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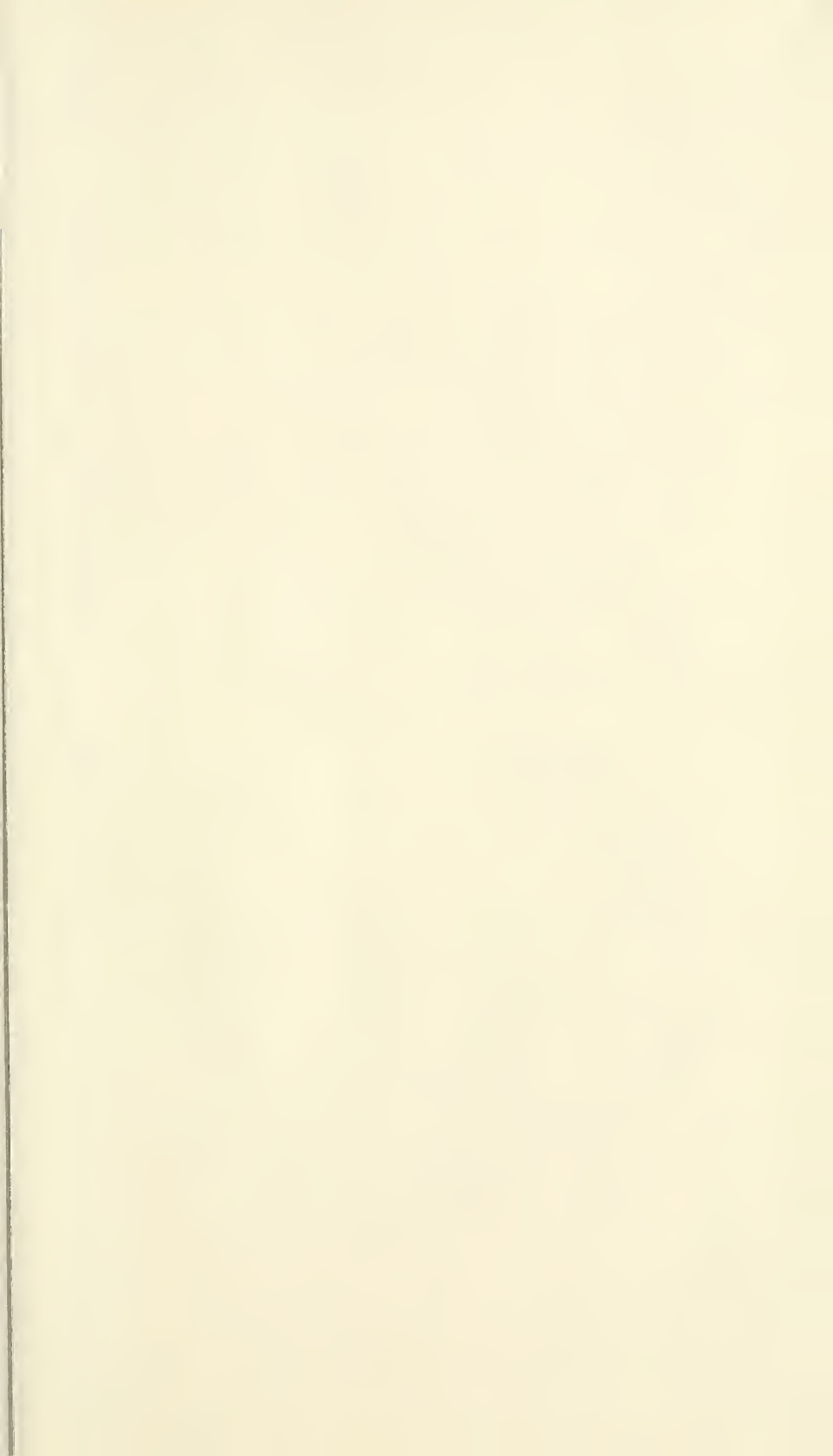
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**HISTORICAL ADDRESS**

Delivered By

**JAMES W. HAWES**

AUGUST 1, 1912

on the Occasion of the

**CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY**

of the

**INCORPORATION OF CHATHAM**

Confined Chiefly to the Period  
Before 1860.

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YARMOUTHPORT, MASS.:

C. W. SWIFT, PUBLISHER AND PRINTER,

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### EARLY PERIOD.

In May, 1602, the English bark "Concord," under command of Bartholomew Gosnold, rounded Monomoy Point and anchored in the bay, but the first Europeans to land here were a party of Frenchmen, including the famous explorer Samuel de Champlain, who spent about three weeks in Stage Harbor in October, 1606, on board their little craft of eighteen tons. They made considerable explorations, and their account with a map of the locality has come down to us. Their relations with the natives were at first friendly, but hostilities arose, which resulted in the death of four white men and no doubt of many Indians. On account of their misfortunes, the Frenchmen, by a contradiction in account of their misfortunes, the Frenchmen called the harbor Port Unfortunate.

The next important event is the visit on a trading expedition late in 1622 of Gov. Bradford of Plymouth with a party of Englishmen, who obtained here eight hogsheads of corn and beans. Gov. Bradford had with him as interpreter and guide the Indian Tisquantum or Squanto, who had entered the Plymouth settlement in March, 1621, and had been an almost indispensable aid to the Pilgrims in their relations with the natives, and in teaching them how to plant corn and where to fish. While here this faithful friend died and doubtless was buried.

This town was incorporated under the name of Chatham by an act of the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay passed June 11, 1712, in the reign of Queen Anne. It was named for Chatham in England, but just why that name was chosen rather than the name of some other English town is not known. It had been previously known by its Indian name, which the English generally wrote Mannamoiett, but pronounced Monomoit, and which still remains in Monomoy, the designation of the beach that stretches southerly from the town. Nearly fifty years before its incorporation, in 1664, in the reign of Charles II, it had been settled by William Nickerson, who came down from Yarmouth (having previously lived for a time in Boston), accompanied, or soon followed, by Robert, Samuel, John, William and Joseph, five of his six sons, and by his three daughters, Elizabeth, Anne and Sarah, with their husbands, Robert Eldred, Trustrum Hedges, and Nathaniel Covel. William Nickerson was a weaver of Norwich, England. He was born about 1604, and came to this country in 1637 with his wife Anne (daughter of Nicholas Busby) and four children, five children being born to him after his arrival. He was a religious man, a man of some educa-

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Especial credit must be given to William C. Smith, author of the "History of Chatham," without whose judicious investigations carried on through many years this account of Chatham could not have been written.

tion, of much natural intelligence, of force and energy, and of a will strong to the point of obstinacy. He did not easily submit to the control of the governing powers of the Colony. He was the ancestor of all the great tribe of Nickersons that draw their origin from the Cape, and there are not many descendants of the other ancient families of this vicinity that do not, through the marriages of his female descendants, carry his blood in their veins. He died in 1689 or 1690, aged at least 85 years. His wife, born about 1609, had probably died a year or two before. They were probably buried on the hill near their home, where some graves are still visible. Descendants of Robert Eldred dwell in this town today, though not all the Eldredges here are of his line. Trustrum Hedges, so far as we know, left no son. Nathaniel Covell left several sons. One of his sons, Nathaniel, and a grandson, James Covell, held prominent public office here, but the name has long been extinct in the town.

William Nickerson built his house west of, and near the head of Ryder's Cove. His son, Samuel Nickerson, and his son-in-law, Nathaniel Covell, located on the Eldredge Neck, between Crow's Pond and Ryder's Cove. John Nickerson built a house between the White Pond on the south and Emery's Pond on the north. Robert Eldred's house was near that now occupied by John K. Kendrick. Trustrum Hedges lived on the neck in West Chatham between the Oyster Pond river and Buck's Creek, then known as Ragged Neck, and later as Harding's Neck. William Nickerson, Jr., after 1689, built a house at Old Harbor, but moved about 1700 to the Stephen Smith neighborhood. Joseph Nickerson resided on Pleasant Bay west of Crow's Pond. Nicholas Eldred, son of Robert, before his death in 1702 lived south of the White Pond. Between this date and 1729, among the inhabitants of the town were William Nickerson, son of John, who lived in the vicinity of the present Davis residence; Joseph Eldredge, son of Robert, who lived on Stage Neck not far away; Jehosaphat Eldred from Yarmouth, west of Crow's Pond; John Ryder, on Ryder's Cove; John Taylor, near Taylor's Pond in South Chatham; Nathan Bassett, near the East Harwich meeting house; Richard Sears, in the Village; Daniel Sears, his brother, who soon after 1710 built the Sears house that stood until 1863 on the site above the Soldiers' Monument; Isaac Hawes, in the Samuel D. Clifford neighborhood; Thomas Howes, who owned land on both sides of the road, near where the late Joshua Howes resided, and who probably resided on the spot where William C. Smith now lives; Thomas Doane, who owned much land between the White Pond and Oyster Pond river and elsewhere in West Chatham. The oldest house now standing in the town is the one on the Stage Harbor road, formerly occupied by John Atwood. It was built by his grandfather, Joseph Atwood, probably before 1750. The region north and west of the old burying ground

became the chief center of the town and so remained till about 1830. The land a little west of the burying ground is high and commands a fine view, while from the Great Hill not far away a marine view seldom excelled may be obtained.

