisdom and direction, they were led into the public meeting-house, by the pastor of the church, and there heard those doctrinal points on account of which the brethren were aggrieved. After a full hearing the council came to the following result:

I. It appears to the council that the Rev. Mr. Osborn hath in his preaching to this people said, that what Christ did and suffered doth nothing abate or diminish our obligation to obey the law of God, and that Christ's sufferings and obedience were for himself: both parts of which, we think, contain dangerous error.

And we say, that what Christ did and suffered, doth wholly take away our own obligation to obey the law as a *covenant of works*, so that the law still under the gospel dispensation remains not as a law of justification, (which seems to us to be intimated in the proposition,) but as a perfect scriptural, an unerring rule of righteousness and holiness. And to assert that the sufferings of Christ were to render him capable of sympathizing with and being a pattern of patience to his suffering saints, mentioning no other design or end thereof, is an unsafe and dangerous doctrine, subversive of one great and main end of those sufferings, viz. the satisfaction of the justice of God.

II. It hath been said and doth appear to this council that the Rev. Mr. Osborn hath, both in public and private, asserted that there are no promises in the Bible but what are conditional, which we think, also, to be an error, and do say that there are promises which are absolute and without any conditions—such as the promise of a new heart, and that he will write his law in our hearts.

III. As to the third article, that redemption is conditional and not absolute, voted by this council that this charge, in the sum of it, is sufficiently proved; but yet inasmuch as Mr. Osborn has retracted the *conditionality* of it, we, therefore, don't leave it as a charge upon him.

IV. It hath been alleged, and doth appear to us, that Mr. Osborn

hath declared, that *obedience* is a considerable *cause* of a person's justification, which we think contains very dangerous error, and upon which we say, that our best works, which are our obedience, have need to be justified, neither are they good till they be justified, and therefore cannot justify us till we have the holy law of God.

VI. It hath been alleged that Mr Osborn did assert that the Rev. Peter Clark's book on Jeremiah, 31st chap. 18th verse, from which text the doctrine was that the efficacious grace of God is necessary to conversion, was wrong and erroneous, we find that now Mr. Osborn declares that the influence of God's spirit is necessary to conversion, by which, he says, he understands the same with efficacious grace of God mentioned in the above book.

VII. We say it appears to us by sufficient evidence, that Mr. Osborn hath, from time to time, frequently used strange, obscene, erroneous and unguarded expressions, too numerous to be mentioned here, concerning God and his moral perfections, as also concerning Election, Redemption, and other great tenets of our holy faith, which expressions we judge to be contrary to that plainness, simplicity and soundness of speech which a gospel minister ought to use; and, upon the whole, it is our judgment and advice, that the Rev. Mr. Osborn cease and forbear the exercise of his ministry, and be suspended therefrom until the twenty-fifth of October next, to which this council shall be adjourned.

Whether this council met at the time to which they adjourned, for the further consideration of this matter, is not known. It is believed, however, that Mr. Osborn was never afterwards reinstated in the ministry. Whatever good qualities he possessed, they did not avail him with his people to continue him as their minister, nor with his brethren in the ministry. He had embraced the faith of Arminius, while they retained the faith of Calvin, and in consequence thought proper to dismiss him. From Eastham he removed to Boston, where he opened a private grammar school, which he continued a number of years, and died between ninety and a hundred years old.

Richard Knowles was allowed £2, 10s. for bringing Mr. Osborn's family and goods from Plymouth, where he had resided after he came over from Ireland.

The town agreed to send for three judicious men from the neighboring towns to determine where the division line should be between the parishes, and that their decision should be binding on all the inhabitants.

Mr. Joseph Lothrop and Mr. John Baker of Barnstable, and Mr. Elisha Hall of Yarmouth, were chosen.

The town voted to raise by a tax on the polls and estates of the inhabitants of the middle and south parts of the town, £600 to build two new meeting-houses.

Town meetings were held in reference to the division of the parishes, and to take measures for the erection of these houses, and also dwelling-houses for the ministers in each part; which was acquiesced in by the whole town except Billingsgate.

The middle part took measures to obtain a candidate for settlement with them; and Mr. Isaac Pepper was appointed to seek for some suitable person, who should be orthodox and of good conversation. Mr. Benjamin Webb of Braintree, was obtained, and after preaching to them a number of Sabbaths, received a unanimous call to settle with them in the ministry, to which he gave his answer in the affirmative, and was ordained 1720.

The town voted to give Mr. Webb the same salary that was paid to Mr. Osborn, which was £90, for his support and encouragement in the work of the ministry, with all the ministerial lands and meadows in the middle part of the town and lying south of Blackfish creek. Also a house, which should be his own property and estate. This was situated near the meeting-house, agreeable to his choice.

Mr. Webb was born in Braintree, in 1695, and graduated at Harvard College, in 1715. That he was a pious, learned, laborious and faithful minister of the gospel, and that he was holy and unblameable in all the ways of life, is the universal voice of tradition.

Mr. Crocker, who was the pastor of the south church in Eastham, a man of piety and virtue, and a good judge of moral and religious worth, it is said, pronounced him to be the best man and the best minister he ever knew.

As he spent his days in the uniform and faithful discharge of his ministerial duties, he made no great noise in the world abroad.

It was said by a writer of that day, that his mind was as serene as the sky in a mild evening of June, when the full moon

shines without a cloud. Name any virtue, and that virtue he practised; name any vice, and that vice he shunned. But, if any peculiar qualities marked his character, they were his humility, his gentleness and his love of God. He was not a Boanerges, but a son of consolation. His visits among his people were as beneficial as his sermons from the pulpit. He had the happy talent of giving his conversation a religious turn, and enforcing the precepts which he had taught publicly on the Sabbath.*

The most remarkable event which took place during Mr. Webb's ministry in Eastham, in which he took part, was the declaration of the ministers in Barnstable county, against itinerant preaching. This was aimed particularly against the Rev. George Whitfield, and was printed in Boston, in 1745. They state that 'itinerant preaching tends to destroy the usefulness of ministers among their people, in places where the gospel is settled and faithfully preached in its purity; and that it promotes strife and contention, a censorious and uncharitable spirit, and those numerous schisms and separations, which have already destroyed the peace and unity, and at the same time threaten the subversion of many churches.'

To this declaration Mr. Webb subscribed his name, with nine other ministers of the county.

He died August 21st, 1746, aged 51, having labored in the work of the ministry here twenty-six years, and with good success. He was greatly beloved and respected by his people, and his death was deeply and sincerely lamented. The number added to the church cannot be ascertained.

The town was fined by the Court £20 for not having a school, and it was voted that the selectmen humbly petition his majesty's justices of the General Sessions of the peace to be holden in Barnstable, to remit or abate this fine, or order the disposition of it to the benefit of the school in Eastham, and Mr. Samuel Knowles was chosen to present the petition and offer the reasons which existed in the case.

1719. A burying-place was laid out at the west end of the south meeting-house.

The people living at Potanumaquiet were set off from the town of Harwich and annexed to this town; and they were required to pay their regular proportion of the rates of the town.

The inhabitants of the hamlet of Billingsgate, by their agents, John Doane, Esq., and Mr. Samuel Brown, sent a petition to the town, to be set off from Eastham, to become a separate township, from the bounds of Truro to the Indian brook, from thence easterly to the sea. The town refused to grant their petition.

The old meeting-house was occupied by the north or middle parish till 1720, when they built a new house near the house of the present Deacon Doane. A burying-place was laid out adjoining to it, and a house was built for the use of the minister.

A public county road was laid out through the town, from the bounds of Harwich to Truro, to be forty feet wide.

At a town meeting a resolution was offered, to take in the Billingsgate parish, so as to make three precincts in the town, and maintain the ministers equally by the whole town. It passed in the negative.

1721. The General Court passed an act to issue £50,000 in bills of credit, and loan it in just proportions to the several towns in the province, according to their taxes. This was done in consequence of the great scarcity of money making it difficult for the towns to support the government.

Many meetings were held to devise the ways and means of receiving and keeping the town's proportion of this money. Mr. Isaac Pepper, one of the representatives of the town, was appointed to receive and receipt for it to the province treasury; and Joseph Doane, Esq., Capt. Samuel Freeman and Nathaniel Freeman were made the trustees of this money, to take care of and dispose of it in such manner as they should receive instructions from the town, pursuant to the act of the Court. The trustees were allowed by the town sixpence on every pound of all the money they should let out agreeably to their instructions, and the same for all they should receive in after it had been let out. This committee

were instructed to let the money out for five per cent. yearly, and no more. They were required to take good security in real or personal estate. Mr. Pepper was allowed fifty shillings for his trouble and care in bringing the money from Boston. The proportion of this town was £468, 10s.

1722. The town was served with the copy of a petition to the General Court, by John Doane, Esq., praying that Billingsgate (now Wellfleet) might be set off for a separate precinct as far as Indian brook. John Paine was appointed as their agent to appear for them at the General Court, to show cause why this petition should not be granted.

1723. The General Court sent a committee, chosen out of that body, to visit Eastham, in regard to the above petition; and a committee was raised to wait upon the members of the Court, and lay before them the circumstances in the case. The committee of the Court reported to that body in favor of setting off Billingsgate as a separate precinct, and it was accordingly done.

1727. The General Court passed another act, to issue £60,000 in bills of credit. There was much difference of opinion among the members of the Court, and in the towns generally, respecting this measure, as the former bills of credit were greatly depreciated, the province having no funds to redeem them. This town voted not to receive their proportion of it; but at a subsequent meeting, they reconsidered this vote, and chose a committee, Nathaniel Freeman, Esq., Mr. Edward Knowles and Mr. John Paine, to receive the town's proportion, and let it out according as the law provided, and they were sworn to be faithful to this trust.

Joseph Doane took	£50, 00s.
Capt. John Knowles,	100, 00
Israel Cole,	100, 00
Nathaniel Mayo,	40, 00
Benjamin Higgins,	50, 00
David Doane,	100, 00
Samuel Smith,	100, 00
Thomas Mayo,	17, 15

£557, 15s.

These men were required to give to the town such security as should hold them harmless from all loss and damages; and to pay four per cent. annually to the province treasury, and the principal as the law provided; and the charges of bringing the money from Boston, together with the fees of the trustees for letting and receiving the same.

‘Bills of credit had been issued for a number of years and at different times as a substitute for money, in consequence of Sir William Phipps’ disastrous expedition against Canada, in 1690, which involved the province in great expense.

‘These had been punctually redeemed until 1704, when the General Court were induced to defer the redemption of them for two years, and afterwards for longer periods. Besides these bills to defray the expenses of the government, there were others issued by way of loans to the towns.’

In 1721, £50,000 were issued and loaned to the towns. And in 1727, £60,000. The condition of this loan was, that it should be repaid to the province treasury in five equal payments in five years, of £12,000 each year.

But these various issues, under the different denominations of *old tenor*, *middle tenor* and *new tenor*, ‘slid down the same lapse of depreciation.’ At first they were worth nearly the whole sum which they represented.

In 1702, an ounce of silver was equal to 6s. 10d. in bills of credit.

1705,	“	“	“	7	“	“
1713,	“	“	“	8	“	“
1716,	“	“	“	9	“	“
1717,	“	“	“	12	“	“
1722,	“	“	“	14	“	“
1728,	“	“	“	18	“	“
1730,	“	“	“	20	“	“
1737,	“	“	“	26	“	“
1741,	“	“	“	28	“	“
1749,	“	“	“	60	“	“

By an act passed by the General Court in 1748, provision was made for drawing into the treasury all the outstanding bills of credit, and ascertaining in future the rates of coined silver. It required that the bills should be paid at the treasury in silver, at the rate of forty-five shillings in bills of the old form and tenor, and eleven shillings and three pence in

bills either of the middle or new form and tenor, for *one* piece of eight, which was one Spanish dollar.

The funds to redeem the bills were the money voted by parliament, to reimburse the expenses of the province incurred in taking and securing Cape Breton, and a province tax of £75,000. In 1749, the former money arrived in Boston, and was conveyed to the treasury. The sum was £183,694, 2s. 7½d. It consisted of two hundred and fifteen chests, containing \$3000 each, and one hundred casks of copper. There were seventeen cart and truck loads of silver, and ten truck loads of copper. This act was designed to put an end to paper money, and establish a silver currency for the future. It provided that after the 31st of March, 1750, all debts should be paid in coined silver. This is said to have been the origin of *lawful money*.

By this act the most important interests of the public were promoted, and the principles of justice were settled on a firm basis by the establishment of a sound and stable currency, yet it found many opposers, who even attempted to resist it by force.

This was followed by the establishment of a *Land Bank*, with the professed design of providing a remedy for the great inconveniences, that were expected to arise, from withdrawing from circulation all the various emissions of paper money, without substituting any other medium of trade than gold and silver. A company was formed for the purpose of issuing notes or bills of credit, on land security, to an amount not exceeding £150,000. The extent of the issue, however, in sums from twenty shillings down to three pence, was about £49,000.

The subscribers for stock were to receive the sums subscribed in the notes of the Bank, and for security, mortgage to the directors real estate to their satisfaction, with the condition to pay annually for twenty years, five per cent. of the principal lent, and three per cent. interest, either in such notes, or any of the following articles: hemp, flax, cordage, bar iron, cast iron, linen, sheep's wool, copper, tanned leather, flaxseed, beeswax, sail cloth, nails, tallow or cord wood.

These articles were to be delivered to the directors or their agents, to be employed in trade. This company was composed of eight hundred and sixty-three persons. About four hundred belonged to Boston, and the others to the different towns in the province. There were three in Eastham, viz. Mr. Samuel Knowles, Mr. William Paine and Deacon John Freeman.

This scheme was obnoxious to Gov. Belcher and many other influential men, who made great exertions to put it down, and successfully effected it. The company was dissolved by an act of parliament, and in 1743, the General Court took the settlement of their affairs out of the hands of the directors, and vested it in a board of commissioners.

After the lapse of about thirty years, by means of assessments on the partners, and a lottery, the concerns of the bank were brought to a close.

This bank was the occasion of much confusion, and brought ruin on many individuals and families.*

1729. The Court was removed from Boston to Salem, by Governor Burnet, in consequence of a difference between them respecting his salary, and the right of nomination. The inhabitants of Boston supported the views of the Court, and the object of the governor in the removal was that they might be out of the reach of this influence.

1734. Agents were appointed by the town to meet the agents of Harwich, Chatham, Truro and Provincetown, at Capt. Samuel Knowles' house in Eastham, on Wednesday, the 20th of November, to prepare a petition or memorial to the governor, council, and representatives in General Court assembled, praying them to set off those towns into a new county, distinct and separate from the county of Barnstable, for such reasons as may be given; and they appointed Mr. William Paine, John Knowles and John Rich as agents to present their petition or memorial to the Court. This petition not being granted, they again presented their prayer to the Court, that they would order that two of the sessions of

* Hobart's History of Abington.

the peace of the inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for the county of Barnstable, be annually held in the town of Eastham.

The reasons offered to the Court, why their prayer should be heard and granted, were, their great distance from Barnstable, the shire town of the county; the loss of time to the jurors and all others who were obliged to attend the Courts, and the great expense attending it.* This was not granted.

1738. Mr. Osborn was dismissed by the church and society in the south part of the town. After the dismissal of Mr. Osborn, Mr. Roland Thatcher was employed a number of Sabbaths to preach the gospel to the south parish. Joseph Doane and Timothy Cole were appointed to procure a suitable person to supply the pulpit.

This year jurymen were chosen for Barnstable and Dukes county, Martha's Vineyard having been annexed to this county.

1739. Mr. Joseph Crocker was unanimously called by the church and parish to settle with and over them in the work of the ministry. Mr. Crocker gave his answer in the affirmative, in the following words:

To the Inhabitants of the South Precinct in Eastham, Greeting:

Whereas you did, on the sixteenth day of April last, give me a call to the honorable work of the gospel ministry among you; and did then signify the same to me by a committee, Joseph Doane, Esq., Deacon Jonathan Higgins, and others; these may signify to you that I do accept of your call to that work on the terms and conditions following:

I accept of the salary and settlement, as by your vote for my settlement, a suitable dwelling-house built, and a parcel of land procured to set it upon, in some suitable place; such a parcel of land and such a dwelling-house as was built and procured for a settlement for Mr. Osborn and Mr. Webb; and to be given to me and my heirs and assigns forever, except Providence should open a door for my own convenient settling of myself; and then I expect you will be willing to let me have the value of what you have voted for this, in money.† And lastly, that while I remain your minister, besides the improvement of all the ministerial lands and meadows, or sedge ground, laid out for the

* Eastham records.

† Mr. Crocker was then expecting to marry a lady of the place who owned a house, which he did, and he received the value in money.

use of the ministry in the southerly part of your precinct, I expect that you will yearly and every year, find, cut, and cart to my door, a sufficient quantity of wood for my own and for my family's yearly use; also, pay me annually the same salary that is paid to to the Rev. Benjamin Webb, viz. £90.

JOSEPH CROCKER.

EASTHAM, *August 14th, 1739.*

Mr. Osborn refusing to give up the ministerial lands and meadows to Mr. Crocker, money was paid out of the treasury to him to enable him in the law to eject Mr. Osborn from the possession of these lands and meadows; and Capt. William Paine was appointed to assist him in this business.

Mr. Crocker was ordained over this church and society September 12th, 1739. He was born in Barnstable, and graduated at Harvard college, in 1734. He was twice married, and had three children.

Josiah, who was graduated at Harvard college, had a call to settle in Yarmouth, but died before the time appointed for his ordination, aged twenty-five years; Lucia married the Rev. Simeon Williams of Weymouth; Ann married the Rev. William Shaw of Marshfield.

Mr. Crocker was a strict Calvinist, a man of prudence, faithful as a minister, but destitute of popular talents as a speaker; a hard student in theology, but without much information on other subjects; mild in his temper, and affectionate in his manners, and greatly beloved by his people.

Previous to this time, all monies for the support of the gospel in both of the meeting-houses had been raised and paid as their expenses required. It was now unanimously agreed that they should continue for the present to raise the money together, but that the treasurer should keep an exact account of the sums which should be drawn for the use of each precinct; so that, if ever they should be separate parishes, the one which had received the most should refund it to the other.

Several petitions were sent to the General Court, complaining of grievances, and praying for favors.

Samuel Freeman and Ralph Smith were a committee to petition the Court for an abatement of the town provincial tax.

Another petition prayed the Court to pass an act to preserve Billingsgate beach and other common meadows from destruction, and John Knowles was chosen as the agent.

1746. A committee was appointed to draw a petition to lay before his excellency the governor, for the protection of the inhabitants of Eastham from impressment in the service. A war commenced in 1744, with the French, and continued nineteen years. The Indians, urged on by French influence, again assaulted the towns of New England. To encourage them in the work of blood and ruin, they were offered a reward for every scalp they should obtain. Such a war and of so long continuance was a calamity indeed. This town was often called upon for men and money by the government, and as but few men were willing to enlist, impressments were frequently made. The men who were taken by the Indians, and whose lives were spared, were sold to the French, which was the fate of some of the inhabitants of this town.

This year, August 21st, the Rev. Benjamin Webb died, aged fifty-one years, having labored in the work of the ministry twenty-six years. His death was deeply lamented by his people.

‘Whereas,’ say his people, ‘God in his sovereign providence hath taken away by death the Rev. Mr. Webb, our beloved pastor of the north or middle church of this town, we look on ourselves obliged to take suitable care to supply that vacancy as soon as may be;’—it was therefore voted to make choice of some suitable person to obtain a minister to preach the word of God to them on probation, in order to his settlement in the work of the ministry among them. Dea. Samuel Freeman was chosen for this purpose.

It was then agreed to give the bereaved Mrs. Webb, £30, old tenor, for her support one year, and her fire-wood, provided she would board the minister, who should preach to them, for reasonable pay.

Mr. Josiah Tory was invited to preach as a candidate for settlement, to whom the church and society gave a call, but he returned an answer in the negative.

Mr. Ezra Carpenter was invited, and after preaching a

number of Sabbaths, the church and society gave him a call; but as he thought the salary which they offered him was not sufficient for his support, and making some propositions to them to increase it, which they did not comply with, he gave his answer in the negative.

The Rev. Edward Cheever was then invited to visit them as a candidate, to whom they gave a call to settle with them in the ministry, which he accepted, and was installed over them in 1751. Mr. Cheever concluded his answer as follows:

‘I have now come to the conclusion to give my answer to your call to settle with you, in the affirmative, and do accept of the settlement and salary which you have provided for me, and ask your prayers that I may obtain mercy of the Lord, to be faithful and successful in the work to which I am called, and wishing that every thing which respects my settlement in this place, may be conducted by the infinite and wise Counsellor, who hath done all things well, and that grace and peace may be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

‘In the fellowship of the gospel, I subscribe myself yours,

‘EDWARD CHEEVER.’

Mr. Cheever was born in Ipswich, 1706; graduated at Harvard college, 1737; was ordained over the Congregational church in that town, and married Miss Wigglesworth. His second wife was Miss Dorcas Doane of this town. He had several sons, of whom one was a physician, but sometimes officiated as a preacher. Mr. Cheever possessed considerable talent and learning, was a very plain preacher, and his labors were blessed. He served the church and society in this town nearly forty years, and died August 17, 1794, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. As no records of the church are found which were kept by him, it cannot be stated what number were added during his ministry.

1749. It was agreed to divide the town into three equal parts, for the better accommodation of the school, and to settle a schoolmaster in each part. The northern division consisted of one hundred and three families, the middle and the southern of the same number, making three hundred and nine families, the population of the whole town being about two thousand. In each of these divisions a committee was

appointed to settle and have the supervision of the school therein.

Wrecks and parts of wrecks of vessels and other property were often cast ashore on the back side of the town, and picked up by the inhabitants, who gave oath to it before the town clerk; and the property was taken care of, as the law directed, for whom it might concern. The law required that this should be done in all cases, yet it cannot be denied that it was frequently evaded, and the property found appropriated to private use, which has often been the case since.

1751. Samuel Knowles, Esq., died at this period. Mr. Knowles was one of the most distinguished men of the town. He served his townsmen in various and important offices, to which they often elected him. He was chosen a representative to the General Court fifteen times. He held the offices of town-clerk, selectman, juryman, assessor and moderator of town meetings, repeatedly. He was often appointed on important committees, to set off lands, fix the boundaries between Eastham and other towns, and between the lands of individuals. He was long a worthy member of the church, and died much lamented.

1752. New roads and highways were laid out in different parts of the town, and money was raised to defray the public charges. The bounds and marks were renewed between Eastham and Harwich.

1753. Deacon Samuel Freeman died. The character and life of Deacon Freeman is worth preserving, and is worthy of the imitation of his descendants of all succeeding generations. He was elected to the highest and most important offices within the power of his townsmen to bestow; and his moral and religious character is apparent from the confidence the church had in him, in giving to him the office of deacon, in which he served his Divine Master for a long course of years. He possessed great influence, and used it to promote the prosperity and happiness of the town, the province and the church. He died in a good old age, and was gathered to his fathers in peace.

The town took measures to prevent the destruction of the western shore.

The selectmen were ordered to renew the bounds between this town and Truro.

1754. Deacon John Freeman was chosen representative. Then it was voted that he should stay at home, to save the expense, and the town would hold him harmless.

It was ordered that the selectmen draw up and send to the General Court a petition, to have the town released from sending a representative to them this year.

Money was raised to pay the schoolmasters, and all other town and precinct charges.

A committee was chosen to settle the school in the middle part of the town.

An agent was chosen to answer to the petition of Samuel Smith, Esq., to the General Court, concerning Billingsgate beach and islands.

1757. It was voted that the selectmen should draw out of the town treasury £420 old tenor, to pay fourteen men who had been enlisted to serve in the army during the present war with the Indians and French.

A large committee was chosen to regulate and settle the public schools in the different parts of the town.

It was agreed to excuse the men who were enlisted and engaged in carrying on the war against Canada, from paying a poll tax.

The town chose a committee to prosecute the Harwich people for carrying on the whale fishery at Billingsgate.

Mr. Thomas Knowles died this year. For a number of years he had held the office of town-clerk, and was employed in other offices of importance. He was a man of no ordinary intelligence, and served his generation with faithfulness.

1760. The town appointed an agent to join with the agents of the other towns in the county of Barnstable to send a petition to the General Court, praying that body to pass an act to lessen the number of the Courts in the county. Col. John Doane was chosen.

In these early days there was but little litigation, and but few cases, especially from the lower part of the county, to

employ the time of the Court, and it was therefore thought to be unnecessary for the sessions of the Court to be held so frequently.

Voted to raise £160 lawful money to pay the schoolmasters, and other town charges.

1761. Agents were appointed to agree with the agents of Harwich, respecting the taxing of real estate lying in each town, where the owner lived in the other town.