The early settlers of Chatham came chiefly from Yarmouth on the west and Eastham on the north. They were mostly grandchildren, but in some instances, children of the immigrant settlers of those towns. From Yarmouth, besides William Nickerson and his family, came the Bassett, Crowell, Hawes, Howes, Ryder, Sears, Taylor and other families. From Eastham came the Atkins, Atwood, Doane, Godfrey, Harding, Smith and other families. As early as 1656 William Nickerson had bargained for land here with Mattaquason, Sachem of Monomoit, but as he had done so without the consent of the Colonial authorities, he became involved in a long controversy with them, which was settled in 1672 by his paying 90 pounds to certain grantees of the colony, and obtaining from them and from Mattaquason and John Quason, his son, deeds that covered all the central portion of the town, and also Stage Neck, with certain rights of pasturage. In 1679 he bought from John Quason for 20 pounds the land west of that tract to the Harwich bounds. He had thus purchased not less than 4,000 acres, comprising all but the eastern portion of the town where now North Chatham and the village lie. To this he added certain meadow land bought of John Quason in 1682. His son William Nickerson purchased the North Chatham region in 1689, and Samuel Smith of Eastham bought in 1691 the tract east of the Mill Pond known as Tom's Neck. The land in the west and southwest part of the town was reserved as common land, to which the owners of other tracts had certain rights. These lands were divided in 1712.

The Indians in Monomoit were chiefly in the eastern portion, which had not been purchased by Nickerson. Champlain on his visit reported the number as 500 or 600, but in this estimate were probably included a good many from the neighborhood whom curiosity to see the white men had led here. The pestilence of 1616 seems to have reduced the population, for Gov. Bradford in 1622 says the Indians were few. They with others on the Cape were at first under the care of Mr. Richard Bourne of Mashpee, who reported 71 praying Indians here in 1614, and afterwards of the Rev. Samuel Treat of Eastham. In 1685 the number of praying Indians in Monomoit was reported by Gov. Hinckley as 115, and according to his estimate the Indian population would have been 400 or 500. Probably some of these lived outside the bounds of Chatham. In 1698 there were 14 Indian houses at Monomoit, and an Indian population of probably between 50 and 70. For the use of the Indians in the vicinity, a meeting house was early erected near the East Harwich Methodist Church within the present limits of Chatham. Within

100 years of the settlement of William Nickerson the Indian population had become extinct, the Provincial census of 1765 reporting no Indians in Chatham, although there were four in Eastham and 91 in Harwich. Indeed in 1759, guardians were appointed for the Indians of Harwich, Yarmouth and Eastham, but none for Chatham, indicating there were few, if any, there then.

In 1665 Monomoit was placed under the jurisdiction of Yarmouth, but this relation being found inconvenient because of the remoteness of Yarmouth and for other reasons, in 1668 the settlement was placed under the jurisdiction of Eastham, which then included Orleans and adjoining Monomoit. In 1679 the village was made a constablewick, with power to choose a constable and a grand juryman. In 1680 it was required to raise two pounds towards 160 pounds levied to meet the Colony expenses. In 1690 the assessed valuation of the county was 11,687 pounds. Monomoit's share was but 505 pounds, only Succonessett (later Falmouth) being assessed at a smaller sum. In 1691 the village was empowered to send a deputy to the General Court at Plymouth, and it thenceforth exercised the functions of a town, though not incorporated as such. The existing town records begin in 1693. In 1692 the Plymouth colony and the Colony of Massachusetts Bay were united in the province of Massachusetts Bay, which later became the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In 1674 William Nickerson began to sell tracts of his land to other settlers, and about 1690 individuals began to make purchases from the Indians of the lands not bought by Nickerson. Some of the early settlers soon left, but others took their places. At the time of the union of the colonies, Monomoit contained about 150 inhabitants. This number increased to 300 or more, when it was reduced to about 200 the year before incorporation by removals due to the lack of a settled minister, to high taxes, and to fear of impressment. The population of the entire province in 1712 was between 70,000 and 80,000.

The infant settlement bore its share in King Philip's war in 1675 and 1676, contributing not only in taxes, but also sending five men, William Nickerson, Jr., John, Joseph and Benjamin Downing, and John Nesfield, the last named being killed in battle. John Taylor of Yarmouth, who afterwards settled here, also served in that war. England for many years was engaged in wars with France, which involved the colonies of the two countries. These wars fall into three periods, 1690 to 1697, 1702 to 1713, and with an interval 1744 to 1763, when the French colonies were ceded to England. This town from its position was peculiarly exposed to attack from the ocean. It had to keep ready to repel any such attack, and was also obliged to furnish its quota of men for distant expeditions. In 1712 Governor Dudley, upon petition of the inhabitants, directed, because of their weakness and the danger of French

privateers, that without his special order, "no men of the foot company of the place be taken by impress for any service other than in their own village". The petition refers to their exposed position in these terms: "We are the most exposed to the invasion and spoil of the French privateers of any town on the Cape, we having a good harbor for a vessel of fifty tons to run into and to ride at anchor within musket shot of several of our houses fronting on Oyster Cove and near our Stage Neck." At later dates however, the press gangs were active, and from a petition for compensation presented to the General Court in 1760, it appears that the following, most of whom were Chatham men, were impressed July 10th and returned home December 24, 1759, having billeted themselves for three weeks of their service:

George Bearse,	Daniel Howes, Jr.,
Abner Eldredge,	Caleb Nickerson,
Jonathan Godfrey,	Henry Wilson.
Thomas Harding,	Archelaus Smith and
Jethro Higgins,	Henry Wilson.

They received 14 shillings each for billeting and 1 pound, 11 shillings and 8 pence for wages, except in the case of Abner Eldredge, who received 18 shillings and 10 pence for wages.

In early times all the male inhabitants of military age were organized as a militia, and exercised in arms. Those of each town formed a company, with a captain and in some cases an ensign or lieutenant. As early as 1681, the inhabitants of Monomoit were ordered to choose a fit man to exercise them and to provide them with fixed arms and ammunition. Each year there was a general training, and this practice was kept up till about 1830, the training ground being northwest of the old cemetery near the residence occupied for a time by John Topping and later by Samuel D. Clifford.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

Before the close of the French war, the Colonies began to be stirred by the action of England. In 1761 an act was passed by Parliament which permitted general search warrants authorizing the customs officers to enter stores and dwellings to look for merchandise which it was claimed had not paid duty. When the officers were resisted and applied to the courts for writs of assistance, James Otis, a native of Barnstable, appeared against the application and argued that such writs were illegal and unconstitutional. The people of Massachusetts were greatly aroused. In 1765 the Stamp Act still farther aggravated the feeling against the mother country. This act authorized the sending of troops to the Colonies, for which the Colonists were to find quarters and necessaries. Although this act was repealed in 1766, it was followed by another, the next year, which imposed other taxes equally in violation of the right of no taxation without representation maintained

by the Colonies. There followed, before the actual outbreak of hostilities, much controversy between the Colonists and the royal officers in the province.

In pursuance of the proceedings of a town meeting in Boston, held on the 12th and 13th of September, 1768, the selectmen of that town addressed a letter to the other towns advising the sending of delegates to a convention to meet in Boston on the 22d of that month. Upon receipt of this letter a town meeting was called in Chatham, which met September 26th and approved the call for a convention, but, owing to the low, declining circumstances of the town, "as being a very small and poor town which had of late been exposed to several distressing reductions," they declined to send a delegate. The selectmen, Joseph Doane, James Covell and John Hawes, were appointed a committee to draw up a communication to the convention in answer to the Boston letter. This committee on the 28th presented a report, in effect acquiescing in the views of the Boston meeting, which was unanimously adopted. The convention met in Boston September 22, 1768, and was in session six days. Its action was a protest against taxation by the British Parliament and against a standing army and other usurpations of British power.