The report of the committee respecting the taxing of the inhabitants of this town and Harwich, was as follows: 'Having considered the circumstances, and the quality of the land lying in each town, we have mutually agreed that the town of Harwich shall assess the inhabitants in said town, for all the real estate they own in the town of Eastham; and the town of Eastham the inhabitants in said town, for all the real estate they own in Harwich.'

Capt. Pepper was appointed an agent to divide the fence with Harwich, by Skaket River, or to do what might be thought proper to prevent the cattle from gaining on the flats and sedge ground.

Money was raised to support the poor of the town. This is the first notice of a poor tax.

1762. Eastham, in number of inhabitants, wealth and importance, was the first township in the county of Barnstable. Billingsgate, then called Wellfleet, being separated from it, four townships immediately rose above it.

The north precinct sent a petition to the town to be set off into a separate district, and it was agreed by the town that their request should be granted.

It was also agreed by both parties, that the privileges for whaling, fishing, oystering and harboring, should be enjoyed as before, and that the district be a part of the town of Eastham so far as in the choice of a representative.

From this time the town felt a deeper interest in the cause of education, and were more liberal in the support and increase of town schools than before. Several schools were kept in the different sections of the town. The schools had been kept in private houses, but school-houses were now

built, and large committees were chosen to regulate and promote the interests of education.

Much labor and expense was laid out to preserve the beaches, shores and sandy lands, from injury by violent winds and storms; and other public and useful improvements were made in the town.

The boundaries between the lands of individuals, and between this town and Harwich, Chatham, and the district of Wellfleet, were renewed.

A settlement was made by a committee of the accounts between the town and the district of Wellfleet. The town paid to the district, as due to them, £21, 10s. 8d. as their part of the money in the town treasury, raised for the purpose of schooling.

New highways and roads were laid out, and old roads repaired.

These townships continued to flourish till the revolutionary war stopped their further progress.

Jonathan Higgins was one of the deacons of the church, and was one of a committee, at this time, to request the Court of Quarter Sessions to lay a fine of eight shillings on any person or persons who should be exposed to the small-pox, and not give notice of it to the selectmen.

1763. A number of petitions were sent by the town to the General Court, and agents chosen to present them, for different objects, the most of them being of a local nature.

Edward Knowles was one of the deacons of the church at this time. He was appointed, with others, to draw up a memorial to the General Court, against the petition of a number of persons, belonging to Harwich, and living at Potanumaquiet, to be set off to the town of Eastham. Afterwards the town concluded to receive them, with the Indian inhabitants who were included within the line.

1764. The towns of Eastham and Harwich ordered the respective selectmen of each town to meet, and run a line and make bounds between the towns. They marked anew the north bounds at Namskaket, and then run southerly to a black oak tree near Baker's pond, marked E. H. with a

stone; thence to the southwest part of the pond, to a heap of small stones in the edge of the pond; thence southerly, to a stake and stones, near Chatham road; thence southerly, following the road; thence to the southeast, into the bay, by a rock at the edge of the water; thence to Potanumaquiet harbor, as the channel runs.*

Signed by Jonathan Higgins, Simeon Doane and James Paine, selectmen of Eastham; and by Benjamin Freeman and Elisha Smith, selectmen of Harwich.

The Rev. Mr. Crocker died March 2d, 1772, in the fifty-eighth year of his age, and the thirty-third of his ministry.

In 1765, a line was agreed upon and run, by a committee from each town, between Eastham and Wellfleet. Beginning at a white oak tree, at the head of Indian brook, marked on the south side with the letter E, and on the north side by the letter W; thence running due east, by marked trees, to a pine tree, marked on the south side E, and on the north W; thence east to the back side; and from the first mentioned bounds at the head of Indian brook, running westerly, as the brook runs, to a stake on the beach, at the mouth of said Indian brook, crossing the end of Billingsgate point, to Barnstable bay.

THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS AND DOINGS OF THE TOWN
FROM 1772 TO 1797, WHEN ORLEANS WAS SEPARATED
FROM IT;—INCLUDING THE REVOLUTIONARY
WAR.

Rev. Jonathan Bascom was ordained over the church and society in the south part of the town, in 1772.

We come now to a period in the history of Eastham, and of the whole country, of deep and thrilling interest, 'a time

* This is the present line between Orleans and Brewster.

which tried men's souls.' Difficulties and troubles arose between this and the mother country, of the most alarming and threatening aspect, in consequence of the heavy taxes and unendurable burdens which England imposed on the colonies. Eastham was not backward to assert the liberties and rights which were guaranteed by the charters and constitutions of Great Britain to the colonies.

1773. A town meeting was called, and assembled the twenty-seventh of February, to deliberate and act relative to the public grievances. Capt. Solomon Pepper being chosen moderator, the town voted to give their representatives instructions touching this matter, and chose a large committee to make a report on this subject, which was done as follows:

'Your committee chosen for this purpose, now report the following resolutions, to be passed by this meeting—

'1. That the several acts of the British Parliament, which are so generally complained of by these colonies, are manifest violations of our rights.

'2. That we should be happy if the connection might be continued between Great Britain and these colonies, and they be governed according to the true spirit and meaning of our several charters and the British constitution.

'3. We justly dread the consequences which the burdens we groan under, if not removed, must produce.

'4. That every true friend of his country who shall have the offer of a seat as a judge in the session or court of judicature, upon such a detestable plan, as we hear is established, will bless his memory, by rejecting it with abhorrence; and that all who accept as above, instead of being esteemed the dispensers of justice between man and man, will be objects of contempt.

'5. That we have a right to meet, deliberate and act on all matters worthy of our attention, and we look upon that man or society of men, who can sit still and see their rights and privileges and money daily taken from them without their consent, not worthy of the name of freemen.

'6. That we have a right to communicate our sentiments and ask advice of any or all the towns in the province or elsewhere, if need be.'

These resolutions being offered and read by the committee, in a full town meeting, they were passed in the affirmative.

'Then it was voted, that the rights of Americans, as stated by the committee of Boston, are agreeable to our sentiments, and that the inhabitants of the town of Boston deserve the thanks of their country, for their zeal and activity in the cause of liberty, as surely they have of this town. It was then voted, that the above sentiments and resolutions be registered in the town's book of records, for a memorial of the value that we put upon our rights and privileges. Barnabas Freeman, Thomas Paine and Joseph Cole were a committee to transmit a copy of these proceedings to the committee of the town of Boston.'

Such were the resolutions and doings of the town of Eastham, and they had wise and good men to carry them out.

They imbibed largely the spirit and resolution of their fathers, who left their native country, where they were oppressed and persecuted, that they might enjoy here religious and civil privileges.

They were by charter, when they came here, entitled to all the liberties and immunities of free and natural subjects of Great Britain.

They had not, by coming to this country, forfeited any of these rights, but were, and their descendants were, entitled to enjoy all such of them as were applicable to their circumstances and condition here. English liberty was founded on the right of the people to participate in their legislative councils; and as the colonies were not represented in parliament, they had the sole and exclusive right of making laws in all cases whatever, subject only to the king's negative, in the way provided for by the charter of William and Mary. The allegiance of the colonies was due, not to the parliament, but to the king, because he was entitled to the crown, and because they had bound themselves in allegiance to him in that capacity.

The parliament had for many years passed acts, not only imposing heavy duties on imported articles of consumption into the colonies, but also to regulate their internal policy.

The molasses and sugar act was a revenue measure, and as such was pronounced a violation of their rights, of the

English constitution, and all the charters and compacts with the colonies. So strong and determined was the opposition to this act, that James Otis declared that if the king of England in person was encamped on Boston common, at the head of twenty thousand men, with all his navy on our coast, he would not be able to execute it. As to the laws for regulating our internal policy, some of them, as the hatter's act, and that against rolling and slitting mills, and forges, were never carried into effect.

These and all other oppressive acts of parliament were firmly resisted. The officers charged with the execution of the stamp act were compelled to resign. Associations were formed throughout the province, not to import or use any foreign merchandise on which a duty tax was imposed. The teas sent to Boston by the East India Company were taken by force out of the vessels in which they were imported, and thrown into the dock. Many officers appointed by the king were compelled to decline.

1774. This town took measures in regard to the use and sale of tea, as a heavy duty had been lately put upon it by the parliament of Great Britain, and chose a committee of correspondence.

Thomas Paine and Joseph Cole, with seven others, were made a committee to report to the town concerning the sale and use of teas, who reported:

‘1. That the seven late resolves of the citizens of Philadelphia, which the town of Boston and several other towns have adopted, are hereby adopted, as the expression of the sentiments of this town concerning it.

‘2. That the disposal of their own property is the inherent right of freemen, and that it cannot be rightfully taken from them without their consent.

‘3. That the duty imposed by parliament on tea landed in America, is levying contributions on us without our consent; and that the claim of parliament to tax America, is a claim of right to lay contributions on the country at their pleasure.

‘4. That the express purpose for which the tax is levied on our country,—for the support of the government, and the administration of justice, and the defence of his majesty's dominions,—has a strict tendency to render our constitutional assemblies useless, and to introduce an arbitrary government and slavery.

'5. That a virtuous and steady opposition against this ministerial plan of governing America, is necessary to preserve even a shadow of liberty; and it is a duty which every freeman owes to himself, to his country, and to posterity.

'6. That the determination which the East India Company have lately adopted, to send their tea to America, subject to the payment of a duty, is an open attempt to enforce the ministerial plan, and a violent attack on our liberties.

'7. That it is the duty of every American to oppose it.

'8. That whosoever shall, directly or indirectly, countenance this attempt, is an enemy to his country.'

These with several other resolutions were offered, and adopted by the town of Eastham, at this time, and were sent to the towns of Plymouth and Boston, with the thanks of the town, for their vigilance and care, in giving them the most early intelligence of this alarming state of public affairs.

The town appointed a large committee of vigilance and correspondence, who were required to make the most diligent and careful search for any persons who should buy, sell, or use this detestable article, that their names might be known abroad, as well as at home.

On the first day of September, of this year, his Excellency Thomas Gage, Governor of Massachusetts Bay, sent out precepts to the several towns and districts in the province, commanding the inhabitants to return representatives to the great and general Court, ordered to be convened at Salem, on the fourth day of October then next. But the governor becoming alarmed by the preparations for resisting the usurpations of chartered rights, by the bold spirit of the country resolves, and the patriotic instructions of the people to their delegates, issued an order countermanding the summons for the meeting of the Assembly, and postponed its session by a proclamation. Notwithstanding this, ninety of the representatives, who had been elected in pursuance of the writs for calling the General Assembly, met at Salem, at the time appointed, and after waiting a suitable time for the governor to administer the usual oaths, they proceeded to organize the convention. His Honor John Hancock was chosen chairman, and Benjamin Lincoln, Esq., clerk.

After passing several resolves in reference to the conduct of the governor and other royal officers, and also in reference to the condition of the country, upon a motion made and seconded, it was voted that 'the members present do now resolve themselves into a Provincial Congress, to be joined by such other persons as have been, or may be chosen for that purpose, to take into consideration the dangerous and alarming situation of public affairs in this province, and to consult and determine on such measures, as they shall judge will tend to promote the true interests of his majesty, and the peace, welfare and prosperity of the province.'

The town held frequent public meetings for the purpose of considering and acting on the condition of the troubled affairs of the country, chose committees of safety, and passed resolutions of approbation in regard to the proceedings of the Provincial Congress.

This year the town chose a committee to join with one from Wellfleet, to propagate the growth of oysters in that bay.

1776. The town voted to give their representative instructions to use his influence that the Continental Congress should declare the united colonies independent of Great Britain, and that they would defend the cause with their lives and fortunes; and they made choice of a large committee of correspondence and safety, according to the late resolve of the General Court. To encourage enlistment, a bounty of £8 was given to each man who would enlist in the continental service, and £3 to volunteers in the provincial service. It was voted to pay five shillings per day to Mr. Amos Knowles, for his services in representing the town in the Provincial Congress.

1777. A committee was appointed to join with the other committees in the county of Barnstable, that had or might be chosen in the several towns, to meet in convention at such time and place as might hereafter be agreed upon. The object of this convention was to remonstrate against any civil or military officer or officers who had been appointed by the king, and to petition the Provincial Congress for their removal, if they should think necessary, and also for some pro-

tection to the county, or that so many of our men might not be called away, in our exposed situation to the enemy; and to consult and deliberate upon any other matters which might appear conducive to the peace and happiness of the county of Barnstable. Solomon Pepper, Barnabas Freeman and Amos Knowles were chosen delegates for this town.

This year the brig Wilkes, Captain Williams, was cast away on the back side of the town, and much property was stolen from the wrecked vessel. The town held a meeting and appointed a committee to detect and bring to justice, if possible, any persons who had committed this robbery, and take measures to clear the character of the town in this affair.

1778. Money was again raised to encourage the enlisting of soldiers, to complete the quota of the continental army, as required of them by the government. The town raised £80 old tenor for each man who should go to Fishkill in the service, agreeable to the resolve of the General Court; also raised £1080 old tenor, to encourage soldiers to enlist in the army for different expeditions; and also chose a committee to provide for the families of those men who had enlisted in the continental army for three years or during the war; and at a subsequent meeting raised £1500 old tenor, to carry on the war.

1779. The question was before the town for their consideration, whether they would vote to have a new constitution of government. It was taken by yeas and nays, thirty voting in the negative and two in the affirmative.

It was agreed that the salaries of their ministers, Rev. Messrs. Cheever and Bascom, should be £275 old tenor, each.

It was agreed to choose a committee of eleven men to regulate the prices of the necessaries of life, according to a resolve of a state convention held at Concord.

The town had now become poor in consequence of the war, which had destroyed their fisheries and commerce.

The town often petitioned the General Court to abate their state taxes, as it was with great difficulty they could

support the gospel and schools among them, and pay the soldiers which they were required to furnish for the service.

Their determination to defend their rights and liberties, however, never for a moment abated, nor were their hopes of final deliverance from British tyranny lessened.

1780. They agreed to enlist the number of men for the continental service, which the General Court required of them, and to pay them thirteen Spanish milled dollars per month, in addition to the forty shillings which was paid by the state, and one month in advance before they marched. At this time the paper money of the province was so depreciated in value, that sixty dollars of paper were only equal to one of silver.

The governor, lieutenant governor and senators, for the first time were chosen by the people. In this town, John Hancock had forty-three votes for governor; James Bowdoin, twenty-six for lieutenant governor; and Solomon Freeman, thirty-six for senator.

1781. The town hired four men to join the army in Rhode Island, and agreed to pay each of them per month sixteen bushels of grain and two silver dollars, and to bear their expenses on the way. These men were David Taylor, Benoni Baker, Nathaniel Knowles and Abijah Mayo.

The government passed a resolve that this and the other towns in the county should furnish a quantity of beef for the army, which requisition they felt themselves unable to comply with, and appointed a committee to confer with the other towns, which resulted in the choice of Doctor John Davis as their agent to present their petition to the Court, praying that the requisition of the twentieth of October, 1781, might be remitted, and that a committee of the Court be appointed to inquire into the ability of the lower towns in the county.

Agreed to instruct their representative to use his influence concerning the fisheries in the northern states, in case articles of peace should be offered.

John Hancock had forty-seven votes for governor.

1782. The town chose a committee to wait on the com-

mittee from the General Court, to collect and lay before them all the debts of the town, and those of individuals due to other towns, and also the difficulties and distresses of the town.

John Hancock had fifty-four votes for governor.

1783. Doct. Samuel Cheever, Amos Knowles and Jonathan Linnell were chosen to present a petition to the General Court, praying an abatement of their portion of the public taxes.

This year was memorable for the happy termination of the horrors of war with Great Britain, which had for almost eight years been an awful scourge to our county.

These feeble colonies, by the assistance of the God of battles, endured every privation and suffering, for the maintenance of their rights and liberties, and obtained from Great Britain an acknowledgement of their independence. From this moment the United States of America claimed existence among the nations of the world, and no people ever advanced with more rapid steps to pre-eminence in national glory and importance.

Joy and gladness pervaded every town in the country; a day of thanksgiving and praise to God was appointed by the government, and observed by all the religious denominations in the land.

Soon the town of Eastham began to recover from the miserable poverty into which the war had plunged the inhabitants. The fishermen and those engaged in commerce, went forth unmoled upon the broad expanse of ocean, to gather up its riches and repair their losses.

When the war was declared against Great Britain, the Continental Congress had no money to carry it on; and having no power to lay taxes, their only recourse was to issue bills of credit, and pledge the faith of the colonies for their redemption. These bills of credit for a time passed as currently as gold and silver; but as the amount that was necessary to defray the public expenses very much exceeded the quantity of the specie circulating medium, the bills soon began and continued to depreciate until 1780, when they be-

came worthless. They remained so until 1790, when Congress passed an act to redeem this paper money, at the rate of one hundred dollars in bills for one in specie. The whole amount issued at different times during the war, was two hundred millions of dollars, and yet they were worth in gold and silver three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars only. The whole cost of their independence to the people of the United States is believed to have been about one hundred and forty millions of dollars.

John Hancock had fifty-five votes for governor.

1784. John Hancock had forty-eight votes for governor.

1785. The town again prayed the General Court for an abatement of the public taxes, and appointed Col. Job Crocker as an agent to present their petition.

This year a petition was sent to the General Court, respecting the valuation which was to be taken, representing a change in their circumstances.

A committee was sent down by the General Court, to view the town, and to inquire into their ability, or otherwise, to pay their portion of the public expenses.

A committee was appointed to procure a grammar school-master.

Measures were taken to prevent the people of other towns from digging clam bait within the limits of the town.

John Hancock had fifty-one votes for governor.

1786. The town was districted for the greater benefit of the schools, and each district drew its proportion of the money which was raised for school purposes.

Edward Knowles was deacon of the north church.

1790. Elijah Knowles, Amos Knowles and Isaac Sparrow were appointed as a committee to draft a petition to the General Court, for the purpose of regulating the fisheries.

A committee was also appointed to settle the bounds between the proprietors' meadows on the northern part of Pochet island.

1793. John Hancock had forty-nine votes for governor.

1794. Samuel Adams had fifty-five votes for governor.

1795. Mr. Philander Shaw of Marshfield, son of Rev.

William Shaw, pastor of the church in that town, was heard as a candidate; when a committee of five, Elijah Knowles, Esq., Dea. Joseph Pepper, Mr. Jonathan Linnell, Dea. Samuel Smith and Col. Elisha Cobb, were chosen to consider the amount of settlement and salary which should be given to Mr. Shaw as an encouragement to undertake the work of the ministry. They reported as follows: That they should give Mr. Shaw £80 salary and £200 settlement. This report was accepted and voted by the town. At an adjourned meeting the town reconsidered this vote, and sent a committee to Mr. Shaw, who returned with the following:

‘To the Gentlemen of the Town of Eastham:

‘I am informed, by your committee, that you have offered me the sum of £200 settlement, and £80 as an annual salary, to settle with you as minister of the north parish in this town. It is my request that you further add to the salary, the sum of £10.

‘PHILANDER SHAW.’

The above request was read and voted; that is, to give Mr. Shaw £200 settlement and £90 salary; and he was ordained September 23, 1795.

His father was the son of the Rev. John Shaw of Bridgewater, who had four sons, three of whom received a public education, and were ministers of the gospel, and the other a physician, who practised his profession in his native town.

Mr. Shaw married his first wife in this town, Miss Dorcas Doane, daughter of Mr. Joel Doane; his second wife was Miss Lucy Crocker, daughter of Mr. Alvan Crocker of Barnstable. He sustained the pastoral relation to this people till October 10, 1841, a period of a little more than forty-one years, when he died, aged seventy-three years. Revivals of religion were enjoyed in the town at some periods of his ministry. In the winter of 1837 and '38, he represented the town of Eastham in the legislature of the state with reputation. After his connection with the parish was dissolved, which was about two years before his death, he did not abandon the sacred office, but preached occasionally, with acceptance, in his own and the neighboring parishes. As a preacher his voice was strong, and his articulation clear

and distinct. His sermons were evangelical, and rich in thought. His last illness was attended with triumphant faith in his Redeemer. 'I once thought or feared,' said he, 'that when I came to my journey's end, I should be down in the valley; but instead of that, I am on Mount Pisgah, looking into the promised land, and waiting my departure.' No record of the number admitted to the church during his ministry has been found.

1795. The question came up respecting the revision of the constitution of the state, and by order of the General Court the town was required to express their opinion in town meeting by their votes, which they did, nineteen voting for a revision, and four against it.

An agent was chosen to answer in behalf of the town to a complaint made by the town of Bridgewater, on account of one Benjamin Webb, a pauper. He is supposed to have been the son of the former minister of Eastham. Mr. Webb spent his life as a school-teacher.

The town voted to add £10 to the Rev. Mr. Bascom's salary; also to pay Seth Knowles' bill for the use of his house, and for cooks and other necessaries for the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Shaw.

1796. It was agreed to divide the town into two precincts, and a committee was chosen to carry this agreement into effect.

Before this time, from 1718, when the south parish and church were organized, both had acted together, as one, in the call, settlement and support of the ministers, giving to each the same amount of salary and privileges; in building and repairing of the meeting-houses, parsonages, and all other expenses; which were paid by a tax on the polls and estates of the whole town, except Billingsgate.

Simeon Kingman and Amos Knowles were appointed humbly to petition the great and General Court, to cause a line and boundaries between this town and Chatham to be established.

This petition was granted by the Court, and a committee of that body sent down to establish this line.

The town voted to raise by tax one thousand and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents for the support of the gospel, the town schools and other public charges.

Elijah Knowles, Esq., died this year. He had represented the town nine years in succession in the General Court, and was one of the most distinguished men of the town, being often employed in other public offices of trust and importance. His death was deeply lamented by all who knew him.

1797. The question came up for a division of the town, which was agreed to, and a petition was sent to the General Court, praying that honorable body to sanction their doings, and to pass an act to incorporate the southerly part thereof into a township by the name of Orleans.

Dea. Joseph Pepper, being now the only selectman in the town of Eastham, was by legal authority required to warn a town meeting for the choice of officers and other business proper to be done at said meeting. He issued a warrant notifying all the legal voters to meet at the meeting-house, on Wednesday the fifteenth day of March, 1797, to choose the necessary town officers, and a committee to settle all accounts with the town of Orleans. John Doane, Benjamin Clark and Samuel Freeman were chosen as said committee.

They met the committee of Orleans, chosen for the same purpose, at the house of Mrs. Keziah Harding, innholder, of Orleans, on the 11th day of May, and reported that the town of Orleans was indebted to the town of Eastham in the sum of two hundred and seventeen dollars and twenty-five cents; that the town of Orleans should have all the outstanding taxes in that town; that the town of Eastham should pay to the town of Orleans, as soon as any of the tribe of Potanumaquiet Indians should become chargeable, thirteen dollars and ninety-three cents, it being the proceeds of lands sold by Micah Ralph, by order of the General Court; also, that all the former town records of Eastham should belong to Orleans, with all other books belonging to them in common. The ammunition was divided equally between the towns, being fifty-one pounds of powder, seven hundred and twenty-four pounds of lead and three hundred and ninety-four flints.

Two school-houses were built by the town at the expense of four hundred dollars, one in the south and the other in the north part of the town; also Dea. Benjamin Clark was paid fifty dollars for his attendance on the General Court.

1799. Seth Knowles and others obtained liberty of the town to dig a canal from Herring pond, across the road near Timothy Cole's, into Great Meadow river, for the purpose of letting in herrings. They were to have the benefit of the fishery for fifty years, and obligated themselves to maintain a bridge over said canal in the town road.

The first salt manufactured by solar evaporation in this town was made by Dea. John Knowles. During the revolutionary war it was made by boiling salt water in large kettles. This process was slow and expensive. The price of salt at that time was one dollar per bushel. After this time, large sums of money were invested in salt works.

On the fourteenth of December, 1799, George Washington, the illustrious and beloved father of his country, paid the debt of nature; and throughout the United States, all classes of people mourned the event as a great national calamity. It was recommended by the public authorities that the twenty-second of February, 1800, his birth-day, be consecrated by the whole community to the remembrance of the savior of our country. The event was noticed in this town. Grief and sorrow were depicted on every countenance; and the whole people, as one family, bewailed the death of their common father.

Samuel Freeman, Esq., was appointed by the general government to take the census of eight of the lower towns in the county of Barnstable.

A ship from Virginia, with a cargo of tobacco, bound to Boston, was driven on shore by a violent gale of wind, in December, a little to the north of Nauset harbor. The crew were landed in safety, the tobacco in a damaged state. The owner allowed the inhabitants one quarter for landing and drying it. The ship was got off and taken to Boston. During the same storm a ship loaded with salt was driven on shore near the same place. The vessel and cargo were lost, but the crew were saved.

The town chose a committee to view the broken lands between the meeting-house and Richard Atwood's.

1800. The town was represented in the General Court for the first time since the division, by Elisha Mayo, Esq.

Another district school-house was built at the expense of the town.

In this and the following year, the votes of the town were almost unanimously given for Governor Strong.