In November, 1772, the citizens of Boston in town meeting, on motion of Samuel Adams, appointed a committee of correspondence, "to state the rights of the colonists, and of this province in particular, as men and Christians, and as subjects; and to communicate and publish the same to the several towns, and to the world, as the sense of this town, with the infringements and violations thereof that have been or from time to time may be made."

A letter having been received in Chatham from the Boston committee, a town meeting was held December 17, 1772, when a committee of nine, consisting of James Covell, Paul Sears, Seth Smith, John Hawes, Barnabas Eldredge, Samuel Collins, Joseph Atwood, Thomas Hamilton, and Richard Sears, was appointed to consider the grievances laid before them by the town of Boston and to report at an adjourned meeting. While by law legal voters had to have certain property qualifications, it was agreed that at this meeting all male inhabitants over 21 years of age should have a vote. On the 29th of December, the committee, styling itself the "committee of correspondence," reported the form of a letter to the selectmen of Boston, which, after careful consideration, was approved. The letter thanked the people of Boston for their action, agreed with their statement of rights and grievances, expressed the hope that such measures would be taken in a constitutional way as should redress the grievances already suffered and prevent those that were threatening, and indicated alarm at the governor's being made independent of provincial grants, and at the report that the



judges and other officers were to be made so independent, as having a direct tendency to compass their slavery. The Chatham committee felt themselves at loss what measures to advise, but expressed their confidence in the wisdom of the men of Boston, who inhabited the metropolis and had superior means of information. The letter expressed the great concern the people of the town had for their charter rights and privileges, looking upon their civil and religious privileges as the sweetest and essential part of their lives, and, if these were torn from them, considering the remainder as scarce worth preserving. Barry in his History of Massachusetts refers to this letter from Chatham, a small and exposed town, in a complimentary tone.

October 24, 1774, the town voted to send a committee of three, consisting of Joseph Doane, Nathan Bassett and Thomas Hamilton, to a County Congress; appointed Joseph Doane and Richard Sears a committee to receive contributions, and confirmed the Committee of Correspondence. The County Congress was held at Barnstable November 16th, and Captain Joseph Doane from this town took an active part.

The legislature having been called by Gov. Gage to meet at Salem on October 5, 1774, and the call having been countermanded by him, the members met on the 7th and resolved themselves into a Provincial Congress:

“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 interest of his majesty, and the peace, welfare and prosperity of the province.”

Chatham was represented in this Congress by Capt. Joseph Doane. It recommended, among other things, if I may use a modern term, a boycott on tea. A third congress met May 31st, 1775, and Chatham was again represented by Joseph Doane, then styled “Colonel”.

At a town meeting December 27, 1774, a considerable number of persons signed the association recommended by the Provincial Congress not to drink or use any tea after March 1st following.

On January 18, 1775, the military company was reorganized. Lieut. Benjamin Godfrey was made captain; Mr. Richard Sears lieutenant; Mr. Joseph Crowell ensign, and Mr. John Emery military clerk. The town clerk remarks that all this was very pleasing to the citizens. Capt. Godfrey commanded a company at the battle of Bunker Hill.

August 13, 1776, the town raised 32 pounds for bounty for soldiers who enlisted in the Northern Department, and 16 pounds, four shillings for powder bought for the town's use.

December 14, 1776, the selectmen reported that they had procured nine men to go to Rhode Island for three months, at a bounty of nine pounds and fourteen shillings each. May 19, 1777, additional bounty was

voted. The town also agreed to take care of the families of soldiers.

In January, 1776, under a call for troops, a regiment had been raised in Plymouth and Barnstable counties. Thomas Hamilton, of Chatham, was adjutant. About the same time the Cape was divided into two regiments, Chatham falling into the second, of which Joseph Doane became colonel. Another call for troops was made the same year, Chatham's quota being 26. In April, 1778, five men were called for from the town. In 1779 there was a further call and in December, 1780, a call for nine men. In the meantime there had been calls on the town for clothing and provisions for the army.

February 22, 1778, the selectmen and James Ryder, lieutenant of the militia company, reported that there had been raised in the town in 1777 ten men for three years and 20 men for eight months. Of these, Sergeant Hyatt Young and Benjamin Bassett served during the war. Joseph Young, son of Hyatt, was among the eight months' men. Hyatt Young had served in the previous French war. A monument to him and his son Joseph stands in the Universalist Cemetery. John Young, who served in 1776, and enlisted for three years in 1777, was reported drowned in 1778.

In September, 1778, Capt. Benjamin Godfrey's company and Capt. Nathan Bassett's company of Chatham men, on an alarm to Falmouth and New Bedford, served for a few days. Chatham men were also on short term service in Rhode Island and at the throwing up of intrenchments at Dorchester Heights in the spring of 1776, when Gen. Washington drove the British from Boston.

The Cape men were largely in service on the Coast Guard. Capt. Thomas Hamilton's company, which consisted mostly of Chatham men, served on the coast from July to December, 1775. Cape Cod men were largely drawn upon to man the numerous privateers that preyed upon the British commerce. Among others the sloop "Wolf," of which Capt. Nathaniel Freeman of Harwich (now Brewster) was commissioned master September 13, 1776, Joseph Doane of Chatham being lieutenant, had Chatham men in her crew. She had a brief career, being soon after sailing captured by a British 74 gun ship disguised as a merchantman. The crew were carried to Brooklyn, N. Y., and placed in the prison ships, but were exchanged at Newport, R. I., February 11, 1777.

No doubt many local incidents occurred during the Revolutionary war of which there is no record. One has been preserved. June 20, 1782, a British privateer sent some men into the harbor under cover of darkness and took possession of a brigantine. They hoisted the British flag on her and attempted to take her and a sloop out of the harbor under protection of the guns of the privateer. But the local military company, under Col. Benjamin Godfrey and Capt. Joseph Doane, assembled on

the shore and by a well-directed fire compelled the British to abandon the vessels, and they were recaptured.

#### WAR OF 1812.

The embargo laid at the end of 1807, which prohibited foreign commerce and placed restrictions on the coasting trade, was much felt here, and in 1809 a town meeting was held, which adopted a petition to Congress against it. In 1812 there was a majority against the war with Great Britain, and the town meeting expressed abhorrence of any alliance with France. During this war many of the young men, being driven from the sea, went to Rhode Island and other inland places, to work on farms. It is not likely that many men from the town took part in the war. Zenas Young, whom some of us remember, was on the Constitution, in 1815, in the fight when she captured the Cyane and the Levant. In one of his fights he received a pike wound in boarding. Levi Eldredge, a native of the town, but then resident in Maine, was wounded in the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814, and died of his wounds in Buffalo, N. Y. David Godfrey was an officer on the privateer Reindeer, of which Joseph Doane was lieutenant.

#### CIVIL WAR.

After the firing on Fort Sumter, public meetings were held in support of the Union, at which money was pledged and volunteers were obtained. The first official action of the town was taken in town meeting, July 22, 1862, when a bounty of \$200 was voted to each volunteer, and \$4 a month was pledged to each member of the families of enlisted men, but not to exceed \$18 a month to any one family. The Adjutant General of the Commonwealth reports that:

"The quota for Chatham during the Civil war was 232 men, under various calls. The town actually furnished 264 men. In addition to that, six men served in the navy from Chatham and twenty-two were assigned and credited thereto, making a total of 292. No doubt a number of Chatham men enlisted in other communities and perhaps other states."

Not all the men referred to were residents of the town. Among the residents were the following in Massachusetts volunteer infantry regiments:

18th regiment, 3 years, Company H:

Charles H. Lyman, enlisted Aug. 24, 1861; discharged for disability Jan 28, 1863.

26th regiment, 3 years, Company I:

Augustus H. Eldredge, who enlisted at New Orleans May 11, 1863, and died there September 3d following.

39th regiment, 3 years, August 1862 to 1865.

Rev. Edward B. French, Chaplain.