The town agreed to build a house, seventeen by sixteen feet, for the widow Betty Doane, whose house had been burnt; and a building committee was chosen.

At this time there was but one denomination of Christians in the town, all worshipping in the same house, which was too small for their accommodation, owing to the increase of the population. It was resolved therefore to enlarge it, and a committee was appointed to superintend the work; also, voted that the town pay twelve dollars for a pulpit cushion, and eight dollars for military colors. The expense of enlarging the house was fifteen hundred and sixty-two dollars and forty-one cents, and the new pews were sold for two thousand and ten dollars, bringing into the town treasury four hundred and twenty-seven dollars and thirty-eight cents.

The town voted to raise one hundred and twenty dollars for the support of the district schools; also to divide the town into four districts.

1804. The town chose a large and respectable committee to ascertain the practicability of digging a canal from Town cove into Boat Meadow river, and thus connect the waters of the ocean with the bay, for the purposes of navigation. This committee was to be joined by another from Orleans, chosen for this purpose, and to petition the General Court for leave to raise the money by a lottery. The canal was opened and the water flowed through at high tide, but the project failed.

1806. The ship Confidence, Isaiah Knowles, master, which sailed from Boston for Africa, was upset in a violent gale near the end of the Cape, and driven into the bay, on the west side of the town, with the loss of all her crew.

1809. Elisha Mayo, Esq., was appointed an agent, by the town, to meet, at Orleans, other agents, to be appointed by the other towns in the county of Barnstable, to petition Congress for a port of entry in this county.

The town raised thirty-one dollars for the support of singing.

The enforcement of the embargo law which was enacted by Congress, caused great suffering on the sea-coast and throughout our commercial community. Eastham and all Cape Cod was most severely affected by it. Navigation was entirely suspended, and our seamen were deprived of their employment and the means of supporting their families.

1812. War was declared by our government against Great Britain, in consequence of her claims in derogation of our rights as a neutral nation, and her practice under that claim of impressing naturalized and native American citizens into her service. About this measure of the government there was much division of opinion, and many opposed it.

This town was unanimously in favor of peace, but passed no votes or resolutions against the war. The consequence of the war was, that very soon the fisheries were entirely interrupted. In these the inhabitants were principally employed, and by them a very large portion were supported.

All communication by water, with Boston and other commercial cities, was cut off, except in small boats running round by the shore, and that with much danger of being taken by the enemy, whose ships were anchored in Provincetown harbor, and who sent their barges to cruise about the bay. A number of boats and some of our packets were taken, while attempting to pass to and from Boston. A number of seamen belonging to this town were taken by the enemy in this war.

1814. An incident connected with the history of this town is worthy of notice, as it shows the wisdom and courage of one of the inhabitants.

Capt. Matthew H. Mayo, accompanied by Capt. Winslow L. Knowles, left this town, in a whale boat loaded with rye, bound to Boston, where they arrived in safety. Hav-

ing sold their rye, they purchased articles for their own families and others, and exchanged their boat for one somewhat larger. In attempting to make their passage home, when near the Gurnet, they discovered a pink-stern schooner of about sixty tons, at anchor within range of cannon shot of them, apparently fishing, with five men on deck. Suddenly a cannon was discharged, the shot of which struck the water about fifty feet from them; keeping on their course, another shot fell only a few feet short and skipped over them, on which they hove to, and the schooner ran alongside their boat. Capt. Mayo secretly threw over his valuable spy-glass, that it might not fall into their hands.

They were taken on board the schooner and conveyed to the British man-of-war *Spencer*, where they were kept three days, when an offer was made to ransom themselves and boat for three hundred dollars; and for that purpose Capt. Knowles was permitted to go to Boston, to obtain the money, but was there advised by his friends and a certain naval officer to give up the scheme.

Capt. Mayo having remained seven days in the ship, was put on board of the schooner that took him, as a pilot, with three British officers and twenty men, well armed with a brass four pounder, muskets, pistols, cutlasses, boarding pikes and other weapons, and ordered to cruise in the bay.

After two days they were overtaken by a severe north-west wind. Capt. Mayo advised them to make a harbor under Billingsgate Point; but it being his intention to deceive the enemy, and, if possible, to recapture the vessel and make prisoners of all on board, he anchored in bad holding ground. The gale still continuing, he went forward unobserved, and with his penknife partly severed the cable, which soon parted. He then advised the officers to make a harbor to the leeward, about ten miles distant.

He had previously picked the lock of the first officer's writing desk, and obtained a pair of brass pistols, which he secreted under his jacket.

The schooner soon grounded on the flats of Eastham. The officers now suspected that he had deceived them; but

Capt. Mayo assured them that they had only struck on the outer bar, and would soon beat over, and advised the men to go below, as they might be suspected by the people who began to collect on the shore. He gave them a gimblet, with which they tapped a cask of West India rum, and drank till they were intoxicated.

The schooner soon began to heel over, as the tide ebbed, and the officers, finding they were deceived, ordered their men on deck for the purpose of resistance. Capt. Mayo immediately threw overboard the arms that were on deck, drew out his pistols and threatened to shoot any one who should attempt his life.

He went on shore and requested the people who had assembled there, to notify the proper authorities of his circumstances. The militia were ordered out and took possession of the vessel, officers and men, and marched them up to the public house of Mr. Thomas Crosby, where they were put under guard for that night. In the morning they were ordered to the barn of Mr. George Collins, and a guard placed over them; but they were soon permitted to escape, and taking a boat at the shore, went on board of their ship.

The commander sent a barge, and demanded of the town twelve hundred dollars in specie, threatening that, if it was not paid in twenty-four hours, he would land with a force sufficient to burn, indiscriminately, the vessels, dwelling-houses and salt-works of the inhabitants.

The deputy marshal of the district, having been informed of the capture of the vessel and crew, demanded the prisoners and their baggage; but they having escaped to the British ship, he took the arms and baggage. He also demanded the vessel, which belonged to persons in Duxbury; but the proper authorities secured her to Capt. Mayo, who justly considered that she was his property. The owners in Duxbury afterwards paid him two hundred dollars for the vessel. If the prisoners had not been permitted to escape, he would have been entitled to thirty dollars for each of them.

The officer of the barge now peremptorily demanded the money, or he would immediately execute his threats, upon

which the committee of safety requested some delay, and permission to visit the commodore on board of his ship, and return in twenty-four hours. Finally they paid two hundred dollars for the baggage taken from the prisoners by the deputy marshal, and one thousand for the protection of the town.

The money was receipted for by the commodore, with a written promise not to take or destroy any property belonging to the inhabitants of the town of Eastham during the war.

This matter being settled, the British forces left the shore for their ships.

The selectmen were the committee of safety, and the town voted to pay all necessary charges occasioned by the British in threatening to land.

The payment of money for the protection of the town seems to have been unwise and unnecessary. It can be accounted for only from the great alarm and fear which pervaded the minds of the people, of which the enemy took advantage. On cool reflection, it would appear impossible for them to have executed their threat. There was no thickly inhabited village, the salt-works were scattered at a distance on the shore, and the flats extend a mile or more, and are dry at low water. The militia of this and the neighboring towns, with an artillery company having two brass pieces, from Brewster, were on the spot, ready to repel any attempt to land.

The town voted to pay those persons who boarded the militia when called out for defence against the enemy, ten cents per meal.

During the war a number of men from this town were engaged in privateering. Four of them, Samuel Freeman, Jr., Joseph Snow, Josiah Smith and Matthew H. Mayo, were in the Reindeer, Capt. Nathaniel Snow. They were ordered to cruise from the mouth of the English Channel to the Bay of Biscay, to intercept a fleet of East Indiamen. They fell in with it on the coast of France, but as it was under a strong convoy, they let it pass.

Subsequently they captured six prizes, from which they took part of their cargoes, and burnt some of the vessels.

One of them was an English brig under Spanish colors, on board of which they put a prize-master, and ordered her to the United States; but she was retaken on the passage.

They fell in with another fleet of merchantmen under a strong convoy, and remaining near it till dark, they engaged one of the vessels, which they were on the point of taking, when one of the convoy coming to her relief, they drew off, and returned to Boston, having been absent five months.

There were five other men from this place, in the *Brutus*, commanded by Capt. Austin, of Boston. They had a number of severe engagements and took several prizes. After the war, Capt. Austin removed to Texas, and established a colony which bears his name.

Others, among whom was Capt. Winslow L. Knowles, engaged in this business with considerable success.

Mr. John Cook, of this town, was in the sanguinary but victorious battle of Lake Erie. He belonged to the flag ship of Com. Perry.

1815. The difficulties between this country and Great Britain being settled by a treaty, the people returned to their former employments, and were permitted again to sit under their own vines and fig trees, having none to molest or make them afraid.

Thus ended the war, in which our country nobly defended her rights, and her small but gallant navy most honorably and victoriously, both on the ocean and the lakes, performed their duty.

1816. This town has generally been very healthy, and free from epidemical diseases, but this year, in which a most fearful and fatal sickness prevailed, will long be remembered. It commenced its ravages in the south part of the town, but soon extended to every neighborhood and almost every family. The first person who died with the disease was buried on the eighteenth of January, and from that time to the thirtieth of May, it swept off seventy-two persons, about one eleventh of the whole population. The old, the middle aged and the young were indiscriminately cut down by the fell destroyer. Five were buried in one day, and there was

seldom a day, from the first of February to the twentieth of March, without a funeral. Those who were well could hardly take care of the sick. The most successful prescriptions that were made were powerful emetics and cathartics. The assistance and advice of the physicians of the neighboring towns were had, but yet the greater portion of those who were visited with this sickness died. The cause of this uncommon epidemic could not be determined by physicians or others. The weather was noted for its sudden changes from extreme cold to very warm.

The town most humanely voted to pay the physicians the amount of their bills, during the sickness, in cases where the individuals or families were not able to do it.

The town voted to lease the Great pond to Joshua P. Atwood and others, for fifty years, on the condition that a canal be dug out in ten years so as to bring in salt water.

1819. The town appointed Harding Knowles their agent to settle with the town of Standish, in the State of Maine, respecting two paupers who were formerly inhabitants of Eastham.

In December, 1820, the ship *Rolla*, from Surinam, bound to Newburyport, with a cargo of molasses and thirteen thousand dollars in specie, was driven ashore on Nauset beach in the night. The vessel being old, was soon rendered a complete wreck, and all but three of her crew and passengers were lost. The survivors found their way to the house of Freeman Doane, where they were hospitably entertained ten days, without any compensation. A gentleman of Newburyport lost an only son, who was washed from the deck after the ship struck.

The brig *Massachusetts*, Capt. Hubbard, from Bremen, with a valuable assorted cargo, bound to Boston, was by a wrong calculation run ashore on this beach. The cargo was landed in safety, carted across the Cape, and freighted to Boston, by Messrs. Doane and Knowles, on a contract for eleven hundred and fifty dollars.

In 1820, the Methodist Episcopal church was instituted in this town, through the influence of a camp-meeting held in

Wellfleet, in August, 1819. A number of persons from this place, who attended the meeting, became awakened to a sense of their lost condition as sinners, and began to inquire most earnestly 'what they should do to be saved?'

The Rev. E. Wiley, who was then stationed in Wellfleet, often preached here, and the result was, that an extensive revival of religion was enjoyed in different parts of the town. A large number of persons were brought to the knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins. This was the origin of the Methodist society in Eastham, but it was attached to the Wellfleet circuit, which continued under the charge of Mr. Wiley until the next session of the New England conference, in June, 1820.

The Rev. Edward Hide succeeded Mr. Wiley in the charge of the circuit, and his labors were enjoyed by both branches of the society during the year, in which time they so increased, that the next year, Mr. Hide being re-appointed to the same charge, in connection with the Rev. Heman Perry, took up his residence here, and supplied them through the year.

In 1821, the Methodist meeting-house was built. It is a neat and commodious house, sufficiently large to accommodate all who belong to the society and attend the meeting, being at the present time nearly two thirds of all the inhabitants of the town.

In 1822, the circuit was supplied with the joint labors of Mr. Perry and the Rev. L. Bennett. Mr. Hide, having been appointed to the office of presiding elder for the Boston district, visited this place quarterly, it being within the limits of his circuit.

This society remained in connection with the Wellfleet circuit until June, 1823, when it was constituted a separate station and distinct charge.

This year the Rev. Nathan Paine was appointed to the charge of this church and society, for two years. At this time the church was composed of about one hundred members.

Since this, the following preachers have been appointed to the church and congregation in succession:

- 1825, Rev. E. K. Avery, one year.
 1826, Rev. Benjamin Keath, two years.
 1828, Rev. Frederic Upham, one year.
 1829, Rev. Joel Steel, two years.
 1831, Rev. H. Brownson, two years.
 1833, Rev. Lemuel Harlow, one year.
 1834, Rev. T. W. Brown, two years.
 1836, Rev. Warren Emerson, two years.
 1338, Rev. Thomas Ely, one year.
 1839, Rev. Josiah Litch, two years.
 1841, Rev. E. W. Jackson, one year.
 1842, Rev. O. Robbins, two years.

This church has enjoyed interesting revivals from time to time since its organization, with more or less accession nearly every year; but it has suffered many losses, by removal and death, especially in 1843, when several valuable and useful members were removed by death, as we humbly trust, to the church triumphant.

The number in the church now, including a few in South Wellfleet, is one hundred and eighty-five.

CAMP-MEETINGS IN THIS TOWN.

The first of these meetings was held in 1828. After this time, to 1836, three others were held. This year, the ground and grove, containing about ten acres, was purchased by an association formed for that purpose, and an act of incorporation was obtained from the General Court in 1838. It is called Millennium Grove. It is a most beautiful and attractive spot, and exceedingly well located and adapted for this purpose. It is near the shore of the bay, where steamboats and other vessels land their passengers.

These meetings have brought together very large numbers, not only of the Methodist denomination but of all other societies. It has been supposed that nearly five thousand persons have been on the ground at the same time, so that the strictest regulations have been found necessary to preserve that order and attention which such a meeting demands.

It commences on Tuesday, and continues till the following Monday. The attendance is much larger on the Sabbath than on any other day.

The exercises are, three sermons delivered from the stand each day, and prayer and exhortatory meetings in the centre of the camp, and in the tents during the intermissions, except at meal times. A large and convenient house has been erected for the accommodation of the ministers; and tents for the congregation are so arranged as to form a circle, in which they sleep; in the rear they cook and take their meals.

These meetings for some years were greatly blessed; large numbers were hopefully converted, and many backsliders reclaimed; but recently this does not seem to be the happy result, and the same is true of other protracted meetings.

The reason of this failure must be resolved either into the sovereign pleasure of God, or that there has been more of a secular spirit and interest connected with them than formerly.

It being held on the Sabbath is the occasion of the most lamentable violation of that sacred day, by persons who attend with no serious or religious motives.*

1820. Samuel Freeman, Esq., was chosen by the town a delegate to the convention to be holden in Boston, for the revision of the constitution of the Commonwealth.

In 1821, Governor Brooks had the unanimous vote of the town.

In 1826, Harding Knowles, Esq., fell from his pump-mill, and survived but three days. He was a highly respected citizen, represented the town in the General Court, and held the office of a selectman and an assessor fifteen years. His death was much lamented by his friends and townsmen.

1827. The ship *Maine*, Capt. Davis, from Batavia, via Cadiz, with a cargo of salt and lead, and eighty thousand dollars in specie, was cast on shore at the entrance of Nauset harbor. The lead and specie were safely landed, and the vessel being hove off, was taken to Boston.

In 1829, the temperance reform was commenced in this town, through the influence of the Rev. Mr. Woodbury of Falmouth, and the foundation was laid of the first temper-

* Abstract from the history of this society, by the Rev. O. Robbins in charge.

ance society in Eastham. It has, for some years, embraced the largest portion of the inhabitants, and has been the instrument of producing almost an entire abandonment of the use of intoxicating liquors, and of invaluable benefit to the morals and happiness of this community.

This year the old meeting-house was taken down, and a new and commodious house was built, about one mile and a half to the northward.

The brig Creole was driven on shore near Nauset harbor. She was from New Orleans, bound to Boston, with a cargo of cotton, which was landed in safety, taken over the Cape, and freighted to Boston. The vessel was also got off and taken to the same place, by Messrs. Doane and Knowles, for eleven hundred and fifty dollars.

The town chose a committee to put in force the law against the sale of spirituous liquors, and agreed to have one licensed retailer of ardent spirits in town.

1831. The brig Java, from Java for Boston, with a cargo of coffee and nutmegs, was driven on shore at the entrance of Nauset harbor, in a thick snow storm. She was boarded from the shore with boats, and her crew were landed in safety. In a few days she became a complete wreck, and her cargo was scattered on the beach. The inhabitants of Eastham and Orleans saved large quantities of coffee and some casks of nutmegs, for which they were allowed a liberal salvage.

1834. It was voted to divide the town into six school districts.

1836. A number of families living in the south part of the town, sent a petition to the General Court, praying to be set off to the town of Orleans. The town appointed the selectmen as a committee to remonstrate against this petition, which prevented its being granted.

1837. George Collins was authorized by the selectmen to receive the town's proportion of the surplus revenue, which, by an act of Congress, was distributed to the different States, according to their population, and by this State to all the towns on the same principle. Eastham received twenty-one hundred dollars.

Voted to build a bridge over Boat river, and defray the expense with a part of this money.

Two families, living near Rock harbor, with their properties, were by an act of the General Court set off to the town of Orleans.

1838. Voted to loan the remainder of the surplus revenue to individuals in the town, in sums not less than twenty-five dollars, and to apply the interest annually to the support of town schools.

1839. In October this coast was visited by a tremendous storm, which continued thirty-six hours. Many lives were lost, and much property in shipping and salt-works was destroyed.

Daniel H. Babcock was ordained over the Congregational church and society, and dismissed in 1840. He was a native of Ohio, and graduated at the Western Reserve College. After his dismissal, he supplied the South parish in Yarmouth one year, and is now settled in Cohasset.

Rev. Stillman Pratt supplied this society six months, and was then settled in Adams.

After him, the Rev. Solomon Hardy took charge of the church and society about two years, and died here, September, 1842. He was born in Hollis, N. H., graduated at Middlebury College, 1824, studied his profession at the Andover seminary, after which he preached a number of years in the Western states, when he returned and took charge of the church and society in South Wellfleet, where he remained three years. He was much devoted to the cause of religion, and his labors were blessed. He died greatly lamented, not only by his bereaved widow, but by his brethren in the ministry and all who knew him. His health was always feeble, but he was strongly supported by the presence of his Savior in his last sickness, and died with an unshaken hope of a blessed immortality.

Since his death the church and society have had the labors of the Rev. E. Pratt.

It is now two hundred years since this ancient church was planted. It was the third emigration from the Plymouth church, composed of the Pilgrims,—has had five ordain-

ed ministers, and four meeting-houses. The blessings of heaven often in former years came down upon the place, to make successful the labors of its devoted ministers; but the numbers who have been added to the church during the ministry of each, cannot be ascertained, as no records kept by them are found. Present number, fifty-six. The church and society has now become so small and feeble, that they are unable to support an ordained minister to reside with them.

EDUCATION.

In 1678, the town voted to raise money to continue the school. This is the earliest notice of a school in the town found in the records, and the amount is not stated. It is probable that the first settlers provided for the education of their children, as well as for the support of a minister.

Money was annually appropriated for this purpose and other town charges, without specifying the sum, until 1700, when the town agreed to pay the school-masters ten pence per week for each child.

In 1709, the town was presented by the Court for not having a school-master.

In 1713, a committee was appointed to regulate the school for the greater benefit of the inhabitants, who established it one year in the middle, and the next in the south part of the town.

In 1718, Mr. Nehemiah Hobart was the school-master, and the town agreed to pay him £10 above his salary, for assisting Mr. Treat in the ministry.

In 1723, the school is noticed, also in 1749, and 1754.

In 1757, a large committee was appointed by the town to regulate and superintend the schools.

In 1763, the north precinct was set off and incorporated as a separate district or township, and on a settlement between them of money raised for the support of the schools, Eastham paid to Wellfleet £21, 10s., as their part of the money then in the treasury for six months schooling. This was about one third part of the sum raised by the whole town, making for a whole year, £129.

In 1773, the town set up a grammar school; also raised £26, 13s. 8d. for teaching reading, writing and arithmetic.

In 1779, in a petition which the town sent to the General Court, for an abatement of their taxes, the reason given was, that they had great difficulty in supporting the gospel and schools among them.

In 1785, the grammar school is mentioned as continued.

In 1786, the town was districted for the greater benefit of the schools, and each district drew from the treasury their proportion of the money which was raised for this purpose.

In 1796, money was raised for the support of the schools.

In 1797, two school-houses were built, which cost the town four hundred dollars.

In 1800, a district school-house was built.

In 1803, one hundred and twenty dollars was raised for the support of the town school; also, two school-houses were built.

From this time to 1813, the town annually appropriated two hundred dollars for the support of the district schools. From this date to 1833, three hundred dollars were annually raised for this purpose; and from that to the present time, four hundred dollars annually.

Valuation, \$127,764 00. Number of public schools, 5. Number of children between four and sixteen, 340.

It is not known that any of the sons of Eastham have received a collegiate education. The town schools have been greatly improved within the last thirty years. Teachers of higher qualifications, and books better adapted to the capacities of the children, have been obtained. The school-houses during the present year have been altered, and constructed for the greater convenience and comfort of the teachers and children, and the districts reduced to five.

The public buildings in the town, are five school-houses, two meeting-houses, and there are two wind-mills for grinding grain. About seventy thousand feet of salt-works are owned in the town. There are two vessels owned here that fish on the 'Banks' for codfish, several that fish for mackerel and the Boston market, and one packet.

There are about one hundred and seventy families, and one hundred and fifty dwelling-houses. Although the land has generally become poor by the injudicious mode of farming in former years, yet a larger quantity of grain is now raised than in other towns in the county, according to the number of acres which it contains. A considerable attention is given to the raising of vegetables for Provincetown and Wellfleet markets, beyond what is required for home consumption.

CENSUS.

1644	.	.	.	.	.	.	49*
1663	.	.	.	.	.	.	275
1676	.	.	.	.	.	.	520
1703	.	.	.	.	.	.	948
1749	.	.	.	.	.	.	2000
1764†	.	.	.	.	.	.	1331
1790	.	.	.	.	.	.	2064
1797‡	.	.	.	.	.	.	840
1800	.	.	.	.	.	.	800
1810	.	.	.	.	.	.	782
1820	.	.	.	.	.	.	766
1830	.	.	.	.	.	.	966
1840	.	.	.	.	.	.	955

* Seven families.

† The year after Wellfleet was separated.

‡ After the separation of Orleans.

DEPUTIES TO THE OLD COLONY COURT AT PLYMOUTH.

- 1647—Edward Bangs and Dea. John Doane.
 1648—Joseph Cook and Richard Higgins.
 1649—Dea. John Doane and Richard Higgins.
 1650—Edward Bangs and Joseph Cook.
 1651—Nicholas Snow and Dea. John Freeman.
 1652—Dea. John Freeman and Josias Cook.
 1653—Nicholas Snow and Joseph Cook.
 [From 1654 to 1659, the record of deputies chosen by the town is lost.]
 1660—Dea. John Freeman* and John Cole.
 1661—Richard Higgins and John Cole.
 1662—Josiah Cook and Daniel Cole.
 1663—Josiah Cook and Edward Bangs.
 1664—Edward Bangs and John Cole.
 1665—Richard Higgins and Josiah Cook.
 1666—Dea. John Freeman and Josiah Cook.
 1667—Richard Higgins and Daniel Cole.
 1668 and '69—No record of deputies.
 1670—Daniel Cole and William Nickerson.
 1671—Jabez Cook and Thomas Paine.
 1672—Daniel Cole and Jonathan Sparrow.
 1673—Dea. John Doane and Jonathan Sparrow.
 1674—Jonathan Sparrow and Jonathan Bangs.
 1675—Jonathan Sparrow.
 1676—Jonathan Bangs.
 1677—Jonathan Sparrow and Mark Snow.
 1678—Thomas Paine and Jonathan Sparrow.
 1679, '80 and '81—No deputies.
 1682—Jonathan Sparrow and Jonathan Bangs.
 1683—Jonathan Bangs and Jonathan Sparrow.
 1684—Jonathan Sparrow and Dea. John Doane.
 1685—Dea. John Doane and Jonathan Sparrow.
 1686—Jonathan Sparrow and Mark Snow.
 1687 and '88—Jonathan Bangs.
 1689—Dea. John Doane and Mark Snow.
 1690—Jonathan Sparrow and Thomas Paine.

* Dea. Freeman was for several years an Assistant to the Governor.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS AT BOSTON.

1692—Capt. Jona. Sparrow.	1724—John Paine.
Ensign Jona. Bangs.	25—John Paine.
93—Thomas Smith.	26—Joseph Doane.
94—John Doane, Jr.	27—Joseph Doane.
95—Thomas Smith.	28—Samuel Knowles.
96—Thomas Paine.	29—Israel Cole.*
97—Samuel Freeman.	1730—Capt. John Knowles.
98—Israel Cole.	31—William Paine.
99—Jona. Sparrow.	32—William Paine.
1700—Israel Cole.	33—John Paine.
01—John Doane, Jr.	34—John Paine.
02—Jona. Sparrow.	35—William Paine.
03—John Paine.	36—John Paine, Jr.
04—Capt. Sam'l Freeman.	37—John Paine, Jr.
05	38—William Paine.
06—Samuel Knowles.	39—William Paine.
07—Samuel Knowles.	1740—John Paine, Jr.
08—Samuel Knowles.	41—Capt. John Knowles.
09—John Paine.	42—Capt. John Knowles.
1710—Samuel Knowles.	43—William Paine.
11—Samuel Mayo.	44—William Paine.
12—Samuel Knowles.	45—Samuel Knowles.
13	46—John Paine, Jr.
14—John Paine.	47—Samuel Knowles.
15—Samuel Mayo.	48—Samuel Knowles.
16—John Paine.	49—William Paine.
17—Joshua Higgins.	1750—John Paine, Jr.
18—John Paine.	51—Dea. John Freeman.
19—Samuel Knowles.	52
1720—Samuel Knowles.	53—Dea. John Freeman.
21—Joshua Higgins.	54
Isaac Pepper.	55—Dea. John Freeman.
22—Isaac Pepper.	56—Capt. Jona. Pepper.
23—Samuel Knowles.	57—Capt. Jona. Pepper.

*This year the General Court was held at Salem.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1758—Sylvanus Snow. | 1797—Capt. Michael Collins. |
| 59—Jonathan Doane. | 98—Dea. Benjamin Clark. |
| 1760—Sylvanus Snow. | 99 |
| 61—Jonathan Doane. | 1800—Elisha Mayo. |
| 62 | 01 |
| 63—Capt. Sol. Pepper. | 02 |
| 64—Capt. Sol. Pepper. | 03 |
| 65—Jonathan Doane. | 1804 to '10—Samuel Free- |
| 66—Maj. Elisha Doane. | man, Esq. |
| 67—Thomas Paine. | 11—John Doane. |
| 68—Maj. Elisha Doane: | 12—John Doane. |
| Barnabas Freeman. | 13—Capt. Heman Smith. |
| 69—Barnabas Freeman. | 14—Capt. Heman Smith. |
| 1770—Thomas Paine. | 15 |
| 71—Barnabas Freeman. | 16—Samuel Freeman, Esq. |
| 72 | 17—Joshua P. Atwood. |
| 73 | 18—Joshua P. Atwood. |
| 74 | 19—Harding Knowles. |
| 75—Amos Knowles* | 1820—Harding Knowles. |
| Barnabas Freeman.† | 21—Samuel Freeman, Esq. |
| 76—Amos Knowles. | 22 |
| 77—Capt. Sol. Pepper. | 23—Samuel Freeman, Esq. |
| 78—Barnabas Freeman: | 24—Harding Knowles. |
| Josiah Rogers. | 25 |
| 79—Barnabas Freeman. | 26—Harding Knowles. |
| 1780—Thomas Paine. | 27—Samuel Freeman, Esq. |
| 81—Thomas Paine. | 28—Capt. Jesse Collins. |
| 82—Nathan Doane. | 29—Capt. Jesse Collins. |
| 83—Nathan Doane. | 1830—Capt. Sam'l Knowles. |
| 84—Nathan Doane. | 31—Capt. Sam'l Knowles. |
| 85—Nathan Doane. | 32—Michael Collins. |
| 1786 to '94—Elijah Knowles, | 33—Capt. David Atwood. |
| Esq. | 34—Capt. David Atwood. |
| 95—Simeon Kingman, Esq. | 35—George Collins. |
| 96 | 36—George Collins. |

* Mr. Knowles was sent to the second Provincial Congress, at Cambridge, on the first of February.

† Mr. Freeman represented this town in the same body, at Watertown, on the thirty-first of July.

- 1837—Rev. Philander Shaw. 1841—Henry Horton.
 38—Rev. Philander Shaw. 42—Benjamin H. A. Col-
 39—Barnabas Freeman. lins, Esq.
 1840—Henry Horton. 43—Elijah E. Knowles.
-

TOWN TREASURERS.

- Edward Bangs, from 1646 to 1665.
 Daniel Doane, from 1666 to 1675.
 Thomas Paine, from 1676 to 1694.
 Joseph Doane, from 1703 to 1708.
 John Paine, from 1709 to 1730.
 Edward Knowles, from 1731 to 1740.
 Samuel Freeman, from 1741 to 1749.
 Edward Knowles, from 1750 to 1758.
 Jabez Snow, from 1759 to 1760.
 Edward Knowles, from 1761 to 1774.
 Gideon Baty, from 1775 to 1779.
 Richard Knowles, from 1780 to 1782.
 Isaac Pepper, from 1783 to 1785.
 Samuel Higgins, from 1786 to 1790.
 Isaac Sparrow, from 1791 to 1793.
 Elijah Knowles, from 1794 to 1796.
 Dea. Benjamin Clark, from 1797 to 1804.
 Dea. Ebenezer Paine, from 1805 to 1824.
 George Clark, from 1825 to 1830.
 Joshua Paine, from 1831 to 1836.
 Samuel Knowles, from 1837 to 1841.
 Nathan Knowles, from 1842 to —

TOWN CLERKS.

The following oath was administered to those who were chosen to this office, by order of the Court:

‘ You shall fairly and fully serve in the office of a Town Clerk in the town of Eastham, for the present year, and so long as by mutual consent the town and you shall agree,—during which time you shall carefully and faithfully pen all such records you shall be intrusted withall; and shall record all town acts and orders, and shall enter all town grants and conveyances,

‘ You shall record all births and marriages and burials, that shall be brought to you within the town; and shall publish all contracts of marriage, you shall be required to do, according to the order of the Court.’

Dated twentieth of October, 1646.

Nicholas Snow, from 1646 to 1662.

Mark Snow, from 1663 to 1675.

Daniel Doane, from 1676 to 1692.

Mark Snow, from 1693 to 1695.

Thomas Paine, from 1695 to 1703.

John Paine, from 1704 to 1729.

Joseph Doane, from 1729 to 1743.

Thomas Knowles, from 1743 to 1746.

Nathaniel Freeman, from 1746 to 1748.

Thomas Knowles, from 1748 to 1758.

Jabez Snow, from 1759 to 1760.

Edward Knowles, from 1761 to 1774.

Gideon Baty, from 1774 to 1779.

Richard Knowles, from 1779 to 1782.

Isaac Pepper, from 1782 to 1785.

Samuel Higgins, from 1786 to 1790.

Isaac Sparrow, from 1790 to 1793.

Elijah Knowles, from 1793 to 1796.

Dea. Benjamin Clark, from 1797 to 1804.

Dea. Ebenezer Paine, from 1805 to 1824.

George Clark, from 1824 to 1830.

Joshua Paine, from 1830 to 1836.

Samuel Knowles, from 1836 to 1841.

Nathan Knowles, from 1842 to —

SELECTMEN.*

- 1663—Mr. John Freeman, ten years.
 1663— “ Nicholas Snow, seven do.
 1663—Dea. John Doane, fourteen do.
 1665—Mr. Edward Bangs, two do.
 1665— “ Richard Higgins, three do.
 1667— “ Mark Snow, eighteen do.
 1667— “ Daniel Cole, nine do.
 1667— “ John Doane, Jr., eight do.
 1670— “ Josiah Cook, one year.
 1670— “ William Nickerson, one do.
 1671—Dea. Jonathan Sparrow, ten years.
 1671—Mr. Thomas Paine, nineteen do.
 1672— “ Goodman Nickerson, one year.
 1673— “ Joseph Harding, one do.
 1674—Capt. Jonathan Bangs, three years.
 1687—Mr. Daniel Doane, four do.
 1687— “ Jabez Snow, four do.
 1688— “ Benjamin Higgins, one year.
 1690— “ Thomas Mayo, twelve years.
 1691— “ Thomas Paine, Jr., three do.
 1691— “ Isaac Pepper, eleven do.
 1692—Dea. Samuel Knowles, six do.
 1693—Capt. Samuel Freeman, six do.
 1693—Mr. John Paine, six do.
 1694— “ Israel Cole, five do.
 1695—Capt. Edmond Freeman, seven do.
 1697—Mr. Daniel Cole, Jr., one year.
 1698—Lieut. Samuel Paine, six years.
 1700—Mr. Samuel Mayo, Senior, six do.
 1700— “ Thomas Mulford, four do.
 1700— “ Joseph Doane, five do.
 1703— “ Joseph Snow, Jr., one year.
 1706— “ W. Freeman, one do.
 1707— “ Nathaniel Freeman, one do.
 1717—Edward Knowles, Esq., ten years.
 1718—Mr. Micajah Snow, four do.
 1719— “ Jonathan Young, two do.
 1719— “ Israel Doane, three do.
 1722— “ Samuel Knowles, Jr., six do.
 1733— “ Samuel Doane, eight do.
 1733— “ James Rogers, seven do.

* Their names are given the first year they were chosen, and the number of years they served, without noticing the yearly changes.

- 1735—Mr. Benjamin Higgins, one year.
 1736—Capt. John Knowles, one do.
 1736—Lieut. John Freeman, three years.
 1736—Mr. Ralph Smith, one year.
 1737— “ Samuel Doane, six years.
 1737— “ Samuel Freeman, Jr., one year.
 1738— “ John Rich, five years.
 1741—Capt. Samuel Knowles, three do.
 1743— “ John Freeman, two do.
 1743—Mr. Jabez Snow, Jr., two do.
 1743— “ Zoheth Smith, six do.
 1743— “ Jonathan Doane, two do.
 1743— “ Sylvanus Snow, two do.
 1744— “ Thomas Knowles, three do.
 1744— “ Joshua Higgins, Jr., four do.
 1744— “ Jeremiah Mayo, one year.
 1745— “ Joshua Higgins, Jr., four years.
 1747—Capt. Samuel Smith, one year.
 1747—Mr. Amos Knowles, one do.
 1747— “ Jonathan Smith, one do.
 1749— “ Joshua Knowles, two years.
 1749— “ Edmond Freeman, Jr., two do.
 1750— “ James Higgins, seven do.
 1752— “ Ebenezer Higgins, two do.
 1754— “ Daniel Doane, Jr., four do.
 1760— “ Ebenezer Atwood, one year.
 1760—Col. Willard Knowles, four years.
 1761—Mr. Joseph Cole, fourteen do.
 1761— “ Samuel Smith, 3d, four do.
 1762— “ Samuel Doane, Jr., one year.
 1765— “ Joshua Knowles, two years.
 1765—Dea. Jonathan Higgins, twelve do.
 1769—Mr. James Snow, one year.
 1771— “ Simeon Doane, six years.
 1773— “ Elisha Smith, two do.
 1775— “ Amos Knowles, Jr., five do.
 1777— “ Barnabas Freeman, two do.
 1778— “ William Myrick, Jr., one year.
 1779— “ Nehemiah Young, six years.
 1779— “ Nathaniel Mayo, two do.
 1780— “ Jonathan Linnell, Jr., one year.
 1781— “ John Doane, Jr., eight years.
 1782— “ Gideon Freeman, two do.
 1782— “ Heman Linnell, twelve do.
 1784— “ Joseph Knowles, one year.

- 1788—Mr. Nathan Doane.
 1788— “ Samuel Higgins, three years.
 1791— “ Joseph Pepper, four do.
 1794— “ Hezekiah Higgins, two do.
 1797— “ Judah Rogers, two do.
 1797—Dea. Joseph Pepper, three do.
 1797—Samuel Freeman, Esq., twenty-three do.
 1797—Mr. James Mayo, two do.
 1799—Capt. Michael Collins, two do.
 1801—Mr. James Cole, four do.
 1801— “ Samuel Smith, nine do.
 1805— “ David Brown, four do.
 1807— “ Obed Knowles, nine do.
 1807—Harding Knowles, Esq., thirteen do.
 1807—Mr. John Doane, five do.
 1815—Elisha Mayo, Esq., two do.
 1817—Joshua Atwood, Esq., one year.
 1817—Mr. Freeman Knowles, four years.
 1818— “ Timothy Cole, one year.
 1818— “ George Clark, two years.
 1819— “ Joshua Higgins, four do.
 1823—Capt. Parker Brown, four do.
 1824—Mr. Samuel Knowles, thirteen do.
 1826— “ James H. Knowles, five do.
 1830— “ Cushing Horton, one year.
 1831— “ Barnabas Doane, two years.
 1831— “ Barnabas Freeman, four do.
 1834— “ Noah Doane, two do.
 1834—Michael Collins, Esq., ten do.
 1836—Mr. David C. Atwood, nine do.
 1838— “ Joshua Paine, seven do.

HISTORY OF WELLFLEET.

DESCRIPTION.

Wellfleet is bounded on the South by Eastham, on the North by Truro, on the West by Barnstable Bay, and on the East by the Atlantic Ocean.

It is about eight miles in length, and from two to three in breadth.

The soil, except in the north-west part, where the land is tolerably good, is light and sandy, and in some parts is incapable of producing any vegetation.

The sandy part was formerly covered with a large growth of pine timber, and the north part with oak, both of which were used for ship building. About one third of the town is now covered mostly with young pines. Very little English hay is cut in the town, but there are large bodies of salt marsh, more than sufficient to supply the cattle in the winter and pasture them in the summer.

Some grain is raised, but only a fractional part of what is consumed. There are some low swampy places where gardens are made, by covering them with sand, and fresh hay is produced.

There are three harbors in the town, all having about the same depth of water, twelve feet at high tide. One is called the River harbor, in the north part of the bay; another, in the centre of the town, called Duck Creek harbor; and the third, in the south part, called Blackfish creek.

These harbors are of great importance to the town, as they are safe, and afford the best facilities for carrying on

the cod and mackerel fisheries, which have always been very extensively prosecuted. These employ the largest portion of the male inhabitants, who derive from them their principal support.

In some past years there have been more than one hundred sail of vessels engaged, mostly in the mackerel fishery, and with great success. The vessels are from twenty to fifty tons. For three or four years past they have not been able to take that fish in such quantities as formerly, consequently the number of vessels engaged has been reduced to about seventy at the present time. There are three wharves and packing establishments. Formerly the whaling business was carried on here extensively, with large schooners, many of which were built here, of timber that grew on the shore.

Oysters and other shell fish were found in the bay in great abundance, at the first settlement, which not only afforded a supply for the inhabitants, but in time were taken to Boston and other places, for sale. This business has been carried on extensively, and profitably to those engaged in it. Shops and stands were opened in Boston, Salem, Portland and other places, where the oysters were sold in quantities to suit the purchasers.

In 1770 all the oysters in the bay died. What caused the destruction is not certainly known, but it is supposed, that, as, at this time, a large number of blackfish died and came on shore, where their carcasses remained, producing a very filthy condition of the water, it caused this mortality.

The inhabitants of the town tried the experiment of bringing oysters from the South, and laying them down on the flats, which succeeded well. In the course of a year they doubled their size, and their quality was much improved. This soon became a large business, and a number of vessels have been employed in the spring of every year in bringing them here. The number of bushels which are now annually brought is about sixty thousand. Nearly all the oyster shops and stands in Boston, and in other cities and towns in this state, are supplied from this place, and are kept by persons belonging to this town. This business affords a living for many families.

Three fast-sailing and commodious packets are owned here, which carry freight and passengers to and from Boston. Also one or two vessels, which bring lumber and wood from the state of Maine.

There are fifteen fresh water ponds in the town, eleven of which are situated nearly in a direct line north and south.

Duck pond is in the centre of the town. It is a small round pond, fifteen fathoms deep, and the sand on the shore is white and beautiful.

Hopkins' pond, which took its name from Mr. Giles Hopkins, who lived near it for many years, is one-fourth of a mile north of Duck pond, and about the same size, but not so deep.

Great pond is nearly round, one mile in circumference, and abounds with red perch. Four small ponds are near it, the waters of which sometimes flow into it.

Turtle pond is between Long pond and Hopkins' pond.

Long pond is on the eastern side of Great pond, about twenty rods distant, is one mile in length, and contains red perch. Near this pond are four or five dwelling-houses, and the village is called Lewis's neighborhood.

Gull pond is the largest and most beautiful pond in the town. It is perfectly round, one mile and three-fourths in circumference, and contains herring and perch. It is at the eastern extremity of Pearce's hollow, and near the back side of the Cape. Near it is a small pond, called Newcomb's, which is connected with Great pond by a stream of water, and another, called Herring pond, which is the source of Herring brook, from which herring are taken in the spring in considerable quantities.

There are three other small ponds near the eastern shore. Squire's pond is small and round; it is situated in Duck creek village, and affords perch and eels.

There are four islands in the town.

Bound Brook is in the north-west corner, and is nearly surrounded by a creek. There are a number of dwelling-houses on it. It was formerly covered with large wood, of which only a few scattered trees are left.

South of this, one-eighth of a mile, is Griffin's island, and both are about two miles in circumference. The latter has no wood on it, and only six or seven houses.

South of this, one-fourth of a mile, is Great island, which forms the western side of the town. It is three or four miles in circumference, composed of sand, and produces only a little beach grass.

Lieutenant's island is on the east side of Wellfleet bay, and south of Blackfish creek harbor. It is a sand bank, about two miles in circumference.

The public buildings are two Congregational meeting-houses and one Methodist, a town-house, a high-school and district school-houses, and a poor-house; and there are two wind-mills.

NOTICE OF SOME OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF THE NORTH PART OF EASTHAM.

This part of the town of Eastham was not settled until some years after the middle and south parts, owing to the greater sterility of the soil. The raising of corn, rye and other agricultural products, was the business which the first settlers resorted to for their support.

The names of some of the families who first took up these lands, and settled in this part of the town, have been already noticed. Some of them were here before 1670, viz. John Witherell, William Dyer, George Ward, Moses Hatch, Thomas Newcomb, George Crisp, John Smith, Samuel Atkins, (son of Henry,) and some of his brothers, and others.

After this time and before 1700, many others settled in this part of the town, among whom were Nathaniel Covel, who married Judith Nickerson, of Chatham, 1696; Isaac Baker, who married Sarah Rich, daughter of John Rich;

John Rich, who married Mary Treat, daughter of the minister, 1700, and was a deacon of the church; John Yates, who married Abigail Rogers, 1698.

John Doane settled in the north part of Eastham before 1700. He had two brothers, who came from England with him, one of whom settled in Virginia, and was the ancestor of those of this name in the Southern states, and among his descendants is Bishop Doane, of New Jersey. The other settled in Canada, and nothing further is known of him.

In 1723, John Doane was a justice of the peace, and held a distinguished rank in the town.

Elisha Doane was the son of the preceding. He married Miss Cole, and had three sons, Elisha, Joseph and Hezekiah. Joseph settled in Chatham, and the other two in this town.

In 1745, Hezekiah was a colonel in the service of the colonies against Cape Breton, and was present when the city of Louisburg, on that island, was surrendered to his Britannic majesty. Afterwards, while on a mackerel voyage near the Canada shore, he and his boat's crew were fired upon and taken by the Indians. After enduring great sufferings during a captivity of several months, they were bought by the French, set at liberty, and returned home:

His son, Elisha Doane, married for his first wife Hope Rich, who possessed a strong, masculine, but benevolent mind. They had three sons and two daughters, viz. Isaiah, who married Miss Bartlett, of Plymouth; Elisha, married Miss Cutler, of Boston; John, married Miss Holmes, of Boston; Hope, married Doct. Samuel Savage, of Barnstable, and had five sons, and one daughter, who married Hon. Lemuel Shaw, chief justice of the Supreme Court; Hannah, married the Hon. Shearjashub Bourne, of Barnstable, member of Congress, 1790.

Col. Elisha Doane was extensively engaged in the whale fishery for many years. He represented the town in the General Court, and the county as senator, a number of years. In this body he is said to have commanded more respect and exerted a greater influence than any other member.

He possessed a strong mind and sound judgment. In the latter part of his life he lived mostly in Boston, where he engaged extensively in commerce, and in the whale and other fisheries, by which he accumulated a very large fortune. At his death, his possessions in Boston, Wellfleet and other places were estimated at £120,000 sterling. He was the richest man in Massachusetts.

His second wife was Nancy Hoff, of Boston, who afterwards married Daniel Stoddard Greenleaf, and removed to Roxbury.

Hezekiah, son of Dea. Elisha Doane, and brother of the colonel, married Elizabeth Crowell, of Chatham, and had seven sons and three daughters. Elisha was killed by a wind-mill, aged seventeen; Paul and Henry died in the service of the revolutionary war; Hezekiah died with small pox; William was lost in the ship America, which was foundered at sea, 1783; Joseph married Nancy Beals, of Boston; Elisha married Susan Bassett, of Yarmouth, and settled in that town: they had one son, John Bear, and two daughters, Susan and Elizabeth: John Bear was a man of excellent character, and a successful merchant, and died, greatly lamented, 1833, aged forty years; Susan married Rev. Nathanael Cogswell of Yarmouth, and has had three sons and one daughter, William Henry, John Bear Doane, Elisha Doane, and Elizabeth.

Hezekiah Doane, father of the present Elisha Doane, Esq., was a deacon of the church. He was largely concerned in the whale fishery, and before the war owned sixteen sail of vessels. He belonged to a crew called the 'seed corn gang of whalers.' The others were Col. Elisha Doane, Col. Elisha Cobb, Joseph Higgins and Capt. Winslow Lewis. These men generally were of the same crew, and were the most expert and successful whalers in the place.

Some of the other early settlers in this town, were, Ebenezer Freeman, Thomas Gross, John Atwood, John Treat, (son of the minister,) Elisha Eldridge, Samuel Brown, Benjamin Hamblin, James Cahoon, Benjamin Young, Daniel Mayo, Jeremiah Mayo, Eleazer Hamblin, David Cole:

Capt. Winslow Lewis was a son of the minister. He had one son, Capt. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, the father of Doct. Winslow Lewis.

Thomas Holbrook came from Scituate, and settled here before 1700. He had three sons, Naaman, Ezekiel and John. John was the father of Thomas, and he was the father of the present Joseph Holbrook, who has four sons, Thomas, Joseph, Samuel Waterman and Jesse.

Elisha Cobb, son of Eleazer, of Hingham, came here about 1700. His son, Col. Elisha Cobb, was the father of the present Mr. Thomas Cobb, of Eastham.

NORTH PRECINCT AND CHURCH, ORGANIZED JULY TWENTY-NINTH, 1723.

In the town of Eastham, from 1646 to 1718, there had been but one place of religious worship and one church.

The inhabitants, in all parts of the town, belonged to this society, and attended meeting together.

In 1720, they had become so numerous, and the distance from the south and north parts of the town was so great, that the inconvenience (especially for women and children) of attending public worship in the central part of the town, induced them to seek for a separation, that they might build meeting-houses and settle ministers among themselves.

At the above date, the south and middle parts agreed to have two precincts, but to remain as one church and society as regarded all the expenses of building and repairing their meeting-houses, settling their ministers, and all other charges.

Upon this, the north part, called Billingsgate, asked the town to set them off into a separate district or town, which request being denied, they formed themselves into a separate precinct, called Billingsgate, or the north precinct, extend-

ing as far south as Blackfish creek, and were no longer taxed by Eastham for the support of the ministry in the middle and south parts.

They soon built a small meeting-house, which was located in Chequesset neck, and owned by proprietors. It was but twenty feet square, and yet sufficiently large to accommodate the inhabitants.

The number of souls then living north of Blackfish creek cannot now be ascertained.

The first precinct meeting of which notice is found in the record, was held July the twenty-ninth, 1723, when it was voted that the Rev. Josiah Oakes be requested to continue in the ministry with them, as formerly, and to pay him £80 a year. Mr. Oakes was the first minister they employed after their separation, and had preached to them as a supply. They now gave him a regular call to settle, which he answered in the affirmative.

‘I accept of both your former and your latter call, together with your former and latter proposals; and accordingly shall continue in the work of the ministry in the precinct, in order to a settlement among you. Witness my hand. JOSIAH OAKES.’

Soon after this, at a legal meeting to confirm the call and proposals of the precinct to Mr. Oakes, for his settlement over it, twenty-six voters entered their protest against the settlement of Mr. Oakes, and against the assessor’s raising any salary for him. He continued to preach to them till 1725, when, at a regular precinct meeting, in consequence of the strong opposition made to his settlement, it was voted by a large majority, to reconsider all the former doings in regard to the call, salary and settlement of Mr. Oakes; and George Williamson and Elisha Eldridge, Jr., were appointed agents to forbid Mr. Oakes’ preaching any more in the meeting-house in the precinct. Also, Samuel Brown and Samuel Smith were chosen agents to advise with the neighboring ministers relative to their present circumstances, and to seek for and procure a minister to supply them.