#### COMPANY A.

Alvah Ryder, corporal; discharged for disability November 26, 1862.  
Benjamin Batchelder, wagoner; transferred September 7, 1862, to the  
Veteran Reserve Corps.  
James Blauvelt, transferred July 9, 1863, to the Veteran Reserve Corps.  
Joseph N. Bloomer; discharged for disability March 2, 1863.  
Prince Eldridge, Jr., transferred to the navy April 21, 1864.  
Daniel W. Ellis.  
William A. Gould.  
Nathaniel Smith, discharged for disability June 12, 1863.  
Eric M. Snow, discharged for disability May 26, 1863.  
43d regiment of 9 months' men, from September 20, 1862, to July 30,  
1863.

#### COMPANY E.

Charles M. Upman, at first sergeant, and then 2d lieutenant; re-en-  
listed in the 58th regiment, becoming captain; killed at Cold Harbor  
June 3, 1864.  
William H. Harley, sergeant; re-enlisted in the 58th regiment, becom-  
ing captain; killed at Spotsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864.  
John W. Atwood, sergeant.  
Charles E. Atwood, corporal.  
Francis Brown.  
Benjamin S. Cahoon.  
John W. Crowell.  
Ephraim Eldredge.  
Cyrus Emery.  
Franklin D. Hammond, re-enlisted in the 58th regiment, becoming 2d  
lieutenant; killed before Petersburg, Va., June 23, 1864.  
James S. Hamilton.  
James T. Hamilton.  
Josiah J. Hamilton.  
David Harding.  
Samuel H. Howes, re-enlisted July 29, 1863, in Company B, 2d Heavy  
Artillery; 1st sergeant; discharged August 23, 1865.  
Charles Johnson, re-enlisted in Company A, 58th regiment.  
Horatio F. Lewis.  
Storrs L. Lyman.  
Andrew S. Mayo.  
Benjamin Rogers.  
Francis B. Rogers.  
Joshua N. Rogers.  
George A. Taylor.

58th regiment, 3 years, enlisted January, 1864; discharged July, 1865, on close of the war. Names already referred to not repeated.

#### COMPANY A.

Nathaniel B. Smith, 1st sergeant; killed at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864.

Francis Armstrong, sergeant; died same day of wounds received at Cold Harbor, June 10, 1864.

Pliny Freeman, sergeant.

George W. Hamilton, sergeant.

Samuel Hawes, Jr., sergeant; discharged for disability, June 19, 1865.

Aaron W. Snow, sergeant.

Benjamin F. Bassett,\* died at Washington on June 24, 1864, of wounds received June 3, 1864, presumably at Cold Harbor.

Charles B. Bearse.

John Bolton, killed at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864.

Joshua H. Chase, discharged for disability, January 27, 1865.

Zabina Dill, died in Andersonville (Ga.) prison, August 28, 1864.

Nathan Eldridge, killed at Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864.

Washington A. Eldridge.

Stephen Ellis.

Harrison F. Gould.

Josiah F. Hardy.

Samuel Harding.

Seth T. Howes, killed in battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864.

Henry W. Mallows.

Charles Mullett.

Edwin S. Nickerson, prisoner at close of war.

Benjamin F. Pease, discharged for disability, July 1, 1865.

Bridgeman T. Small.

Albert E. Snow, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.

Zenas M. Snow.

David G. Young, died in service at Fredericksburg, Va., May 12, 1864.

#### COMPANY H.

Francis S. Cahoon.

Our venerable fellow citizen, David H. Crowell, served in the navy as Acting Captain on the Tuscarora on special service from November 22, 1861, till his resignation, May 16, 1863.

#### POLITICAL.

The town like the state had supported the Whig party, but on the formation of the Republican party, its allegiance was transferred to the latter. Fremont in 1856 and Lincoln in 1860 had a majority in the town, and in 1861, after the commencement of the war, John A. Andrew, Republican, received the entire vote cast for governor.

In the Constitutional Convention of 1820 the town was represented by

\*In official report erroneously credited to Harwich.

Capt. Joseph Young and Capt. Salathiel Nickerson. As delegate to the constitutional convention of 1853, S. B. Phinney of Barnstable was chosen by a vote of 103 against 97 for Freeman Nickerson of Chatham. Why an out-of-town man was chosen does not appear, but it is worthy of note that Barnstable sent no delegate.

#### CHURCH.

The question of religious worship could not fail to be in the mind of the early settlers. They were not sufficiently numerous to support a minister. The nearest church was that of Eastham, its meeting house being within the present limits of Orleans. Later a church was organized in Harwich, the meeting house being within the present limits of Brewster. During his life William Nickerson gave religious instruction to the inhabitants. The first resident preacher was Jonathan Vickery, who came from Hull in 1697. He was not an ordained minister, but a lay preacher. His pay was probably about 20 pounds a year besides a supply of hay and wood. The first meeting house was built in 1700, though not then entirely finished, and the men of the village were to take turns in procuring timber and helping to frame the building, or pay in the next rate those who did the work. The building was a small one, plain and rough, without a steeple, and without means of heating. In the winter, foot-stoves and hot bricks were carried by the worshippers. There were no pews, but benches on each side of the center aisle faced the pulpit, those on one side being occupied by the men and those on the other side of the aisle by the women. The meeting house stood in the south section of the old cemetery. Mr. Vickery was drowned in 1702. Various persons preached for short periods until 1711. The longest service was that of the Rev. John Latimer, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1703, who was the first educated minister in the place. He remained from 1706 to 1708. In 1711 the Rev. Hugh Adams, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1697, was employed, and remained until he was dismissed in 1715. He had previously been settled for a time near Charleston, S. C. His salary was 52 pounds a year and a settlement of 100 pounds, payable in two years was given him. He was also given a farm south of and near the meeting house, and a house was built for him at the cost of 75 pounds. He soon, however, became involved in controversy with some of his hearers and particularly with Ebenezer Hawes, who came from Yarmouth about 1705 and remained until about 1720, when he returned to Yarmouth. Hawes was a leading man of the place during his residence. He kept the tavern and had perhaps been criticised by Adams. However that may be, he uttered some language respecting Mr. Adams, which the latter regarded as slanderous, and he accordingly brought suit for damages in the Common Pleas Court in 1715. The case was tried at Barnstable early in 1716, when the verdict

was against Adams. He appealed to the Superior Court of Judicature. The appeal was heard at Plymouth before the celebrated Judge Samuel Sewall, when Adams prevailed and obtained 10 shillings damages. The papers in this suit are on file with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston. Among them is a paper in behalf of Hawes, signed by 28 men of the town, whose names are the following:

Jonathan Godfrey.	William Eldredge, Jr.
Daniel Sears.	Morris Farris.
William Eldredge.	John Eldredge.
Isaac Hawes (brother of Ebenezer).	John Stuard.
Samuel Tucker.	John Collins.
John Taylor.	William Mitchel.
John Taylor, Jr.	Daniel Hamilton.
John Atkins.	Ebenezer Stuard.
John Smith.	John Ryder.
Thomas Howes.	Joseph Stuard.
Joseph Eldredge.	James Eldredge.
Robert Paddock.	Samuel Taylor.
Samuel Atkins.	Samuel Stuard.
Richard Sears.	David Smith.

Among them, as appears, are names still current in the town, and others that have disappeared from among us. The name of Morris Farris is perpetuated in Morris Island, on which he resided.

Up to this time there was no church organization in the town. There were but seven church members and these belonged to the Eastham Church, or, in one instance at least, to the Harwich Church. Before the emigration of 1711 there had been eleven church members.

In 1719, the Rev. Joseph Lord, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1691, was employed. He was a learned man, active in all the religious controversies of the time. His writings were numerous and many of them are preserved. The town agreed to give him a salary of 80 pounds a year and the use of a house and land. It also agreed that he should have a settlement of 100 pounds to be paid in four years. It is a coincidence that he, as well as Mr. Adams, had been settled for a time in South Carolina. Mr. Lord's location was Dorchester, not very far from Charleston. He came in 1720, established the first church organization and served the town till his death in 1748. He was buried in the south section of the old burying ground. In 1729 a new meeting house was built, which, with additions, served the purposes of the congregation for about a century. It faced the south nearly opposite the road that leads from the old burying ground to West Chatham, and after the additions consisted of a central portion and two wings. At its back was the north section of the old burying ground. It had no steeple and at first no pews, except one for the minister's wife.

Ten years later, in 1739, an order was made in town meeting for space to be laid out for a certain number of pews, and that they should be sold for an aggregate of 100 pounds. In 1742, they were sold to the following persons:

Thomas Doane.	John Nickerson.
John Collins.	Joshua Atkins.
Ensign William Nickerson.	William Nickerson, 4th.
John Covell.	Maziah Harding, and

Jonathan Godfrey.