Mr. Oakes sent a petition to the General Sessions of the peace holden in Barnstable, for redress, and was joined by

John Doane and fifteen others, who united in stating the ill management of the affairs of the precinct relating to his settlement. Samuel Brown and Samuel Smith were appointed agents to answer to this petition.

Mr. Oakes continued to preach in the precinct to a part of the inhabitants, without any prospect of a settlement of the difficulties, notwithstanding the decision of the Court, and the continued attempts of the committees chosen to heal them, and induce him to leave the place.

The precinct sent a petition to the General Court, relating to the proceedings of Mr. Josiah Oakes in the work of the ministry, and the difficult circumstances in which they were placed, praying for their advice and interference.

In 1727, Mr. Oakes probably left the town. He was born in Boston, and graduated at Harvard College, 1708.

Mr. John Sumner preached to them for some months, but no measures were taken for his settlement.

In 1728, a meeting was held to see if the precinct would build a new meeting-house, or make an agreement with the proprietors of the old house; and it was concluded and agreed between the parties that the non-proprietors should repair it, by putting in glass windows and otherwise, and keep it in repair for the space of four years, when they might take out the glass and other materials, and the house return to the proprietors, if they should see fit.

Mr. John Rich was appointed to procure a minister.

Rev. David Hall was heard as a candidate, and a committee chosen to give him a call to settle in the work of the ministry, which being done, he asked for fourteen days to consider of it, and then gave his answer in the negative.

It was voted to raise £200 for the support of the ministry and other necessary charges.

A committee was appointed to confer with the president and fellows of the college, respecting some suitable minister to preach and settle with them.

Mr. Ezra Whitmarsh was obtained, and after hearing him a number of Sabbaths, they gave him a call to settle with them for the consideration of £90 a year, and £120 settle-

ment, with four acres of land as his own, and the improvement of the ministerial lands. June 16, 1729, Mr. Whitmarsh gave a conditional answer, and as they could come to no satisfactory agreement, he left the town.

Voted £120 usual money for the support of the ministry and other necessary charges.*

1730. Appointed Joseph Atkins to procure a minister for the precinct, and Rev: Isaiah Lewis was obtained.

A large committee was chosen to make proposals to Mr. Lewis, to settle with them on the following terms: £110 salary yearly in good and passable money, 'and what strangers and persons from neighboring towns shall contribute, being providentially here, shall be added;' also, £200 as a settlement, in good money; also, the improvement of all the ministerial lands and meadows owned by the precinct. To which Mr. Lewis gave the following answer:

'To the Committee of the North Precinct in Eastham:

'Having taken the matter into serious consideration, and after the advice of sundry worthy persons, and withal humbly applying myself to God, in whose hands are the hearts of all for direction and assistance, in this great and weighty affair, have come to this conclusion, looking, I hope, at the glory of God, the advancing of the kingdom of Christ, and the care of souls, (though I may cry out in the Apostle's language, 'Who is sufficient for these things?') to give my consent to tarry with you, and accept of God's call and your invitation, always expecting an honorable and suitable maintenance, as becomes a minister of the gospel—withal earnestly begging your prayers, that God would make me a wise and faithful minister of the New testament, rightly dividing the word of truth.

'I remain your hearty well wisher, and, I hope, your souls' friend,
 'ISAIAH LEWIS.'

At this meeting a committee was appointed to request and receive the approbation of the neighboring ministers for the settlement of Mr. Lewis.

Voted to raise £240 for the support of the ministry and other charges.

Mr. Lewis was born in Hingham, graduated at Harvard college in 1723, and was ordained here in 1730. Up to

* By usual money is meant that which was current at that time.

this time the church had not been organized, which was done by the council who were called here on this occasion. At this time the church had fifty male members, and probably more than that number of females. Elisha Doane was deacon of the church.

1734. Sylvanus Snow and five others, living on the south line of the precinct, petitioned the General Court to be released from paying any public charge here, and a committee was chosen to answer the Court on this petition.

1734. At the meeting it was agreed and voted to build a new meeting-house for the precinct, and that it should stand to the southward of the head of Duck creek, between the house of Joseph Young and the bridge.

Also, that £200 be raised to build the house.

Voted, to request the town of Eastham to set off this north precinct, so that it may be made a township. This request was not granted.

In 1735, Dea. Elisha Doane and Capt. Samuel Smith were appointed as agents to carry on the building of the new meeting-house.

John Rich was one of the deacons of the church.

In 1740, the precinct voted to cart sixteen cords of wood and plough two acres of land for Mr. Lewis, and to lay out more meadow for his use; also, to finish the meeting-house, by lathing, plastering and completing the whole, underpinning the sides and pointing them with lime, and paving round the house with stones and gravel, all which was to be done for £63.

In 1741, £8 a year was added to Mr. Lewis' salary.

In 1743, £32 old tenor was added to Mr. Lewis' salary.

In 1745, two spots for pews were sold to repair the glass for the meeting-house.

In 1747, Dea. John Rich died. Mr. Jeremiah Mayo was chosen as one of the precinct committee in his place, and to petition the General Court to abate their part of the province tax for the ensuing year.

As there was a great depreciation of the colonial bills of credit, it was voted that Mr. Lewis have £60 new tenor for

his salary. He refused to accept this, and proposed 'that the former agreement should stand for the future, and that he should give to the parish an acquittance for the time past, on account of the fall of money, and that they should pay him £75 new tenor.' This was complied with by the parish.

In 1750, Mr. Lewis' salary appears to have been in an unsettled state, owing to the depreciation of money and the high price of the articles of subsistence; consequently a committee was appointed to confer with him, and ascertain what was the lowest sum, for the time past and for the time to come, with which he would be satisfied. Such was the fluctuation in value of the money in circulation and the necessities of life at that time, that no certain calculations could be made for future years. It was therefore agreed that his salary for the ensuing year should be £53, 6s. 8d.

In 1753, another attempt was made to fix on some amount as a permanent salary for Mr. Lewis, but the same difficulties prevented as before.

Money was voted to repair the balcony and the house, as was necessary.

In 1754, a committee was appointed, and full power given them, to see if Mr. Lewis would release the precinct from the original agreement between them, and if so, on what conditions, for the time past and for the time to come. This committee reported, that they had offered Mr. Lewis £66, 13s. 4d. lawful money as his yearly salary, with the parsonage lands heretofore improved by him; to which Mr. Lewis answered 'that he would accept of this, with the addition of £3, 6s. 8d.' This was not accepted by the parish, and Mr. Lewis said he would be satisfied with what they should vote hereafter.

It was however finally settled and agreed that his salary in future should be £50 sterling, and £3 for his loss on the past depreciation of money, for which he gave a receipt in full.

'I acknowledge to have received in full all the grants that have been made to me by the precinct, to June the tenth, 1754, and do

hereby acquit and make void the original agreement to that time and forward, providing the precinct make good their engagement to me to that date, desiring withal that I may be paid half-yearly.

‘ISAIAH LEWIS.

‘EASTHAM, *August 8th*, 1755.’

In 1755, general repairs were made on the meeting-house, and Richard Arey was appointed a committee to obtain the materials and see that the work was done.

In 1758, Ezekiel Harding having become a Baptist, the parish voted that his tax for repairs on the meeting-house, and for the support of the minister, be remitted. Mr. Harding was the first Baptist who resided in the town, and since there have been but few of this sect.

In 1759, it was agreed that Tate and Brady’s version of the Psalms and Watts’ Hymns be used and sung by the congregation.

It was also agreed to fence the burying-place.

In 1761, a bridge was built over Duck creek, near the meeting-house, sufficient for carts and chairs to pass over at high water; and another, with a single plank for foot passengers, near the widow Doane’s.

Thomas Holbrook died this year.

A grant was made to Dea. Reuben Rich, of the privilege for taking alewives in the Herring brook for four years, at £2 per year.

It was now agreed to ask the town of Eastham to set them off into a district or township. Money was raised to defray the expenses, and Elisha Doane was chosen as their agent for this purpose.

A committee having been chosen to procure a school-master, to keep a public free school at the expense of the precinct, they reported that they had agreed with a man for £40 per year; also, that the precinct should be divided into three school districts, and to have a school committee in each district. The report was accepted, and Ephraim Covell and Joseph Ward were chosen for the southern district, and Jeremiah Mayo, Capt. Elisha Doane, Thomas Higgins and Elisha Holbrook, for the middle and northern districts.

In 1762, the precinct voted to add seven men to assist their agent, Capt. Elisha Doane, in getting this part of the town of Eastham set off into a district; and adding two others, making ten of the freeholders, they sent their petition to the town of Eastham, showing their reasons, and the town granted the request; whereupon the committee sent their petition to his excellency Governor Bernard, the Council, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, praying that this precinct (with the exception of Sylvanus Snow, who desired still to belong to Eastham,) might be set off as a district, by the name of Wellfleet. This prayer was granted, and the act of incorporation passed May 25th, 1763.

Signed by Timothy Ruggles, speaker of the House, and A. Oliver, secretary of the Council.

The petition was referred, in the House, to Dea. Foster of Plymouth, Doct. Smith of Sandwich, Col. Clapp of Scituate, Col. Bradford of Kingston, and to Col. Otis of Barnstable, of the Council.

Full powers and privileges were granted to the district, like other towns, except the privilege of choosing a representative to the General Court, in doing which they were required to join with the inhabitants of Eastham.

It was also ordered by the General Court that John Freeman, Esq., of Eastham, issue his warrant to some principal inhabitant of the district, requiring him to call the first meeting of the said inhabitants, in order to choose such officers as, by law, towns are empowered to choose in March annually. He issued his warrant, directed to Maj. Elisha Doane, requiring him to notify said meeting. Accordingly the district assembled at the time required, the fourth day of August, 1763. Samuel Smith, Esq., was chosen moderator. The following officers were elected: Elisha Doane, district clerk; Elisha Doane, Dea. Reuben Rich and Samuel Smith, Jr., selectmen; Ephraim Covell, Ebenezer Atwood and John Sweat, assessors; and all other town officers.

DISTRICT OF WELLFLEET, FROM 1763 TO 1776.

The first acts of the district, after its organization, were to raise money for the public expenses, &c., to lay out more convenient highways, (especially from the north-east arm of Duck creek, near the meeting-house, to Ezekiel Holbrook's,) and to build a bridge over the creek, for carts and horses.

A committee was chosen to settle with Eastham respecting the support of the poor; also, to pay Mr. Lewis £1 lawful money, for the loss of the time of his carpenters while building his house.

Eastham paid to Wellfleet £20 as their part of the school money. The district now took a deeper interest in the support of schools, and raised more money for the education of their children, than heretofore. They agreed to pay the school-master £26, 13s. 8d., with board, for his services; and chose a committee to oversee and regulate the schools.

In 1764, measures were taken to prevent so great a use of spirituous liquors.

In 1765, it was agreed to open and enlarge the meeting-house sixteen feet, to build a porch in front, and a steeple, with a spire and vane, like that in Harwich. A large committee, Major Elisha Doane being chairman, was appointed to make a contract with the carpenters and oversee the work. Mr. Thomas Young was the contractor, for £133, 6s. 8d. Another contract was made with Mr. Elisha Holbrook, to provide all the bricks, lime and other materials, to underpin and pave round the house, for £16.

In 1766, it was agreed that whatever person should be chosen district clerk, should serve as district treasurer, without any premium, if the same were chosen to both offices.

It was voted to petition the Court of Quarter Sessions to abate the county tax of the district, and Maj. Doane was appointed to prefer the request.

Chose a committee to join with Rev. Mr. Lewis to sell the parsonage lands in Chequesset neck, and to hire out the purchase money, the interest of which was to be paid annually to the settled minister of the district.

In 1768, the district voted to give Mr. John Greenough his whole tax, to keep a grammar school one year, to be attended only by such as learn the Latin and Greek languages; and that the school for teaching reading, writing and cyphering, be divided in proper divisions, and that each draw their money out of the treasury in proportion to the number of families.

A committee was chosen to regulate and locate the schools in the different parts of the district. There were forty-eight families in the south division, forty-eight in the middle, the same number on Cole's neck and the back side of the town, and forty-nine on Holbrook's neck, the islands and Pamet point, making a total of one hundred and ninety-three families.

The district received a request from the selectmen of the town of Boston, to send a committee of one man, to join the committees from the other towns in this province, and to meet at Boston, on the twenty-second of September, 1768, the business then to be made known.*

'Voted, that this district will comply with this request.' Elisha Doane, Esq., was appointed as their delegate.

In 1769, the grammar school was continued by Mr. Greenough, and the common schools, on the same conditions as before.

A petition was sent to the General Court, in conjunction

* This Convention was held at Faneuil Hall. Governor Bernard, in June, 1768, had prorogued and then dissolved the General Court, because they refused to rescind, as they were required to do, the resolution which gave birth to the circular letter from the House of Representatives to the legislative assemblies of the other colonies. Application was made to the governor to convene them again, but he declined doing it without the express order of the king. A large body of troops had been ordered to Boston, to enforce the various acts of trade, at the point of the bayonet. In this very critical state of affairs, at the instance of the town of Boston, delegates from ninety-six towns and eight districts, met at Faneuil Hall. Being a voluntary assembly and of course without power, all they could do was to state their grievances 'felt and feared.' Beside addressing the people, they sent an able letter to Mr. Debart, agent of the province in England, and a petition to the king, which they desired the agent to deliver with his own hand. The convention sat about a week. The day after their adjournment, two British regiments arrived in Boston, and before the end of the year, the town was garrisoned by about four thousand regular troops.—*Hobart's History of Abington.*

with Mr. Lewis, to confirm the doings of the district in regard to the sale of the parsonage lands, &c., that the same become valid and lawful.

The range or line between the district and Truro was perambulated.

Oysters were found in great abundance on the flats, at the first settlement, but at this time the inhabitants had so increased, and such quantities were taken for consumption and for Boston market, that it became necessary, to prevent their entire destruction, for the district to take measures to preserve and propagate them.

In 1770, Mr. Greenough's Latin and Greek school was continued, and £53, 6s. 8d. was appropriated to support the common schools, and agents were appointed to employ school-masters and mistresses, and have supervision.

A petition was sent to the governor, praying him to appoint a justice of the peace in the district.

Agents were appointed to take care of the Indians' land.

Measures were taken to lessen the number of rum-sellers.

In 1771, £40 was raised, to be appropriated for teaching reading, writing and cyphering in the district.

1772. An act had been passed by the General Court, regulating the taking of oysters in Billingsgate bay. It was now voted by the district, to ask the Court to repeal the act, so far, that in the three summer months they should not be taken for Boston market, nor in July and August for the use of the inhabitants.

In 1773, £53, 6s. 8d. was raised for the district schools and for Mr. Greenough's Latin grammar school, as before.

Fish were allowed to be taken in the Herring brook, only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, except for codfish bait.

The oyster fishery, at this time, appeared to engage the general attention of the inhabitants. A vote was passed to the effect that, whereas the oyster fishery in this district was the principal support of many of the inhabitants, and of great advantage to the province in general, and whereas, also, it had been greatly hurt and damaged by persons taking the

young oysters, and, notwithstanding the law of the province, would be ruined, if not timely prevented, it was therefore agreed to make and adopt by-laws to preserve them. A committee was chosen to enforce the penalty against all persons who should violate the regulations; also, John Greenough, Esq., was appointed to inform the Court of Sessions of the proceedings of the people of the district in this matter, and to solicit their approbation and allowance. They were approved and confirmed by said Court, and signed by the clerk, J. Bassett.

In 1774, letters were received from the committee of correspondence at Boston, with the votes and proceedings of that town and of a convention assembled there. The district meeting, before which these documents were laid, voted, that a committee of seven persons be chosen to take the subject into their consideration, and report their judgment upon them to the meeting. Mr. Winslow Lewis, Hezekiah Doane, Esq., Capt. Elisha Cobb, Joseph Higgins, Naaman Holbrook, Samuel Smith and Ezekiel Holbrook were appointed.

At an adjourned meeting the committee made their report, which being read, was accepted, ordered to be recorded, and a copy thereof sent to the clerk of the committee of correspondence at Boston. The most patriotic resolves were passed by the meeting, similar to those which were adopted at this time by the town of Eastham, in which they pledged their lives and property to defend their rights and privileges against the unlawful and cruel enactments and requirements of the parliament of Great Britain, and that they would not buy, sell or consume any of those articles on which the government had imposed unconstitutional and unlawful duties. Also, that they cordially approved of what the inhabitants of Boston and other towns had done in the affair, and returned to them their sincere thanks.

Mr. John Greenough having sold a part of a chest of tea, contrary to their resolves, made a confession of his error, and asked to be forgiven and restored to their confidence, which, after some time, was granted.

The school was continued, and the sum of £53, 6s. 8d. appropriated for its support, and the district was divided into eight parts or school districts, and one agent for each was chosen. It was also voted that the selectmen should provide a grammar school-master. This was the first English grammar school.

New measures were taken, in conjunction with Eastham, for the regulation and preservation of the oysters, and the by-laws adopted for these purposes were approved and confirmed by the Court of Sessions.

A county congress was held at Barnstable, November 16th of this year, composed of delegates from the several towns, to consider the condition of the county and the country. Messrs. Winslow Lewis, Zoheth Smith, Samuel Smith, Major Hezekiah Doane and Capt. Elisha Cobb were chosen to represent the district at this congress. On their return, the proceedings of this body, with the resolves and recommendations of the continental congress, were read several times, when the meeting voted their approbation and hearty concurrence with said resolves and recommendations, agreeable to the tenth resolve of the county congress.

A committee was then chosen to see that these resolves were carried into execution in this district, and the following persons were chosen: Mr. James Brown, Ephraim Covell, Timothy Nye, Doct. Samuel Nutting, John Greenough, Esq., John Sweat, Samuel Waterman and Jonathan Higgins.

The district, judging it to be improper for the officers of the military company to hold commissions under the government of the king of England, required them to resign, which they did, and choice was made of Elisha Cobb as captain, Zoheth Smith as first, and William Chipman as second lieutenant. The district raised a sum of money by subscription for the suffering poor in the town of Boston, which port had been shut up by the British parliament.

The districts were now permitted to assume all the rights and privileges of other towns, and elected their own representatives.

1774. Naaman Holbrook and Col. Elisha Cobb were

chosen as delegates to the first provincial congress, at Salem, October 5th.

1775. Col. Elisha Cobb was chosen as a delegate to the provincial congress, at Cambridge the first day of February, and at Watertown the thirty-first of July.

It was voted to appropriate £400 old tenor for the support of the schools.

The town voted to have a grammar school, and the committee employed Doct. Samuel Nutting to keep it for one year.

A committee was chosen to draft orders to enforce obedience to the military officers of the companies in the town. These rules required such men as refused to attend on training days to pay a fine of five shillings. They further provided that any persons who refused to pay the fine should be deemed inimical to the country, and that no one ought to have any society or dealings with such persons.

A committee was sent to Mr. Lewis, to see if he would abate any part of his salary, in consequence of the scarcity of money and the difficulty of the times.

In 1776, the town sent a petition to the General Court, praying to have their province tax abated, owing to the scarcity of money, and the interruption of their usual business in consequence of the war. They stated in their memorial that they were situated on the most barren soil of any part of the province; that all the land capable of being tilled would not yield corn for more than one quarter of the inhabitants; that the harbor, which was convenient for small vessels, was the only advantage they had for carrying on the whale fishery; that this pursuit, in which they had employed about two hundred tons of shipping, and by which nine-tenths of the inhabitants obtained their living, had been cut off by the British men-of-war which were anchored in Cape Cod harbor; that most of their vessels were hauled up and perishing, while those which had attempted to go out had been taken; that they were almost without bread and other necessaries of life: and therefore prayed that they might be released from paying the tax.

WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE PART THIS TOWN TOOK IN IT.

Agreeable to a resolve of the General Court, (that every town, at a full meeting called for the purpose, should obtain the minds of the inhabitants, whether they desired to be independent of Great Britain,) it was voted by the town of Wellfleet, that, 'if the honorable continental congress should think proper, for the safety of the good people of the united colonies, to declare said colonies independent of Great Britain, we, the inhabitants of the town of Wellfleet, will support them with our lives and fortunes.'

Col. Elisha Cobb and Mr. Naaman Holbrook were chosen representatives, and instructed to use their influence for this purpose.

In 1777, the General Court made a requisition upon the town for ten men to serve in the continental army. The town voted to hire money to pay those men, who would voluntarily enlist in the service, £4 lawful money per month.

Agreeable to an order passed by the Court, to prevent monopoly and oppression, directed to the selectmen, the town appointed a committee to fix and regulate the prices of the different articles of subsistence and all kinds of labor; also to procure ammunition and small arms.

Articles of confederation and union between the United States of America were now being entered into and adopted by the continental congress. The town was requested to express their minds upon the subject; but submitted to the judgment and wisdom of their representatives.

In 1778, eighteen men were enlisted in the continental army.

At the same time a committee was chosen to draft and send to the General Court a petition setting forth the distressed circumstances of the inhabitants of this place, and praying for relief. Mr. John Greenough was deputed to present it.

In 1779, a convention was held at Cambridge, to form a state constitution. The new constitution of government was

read to the meeting at Wellfleet by the moderator, and the town unanimously voted their approval of it.

A subscription was made for Mr. Lewis, on account of the depreciation of the currency.

In 1779, the British ship-of-war Somerset was stranded and cast away on the back side, near Truro. The crew were taken as prisoners, and marched through this town on their way to Boston. They were supplied with provisions, which were paid for by the government.

The number of men required of the town for the continental service was enlisted, and ten silver dollars paid to each of them, in addition to the government wages.

The town voted to choose three delegates to represent them in the county convention to be holden in the town of Barnstable; and John Greenough, Hezekiah Doane and Elisha Cobb, Esq., were chosen.

The Rev. Isaiah Lewis having now become old and feeble, and being unable to perform all the labors of the ministry, it was voted that he should be dismissed; but, after a consultation with him, it was agreed that he should relinquish his claim upon the town for his salary, and continue his pastoral connection. £20 was voted for his maintenance.

A large committee was appointed to procure a minister.

A number of persons belonging to this town were lost in the ship America; one of them was William Doane.

In 1783, a treaty was concluded between this country and Great Britain, by which the difficulties were adjusted, and the independence of the United States acknowledged. Great had been the sufferings and poverty which the war occasioned, but far out balancing these and all other evils, were the blessings obtained.

Wellfleet endured her full share of the evils of war, and partook as largely as any other town of the benefits of independence and peace. The inhabitants were truly patriotic. They never for a moment relinquished their hopes of success. They did not sink into despondency under their privations and sufferings. They furnished, according to their ability, their full proportion both for the land and the sea service.

Having a poor soil, and their fisheries and commerce being cut off, they were reduced to such poverty as to be poorly able to pay their portion of the public taxes, with the ministerial, school and other charges, during the war and for some time afterwards. Soon, however, under the fostering protection of our free government; they again engaged in the fisheries; by a vigorous prosecution of this branch of industry on the wide ocean, and developing the riches hid in the sands on their shores, they recovered from their poverty and became prosperous and wealthy.

1784. The committee who were chosen to procure a minister, employed Mr. Asa Packard to preach as a candidate for settlement. After hearing him a number of Sabbaths, the church and society unanimously voted to give him a call, with a salary of £100 per annum, and £200 settlement. Mr. Packard, after a consideration of the subject, gave his answer in the negative. He graduated at Harvard, 1783; and afterwards settled in Wiscasset, Maine.

In 1785, Mr. Levi Whitman, having preached to them a number of Sabbaths, received a call to settle with them as a colleague with Mr. Lewis, with the same salary as was offered to Mr. Packard. Mr. Whitman desired the church and society to join with him and invite the neighboring ministers to come and keep a day of fasting and prayer with them, and give their advice in this important matter. Mr. Whitman subsequently gave his answer in the affirmative.

‘Dearly Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ:

‘The great and glorious God, whose providence superintends all events, having directed and sent me to this place to preach the gospel of His Son, and the church and people having given me a call to settle with them in the work of the gospel ministry,—taking the matter into my most serious consideration, seeking direction from the Father of lights, and the advice of the neighboring ministers, and all other circumstances,—I feel it to be my indispensable duty to give myself to the work of the gospel ministry among you, praying that grace, mercy and peace may be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen!

‘LEVI WHITMAN.’

‘WELLFLEET, February 23d, 1785.’

Mr. Whitman was ordained the thirteenth day of April, 1785. The following churches were sent for to assist in this solemnity: the west church in Boston, the churches in Hanover, Kingston and Pembroke, the third church in Bridgewater, and all the churches in the county of Barnstable. Dea. Gross and Capt. Hamlin were a committee to agree with some person to make provision for the council.