In 1748, after the death of Mr. Lord, the Rev. Stephen Emery, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1730, was employed. The town voted him an annual salary of 480 pounds old tenor, reckoning silver at 52 shillings per ounce, or 400 pounds with wood. He was also to receive a settlement of 800 pounds to be paid in two years. Mr. Emery served the town until his death in 1782. His descendants are in the town to this day. He was buried in the north section of the old burying ground, where an inscription to his memory may still be seen.

In 1773, it was voted "to repair the meeting house and enlarge it, the men's and women's seats to front the pulpit after enlarging, and to take up some hindermost seats and substitute pews." In 1774 the sum of 40 pounds was raised for that purpose.

The Rev. Mr. Thomas Roby, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1779, succeeded Mr. Emery in 1783, and preached until his resignation in 1795. The Rev. Ephraim Briggs, also a graduate of Harvard College, Class of 1791, followed in 1796, and served until his death in 1816. His salary was fixed at 85 pounds a year besides wood and hay and the use of the parsonage. He also had a settlement of 230 pounds. In 1812 the town voted to repair the meeting house and increase the number of pews.

The next incumbent (and the last one while the church remained a town affair) and the last who preached in the old building, was the Rev. Stetson Raymond, a graduate of Brown University in the Class of 1814. He served from 1817 to 1829, when he was dismissed. His salary was \$650 per year, with the use of the parsonage. The Society at a meeting May 27, 1830, voted to build a new meeting house. The old structure was sold and in 1831 was taken down. The new one was built in the lot now occupied by the Congregational cemetery and stood on rising ground some distance back of the main road. The parsonage was built west of the church in a lot fenced off from the cemetery. It was destroyed by fire with the church records in 1861. The new church was removed to its present site in 1866.

During the early history of the town the inhabitants were nearly all adherents of the Congregational church. The church was a town af-



fair, and it was supported by taxes raised in town meeting. Very early, however, there were some Quakers in the town who objected to being taxed for the support of the church, and in 1732 Paul Crowell was sent to Barnstable to see if Quakers were free of ministerial taxes, with what result does not appear. Somewhat later a sect arose called "Separatists," which had an organization in Harwich under the leadership of Joshua Nickerson and some adherents in Chatham. This sect, for the most part, became merged in the Baptists. The question of taxing these people was raised in town meeting in 1755, and the vote was that they should not be excused from church taxes. It was, however, soon decided that persons belonging to other church organizations and contributing to their support, should not be compelled to pay ministerial taxes. In 1758 there was recorded in the town book a certificate that Nathaniel Bassett was a Baptist. Beginning a little before 1800 and continuing for some years after, the town records contain many certificates that various persons had become members of the Methodist, Baptist or Universalist societies and contributed to their support. At first the Methodists and Baptists belonged to societies in Harwich, but later Chatham societies were formed. The Methodist society was formed in 1816, the Universalist in 1822, and the Baptist in 1824. A Methodist church and parsonage were built near the Methodist cemetery about 1812 and the present ones about 1850. In 1823 a Universalist church was erected near the cemetery of that denomination. In 1850 a second one was built on the site of the Academy. This was burned in 1875 and in 1879 the present one was erected. A Baptist church was built in 1827 near the Baptist cemetery, which was later removed to the Old Harbor road. When the Baptist society ceased to exist the church was sold to the Masonic Lodge.

In 1820 the town raised \$680 to pay Mr. Raymond's salary for the year. In the report of the town meeting held August 9, 1824, is the following entry:

"The town voted not to raise \$500 for Mr. Stetson Raymond.

Then the hearers of Mr. Raymond voted to raise \$500 for his support this year."

This ended the connection of the town as such with the Congregational church.

About 1850 a religious movement was started in Chatham, similar to the Separatist movement of a century before, which to some extent affected the adjoining towns. Its central idea was that the churches had become too formal and worldly and had drifted away from the simplicity of the gospel. The followers of this movement did not believe in a specially set-apart ministry, laid down no creed, and emphasized the relations of the individual with the deity. Their worship consisted of exhortation, singing and prayer, in which all the members,

including the women, were encouraged to join. Because most of the members had come out from the churches, they were commonly called "Comeouters." Seth Nickerson was the best-known leader. With Elisha Eldridge, David Harding, Doane Kendrick and others, he headed a division which (for a number of years) like the Quakers, practiced avoidance of colors and extreme simplicity in dress, house-furnishings, etc. Another division, more liberal in dress and outward forms, of which Whitman Bassett, Jabez Crowell (of East Harwich) and James Hawes were leading members, worshipped for a number of years in a small meeting house in West Chatham, erected on the south side of the main road, a little east of the point where the road to East Harwich branches off. Not long after 1860, with the death of the principal members, the movement died out in Chatham.

#### TOWN HOUSE.

Town meetings were held in the old meeting house until it was taken down, the last meeting there being held in November, 1831. In February, 1832, the meeting was held in the Methodist meeting house. After that they were held successively in the Baptist and Universalist meeting houses until 1838. November 11, 1838, they met in Academy Hall. In January, 1851, the town meeting was held in the "New Academy Hall," by which must have been meant Granville Seminary. February 3, 1851, the people voted to build a town house by the following November. It was erected on the site of the old Methodist church near the Methodist cemetery. The first town meeting held in it met November 10, 1851. In 1877 the present town hall was erected.

#### EDUCATION.

The early settlers were not uninterested in the education of their children, especially the boys, but their circumstances forbade the establishment of schools. Parents gave instruction to their children, and, no doubt, in the case of illiterate parents, neighbors capable of doing so took their children with their own. It is remarkable that the children and grandchildren of the immigrants received as much education as they did. As soon as it was able to do so, the town took measures for the more systematic instruction of its youth. It is quite likely that before 1720 a schoolmistress had been employed, which was not in accordance with the Provincial requirement, for in 1722 an agent was appointed to petition the General Court "to consider the low estate of the town and exempt it from fine for keeping only a school-dame."

In 1721, however, Samuel Stewart had been appointed schoolmaster, and for his services received ten pounds. For several years thereafter Daniel Legg was schoolmaster. In 1723 the year was divided into six parts, school to be held at houses in various sections of the town, the master boarding around. Various teachers at different times followed

Mr. Legg. In 1768 the town was divided into four sections; Capt. Joseph Doane and Seth Smith to get a teacher for the N. E. section; George Godfrey and Joseph Atwood for the S. E.; John Hawes and Samuel Taylor for the S. W., and Paul Crowell and Barnabas Eldredge for the N. W. section. Schoolhouses were not built till after 1790. In 1800 the town was divided into five districts, with a schoolhouse in each. Later there were 13 districts and schoolhouses. Under the district system, the districts had agents chosen in district meetings. Toward the expenses, the town contributed a certain sum, and the rest was raised by district tax proportioned among the heads of families according to the number of children in each attending school. The schools were wholly ungraded, and in the winter term were attended by pupils of various ages from the child learning the alphabet to the young man of 20, home from sea, struggling with Bowditch's Navigator. There were also private navigation schools kept by individuals for young men aspiring to command on the sea.

In 1820 there were seven district schools and the town raised \$40 for each district. In 1824 the sum of \$400 was raised for schools, and in 1851, \$1400.

After a long struggle by a few enlightened citizens, the town adopted a graded system and erected the high school in 1858, the opening of which inaugurated a new era in the educational history of the town. The question of a grammar school, that is, a school where Latin should be taught, was quite early raised, the Provincial law requiring towns of 100 families to employ a master capable of teaching "the tongues."

In 1776 the town voted not to hire a grammar school teacher for the present. In 1779 an agent was appointed "to get a schoolmaster of the Gramer Tongue to keep a school in our town." But it does not appear that one was employed. Private enterprise about 1830 provided an academy with a building on the high ground near the residence of the late Seth Taylor. Joseph W. Cross, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1828, was the first teacher. He became a minister and died in 1906 at the age of 98, then the oldest living graduate of Harvard. It was his son, Joseph W. Cross, Jr., of whom some of us have a grateful recollection as the first principal of the high school. This academy failed for want of patronage and the building was removed about 1850. After it closed and about 1850, Joshua G. Nickerson opened an institution on the Old Harbor road, called the "Granville Seminary," which did not long continue its educational work.