Petitions were preferred to the General Court for various objects; among others, to prevent the people belonging to other towns from taking oysters and other shell-fish in our bay. Rev. Mr. Whitman and Mr. Samuel Waterman were a committee to draw up said petition.

In 1786, Capt. Winslow Lewis was allowed £5, 13s. 8d., the balance due to him for the use of his house and the attendance of his family at Mr. Whitman's ordination; and Dea. Gross was paid for five days work performed on the same occasion.

Rev. Isaiah Lewis died this year, aged eighty-three years. He was a native of Hingham. He continued in the ministry here fifty-five years, during which time he solemnized two hundred and thirty-three marriages, and two hundred and nineteen members were added to the church. He possessed a strong mind, and a heart devoted to the work of the gospel, in which he labored diligently and with success. It does not appear how large the church was at his death.

The line was run between this town and Truro, and new bounds were erected.

A committee was chosen to take care of and regulate the Herring brook.

In 1787, the Rev. Levi Whitman was chosen a representative to the convention to revise the constitution of the state.

The town agreed with Capt. Hamlin to take the steeple off of the meeting-house and stop it from leaking, for five dollars. He was to forfeit ten dollars if the work was not completed by the last day of July.

The town was divided into eight districts for the better regulation of the schools, and two men were chosen in each district as a committee.

The districts were located as follows: 1. The two islands, with the families of Joseph Hatch, Thomas Higgins and Paine Higgins. 2. All the families from the first district westward of the county road and northward of Joseph Parcie's. 3. All eastward of the county road and northward of Rebecca Thomas'. 4. Included Moses Lewis, Samuel Waterman, and all westward of the road from Simeon Atwood's to Barnabas Young's. 5. From the last limits to Seth Hopkins'. 6. Included David Holbrook, Samuel Baker, Elisha Bigford, and all to the southward as far as Simeon Newcomb, Jr's. 7. Joseph Smith, and southward to take in James Brown and Samuel Watts. 8. All the remainder to Blackfish creek.

The schools were continued through the war, and more or less sums were appropriated for their support, according as the means could be obtained. A greater interest was now felt in the education of the youth, and more money was devoted for this purpose. The town was rapidly recovering from the effects of the war; new vessels had been obtained and were employed in the whale and other fisheries; and improvements were effected in the public and private concerns of the inhabitants.

In 1792 it was agreed to repair and paint the meeting-house, to erect a porch in front large enough to admit two flights of steps, and pews in front of the galleries. The common business of the inhabitants was conducted with zeal and success. Samuel Waterman, Esq., and Capt. Lewis were employed to take a plan of the town, agreeable to the requirement of the General Court. The votes of the town were given in favor of the revision of the constitution.

The town voted to give the Rev. Mr. Whitman a horse, not to exceed in value sixty dollars. On account of the depreciation of money at different times, the town granted him an allowance.

New roads were laid out, and suitable provision was made for the poor of the town, as before.

In 1793 the town voted not to assess any tax, but to pay the state tax and town expenses by the sale of the town lands and meadow.

In 1802 the number of vessels owned in Wellfleet was twenty-five. Five were engaged in the whale fishery at the straits of Belleisle and Newfoundland. They carried their salt, and if they could not load up with whale oil they made up the voyage with codfish. One of these vessels was one hundred tons, three of them seventy-five, and one fifty-seven. There were, also, four vessels of about forty tons each, engaged chiefly in the cod and mackerel fishery. Four more, of about thirty tons each, were employed in carrying oysters to Boston, Salem, Newburyport and Portland. There were twelve other small vessels, of from sixteen to twenty-five tons, engaged in the mackerel and cod and other fisheries around the Cape.

1806. The town agreed to enlarge and repair the meeting-house, and a committee was chosen to superintend the work, viz: Capt. Lewis Hamlin, William Cole, Jr., Thomas Higgins, 3d, Capt. Lemuel Newcomb and Josiah Whitman. The new pews were sold at vendue for \$2,520 61 more than the expensés. The town voted to give Mr. Whitman a new and complete suit of clothes.

1807. The town was divided into five school districts, containing one hundred and ninety-eight families.

EPISCOPAL METHODIST SOCIETY.

This town was first visited by the Rev. Robert Yallaley, in 1797, who was then appointed to labor in Provincetown and the vicinity. He preached several times in this place.

He was followed by the Rev. Messrs. Rickhow, Weeks, Broadhead, Snelling, Willard, and others.

In 1807 Wellfleet was made a part of Harwich circuit. The Rev. Joel Steele was the first who travelled the circuit. He was followed by Rev. E. Otis, who was succeeded by Mr. Joseph A. Merrill, during 1809 and '10. In 1811 Wellfleet was made a circuit in connection with Truro, which continued until 1827, when it was made a station by itself. The church was organized in 1802, and contained three persons, but the number soon increased to ten.

Mr. Ephraim Higgins was the first class-leader. They

continued to meet together for mutual edification and to hear the word preached, and their number gradually increased.

Exhorting one another daily, they were comforted and strengthened. In 1804 they were blessed with a revival, and a number were added to the church. This gave a new impulse to their faith and zeal to labor for the salvation of sinners, for whom Christ died. In 1806 they were again visited with a revival of religion, and a gradual increase of religious influence followed, when in 1810 many were converted to God and added to the church.

They now found that it was necessary to procure a suitable place of worship, (having up to this time met in private dwellings,) and having obtained a site, in 1817, they succeeded in erecting a house of worship on the hill north of the village, forty feet by thirty-eight. This was the first meeting-house erected by the Methodist Episcopal church in Wellfleet.

It was dedicated to the worship of God in November, by the Rev. George Pickering. At this time, including the branch in Truro, there were one hundred and sixty-four members in the church. This house was soon filled with willing hearers, and the society were blessed with a pious, devoted and laborious ministry.

From 1817 to 1821, great prosperity attended this church and society; the good seed was sown in many hearts, many of whom now live to witness that God hath power on earth to forgive sin. This was a time in the history of this church which never will be erased from the memory of those who witnessed it. From this time the church enjoyed seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power, and such numbers were added, that the house was found insufficient to hold those who desired to worship in it. It was enlarged in 1829, so as to make it sixty feet by thirty-eight, containing seventy pews on the floor, with galleries on both sides and for the singers. It was dedicated to the worship of God in December, by Rev. F. Lombard, then preacher in charge. The number in the church at this time was one hundred and thirty-five. They were now

blessed with faithful ministers, and a disposition was manifested by the church to co-operate with them in the salvation of sinners. In 1834 God revived his work again, and a goodly number were added to the church.

In 1842 and '43 the people were visited with a greater display of God's power and mercy in the conversion of sinners, than had, probably, ever been witnessed since the settlement of the town. It is supposed that about two hundred persons were the subjects of it. One hundred and twenty-five were added to the Methodist church, and others to the Congregational church.

The old house now being too small, and the site not so eligible, it was determined to take it down and build a new one, sufficiently large to accommodate all who might desire to worship in it.

With the divine blessing the house was built. It is sixty-seven feet by fifty-seven, and contains one hundred and eighteen pews on the floor, with galleries on both sides, and at the end opposite the pulpit, for the choir. The pulpit is neat, in imitation of marble; in the rear of which is a beautiful painting. The altar is of mahogany. The pews are painted pea-green and capped with mahogany.

The outside is of the Grecian order, with a tower and bell. The basement is of brick, with two convenient vestries above the ground, one thirty-seven by thirty-eight feet, with three hundred seats; the other thirty-seven by eighteen feet, with one hundred seats, and separated by folding-doors, so that they may be thrown into one when necessary. This house was dedicated to the worship of God, December 5, 1843, by the Rev. Paul Townsend.

It is a most convenient house, and situated in the central and most pleasant part of the town. The present number of the church is three hundred, and the congregation is large and respectable.

The following ministers have been appointed to the church and society in succession.—

1807—Rev. Joel Steele.

1808—Erastus Otis.

- 1809, '10 and '11—Joseph A. Merrill.
 1812—Robert Arnold.
 1813—Elias Marble.
 1814—B. Otheman.
 1815—H. Pierce.
 1816—Orin Roberts.
 1817—Benjamin Keith.
 1818 and '19—Ephraim Wiley.
 1820 and '21—Edward Hide.
 1822 and '23—L. Bennet.
 1824—J. G. Atkins.
 1825 and '26—Lewis Bates.
 1827 and '28—Joel Steele.
 1829 and '30—B. F. Lombard.
 1831—N. S. Spaulding.
 1832—Squire B. Haskell.
 1833—H. Brownson.
 1834 and '35—W. Emerson.
 1836—B. F. Lombard.
 1837 and '38—H. Perry.
 1839—J. M. Bidwell.
 1840 and '41—Paul Townsend.
 1842 and '43—J. Cady.*

In 1808 it was voted to give Mr. Whitman \$500 to ask a dismission from the work of the ministry in the town, and if he would not accept of this, to give him nothing. Upon which he gave the following answer:—

‘In consequence of the vote of the town of Wellfleet, making me an offer of \$500, I request of the town a discharge from the work of the ministry, and that all connection with the town as minister may cease upon the reception of the said sum.’

He labored in the ministry twenty-three years, during which time thirty-three members were added to the church, and he solemnized two hundred and eighty-two marriages. After this Mr. Whitman resided in Kingston, where he died in 1838, aged 92.

* Furnished by Rev. J. Cady.

At the time of his dismissal Jonathan Higgins and Josiah Rich were deacons of the church. There were ten male and thirty-nine female members.

Mr. Timothy Davis was heard as a candidate, to whom the church and society gave an unanimous call to settle with them as a minister of the gospel, and voted to give him \$500 as a settlement and \$600 yearly as his salary. To this call Mr. Davis gave the following answer:—

‘I now inform the church and town of Wellfleet that I have received from your committee an invitation to settle with you in the ministry of the gospel, together with your proposals making provision for my settlement and support. Conscious of the arduous and important duties which are incumbent on a minister of the gospel of Christ, and, I trust, depending on divine assistance and direction, I give my answer to your invitation in the affirmative, humbly praying that God would make me an instrument of promoting your edification in Christian faith and obedience. I ask your prayers that he would be pleased to overrule my settlement with you (if no unexpected event intervene to prevent it,) for his glory and our mutual good.

‘TIMOTHY DAVIS.’

‘WELLFLEET, *October 24, 1808.*’

A committee was now chosen to make provision for the ordination, to provide a house for the entertainment of the council, and to write to the several churches for as many ministers and delegates as might necessarily be called. Capt. Joseph Holbrook, Thomas Higgins, 3d, and Samuel Rider were the committee.

Mr. Davis was a native of Wrentham, graduated at Harvard in 1804, and was ordained November 16, 1808. The churches represented by their ministers and delegates, were, Sandwich, Barnstable, Yarmouth, Harwich, Brewster, Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, Truro, Provincetown and Wrentham. Rev. Mr. Simpkins made the introductory prayer; Rev. Mr. Fiske delivered the sermon; Rev. Mr. Damon made the consecrating prayer; Rev. Mr. Burt gave the charge; Rev. Mr. Shaw the fellowship of the churches, and Rev. Mr. Waterman made the concluding prayer.

It was agreed that the town respectfully petition the president of the United States ‘to suspend the embargo, either

wholly or partially, according to the power vested in him by congress, or that he call that body together as soon as possible, to take the subject into consideration.' The selectmen signed the petition in behalf of the town, and sent it to the president of the United States.

In 1812, war having been declared by our government against Great Britain, this town unanimously made choice of three men to draw up a petition to the governor of the commonwealth, praying that if the militia companies in the towns of Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro should be called into actual service, they might be stationed in some of these towns for a defence against the enemy; and a copy of the proceedings was ordered to be sent to the other three towns.

In 1814, the British ships of war, cruisers and tenders being in the bay, and threatening to land and burn the town, measures were taken for their security, and a large committee of safety was chosen to watch the enemy and use such means as were in their power for the public protection and security.

In 1815 the town empowered the selectmen to invite the towns of Eastham and Truro to join them in remonstrating against the petition of the town of Provincetown to the General Court, respecting the fisheries near that town.

A petition was sent to the postmaster-general to have the post-office removed to Capt. Robert Kemp's.

The church joined the other churches in the county in a petition to the General Court for liberty to sell and divide the Hersey donation.*

1816. A committee was appointed to consider and report on the petition of the Methodist society, that those members who had been taxed for the support of the Congregational

* Doct. Hersey of Barnstable gave by his will all his large property to the Congregational churches in the county of Barnstable, the income of which was to be divided annually according to the business he did, during his professional life, in each town. The property was left to the care of the deacons collectively, who met once a year on the premises to hire it out, their time, travel and other expenses being paid from the income, which nearly consumed the whole. The portion which fell to this church on the division and sale of the property was \$300. The interest of this has generally been expended in books for the Sabbath school.

minister might have the tax remitted, and the request was granted.

In 1817 the Rev. Mr. Davis addressed the following to his parish:—

'To the Selectmen of the Town of Wellfleet :

'GENTLEMEN:—Please to inform my parishioners, that, desirous to promote both their temporal and eternal welfare, I am willing, for the present, to make an abatement in my salary of fifty dollars a year. I wish to be distinctly understood, that I do not relinquish my right to any part of my salary. It is my intention, however, to make the abatement, above mentioned, as long as I live, or as long as I am their minister, provided that I and my family can live comfortably without it. But if, at any future time, my necessities require it, I shall consider myself entitled to my whole salary. 'TIMOTHY DAVIS.'

'WELLFLEET, January 1st, 1818.'

1820. Reuben Arey, Esq., was chosen as a delegate to meet the delegates from the other towns in the state, in convention at Boston, November 15, to revise the constitution.

The revised constitution being submitted to the town for their approval, they unanimously voted in favor of all except the fourth and tenth articles.

1821. By order of the General Court a valuation of the rateable property in the town was taken by Eleazer Higgins, Samuel Rider and Reuben Arey, Esq., who were chosen and sworn for this purpose.

This year the present Congregational meeting-house was built. It is large and commodious, and has a tower and bell.

In 1827 a new school district was formed in the south part of the town, north of Blackfish creek, under the name of the seventh district. It contained twenty-two families. It was voted that the agents in the several districts should be a committee to take care of the schools.

A committee was chosen to examine the roads in the town. Difficulties had arisen, for the want of records of the roads as they were originally laid out, which made it necessary to establish them for the future. Eighteen roads were surveyed and defined, and accepted by the town according to the request of the committee, Josiah Whitman, Reuben Arey and Thomas Higgins.

Articles of faith were adopted and signed by the church, which were truly sound and orthodox. Future applicants for admission were to be required to acknowledge and sign them.

In 1828 it was voted that no person should be licensed in the town, the ensuing year, to retail spirituous liquors or wine. It was also voted to build a foot bridge over Blackfish creek.

1829. It was voted that the petition of Josiah Whitman and others in regard to the oysters be passed by, with the advice that no person steal the same.

The school prudential committees were forbidden to draw from the town treasury any money to pay to teachers who were not approbated by the school committee of the town. Liberty was given to build tombs in the burying-yard.

1831. No books were allowed to be introduced into the schools without the approbation of the school committee.

Benjamin Y. Atwood had liberty to build a wharf at Black rock.

Isaiah K. Baker petitioned the town for assistance to build a bridge from Griffin's island to the main land.

Agreeable to a resolve of the General Court, calling on the inhabitants of the several towns to express their minds for or against the acceptance of an article of amendment of the constitution, changing the commencement of the political year from the last Wednesday of May to the first Wednesday of January, the town voted unanimously in favor of the proposed alteration.

March 18, 1830, the Rev. Mr. Davis informed the church of his desire and intention of leaving them, offering a variety of considerations which had convinced him that it was his duty to seek a dissolution of the connection, and requested that a mutual council might be called for this purpose—to which request assent was given. The council met at his house, April 1st, and, after due consideration, dissolved the pastoral connection between them, and gave him the usual recommendation as a good and faithful minister of the gospel.

Mr. Davis labored here in the ministry twenty-two years, during which one hundred and sixty were added to the church. He administered baptism to three hundred and forty-six persons, and solemnized two hundred and fifty marriages. He was much respected and beloved by his people, and it was deeply regretted that circumstances, which in no degree affected his ministerial or christian character, should render the separation necessary. He is still living and laboring in the work of the ministry in the state of Maine.

After this the Rev. Mr. Harlow supplied the desk a number of weeks, and was followed about the same time by Mr. Hutchins, when a call was given to the Rev. Stephen Bailey, who accepted it and commenced his labors here, June 17, 1830, and was dismissed at his own request in 1838. During his ministry here one hundred and thirty-two were added to the church. Since his dismissal he has been employed as an agent by the Seamen's Friend Society.

December 4, 1833, the second Congregational church was organized in the south part of the town, and forty-two members were dismissed from the old church for the purpose. A commodious house of worship was erected.

They had no ordained pastor until May 6th, 1842, when Mr. Isaac A. Bassett was ordained over them. Previous to this time they had been supplied by a succession of ministers—Rev. Timothy Davis, Rev. John Orcutt, Rev. E. Pratt, Rev. S. Hardy and Rev. Wooster Willey. Mr. Bassett continued with them but one year.

They have enjoyed revivals of religion at different periods, especially during the supply of the Rev. Mr. Orcutt, when a large number were added to the church. The present number is one hundred and sixty.

The Rev. Henry Vanhouten is now the acting pastor of the church and society, whose labors have been blessed.

In 1834 a Methodist meeting-house was built in this part of the town, but their number being small, they were not able to sustain the ministry, and the house has been vacated for a number of years.

June 18, 1838, the first church gave a call to Rev. Jo-

seph Merrill to become their pastor. He remained about one year, when at his request the connection was dissolved. During this time thirty-five members were added to the church. Mr. Merrill graduated at Dartmouth college in 1806.

After this Mr. William H. Adams was heard as a candidate, received a call from the church and society, and was ordained February 17, 1840; and was dismissed at his own request, in 1841, and recommended to the confidence and affection of the churches, wherever he might be called to labor in the gospel ministry. Fourteen members were admitted to the church by him.

In May, 1842, eighteen members were added by Rev. S. Hardy, and on the 29th of the same month, nine more by Rev. Mr. Boyter—in August, five by Rev. Mr. Bassett. In the winter of 1843, Rev. George Clark labored here, and thirty-nine members were admitted to the church.

February 20th, 1843, the church and society gave a call to the Rev. John Dodd, to settle with them as their pastor. Mr. P. G. Atwood and Doct. J. Mitchell were appointed as a committee to communicate their doings to him. He was installed over them October 18th, by a council convened for the purpose. The council was composed of the following churches and ministers: Brewster, Rev. Mr. Williams; Orleans, Rev. Mr. White; Eastham, Rev. Mr. Pratt; South Wellfleet, Rev. Mr. Vanhouten; North Truro, Mr. Myrick; Truro; Marlborough Chapel, Boston; Haverhill, Rev. Mr. Finney; Fitchburg, Rev. Mr. Clark; Ashburnham, Rev. Mr. Cole.

Since the commencement of the present century, the Lord in his great mercy has often blessed this people by the visitation of his grace, and revived his work among them. The church now contains about two hundred and sixty members, and the parish is large and attentive to the public worship of God. The sabbath school and bible classes are attended by large numbers, both of adults and children.

The cause of temperance is advancing, and it is believed that none of the fishing vessels which sail from the harbors take any kind of intoxicating drinks with them.

The church have labored to put an end both to the traffic and use of all intoxicating drinks. Strong resolutions have been passed by the church in regard to the use and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, as being inconsistent with the principles of morality and religion.

‘1st. That this sin, like all others, should be rebuked, in high places and low places, privately and publicly; and that this church will justify its members in rebuking it whenever and wherever it would be proper to rebuke any other sin, but always in the spirit of brotherly kindness and charity.

‘2d. That this church regard it as their duty to use all christian measures, in their power, to remove as soon as practicable all vestiges of this evil from among us.’

EDUCATION.

No mention is made of a school in this part of the town of Eastham until 1700, when the inhabitants petitioned the town to have one set up here. The town granted the request, with the condition that they should pay the teacher to learn their children to read the English bible.

Before this there had been but one public school in the whole town, which was kept in the central and other parts in rotation. After this time, this part of the town drew its proportion of the money that was raised for the purpose, and a separate school was maintained for the most part of the time.

MONEY RAISED FOR SCHOOLING.

1761—£40. [By the precinct.]

1768—£40. [By the town.]

1770—£53, 6s. 8d.

1771—£40.

1773—£53, 6s. 8d.

- 1774—£53, 6s. 3d. [First English grammar school.]
 1775—£400 old tenor. [English grammar school continued.]
 1779 and '80—£200 old tenor.
 1781—£30 lawful money.
 From 1782 to 1806—\$100 per year on an average.
 1807 and '08—\$100.
 1810—\$100.
 1811 and '12—\$200.
 1815—\$150.
 1816 and '17—\$200.
 1818—\$300.
 1819 to '21—\$200.
 1823 to '27—\$200.
 1828—\$300.
 1829 to '32—\$400.
 1833 to '35—\$600.
 1836—\$700.
 1837 to '39—\$800.
 1840 to '43—\$1000.*
 Valuation in 1840-41, \$130,491 00.
 Number of school districts, 10.
 Number of children between four and sixteen, 595.

The following gentlemen, who belonged to or resided in this town, received a liberal education:—Hon. Isaiah L. Green, Naaman Holbrook, Ezekiel Whitman, Levi Whitman, John Davis, Thomas Stone.

Mr. Green was the son of the Rev. Mr. Green of Yarmouth. He was a near connection of and was named for the Rev. Mr. Lewis of this town, and resided in his family after his father's death, and was educated by him. He graduated at Harvard college in 1781. It is not known that he studied a profession, but he was for many years a merchant in Barnstable; after which he represented this district in congress, and was subsequently appointed collector of the revenue at Barnstable.

* Amount for each year in all cases.

Mr. Ezekiel Whitman was a native of Bridgewater and nephew of the Rev. Mr. Whitman of this place, with whom he lived and by whom he was educated. He graduated at Brown university in 1795, studied the law, and has been for many years chief justice of the supreme court of the state of Maine.

Mr. Levi Whitman was a son of the minister. He graduated at Harvard college in 1808, studied the law, and has been for a number of years a clerk in one of the public offices in Washington.

Mr. Davis is the son of Rev. Timothy Davis, late of this town, and is in the practice of the law.

Mr. Stone is the son of the late Doct. Stone, and is in the practice of medicine in Truro.

CENSUS.

1730	.	.	.	.	.	600*
1764	.	.	.	.	.	928†
1766	.	.	.	.	.	965‡
1775	.	.	.	.	.	1235
1790	.	.	.	.	.	1113
1800	.	.	.	.	.	1207
1806	.	.	.	.	.	1386
1810	.	.	.	.	.	1402
1820	.	.	.	.	.	1472
1830	.	.	.	.	.	2044
1840	.	.	.	.	.	2377

* Precinct of Wellfleet.

† District of do.

‡ Town of do.

PRECINCT TREASURERS.

Mr. John Rich, from 1723 to 1726.
 Mr. Samuel Brown, from 1727 to 1729.
 Mr. Jeremiah Mayo, from 1730 to 1732.
 Mr. Israel Young, from 1733 to 1741.
 Mr. Daniel Mayo, from 1742 to 1756.
 Mr. Zoheth Smith, from 1757 to 1759.
 Elisha Doane, Esq., from 1760 to 1762.

DISTRICT CLERKS AND TREASURERS.

Maj. Elisha Doane, from 1763 to 1765.
 Capt. Ephraim Covell, 1766.
 Maj. Elisha Doane, from 1767 to 1773.

TOWN CLERKS AND TREASURERS.

Mr. Ezekiel Holbrook, from 1774 to 1800.
 Mr. Lewis Hamlen, from 1801 to 1808.
 Samuel Waterman, Esq., from 1809 to 1813.
 Mr. Jeremiah Newcomb, 1814.
 Samuel Waterman, Esq., from 1815 to 1823.
 Josiah Whitman, Esq., from 1824 to 1833.
 Mr. Ezekiel Higgins, 1834.
 Josiah Whitman, Esq., from 1835 to 1839.
 Giles Holbrook, Esq., from 1840 to 1844.