Prior to 1860, books were few except bibles and religious works. In 1875 The Free Pilgrim Library was established in South Chatham, which now has between 900 and 1000 volumes. A library association was formed in the village in 1887, which in 1889 presented its 640 volumes to

the town. The public need was not adequately met, however, until the founding of the Eldridge Library by the Hon. Marcellus Eldridge, which was opened in 1896.

It should be remarked that the early backwardness of the town in higher education and the comparatively small number of college graduates it has had are to be explained by the seafaring habits of the people, which kept its young men from home and from surroundings that would naturally lead their thoughts towards letters and study.

Joseph Lord, son of the Rev. Joseph Lord, graduated at Harvard College in 1726, after his father settled in Chatham.

The first native of the town to receive a college education, so far as I can learn, was Samuel Emery, son of the Rev. Stephen Emery, born 1751. He graduated at Harvard in 1774 and received the degree of A. M. from Yale College in 1781. He married Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Appleton of Boston, and died in 1838. I know of no other native of the town who went to college until after the lapse of about ninety years. In 1865 another descendant of the Rev. Stephen Emery, John A. Emery, son of John, graduated at Amherst College. He was not a pupil of the High school, but was a student in the Bridgewater State Normal School in 1854. He settled as a lawyer at Pittsburgh, Pa., and practised his profession with credit to himself and his native town until his death in 1900. Nathaniel B. Smith in 1861 went from the High School to Amherst College. He was not able to continue his studies, entered mercantile life in Boston, but soon enlisted in the war and fell lamented in 1864 in the battle of Cold Harbor. Galen B. Danforth is referred to below. Besides those mentioned elsewhere, Joshua G. Nickerson in 1845 and Freeman Nickerson in 1846 were students of the Bridgewater Normal School. They were teachers for a number of years.

#### PHYSICIANS.

In the earliest years of the town there was no resident physician. In sickness the people depended upon the matrons of the village with their herb gardens. Later the minister generally had some knowledge of medicine and dentistry. The first physician of the town was Dr. Samuel Lord. After him the nearest physician was Dr. Joseph Seabury of Orleans (then Eastham), who died in 1800. His son, Dr. John Seabury, settled in this town about 1815 and practised here for fifteen years, when he moved away. He resided in the large house just west of the parsonage. His nephew, Dr. Benjamin F. Seabury, who practised in Orleans from 1837 to 1890, was much resorted to by Chatham patients, as was also Dr. Samuel H. Gould, who practised in Brewster from 1844 to 1882. Dr. Greenleaf J. Pratt, who practised in Harwich from about 1815 till 1858, and Dr. Franklin Dodge, who practised there from 1838 till 1872, also had many Chatham patients. Dr. Daniel P. Clifford

settled in Chatham about 1810, married Betsey Emery, granddaughter of Rev Stephen Emery, and practised his profession until his death in 1863. He lived on the north road a little east of the East Harwich meeting house. Dr Elijah W. Carpenter graduated at the Harvard Medical School in 1837 and immediately came here. He married Mary H., daughter of Joshua Nickerson, and successfully practised here till a few years before his death in 1881. His eldest daughter married Edward F. Knowlton, a wealthy straw goods manufacturer who resided in Brooklyn, N. Y. Their daughter Mary married Count Johannes von Francken Sierstorpf, of Germany. They entertained the German Emperor on Thanksgiving Day, 1911, at their Castle Zyrowa, Silesia. So a descendant of the Norwich weaver who founded this town was hostess of a monarch, in some respects the most powerful of the present time. She had evidently not forgotten her origin, for she set before him the traditional New England dishes of the day. Dr. Nathaniel B. Danforth came soon after 1840, married here in 1845, Elouisa S. Martin, and died in 1864. He continued to practise until his death. His son, Galen B. Danforth, was a pupil of the High School under Mr. Cross, and went from there to Amherst College, where he graduated in 1867. He then studied medicine in Germany and Edinburgh, and went as a medical missionary to Tripoli, Syria, where he died in 1875 at the early age of 28 years. Dr. N. P. Brownell was another physician settled here before 1860. The second native of the town to become a physician was Erastus Emery, son of John Emery. He was a pupil of the High School, a graduate of the Harvard Medical School in 1869, practised in Truro and died at an early age in 1878. The first dentist in town was the late Dr. Joseph Atwood. He was followed by Dr Sylvanus H. Taylor.

#### LAWYERS.

There were no resident members of the bar here until very recent years. The drawing of deeds and wills and the probate business were done by laymen. Joseph Doane, Squire Sears and Deacon John Hawes were among those in earlier years. During my boyhood and later, Warren Rogers was the most active in this way. The early ministers were frequently called in for this service; the Rev. Joseph Lord drew many legal papers in his time. Simeon M. Small, a native of this town, became a member of the bar and practised law in Yarmouth before 1860, when he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he practised until his death in 1875. Before he left the Cape he had been Judge of the Court of Insolvency.

#### CHATHAM MEN IN OTHER PLACES.\*

Some Chatham men who have had honorable careers in other places  
[\*It has been my purpose not to mention living persons in any part of this address except in a few instances that will be regarded as justifiable.]

may be named. David Sears, born in 1752, was the son of Daniel Sears. After his father's death his mother in 1763 married Samuel Ballard of Boston and took David with her there. He became a merchant and died in 1816 the richest man in Boston. He is the ancestor of the wealthy and prominent Sears family in Boston. His son David about 1848 erected the Sears monument standing in the old burying ground here. Mention may be made here of David's elder brother, Richard, who continued to reside in this town and was long known as Squire Sears. He resided and kept a store in the old Sears House, was Justice of the Peace and the town's representative in the General Court for many years. In 1804 he was a member of the State Senate. He died in 1839 at the age of 90. His wife, a native of Framingham, died in 1852 at the age of 94.

Alpheus Hardy was born in 1815, the son of Isaac Hardy. He studied for a time at Phillips Andover Academy, but ill health compelled him to desist. Before his majority he entered business for himself in Boston and became one of the most prominent men in the shipping and importing business. He was president of a Boston Bank and of a Michigan Railroad Company. Upon the death of Joshua Sears, a native of Yarmouth, Mr. Hardy became the managing trustee of his estate, then the largest in Boston, and guardian of his son, Joshua Montgomery Sears. He was a member of the State Senate in 1861, and a strong supporter of the Union during the war. His business cares did not prevent him from being a leader in religious and charitable work. He was for many years a trustee of Amherst College and of the Andover Theological Seminary. He was a bountiful giver. He died in 1887. His brother, Isaac Hardy, in copartnership with George Ryder (a former sea captain), son of Stephen Ryder of this town, was long a prominent ship chandler in Boston.

The successful career of Heman and Joshua Eldridge, former sea captains, in Portsmouth, N. H., is well known.

David Godfrey, father of George Godfrey so well known in this town, after having been a sea captain and officer on a privateer in the war of 1812, promoted a line of packets between Boston and New York, and settled in the latter city about 1830, continuing in successful business until his death in 1845. Mulford Howes, who had also been a sea captain and who spent his declining years in his native town, was associated with him. Later Isaac B. Atwood was an active business man in New York, and James A. Stetson represented the town well in New York and Gloucester in the fish business.

John W. Atwood, son of John Atwood, was born in this town in 1822 and in 1846 was a student in the Bridgewater Normal School. He was a member of the state senate in 1857 and 1859. In 1858 he was a member of the House of Representatives. He served for nine

months as sergeant in the 43rd Mass. Volunteers in 1862 and 1863. Afterwards he engaged in the coal business in Jersey City, N. J., but later became the successful and valued principal of one of the public schools there, continuing until ill health compelled him to retire. He died in 1883 and is buried in the Congregational Cemetery in this town.

Benjamin F. Hawes, son of Thomas Hawes, at the time of his early death had established a large business in New York in the manufacture and sale of hats.

Simeon Ryder, a son of Stephen and brother of the Stephen Ryder who lived and kept a mill on the North road west of the old burying ground, was at first a sea captain. He afterwards engaged in successful business in New York and later in Alton, Ill., where he died in 1877, aged 82. He projected the Terre Haute and Alton Railroad, was the leader in its construction and became its first president.