DELEGATES TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

In 1774, the district of Wellfleet assumed all the privileges of other towns. For fifty-one years Wellfleet was connected with Eastham in the choice of representatives to the General Court. This year Mr. Naaman Holbrook and Col. Elisha Cobb were chosen as delegates to the first provincial congress which was held at Salem, October 5th, 1775. Col. Elisha Cobb was chosen a delegate to the second congress, held at Cambridge, the first of February, and the third, held at Watertown, July 31st.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1776—Col. Elisha Cobb. | 1823—Reuben Arey, Esq. |
| Mr. Naaman Holbrook. | 1827—Josiah Whitman, Esq. |
| 1781—Elisha Doane, Esq. | 1829—Mr. Benj'n R. Witherell. |
| 1782—Col. Elisha Doane. | 1830—Mr. Benj'n R. Witherell. |
| 1785—Capt. Jeremiah Bickford. | Mr. Joseph Holbrook, 3d. |
| 1787—Hezekiah Doane, Esq. | 1831—Benj'n R. Witherell, Esq. |
| 1788—Mr. Michael Collins. | Mr. Joseph Holbrook. |
| 1791—Mr. Michael Collins. | 1832—Col. Joseph Holbrook. |
| 1792—Mr. Samuel Waterman. | Benj'n R. Witherell, Esq. |
| 1794—Samuel Waterman, Esq. | 1834—Mr. Eben'r Freeman, 2d. |
| 1795—Samuel Waterman, Esq. | Mr. Joseph Higgins. |
| 1797—Mr. Reuben Arey. | 1835—Mr. Thomas Holbrook, 2d. |
| 1798—Maj. Hezekiah Doane. | Capt. Amaziah Atwood. |
| 1801—Capt. Lemuel Newcomb. | 1836—Mr. Richard Libby. |
| 1802—Mr. Reuben Rich. | Mr. Jonathan Hickman. |
| 1804—Capt. Lemuel Newcomb. | 1837—Mr. John Daniels. |
| 1806—Capt. Lemuel Newcomb. | Mr. Richard Libby. |
| 1808—Josiah Whitman, Esq. | 1838—Mr. Atkins Dyer. |
| 1809—Mr. Beriah Higgins. | Mr. Nathan Paine. |
| 1810—Mr. Beriah Higgins. | 1839—Mr. Nathaniel P. Wiley. |
| 1811—Mr. Beriah Higgins. | Capt. Solomon R. Hawes. |
| 1812—Mr. Beriah Higgins. | 1840—Capt. Solomon R. Hawes. |
| 1813—Mr. Beriah Higgins. | Mr. Nathaniel P. Wiley. |
| 1814—Josiah Whitman, Esq. | 1841—Mr. Seth H. Baker. |
| 1820—Reuben Arey, Esq. | 1842—Mr. Seth H. Baker. |
| 1821—Reuben Arey, Esq. | 1843—Mr. Isaac Paine. |

SELECTMEN.

- 1763—Maj. Elisha Doane, eight years.
 1763—Dea. Reuben Rich, seven do.
 1763—Samuel Smith, Jr., ten do.
 1765—Zoheth Smith, seven do.
 1769—Naaman Holbrook, eight do.
 1770—Jonathan Young, eight do.
 1771—Ebenezer Atwood, four do.
 1772—Capt. Hezekiah Doane, four do.
 1775—Col. Elisha Cobb, four do.
 1777—Winslow Lewis, one year.

- 1777—John Sweat, one year.
 1779—Barnabas Young, one do.
 1779—Joseph Smith, two years.
 1780—Thomas Holbrook, twelve do.
 1781—William Cole, six do.
 1787—Capt. Lewis Hamlen, thirteen do.
 1787—Reuben Arey, nine do.
 1793—John Witherell, five do.
 1800—Thomas Higgins, six do.
 1801—Samuel Newcomb, four do.
 Hezekiah Rich, three do.
 1805—Matthias Rider, two do.
 1807—David Holbrook, two do.
 1807—Stephen Atwood, two do.
 1809—Joseph Holbrook, twelve do.
 1809—Beriah Higgins, four do.
 1809—Freeman Atwood, six do.
 1813—John Witherell, two do.
 1813—Jeremiah Newcomb, two do.
 1814—Elisha Brown, one year.
 1814—Robert Kemp, two years.
 1814—Edmond Freeman, one year.
 1815—Reuben Rich, one do.
 1816—Moses Hinckley, three years.
 1816—Josiah Whitman, Esq., four do.
 1818—Samuel Ryder, one year.
 1819—Reuben Arey, Esq., nine years.
 1823—Capt. Freeman Atwood, four do.
 1827—Joseph Higgins, four do.
 1827—Benjamin R. Witherell, six do.
 1827—Thomas Hatch, four do.
 1829—Moses Lewis, one year.
 1829—Cornelius Hamblen, two years.
 1830—George Ward, four do.
 1830—Samuel Higgins, one year.
 1831—Micah Dyer, four years.
 1831—Ebenezer Freeman, two do.
 1833—Reuben Arey, Jr., one year.
 1837—Caleb Lumbard, five years.
 1837—Thomas Higgins, Jr., one year.
 1838—Elisha Freeman, six years.
 1838—Amaziah Atwood, three do.
 1838—John Newcomb, three do.
 1841—Knowles Dyer, three do.
 1844—Bethuel Wiley.

HISTORY OF ORLEANS.

DESCRIPTION.

Orleans was formerly the south part of Eastham, but it was separated from that town, and incorporated by its present name, March 3d, 1797.

It is bounded on the East by the ocean, on the South by Pleasant bay and Chatham, on the West by Brewster and Harwich, and on the North-west by Barnstable bay. The county, which sketches east from Buzzard's bay to this place, here turns to the north, and extends in that course to Truro.

The length of the township is five miles, and the breadth from three to five miles. The surface of the land is somewhat hilly. The county road runs through the north-west corner of the town.

Orleans is of very irregular form, the lines which separate it from the adjoining townships being crooked, and its shores being indented by coves and creeks.

Town cove has been described in the history of Eastham. The neck of land on the east side of this cove is called Tonset. The soil here is good.

A river or creek runs into Pleasant bay. The head of it, where it is narrow, is called Zeb's cove. Vessels drawing seven feet of water can come a half a mile below this cove, the northern part of which is two miles and a half from the mouth of the river, where it is half a mile wide.

The land east of this river is named Barley neck. The land here is better than that of Tonset.

On the east side of Barley neck are coves, which communicate with Pleasant bay, and which separate the neck from Nauset beach.

The land which is situated between Barley and Tonset necks, and which terminates in Wood's neck, is called Pochet. Here there is also some good land.

North-east of Pochet, near the ocean, is a small neck of land, containing about fifty acres, called Weeset. It is separated from Tonset by a cove.

These several necks constitute a peninsula, the whole of which is denominated Pochet. The isthmus is not more than half a mile wide, and is situated between Town cove and Zeb's cove on the south.

A narrow beach forms the barrier of the waters which wash the eastern shores of Orleans. At Nauset harbor it joins the main land. On this beach, about half way between the entrances of Nauset and Chatham harbors, the trustees of the Humane Society, some years ago, built a hut to shelter the shipwrecked mariner.

Near this place, many years ago, was the mouth of Portumquutt harbor, which filled up gradually.

This beach, on the inside, the most of the way, is skirted with salt marsh.

There are several islands in Pleasant bay, within the limits of Orleans

The largest is Pochet island, which is east of Barley neck, and contains the best land in the township. On its north-east side is a small body of salt marsh.

South-west of Pochet island is Sampson's island, containing about thirty acres of good land. For many years after the first settlement of the town this island was used entirely for pasturing sheep. East of it and near it is a large body of salt marsh.

On the south, and connected with it at low water, is Hog island, containing about ten acres.

Southerly of Hog island is Sepson's island, which covers an extent of twenty acres.

These islands add much beauty to this sheet of water, and

give it a just title to the name which it has received, that of Pleasant bay.

Nearly opposite to this town, in the ocean, it is said, is the point where the tides from Narragansett and Massachusetts bays meet, and whence they separate,—the flow of the sea above this point being towards the north, and below it towards the south.

Leaving the peninsula of Pochet, and travelling round Orleans river or creek, on the west side of it is Naunkoyick neck, which is formed by Higgins' river on the north of it, and Naunkoyick creek on the south.

The south part of the township is called Potanumaquiet. This territory was inhabited by the Nauset tribe of Indians a long time after the settlement of the town. Their burying-place is still to be seen, and it is not more than seventy years since their meeting-house was standing.

The land here is light and sandy. It is mostly cleared, only a small part being now covered with brush-wood.

In the north-west part of the town, or the part bordering on Barnstable bay, is Namskaket creek, which is three quarters of a mile long, and which, as far as it goes, is the dividing line between Orleans and Brewster. It is very narrow, and its mouth is not quite so deep as Rock harbor. The territory near it, as well as the creek itself, is called Skaket. The land is light and sandy.

Little Skaket creek is some distance north of the Namskaket, and still smaller.

Rock Harbor creek, lying north of Little Skaket, is nearly dry at low water, and at high tide is not more than seven feet deep. On all these creeks there are bodies of salt marsh. There are no brooks in the town; but there are sixteen fresh water ponds, which serve for the watering of cattle and other purposes.

From the description now given, it is apparent that there is a portion of good land in the township; but the greatest part of the soil is light and sandy, and some absolutely barren. Pochet island, years ago, would produce twenty bushels of Indian corn to an acre, without manuring; Barley and

Tonset necks, fifteen without and thirty with manure. The horse-foot, or king-crab, was formerly much used for manuring land when planted with Indian corn and potatoes. It was chopped into small pieces, of which not more than one or two were put in a hill: but while it aided the crop it tended to exhaust the land. For many years attention has been paid to the collection of sea-weed from the shores; but more at the present time than formerly. It is spread on the land, and ploughed into the furrow, and sometimes put into the potato hills. The corn raised here is solid and heavy, and formerly many hundred bushels were annually sent to Boston market. Rye and other vegetables are produced, sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. Some cattle are fattened for the home market, and several are sold in the towns below. Sufficient butter is manufactured for the use of the inhabitants. Forty years ago not more than ten tons of English hay was cut; at the present time the quantity is estimated at two hundred tons. Peat and other swamp lands have been cleared and sown with English grass. The salt marshes are of two kinds, sedge and short grass, and nearly eight hundred tons of salt hay are cut. There are a number of small orchards.

Very little wood is left in the township. The inhabitants use peat for fuel. This article is a good substitute for wood, and there are many swamps and meadows from which it can be obtained in sufficient quantities. The people were ignorant that they possessed this important article, until (many years ago) their minister, Mr. Osborn, who had learned the use of it in Ireland, first pointed it out, and taught them the art of drying and preparing it.

But the shores and coves of Orleans are more fertile than the land. The riches hid in the sands are not easily estimated. Though oysters are not to be found on the shores of Orleans, yet quahaugs and clams abound in greater profusion there than in any other part of the county.

The quahaug is a round and thick shell-fish. It does not bury itself deep in the sand, is generally found lying on it in deep water, and is taken with iron rakes made for the pur-

pose. Sometimes a few are picked up above low water mark. It is but little inferior to the oyster. It is cooked in various ways; roasted, boiled, fried, or made into soups or pies. About half an inch of the inside of the shell is of a purple color. This the Indians broke off and converted into beads, which they called black money: it was of double the value of wampum, or white money made of the periwinkle.

The sea clam is found on the flats at low water. Before the Indians learned of the English the use of the hoe, they hilled their corn with these shells, for which use they were adapted by their size.

The small clam is found in much greater abundance, and the business is a source of much greater profit. They bury themselves in the sand, from four to eighteen inches deep. The Indians were very fond of them, and being unacquainted with salt, they made use of them and their liquor to season their nasaump and boiled corn. They are considerably used by the inhabitants for food, and would be more valued if they were less common; but as long as a peck of clams, which is sufficient to afford a small family a dinner, can be procured with a little more labor than a peck of sand, they will not be very highly prized. Previous to 1802 five hundred barrels were annually dug here for bait. In that year one thousand barrels were collected, and for years afterwards. Between one and two hundred of the inhabitants were employed in this business, and received from their employers three dollars a barrel for digging, opening, salting and filling the casks. From twelve to eighteen bushels in the shell must be dug to fill a barrel, when opened. A man can earn at the business seventy-five cents a day.

A barrel of clams was worth six dollars.

A thousand bushels of clams are equal in value to six or eight thousand bushels of corn, and are procured with much less labor and expense. When, therefore, the fishes with which the coves of Orleans abound are taken into consideration, they may be truly regarded as more beneficial to the inhabitants than if the space which they occupy were covered with the richest soil.

The riches which they yield are inexhaustible ; for after a portion of the shore has been dug over and nearly all the clams taken out, at the end of two years, it is said, they are as plenty as ever. It is even said, by many persons, that it is as necessary to stir the clam ground frequently as it is to hoe a field of corn; because, if this is not done, the clams will be crowded so closely as to prevent them from attaining any size.

The land in Orleans is cultivated mostly by old men and small boys, as the male population between the ages of twelve and forty-five are engaged in the cod fishery and other descriptions of seafaring business. The fishing vessels in which they make their voyages are but few of them owned in the town, but are taken on shares from Duxbury, Plymouth, Boston and other places. The only vessels owned in Orleans in 1800 were three coasters, which brought fire-wood and lumber from the state of Maine, and one packet, plying between Rock harbor and Boston. At the present time there are two packets, some larger vessels engaged in commerce, and a few other small vessels.

When the census was taken in 1800 the number of inhabitants was 1095. There were one hundred and seventy-four families, who occupied one hundred and forty-two dwelling-houses. The houses were generally neat, convenient buildings; five of them only were two stories in height. There was no village in the town, but the population was scattered. There were then three school-houses and the meeting-house, which stood on the isthmus of Pochet, and two wind-mills.

In 1830 there were two hundred dwelling-houses and about three hundred families. The valuation of the real and personal property was \$150,624.

An academy was built in 1827. This building is of convenient size and two stories in height. It contains a school-room in the lower story and a hall above. The building is owned by proprietors, who employ teachers qualified to instruct, in the higher branches of learning, those who have passed through the town schools. This institution has been of great importance to those engaged in seafaring pursuits,

in furnishing them with the instruction necessary to the prosecution of their business, as well as to others of both sexes who remain at home. Many have here been qualified as teachers, and have taken charge of the town schools.

By an act of the General Court of Massachusetts, passed the third day of March, 1797, this part of Eastham was separated from that town and incorporated as an independent township, with all the privileges and immunities of the other towns in the commonwealth. Signed by the speaker of the House, Edward H. Robbins; the president of the Senate, Samuel Phillips, and by the governor, Samuel Adams.

Isaac Sparrow, Esq., was authorized and empowered by the act to issue his warrant to some principal inhabitant of the town of Orleans, requesting him to notify and warn the inhabitants to meet at some suitable time and place in the town, to choose such officers as other towns were by law required to choose in the months of March and April annually.

The above act secured to the town of Orleans forever all the ministerial lands then occupied and improved by the Rev. Mr. Bascom, situated in the town of Eastham. It was also enacted that the shell-fishery should remain and be enjoyed by the inhabitants of Eastham and Orleans, in the same manner as before, and should be regulated by the selectmen of each town.

Isaac Sparrow, Esq., issued his warrant to Hezekiah Higgins to notify and warn the freeholders and others qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the public meeting-house in said town, on the 16th day of March.

The town being assembled, agreeable to the above notice, made choice of Hezekiah Higgins as moderator. Benjamin Taylor was chosen town-clerk and treasurer; Hezekiah Higgins, Heman Linnel and Judah Rogers were chosen selectmen, and all other necessary town officers were chosen.

It was also agreed to send a petition to the General Court, praying them to pass an act to prevent all persons from other towns from catching eels in Orleans, and Simeon Kingman, Hezekiah Higgins and Jonathan Hopkins were chosen as a committee to attend to it.

The votes of the town were polled for governor, &c. Increase Sumner, for governor, had 59; Edward H. Robbins, for lieutenant governor, 59; David Thacher, for senator, 59. Simeon Kingman was chosen to represent the town in the General Court.

The town chose a committee of five persons to prosecute the inhabitants of other towns for taking shell-fish in the town of Orleans.

Money was raised for the support of the gospel and for a town school or schools, and a committee was appointed to regulate the latter. An addition was also made to Rev. Mr. Bascom's salary. \$333 33 was raised to support the schools, and \$366 for the support of the poor. The town agreed that three school-houses should be built in the three districts, under the direction of the selectmen. Fish wardens were chosen. A committee was appointed to agree with Eastham, and also with the two parishes in Harwich, with respect to the taxing of real estate, lying in those towns, belonging to the inhabitants of Orleans.

A committee was appointed by a resolve of the General Court to repair to Orleans and Chatham, to ascertain, settle and establish the boundary line between said towns. 'Having met and fully heard the parties, together with their pleas and allegations, and having all the witnesses and records produced by both parties, and maturely considered the same,' the committee agreed upon, settled and established the following as the boundary line between said towns:—'Beginning at the south-easterly corner of the town of Harwich, in Pleasant bay, from thence running easterly to the northward of Strong island to a stake set in the ground on Pocha beach, which stake bears south, seventy-five degrees east, from a black rock situated in the edge of the water of said bay, and from said stake a due east course into the sea; providing that nothing, in establishing the present line, shall be considered as to affect private property.'

This committee were Isaac Thomson of Middleboro', John Dillingham of Brewster and Ebenezer Crocker of Barnstable. Their report was accepted by the General Court in February, 1797.

1798. Increase Sumner, for governor, had 73 votes; Edward H. Robbins, for lieut. do., 58; Solomon Freeman, for senator, 116; Micajah Coffin of Nantucket, for representative to congress, 70. Simeon Kingman was chosen to represent the town in the General Court. The usual sum was raised to carry on the schools in the different parts of the town, and the minister and selectmen were constituted a committee to examine the teachers and regulate the schools.

1799. Micajah Coffin received 78 votes for representative to congress.

Four families were set off from Eastham to this town.

1800. The death of General GEORGE WASHINGTON was noticed by the inhabitants, and at their request an oration was delivered by the Rev. Jonathan Bascom, which was printed at the expense of the town.

The major part of the votes for governor, lieut. governor and senator had been given for some previous years to Increase Sumner, Edward H. Robbins and Solomon Freeman. This year Elbridge Gerry received, for governor, 90 votes; Moses Gill, for lieut. do., 55; Solomon Freeman, for senator, 92; Isaiah L. Green, for representative to congress, 52.

The meeting-house was repaired and painted. The old porch on the front was taken down, and a new one, two stories high, was built, in which the gallery stairs were placed; the end doors were closed and four new pews built, which were sold to pay the expense of the repairs, \$482.

1802. According to Mr. Bascom's request, the town voted not to make good his salary, on account of the depreciation of money.

A pall was purchased to be used at funerals.

More attention than usual was given to the broken lands and the roads.

The bounds between this town and Brewster were renewed.

1803. The General Court having granted to the county of Barnstable a township of land in the district of Maine, to endow a public academy, to be located in the most conven-

ient part, Timothy Bascom, Esq., was chosen to meet the committee of said Court, on Tuesday the twenty-sixth day of July, to determine in what town it should be established. This institution was located in Sandwich.

1804. It was agreed that certain individuals might join with the people of Eastham to dig a canal from Town cove to the bay; that they might petition for an act of incorporation, and for a lottery, provided they would secure the town from all liability. The project failed.

James Sullivan, for governor, received 80 votes; William Heath, for lieutenant governor, 70; John Dillingham, for senator, 71.

New regulations were adopted for pasturing the flats and sedge grounds.

Isaiah L. Green, for representative to congress, received 72 votes; Lemuel Williams, for the same office, 10.

Money was appropriated for a singing-school.

1806. The school-houses, which belonged to the districts, were purchased for the town by a committee, viz. Mr. Hezekiah Higgins, Dea. Sparrow and Dea. Rogers, for the sum of six hundred and ninety dollars.

In 1807, the Rev. Jonathan Bascom died, aged sixty-seven, having labored here in word and doctrine thirty-five years. He was a man of good talents and acquirements; domestic in his habits; pious and devoted to his calling; facetious and kind in his disposition; and his death was much lamented by his people. He administered baptism to nine hundred and ninety-six persons,* admitted two hundred and forty-five to the church, and solemnized three hundred and seventeen marriages.

A small house was built for the town's military stores.

Mr. Benoni Baker was appointed by the town to prevent dogs from coming into the meeting-house on the Sabbath, and was paid for this service.

Hon. Isaiah L. Green, for representative to congress, received 28 votes.

* What was called the half-way covenant was in use at this time. Persons not belonging to the church, on owning this covenant, brought their children to be baptized.

The town and church took measures to procure a candidate for settlement in the ministry, and Mr. Jesse Fisher was heard. A call was given to him to settle with them, and \$500 was voted as his salary; also, that he should have the liberty to be absent three Sabbaths each year; and that if he should be sick for some time the town would supply the pulpit, and his salary stop, for that time. Mr. Fisher declined settling on these conditions.

1803. Mr. Daniel Johnson was then invited to preach to them as a candidate. A unanimous call was extended to him to settle, and the sum of \$585 was offered to him during his natural life, or \$600 per annum, with the use of a pew in the meeting-house; his salary to be annually estimated—one quarter on corn, rye and flour, one quarter on dry cod-fish, one eighth on pork and beef, one eighth on wood, and one quarter on the remaining articles of consumption, in equal proportions.

The deacons of the church were appointed as a committee to inform Mr. Johnson of their proceedings, and to report to the town the result. This call and the conditions being satisfactory, he gave his answer in the affirmative, and was ordained March 11th, 1803.

Mr. Willis of Kingston made the introductory prayer; sermon, by Rev. John Reed, D. D., of Bridgewater; ordaining prayer, by Rev. Hezekiah Sanger, D. D., of do.; charge, by Rev. William Shaw, D. D., of Marshfield; fellowship of the churches, by Rev. Philander Shaw of Eastham; and concluding prayer, by Rev. Mr. Kendall of Plymouth.

At this time Mr. Johnson's salary was estimated as follows:—Corn and rye, \$1,00 per bushel; flour, \$7,00 per barrel; dry cod-fish, \$3,75 per quintal; beef, \$5,75 per hundred; pork, \$9,00 do. do.; butter, twenty-five cents per pound; cheese, thirteen cents do. do.; molasses, forty-four cents per gallon; oak wood, \$8,50 per cord.

Mr. Johnson is a native of West Bridgewater, and graduated at Brown university, 1804. He continued to be the pastor of the church twenty years, when he was dismissed at

his own request, believing, in consequence of many unpleasant circumstances which existed at that time, that he might be more useful in some other part of the Lord's vineyard. He was to this town and church a very devoted and faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

When he was settled here he was a Unitarian and an Arminian, but he was soon convinced of these errors and hopefully converted.

During his ministry here there were revivals of religion, and one hundred and fifty members were added to the church. He baptized five hundred and twenty-five persons and solemnized two hundred and forty-four marriages.

Since his dismissal from this people he has been preaching in western New York, with good acceptance and success.

Capt. Gideon Gardner, for representative to congress, received 99 votes.

1809. Hon. Levi Lincoln, for governor, received 116 votes; Hon. Joseph B. Varnum, for lieutenant governor, 114; Hon. Joseph Dimmick, for senator, 104.

For the first time the town raised and assessed the tax to defray the expenses of the ministry separately from the money raised to pay the town charges.

1810. Hon. Elbridge Gerry, for governor, received 125 votes; William Gray, for lieutenant governor, 123; Joseph Dimmick, for senator, 111; Hon. Isaiah L. Green, for representative to congress, 30.

Power was given to the selectmen to establish the line and bounds between this town, Chatham and Eastham.

About this time two new school-houses were built.

Money was raised to support the poor, and for all other town expenses.

Four new pews were made in the meeting-house, and the proceeds of their sale applied for the support of the gospel. A bass-viol was also purchased: this was the first instrument ever used to assist the singers in this place.

A remonstrance was sent to the General Court against a petition which the town of Brewster had presented to that

body, praying that horses might run at large on the west shore.

1812. An attempt was made to enlarge the meeting-house, by carrying out the back end twelve feet, but as there were many opposed to it the project was relinquished.

The votes for governor and other state officers were the same as in former years. John Dillingham, Esq., for senator, received 117 votes; John Reed, for do., 22, and for representative to congress, 35.

This year was memorable on account of the declaration of war with Great Britain. This being a fishing and commercial town, the inhabitants suffered much, being cut off from these employments, by which the greater portion of them obtained their support. But, notwithstanding this, they readily and earnestly engaged in the defence of the country, and did what they could, both on the sea and on the land, to obtain those rights for which the war was waged. The militia was trained, equipped and held in readiness to obey the call of the government in defence of their own or other towns.

This was truly a republican town, and a great majority of the votes was invariably given for men of the same political sentiments, both for United States and state rulers.

1813. A road and landing-place was laid out at Rock harbor. The land being claimed by individuals as their property, much pains was taken to search the ancient records, from which it was found that this land was never set off to the claimants or their ancestors, but was the legal property of the town.

The town agreed to pay the expenses of training the militia.

1814. The British ships of war were in Provincetown harbor, or cruising in the bay, and they threatened to land and destroy the salt-works, vessels and other property in the town. A committee of safety was appointed, and sentinels were placed on the west shore, to give the alarm if the enemy should attempt to carry their threats into execution.

John Reed, Esq., for representative to congress, received 30 votes; Thomas Hazard, for do., 25.

It was voted to provide for the militia, whenever called out of town, till they arrived at head-quarters.