Benjamin Godfrey, a native of this town, was also first a sea captain. He afterwards engaged in business in Matamoros, Mexico, and in New Orleans, where he amassed a considerable fortune. From New Orleans he went to Alton, Ill., where he established the wholesale house of Godfrey & Gilman. He projected and built the Alton and Sangamon Railroad, of which he was the president. He built and presented a church to the society with which he worshipped, and he founded the Monticello Female Seminary at Godfrey, a town named for him adjoining Alton. When on November 7, 1837, Elijah T. Lovejoy, the early abolitionist and brother of Owen Lovejoy, was killed by a mob who had attacked the establishment where he printed his paper, the "Observer," it was in the storehouse of Godfrey & Gilman that Lovejoy's press was placed for safe-keeping. Mr. Godfrey died in 1862.

Samuel M. Nickerson carried the Chatham energy and business judgment to Chicago, where he was for twenty years president of the First National Bank.

David Smith, a former sea captain, son of Stephen, established the business of ice manufacture in Honolulu, and in Washington, D. C.

If the record of Chatham men who have moved away could be traced, the influence that they and their descendants have had on widely distant communities would be found to be much greater than is imagined. To illustrate this, I will give two instances that have come within my knowledge. Isaac Hawes went from this town before the Revolution and finally settled in Kent, in western Connecticut. Two of his grandsons, Rev. Josiah Hawes and Rev. Prince Hawes, were graduates of Williams College, in 1800 and 1805 respectively, and were influential preachers. A third grandson, Lowman Hawes, graduated at Yale College in 1814, and became a prominent lawyer in Maysville, Ky. Two sons of Levi Eldredge, already spoken of as a soldier in the war of 1812, Rev. In-

crease and Rev. Levi Eldredge, were ministers of the Christian denomination and preached in several states for many years.

#### CALAMITIES.

The town has not been free from tragic events. In the fall of 1765 an epidemic of smallpox broke out in this town, and between November 23, 1765, and May, 1766, thirty-seven persons died, and twenty-four had the disease and recovered, so that over sixty per cent. of those attacked died. The cases numbered nine per cent. of the population. Among the deaths was that of Dr. Samuel Lord, already referred to as the first physician settled in the town. He fell a martyr to his professional duty, as so many physicians had before and have since. This disease, which modern science has robbed of its terrors, was rendered so fatal by lack of medical assistance and the ignorance of its proper treatment then prevalent in the profession. In addition to this visitation, many of the inhabitants during the same period were visited with a grievous fever, whereof divers adult persons died and several families lay sick a long time.

In November, 1772, Captain Joseph Doane found back of the Cape, a schooner having aboard dead, Captain Thomas Nickerson, Elisha Newcomb and William Kent, Jr. The decks were bloody and the chests open and plundered. One man was found aboard alive. He stated that the day before they had been attacked by a pirate, the men killed and a boy carried off. The survivor had concealed himself. Search was made for the pirate ship, but none was found. The survivor was tried in the Admiralty Court at Boston and after two trials acquitted. The mystery has never been solved.

In 1786 occurred one of the many tragedies of the sea that have brought sorrow to the town. A schooner belonging to New Haven bound for the Banks, was lost with her crew of Chatham men. A chest and some other articles belonging to her were found and brought home by fishermen. The event has been transmitted to us through some verses written about the time by Isaiah Young. The men lost were Captain Sylvanus Nickerson, Mr. Nathaniel Young, Mr. Christopher Taylor, Seth Eldridge, Adam Wing, Joseph Buck, Nehemiah Nickerson, Stephen Eldridge, Barzillai Nickerson and Seth Dunbar.

#### EMIGRATION.

All through the history of the town there have, of course, been removals of individual citizens to other localities, and since 1860 they have been particularly numerous, but there have been four movements that may properly be termed "emigrations." The first one occurred in 1711, when thirteen men with their families went to Duck Creek in Delaware, and eleven men with their families went to other towns. The second emigration was to a region known as the "Oblong," which was a strip of land in eastern New York, along the Connecticut border,



now mostly included in Putnam County, N. Y. This took place about 1740. A third emigration, about 1760, took place to Nova Scotia, and a fourth, about 1800, to a region now in the State of Maine, known as the "Kennebec Country." These emigrations were shared in by other town, the population has been as follows:

#### POPULATION.

According to the various censuses that have been taken of the the population has been as follows:

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1765	678	1860	2,710
1776	929	1865	2,624
1790	1,140	1870	2,411
1800	1,351	1875	2,274
1810	1,334	1880	2,250
1820	1,630	1885	2,028
1830	2,130	1890	1,954
1840	2,334	1895	1,809
1850	2,439	1900	1,749
1855	2,560	1905	1,634
		1910	1,564

In 1765 there were 105 houses and 127 families; in 1801 the number of dwellings was 158, of which four only were of two stories. Two of these four were probably those on the North road west of the old burying ground, the easternmost of which was the parsonage and the other a little later the dwelling of Dr. John Seabury. The other two were perhaps that of Josiah Ryder north of the main road in West Chatham, later owned by David Nye Nickerson, and that of Richard Sears, Jr., on the site of the Eldredge Library, occupied in his lifetime by Dr. Carpenter. Capt. Joseph Atwood, father of Dr. Atwood, built the similar house now standing, in 1812. The three last mentioned were the most expensive houses in the town at that time and much admired.

The population increased steadily from 1765 to 1860, except between 1800 and 1810 when there was a slight falling off, and, since 1860, it has steadily decreased, being in 1910 less than it was in 1820.

This decrease in the population has been due in part to causes that have produced here the falling off in maritime enterprises, and in part to those general causes that have produced, throughout the western world in the last fifty years, a general tendency of population from the rural districts to the cities. But, while the population of the town has decreased, its wealth has increased. The valuation returned by the assessors in 1850 was \$513,000; in 1860, \$957,430; and in 1912, \$1,335,560. It is undoubtedly true that not only the necessities and comforts of life are as well ministered to as ever, but that all those things that tend toward intellectual development, toward the broadening of the in-

dividual and the raising him above the level of a mere animal existence, were never so generally distributed.

More than a hundred years ago the merits of the Cape as a health resort were known. It has, however, only been in comparatively recent years that increasing numbers of summer guests have visited Chatham and found health and pleasure in its salt air and cool breezes and in its wonderful facilities for boating and fishing. The benefits have not all been on one side. The town has profited in its turn and much of its present prosperity is due to these welcome visitors.

#### EARLY CONDITIONS.

The first occupation of the inhabitants was agriculture. They raised good crops of corn and rye, and also produced some wheat, flax and tobacco. Hay from the salt marshes was abundant. A petition to the General Court drawn by the Rev. Hugh Adams, in 1711, states of the place, that it is fertile for all sorts of provisions and for good wheat especially, it being generally the best land of any town on the whole cape, and "it has the most pleasant situation and incomparable conveniency for most sorts of fishery." The cattle ran at large on the common lands; cattle marks were recorded in the town records. Sheep raising was an important industry, the wool being required for home use. Not long after 1860 the flocks had disappeared. Perhaps the last ones were kept by Samuel Hawes, grandfather of Sergeant Hawes, and by Rufus Smith and Samuel D. Clifford. Subsistence was not hard to obtain. The waters were full of fish. The shores abounded in clams, quahaugs and oysters. Scallops were not esteemed. Lobsters were abundant. Deer and other game roamed the woods, and birds and sea fowl were plentiful. Beachplums, wild grapes and cranberries and other berries abounded. The question of the right of non-residents to take clams, which has agitated the people in modern times, was early presented. In 1768 the town voted against allowing strangers to take clams and again in 1771 measures were taken against non-residents, on the ground that the destruction of the bivalve was threatened. The chief use then was as bait when salted. Upon the settlement of the town the region was covered with pine forests, not without some oak, and in the swamps there was a considerable supply of cedar. The forests, no doubt, supplied the timber for the first houses, and considerable tar was made in the early years. These uses, the demand for fuel and the clearings for agriculture and residence rapidly depleted the forests. In 1802, not over 65 acres of woodland were left, near the Harwich border. About 50 or 60 years ago the planting of trees was commenced and much old land has been restored to forest. One effect of cutting off the wood was the blowing away of the light soil in places by the high winds from the sea. The southerly and easterly slopes of the Great Hill suffered especially. In

1821 the sum of \$200 was raised by the town in an attempt to stop the sand from blowing off this hill, and a committee headed by Capt. Joseph Young was appointed to oversee the work. Beach grass was transplanted to the locality to hold the sand, and when this was rooted, pines were planted. A few years before 1800 a beginning was made of the digging of peat from the swamps and its preparation for fuel. In the years before 1860 a considerable business was done, mostly in West Chatham, in the preparation and sale of this article. But about this time coal became more common, and cranberry culture invaded the town and took possession of the swamps.