The exempts in the town proposed to form themselves into an artillery company, provided the government would furnish them with proper munitions of war. Simeon Kingman, Esq., was sent to Boston to communicate this proposal and obtain stores and pieces for said company,—the town having agreed to pay him twenty dollars for his time and expenses,—but as he was unsuccessful and returned without the articles, the company was not organized.

The enemy made attempts to land, but were driven back by the militia, who suffered no loss of life, although one or more of the assailants were killed.

Money was demanded of the town, that protection and security might be guaranteed to the property and inhabitants, but the offer was promptly rejected.

1815. A treaty of peace was concluded between our government and Great Britain, and the war ceased, to the great joy and prosperity of the town.

A petition was sent to the General Court for permission to sell the remaining portion of Indian lands in this town and Brewster.

1816. The same epidemic prevailed here as in Eastham, and many died. Doct. Seabury being sick of the same fever, Doct. Phinney of Barnstable was employed; and the town voted to pay him thirty-three dollars for his services in those families that were not able to pay.

The ministerial upland was sold at public auction, and the interest of the purchase money applied for the support of the gospel.

John Reed, Esq., for representative to congress, received 16 votes; Walter Folger, Jr., for do., 30.

1817. John Reed, for representative to congress, received 30 votes; Walter Folger, for do., 22; Henry Dearborn, for governor, 45; John Brooks, for do, 13; Solomon Freeman, for senator, 50.

1818. A large and respectable committee was appointed by the town, to make a representation to congress respecting

the salt-works owned by the inhabitants, and praying that the duty might be continued on salt.

Another committee was chosen, to join the committees appointed by the towns of Brewster and Harwich, to petition the General Court for liberty to sell all the remaining land, which lay partly in each town, and had belonged to the Potanumaquiet Indians, for their benefit. This petition was granted by the Court, and the land was sold for three hundred dollars, which sum was equally divided.

A channel was dug through the back side beach, below Strong island, by the inhabitants of this town and Chatham, for the benefit of the salt meadows on the inside, but it soon filled with sand and their labor was lost.

1819. The town was divided into six school districts, and two new school-houses were built.

REFORMED METHODIST CHURCH.

Several ministers of this denomination, particularly Rev. Mr. Brit, had visited and preached in this town before 1820, when a church was organized and a meeting-house erected.

For some years they had the labors of different ministers, until 1830, when the society began to dwindle, and the house was closed. The number belonging to the church and society has not been ascertained.

EPISCOPAL METHODIST CHURCH.

From the remains of the above a new church was organized in 1836, under the care and direction of the bishop and conference. The old house was taken down and another built, near the academy, in 1837. It is a very neat and commodious building for public worship, forty-four by thirty-six feet. The society have had the labors of Rev. T. G. Brown two years, Rev. P. Crandall one, Rev. J. Litch one, Rev. H. Perry one, Rev. J. Bicknell one, Rev. T. G. Blake one, and Mr. E. B. Hinckley, who is now with them.

They have had revivals of religion at different times, and hopeful converts have been added to the church, the number of which is not known to the writer. The church and society comprise about one fifth of the inhabitants of the town.

1826. Strong measures were taken to suppress the sale and use of spirituous liquors. No person was approbated by the selectmen to retail the poison.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

'The Baptist church in Orleans was constituted in June, 1826. Rev. John Peak and Rev. Otis Wing performed the services of the occasion. The original members were dismissed from the Baptist church in Brewster.

'Although the church was small at first, (only eight in number,) they were encouraged to hope in God, feeling confident that he would sustain them in their work, and maintain the cause in which they had engaged.

'Rev. Mr. Wing preached to them one third of the time from their organization until October, 1837. After this they were supplied by different ministers for a period of seventeen months. In the autumn of 1828 a convenient house of worship was completed and dedicated to Almighty God. Rev. Jesse Pease preached the sermon of dedication.

'In February, 1829, they had so increased that they thought the time had arrived for them to make an effort to maintain a pastor. They succeeded. Rev. Winthrop Morse was the man of their choice. When Mr. Morse commenced the labors of a pastor with the church their prospects were flattering; the way seemed to be prepared for them to go on to certain victory over all opposition. But, instead of prosperity, trials came. It was soon manifested that different views were entertained, and the result was, the removal of a worthy, affectionate and faithful pastor, and the exclusion of several from the church.

'Mr. Morse asked and received his dismissal in April, 1831. At that time the church was greatly discouraged; being destitute of a pastor, and their pecuniary resources not sufficient to maintain one, they mournfully said, "By whom shall Jacob arise, for he is small." They had preaching, however, the most of the time after Mr. Morse left them, till November, 1832. Then, having received encouragement to hope for assistance to support a minister, they secured the

services of Rev. Enoch E. Chase. During the ministrations of Mr. Chase the church enjoyed a good degree of harmony, and were nourished and comforted by the pure word of God, which was brought before them in a plain and affectionate manner, and their hearts were made glad in witnessing the conversion of sinners. He retained the relation of pastor till April, 1836, and then asked and received his dismissal. In November following Rev. Silas Riply became pastor of the church, and continued his services till September, 1837. The ministrations of Mr. Riply were owned and blessed of God. The church was edified and instructed; several were brought to the knowledge of the truth, were baptized, and gave themselves to the church.

‘After Mr. Riply asked and received his dismissal the church employed Rev. Jesse Pease till April, 1838. When Mr. Pease left Rev. Davis Lothrop accepted the call to become pastor, and has continued his labors to this time (July, 1843.) Within the last five years God has been very gracious to his people. Peace and good will, for the most of the time, have prevailed among them—the manifestation of the Holy Spirit has been repeatedly realized, and sinners, of every class, have been converted to God. One hundred and forty-nine have been connected with the church since its organization. The number in the church at the present time is one hundred and eight.’

1829. It was resolved by the Congregational church and society to build a new house of public worship. They say—‘This being an important epoch in the history of this church and society, it should be recorded to the praise of God that he has inclined the hearts of this people to build an house for God, and with great unanimity in their councils and proceedings, have accomplished this important undertaking.’ The old house, which had stood one hundred and eleven years, was taken down, and the new one was raised on the sixteenth of July, 1829, and was finished on the eighteenth of November and dedicated to the sacred Trinity. It is a large and commodious house, with a tower and bell.

At this time the Rev. John Turner was their preacher, and he was particularly instrumental in engaging the people in this work. Some difficulties arose between Mr. Turner and the church, and his labors with them were discontinued.

After this the Rev. Mr. Scovel supplied the pulpit for some time. During this period a committee of the church, to which Mr. Scovel was joined, was appointed to draw up articles of faith and a new covenant, with rules of government. The following articles were reported, unanimously accepted, adopted, and ordered to be printed.

1. We believe that there is one God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by Divine Inspiration, and contain the only perfect rule of faith and practice.

3. That God maintains a righteous government over all his creatures.

4. That man has fallen from the state for which he was originally created, and is by nature entirely destitute of holiness.

5. That an atonement is made for all by the Lord Jesus Christ, so that repentance and faith are now the conditions of salvation.

6. We believe in the necessity of our being renewed by the agency of the *Holy Spirit*; in the increase of holiness, and perseverance unto salvation, of all who truly believe in the doctrine of a general resurrection; in the everlasting blessedness of the righteous, and the endless punishment of the finally impenitent.

A disagreement arose between the church and society respecting the labors of Mr. Scovel, which induced him to leave them.

Committees were then chosen by the church and society to obtain a minister.

The following rules were adopted by the church, who agreed to be governed by them:

1. We will not attend places of amusement, such as bring dishonor on the cause of Christ.

2. We will regard the Sabbath as a day sacred to the worship of God.

3. We will pay for the support of the gospel at home and abroad, as God shall give us ability; and, as heads of families, we will attend family worship morning and evening.

4. We will punctually attend the monthly concert of prayer, preparatory lectures and church meetings, and as far as possible encourage our minister in promoting vital godliness among us, by God's assistance.

The church formed themselves into an association for the due observance of the christian Sabbath.

1831. The poor house was built, which is a large and convenient building. There are now twenty-two paupers, who are supported at an average expense of about sixty cents each per week.

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

1833. 'The Universalist society was organized, having had preaching of their peculiar sentiments at a much earlier period.

'Individuals who seceded from the Congregational society were the first members of it. In the winter of 1834 they were incorporated by the name of the Universalist Society of Orleans. In the year 1833 they built their meeting-house, which is thirty feet by forty, containing fifty pews on the floor, with galleries on three sides. It cost \$1750, and is a neat and commodious house.

'The first regular settled preacher was Rev. Ezekiel Vose, who was ordained in 1834, and held his connection with them until 1840, when he was succeeded by Rev. James G. Burt, who left them in the spring of 1843, and their present pastor, Rev. Stillman Barden, was settled.'

The town undertook to improve Rock Harbor river. A special meeting was called to consider the subject, and it was thought that it might be made deep enough for vessels to come in and go out at high water. An act of incorporation was obtained by a company formed for that purpose, and a dam was built across the creek, to prevent the escape of the water. By letting it out at low water it was believed that the channel would be sufficiently deepened, but the experiment did not prove successful. The whole expense was about \$2000.

The town was divided into nine school districts.

The portion of the surplus revenue received by the town was \$3000. For two years it was loaned to individuals on good security. At the end of that time the disposition of it became a matter of dispute and contention, and it was voted that a portion of it should be appropriated in payment of town expenses, and the remainder to build a town house.

In 1835 Mr. Stillman Pratt was heard as a candidate for settlement, and received a unanimous call to become pastor over the Congregational church and society.

In a letter to Mr. Pratt the committee say—

‘At a regular meeting of the Congregational church we have voted, unanimously, to give you a call to settle over us in the gospel ministry as our pastor.

WILLIAM MYRICK,
JOSHUA DOANE,
DANIEL CUMMINGS, } Committee.

‘ORLEANS, 31st March, 1835.’

With this call the parish concurred as follows:

‘*Mr. Stillman Pratt,*

‘DEAR SIR:—The Congregational society in Orleans being, on sufficient grounds, satisfied of your ministerial qualifications, and having good hopes from our past experience of your labors, that your ministerial labors will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call and desire you to undertake the pastoral office in said society.

‘And, that you may be free from worldly cares and avocations, we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of five hundred dollars annually, during the time of your being and continuing the regular pastor of said society.

‘And in case either party become dissatisfied, by giving three months’ notice this connection shall be dissolved.

‘In witness whereof we subscribe our names.

JOSHUA DOANE,
THOMAS HIGGINS,
DANIEL CUMMINGS, } Committee of the
Congregational Society.

‘ORLEANS, 31st March, 1835.’

The answer of Mr. Pratt was as follows:

‘*To the Congregational Church and Society in Orleans:*

‘DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:—I have received your joint call inviting me to the pastoral office among you, and while I trust I am not insensible to the responsibilities of the station, and my own inability properly to discharge its duties, yet having prayerfully considered the subject, and presuming still on your candor and forbearance,

desiring moreover to rely implicitly on divine illumination and strength, I will endeavor to serve you according to the best of my power—earnestly requesting an interest in your prayers, that wisdom and strength may be vouchsafed from above, sufficient for every effort to advance your spiritual interests and eternal good—wishing you the blessings of heaven in this life, as well as the favor of God hereafter.

‘In the bonds of the gospel,

‘STILLMAN PRATT.’

‘ORLEANS, *April 15th, 1835.*’

An ecclesiastical council was convened April 22, 1835, when Mr. Pratt was ordained. Rev. Mr. Orcutt made the introductory prayer; Rev. E. Pratt preached the sermon; Rev. Mr. Boyter made the ordaining prayer; Rev. Mr. Shaw gave the charge, and Rev. Mr. Williams made the concluding prayer.

A parsonage house was built, and the Hersey fund (\$540,) was expended in part payment of it. For about eight years previous to the settlement of Mr. Pratt the church and society had been without a regularly ordained minister over them, during which time the church had been diminishing in numbers and strength. Mr. Pratt continued with them about four years, and during that time the church and society experienced several refreshing showers of God’s grace, which resulted in the hopeful conversion of one hundred and fifteen souls.

The whole number at the time of his dismissal, which was in 1839, was one hundred and seventy-five. The congregation then embraced one hundred and seventy-one families and seven hundred souls—about one third of the entire population of the town.

The reason of his separation from them was, that the parish did not conform to their agreement with him, in the payment of his salary. He was dismissed by a mutual council called for the purpose, April 23, 1839, and is now settled in Adams. The council, having the fullest confidence in the christian and ministerial character of Mr. Pratt, cordially and affectionately recommended him to the churches of Christ, wherever he might be called in the providence of God to preach the gospel, as a minister in regular standing.

The Rev. Hazael Lucas supplied the pulpit two years, when the Rev. Jacob White, their present minister, commenced his labors with them. At that time the number of members of the church was one hundred and fifty. The number at present is one hundred and ninety-one. The congregation on the Sabbath is large, and there are but few who do not regularly attend public worship. The Sabbath school and bible classes contain about one hundred and fifty.

The cause of temperance is very prosperous in the town.

EDUCATION.

MONEY RAISED AND APPROPRIATED FOR THE TOWN SCHOOLS.

1797—\$333 33. 1798—\$75. 1799—\$200. 1800—\$200. 1801 to 1815—\$246. 1816 to 1826—\$300. 1826 to 1836—\$360. 1836 to 1844—\$900.

Number of public schools, 9.

Whole number of pupils, 1069.

Number between four and sixteen years, 608.

Valuation, \$175,335.

CENSUS.

1797	.	.	.	.	.	1244
1800	.	.	.	.	.	1248
1810	.	.	.	.	.	1248
1820	.	.	.	.	.	1348
1830	.	.	.	.	.	1799
1840	.	.	.	.	.	1953

SELECTMEN.

- 1797—Hezekiah Higgins, four years.
 Heman Linnel, one year.
 Dea. Judah Rogers, sixteen years.
- 1798—Jona. Hopkins, one year.
 Thomas Arey, one do.
- 1799—Dea. Richard Sparrow, thirteen years.
- 1801—Barnabas Twining, three do.
- 1804—Nathaniel Knowles, seven do.
- 1811—Gideon Snow, two do.
- 1812—John Myrick, eleven do.
- 1813—Stephen Snow, one year.
- 1814—Daniel Cummings, fourteen years.
 Jabez Sparrow, three do.
- 1817—Thomas Higgins, six do.
- 1818—John Kenrick, Esq., thirteen do.
- 1820—Asa Rogers, four do.
- 1824—Jona. Freeman, one year.
- 1827—Joseph L. Rogers, five years.
- 1828—Elisha Cole, seven do.
- 1829—Zoeth Taylor, one year.
 William Smith, one do.
- 1832—Sparrow Horton, two years.
- 1833—Matthew Kingman, two do.
- 1834—Joshua Doane, five do.
- 1835—Edward Barber, three do.
 Asa Hopkins, seven do.
- 1842—Joseph G. Sloan, two do.
- 1844—Josiah Freeman, one do.

TOWN-CLERKS AND TREASURERS.

- Benjamin Taylor, from 1797 to 1800.
 Timothy Bascom, from 1800 to 1814.
 Gideon Snow, from 1814 to 1834.
 Barnabas Snow, from 1834 to 1840.
 William Myrick, from 1840 to 1844.
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REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT.

- 1798 and '99—Simeon Kingman.
 1800 to 1807—Dea. Richard Sparrow.
 1808 and 1809—Jona. Bascom.
 1810—Richard Sparrow.
 1811—Simeon Kingman.
 1812 to '16—Jona. Bascom.
 1817 to '24—Daniel Cummings.
 1825 to '27—John Doane, Esq.
 1828—Daniel Cummings.
 1829—Daniel Cummings ; John Doane, Esq.
 1830—Daniel Cummings ; John Kenrick, Esq.
 1831—John Kenrick, Esq. ; Sparrow Horton.
 1833—Elisha Cole ; Thatcher Snow.
 1834—Elisha Cole ; Elisha Hopkins.
 1835—Ebenezer Rogers ; Elisha Cole.
 1836—Ebenezer Rogers ; Thomas Mayo.
 1837—Edward Barber ; Richard Sparrow.
 1838—Edward Barber ; Luther Snow.
 1839—Luther Snow ; Nathaniel Freeman.
 1840 and '41—Joshua Doane.
 1842 and '43—Seth Higgins.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN PROPRIETORS.

The following fact in the history of the town of Eastham did not come to the knowledge of the writer until it was too late to insert it in its proper place.

In the year 1743 the town made a division of all the remaining undivided upland and sedge lands, belonging to all the inhabitants in common, lying southerly from a line running from Slut's bush to Boat Meadow river, and then by vote granted them to one hundred and thirty-seven persons, i. e. all the male inhabitants, at that time, over twenty-one years of age, who became the legal proprietors of them. After many years these lands became valuable, in consequence of the grass which grew up where there was little or none at the time of the division. Deep channels became filled and covered with grass, which also sprung up on the edge of the meadow west of the beach. Of late years the town has contended that these new meadows were common property and should be under its control.

A committee was chosen to investigate the matter, and power given them to apply to Hon. Nymphas Marston for his opinion, who, after an examination of the case, stated that the town had no title to the premises, but that the town did in 1743 convey this property to the one hundred and thirty-seven proprietors, their heirs, assigns, &c.

ERRATA.

Page 3d, 6th line, instead of "one mile," read *three miles*.

Page 15th, last line, instead of "thy" read *your*.

Page 15th, 10th line from bottom, instead of "lives" read *life*.

Page 35, 7th line, instead of "teacher" read *trooper*.

Page 68, 24th line, instead of "Dorcas Doane" read *Dorcas Cook*.

Page 115, 9th line, instead of "Greenleaf" read *Greenough*.

Page 128, 4th from bottom, instead of "districts were" read *district was*.

Page 139, 5th from bottom, instead of "Burt" read *Burr*.

Page 141, 1st line, instead of "request" of the committee, read *report*.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE
CUSTOMS AND MANNER OF LIVING
IN THE DAYS OF OUR FOREFATHERS.

It may be interesting to the younger portion of the present generation, to know the simple manners, and modes of life, of those from whom they have descended, especially, as a great change has taken place in these respects, in the last half century; nor is it considered inapplicable to this work. Some parts of the following account are taken from the Rev. H. White's early History of New England, and by him, from the Old Colony Memorial, and other parts from the writer's own reminiscences, and traditionary information.

MANNER OF DRESS.

In general, men old or young had a decent coat, vest, and small clothes, and some kind of fur hat. Old men had a great coat, and a pair of boots; the boots were substantially made of good leather, and lasted for life; they were long and reached to the knee.

For every day they had a jacket reaching about half way down the thigh, striped vest, and the small clothes, like the jacket; made of home spun flannel cloth, full'd at the mill, but not sheared; flannel shirts, and knit woollen stockings, with leather shoes, and a silk handkerchief for holidays. In the summer they wore a pair of wide petticoat trowsers, reaching half way from the knee, to the ankle. Shoes and stockings were not worn in summer, when at work on the farm. Boys, as soon as they left their petticoats, were put into small clothes, summer or winter. These were made of home manufactured cloth for common, and everlasting, for meeting dress. The oldest son had a pair of the latter cloth, and when he had outgrown them, the next took them, and so down to the tenth son, if there were so many of the family.

This manner of dress continued till long trowsers were introduced which were called *tongs*, and did not differ much in shape from those now in use. They were made of tow cloth, linen and cotton, in the summer, and in the winter of flannel, and were soon worn by old men, as well as by young men and boys. Young men never wore great coats. I recollect, says a writer of those past times, a neigh-

bor of my father's, who had four sons between nineteen and thirty years of age ; the oldest got a pair of boots, the second a surtout, the third a watch, and the fourth a pair of silver shoe buckles. This made a neighborhood talk, and the family were supposed to be on the high road to insolvency.

The women, old and young, wore home made flannel gowns in the winter, and in the summer, wrappers, or shepherdress ; it was without a waist, and gathered round the neck.

They were usually contented with one calico gown ; but generally had a calimanco or camlet, and some had them made of poplin. The sleeves were short, and came only to the elbow ; on holidays, they wore one, two, or three ruffles on each arm, sometimes ten inches wide.

They wore long gloves, coming up to the elbow secured by what was called tightens, made of black horse hair ; round gowns had not come in fashion, so they wore aprons, made of checked linen, cotton, and for Snuday, white cotton, long lawn, or canbric. They seldom wore caps, only when they appeared in full dress ; they had two kinds ; one was called strap cap, which was tied under the chin, and the other, round cord cap, which did not come over the ears. They wore thick and thin leather and broadcloth shoes, with wooden heels covered with cloth or leather, an inch and a half high, with peaked toes which turned up. They generally had very small muffs, and some wore masks.

In those days the young women did not consider it a hardship, nor a disgrace, to walk five or six miles to meeting on the Sabbath, or on lecture days ; in the country towns, scarcely a chaise, or any other vehicle was used. The common conveyance was by horses fitted out with saddles and pillions. A man and woman rode together on the same horse, and sometimes a little boy rode before the man, and an infant in the lap of the woman : no inconsiderable journeys were made in this way.

Horses then were made to pace, that they might carry their riders more gently. It was not until a little before the revolutionary war, that they were learned to trot. A horse that would sell for forty dollars was considered as of the first quality, and one more than nine years old, was considered of little value.

In those days every body went to meeting on the Sabbath and lecture days, however distant they lived. Those who owned horses, did not consider them any more their own, than their neighbors, on that day. It was the custom in many, if not all country towns, for the owner, with his wife, to ride half way to a horse block made for that purpose, and there hitch his horse, and walk on, for his neighbor to ride who set out on foot, and so when they returned.

THEIR MANNER OF LIVING.

Their dinners in the winter season were generally the same. First they had a dish of broth, called porridge, with a few beans in it, and a little summer savory ; then an Indian pudding with sauce ; and then a dish of boiled pork and beef, with round turnips, and a few potatoes. Potatoes were then a scarce article ; three or four bushels were considered a large crop, and these not larger than a hen's egg. Their suppers and breakfast were generally the same ; those who had milk ate it with toasted bread ; if not, sweetened cider, with bread and cheese. Sabbath mornings, they generally had chocolate, or bohea tea ; the first sweetened with molasses, and the last with brown sugar, and with them, pancakes, dough-nuts, brown toast, or some sort of pie. They had no dinners till after meeting ; when they had a roast goose, or turkey, or spare rib, or a stew pie ; in the spring and summer, they generally ate bread and milk for supper and breakfast.

At that time, no family had a barrel of flour ; the farmers broke up a piece of new ground and planted with wheat, and turnips ; this wheat, by the help of the sieve, was their flour. A writer of years gone by, says "the chiefest corn they planted, was Indian grain, before they had ploughs ; and let no man make a jest at pumpkins, for with this food the Lord was pleased to feed his people, to their good content, till corn and cattle were increased."

Their corn before they had built mills to grind it, was pounded with a wooden or stone pestle in a mortar made of a large log hollowed out at one end. They cultivated barley, much of which was made into malt for beer, which they drank instead of ardent spirit. They raised flax, which they rotted in the water, and then manufactured it in their families into thread and cloth.

The first houses which they built were very coarse rude structures. They had steep roofs covered with thatch, or small bundles of sedge or straw, laid one over another. The fire places were made of rough stones, and the chimneys of boards, or short sticks, crossing each other, and plastered inside with clay. In a few years houses of a better construction began to appear. They were built with two stories in front, and sloped down to a low one in the rear ; the windows opened outward on hinges, and were small. The glass was small, and in the shape of a diamond, and set in sashes of lead.

The fire places were hugely large, and could receive a four foot log besides seating the family of children in the corners, where they could look up and count the stars. They were uniformly placed, so as to front to the south, on whatever side of the road they might be, and the object was that, when the sun shone on it, the house might serve as a sun-dial.

It is said to have been the custom of the first settlers to wear their beards so long, that in the winter, it would sometimes freeze together so that it was difficult to get their vessels to their mouths, from which they took their drink.

The common address of men and women was, Goodman and Goodwife ; none but those who sustained some office of dignity, or belonged to some respectable family were complimented with the title of *Master* or *Mistress* ; in writing they did not use the capital F, but two small ones as ff.

THE MANNER IN WHICH SOME OF THEIR PUBLIC OFFICERS WERE ELECTED.

By an order of the Massachusetts General Court, corn and beans, were required to be used in voting for counsellors ; the corn to manifest elections, the beans the contrary, on the choice or refusal of a candidate ; the law imposed a heavy penalty, if more than one corn or bean was used by one person.

The manner of living, and the mode of dress, was much more favourable to health than at the present time. Acute fevers were frequent, the principal of which were called the long or slow fever, which ran thirty-five, forty, and sometimes fifty days before it formed a crisis ; and the slow nervous fever, which ran generally longer than the former. Pulmonary complaints, or consumptions were much less frequent than now ; indeed a young person was rarely visited with this disease. The duty of the sexton of the church, was not only to ring the bell, and sweep the house, &c. but keep the hour-glass, and turn it at the commencement of the minister's sermon, who was expected to close at the end of the hour ; if he went on, or fell short of the time, it was a sufficient cause of complaint.