#### FISHERIES.

Whaling was carried on during the early history of the town. The whales used then to come in near the shore, whale-boats were kept, and a lookout employed to give the alarm. As early as 1690 William Nickerson, son of the founder, was appointed inspector of whales. In 1775, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the whale-boats were ordered to be concealed. In the earliest years dead whales not unfrequently came ashore. Cod and mackerel fishing and the mercantile marine became the chief industries of the town. In 1711 a sloop belonging to the village was chased by the French. As early as 1720 Chatham captains were engaged in foreign voyages. The town records show that in 1723 Samuel Stewart, the schoolmaster, was at sea, probably on a fishing voyage. By 1740 seafaring had become the prevalent occupation of the men of the town. In 1774, Chatham had 27 vessels of about 30 tons each engaged in the cod fishery, employing 240 men, and having an average annual catch of 12,000 quintals. The Revolutionary War nearly destroyed the business, and in 1783 there were only four or five vessels afloat. In 1802 about 25 vessels belonging to the town were so employed. A writer in 1791 speaks of 40 vessels, but this number must have included those from other towns which cured their fish here. In 1837, 22 vessels of the town were employed in the cod and mackerel fishery, the catch being 15,500 quintals of cod worth \$46,500, and 1200 barrels of mackerel worth \$9,600. In 1865 the catch of cod was 25,361 quintals, being the largest catch of any town on the Cape except Provincetown. The last mentioned figure no doubt included the shore fishery. The business of curing or "making" the fish, as the term was, was important in the closing years of the 18th and the first half of the 19th century. Numerous flakes lined the shores of the bays. In 1840, 240 barrels of mackerel were inspected in the town; in 1854, 3,000; in 1864, 6,746; and in 1874, 10,765. In the later years the catch was largely in the weirs that had been established near Monomoy Point and in Chatham Bay.

No complete list of the fishing captains can be given. Among those whose service was about 1850 or earlier were:

Nathan Buck,	David Harding,
Hezekiah Doane,	Samuel Ryder,
Kimball Eldridge,	Elijah Smith and
	James Taylor.

The following were later in service:

David T. Bassett,	David W. Hammond,
Henry Bassett,	Elisha Hammond,
Whitman Bassett,	Isaac L. Hammond,
Alonzo Bearse,	Zebedee Hammond,
John Burchell,	Nathaniel T. Hawes,
John G. Doane,	Thomas Hawes,
Amos K. Eldridge,	Stephen H. Howes,
Barzillai B. Eldridge,	John Ireland,
Cyrenus Eldridge,	Doane Kendrick,
Elisha Eldridge,	Reuben C. Kenny,
Oren Eldridge,	Isaiah Long,
Samuel W. Eldridge,	Hira Nickerson,
Stephen T. Eldridge,	Mulford Rogers and
Benjamin F. Freeman,	Charles E. Smalley.

#### COMMERCIAL MARINE.

Chatham men, as has been stated, had been employed in commercial voyages before 1800, but after the war of 1812 the mercantile marine of the country increased rapidly until 1860, and among the captains who carried our flag into every port from Archangel on the northern ocean to Sydney on the southern sea, Chatham men were conspicuous. They were especially employed in the lines that ran between Boston, Charleston and Savannah and in the trade between Boston and Mediterranean ports. The vessels were largely owned here and sailed by the captains on shares, although some were employed on wages. Co-operation was in vogue. A young man who felt himself competent to command a vessel would arrange for a vessel to be built for him. He would take a share, his friends at home would subscribe for part in 16ths, 32nds or 64ths, and the remainder would be taken by the East Boston shipbuilder. In connection with this business two local insurance companies were in existence before 1860.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, this great interest rapidly declined. The Alabama and other Confederate cruisers captured many Chatham vessels or drove them to come under the British flag, and the increase of the use of steam over sail, carrying with it, as it did in many cases, the transfer of the home port from Boston to New York, aided the decline. When sailing vessels were employed and the home port was Boston, opportunity was afforded for considerable visits at not too

long intervals by the crews to their families here. Vessels on their way between Boston and the south would often anchor in Chatham Bay ("under the Neck" it was termed) and the crews would thus have an opportunity of visiting their homes. But steam craft gave too short shore leave for that purpose, especially if the home port were more remote than Boston. The result was the removal of families from the town to the vicinity of Boston or New York. During the period of marine activity small vessels were run from the town to New York, New London and New Bedford.

The captains in the merchant service were numerous. It would be impossible to give a full list. Among the earlier ones were:

Joshua Atkins,	Collins Kendrick,
Joseph Atwood,	Nathaniel Kendrick,
James Crowell,	Paul Mayo,
Samuel Davis,	Alexander Nickerson,
Thomas Dodge,	Joshua Nickerson,
Abner Eldridge,	Moses Nickerson,
Zephaniah Eldridge,	Seth Nickerson,
Joseph Emery,	Zenas Nickerson,
Samuel Emery,	Elisha Ryder,
Edmund Flinn,	George Ryder,
John Flinn,	Joseph Ryder,
William Flinn,	Josiah Ryder,
James Harding,	Richard Ryder,
Prince Harding,	Seth Ryder,
Seth Harding,	Richard Sears, Jr.,
Sparrow Harding,	Reuben C. Smith,
James Hawes,	Christopher Taylor,
Samuel Hawes,	John Taylor,
William Howes,	Joshua Taylor,
	Seth Taylor.

Among those whose service was chiefly between 1850 and 1870 were:

Joshua Atkins, Jr.,	George W. Howes,
Ira Buck,	Solomon Howes,
Luther Buck,	Gershom Jones,
Benjamin Clifford,	Elijah Loveland,
William Clifford,	Winslow Loveland,
Elijah Crosby,	David E. Mayo,
Isaac Crosby,	Hezekiah Mayo,
David H. Crowell,	Lorenzo Mayo,
John Crowell,	Alexander Nickerson, Jr.,
A. Judson Doane,	David N. Nickerson,
Samuel H. Doane,	George Nickerson,
Alfred Eldridge,	Kingsbury Nickerson,

Gideon Eldridge,  
Henry Eldridge,  
Luther Eldridge,  
David Gould,  
Charles Hamilton,  
David Hamilton,  
Sylvester Hamilton,  
Archelaus Harding,  
David J. Harding,  
Elisha Harding,  
Hiram Harding, Sr. and Jr.,  
Joseph Harding,  
Joshua Harding,  
Nathan A. Harding,  
Oren Harding,  
Josiah Hardy,  
Reuben C. Hawes,  
Alfred Howes,  
Daniel H. Howes,  
Franklin Howes,

Solomon Nickerson,  
Starks W. Nickerson,  
Zenas Nickerson, Jr.,  
John Paine,  
Christopher Smith,  
Ephraim Smith,  
Levi D. Smith,  
Reuben C. Smith, Jr.,  
Richard Smith,  
Thomas Sparrow,  
Hiram Taylor,  
James Taylor,  
John Taylor, Jr.,  
Joshua Taylor, Jr.,  
Levi Taylor,  
Moses Taylor,  
Reuben C. Taylor,  
Richard Taylor,  
Simeon Taylor,  
Charles White.

To these should be added Charles Rockwell, who became an admiral in the Navy.

#### MANUFACTURING.

Prior to 1860 and particularly early in the 19th century, shipbuilding was carried on to some extent, small vessels being turned out of the works. In 1845 six vessels were built and in 1855 fifteen. The business of making salt by the evaporation of sea water was early established here. Extensive shallow vats were built along the shores of the bays, equipped with movable roofs so that they could be covered on the approach of rain. The water was pumped into them by windmills. The last works that were operated were those of Jesse Nickerson on the neck where the hotel Chatham stood. These were closed about 1886. In 1802 there were six salt works in the town; in 1837, 80, producing annually 27,400 bushels, worth \$8,220; in 1845, 54, producing 18,000 bushels; and in 1855, 14, producing 3,300 bushels. The industry ceased to pay and began to decline when duties on salt were lowered, when the State bounty was removed, when salt springs in New York and elsewhere in the country came to be developed, and when the price of pine lumber necessary in the construction of the works rose to a high level. General manufacturing was never carried on here to any extent. About 1800, however, there was a rope walk in the northern part of the town and a tannery at the Old Harbor, which was closed about 1830. About 1840 there was a carding machine in the neighborhood of the late Reuben Young. Windmills until comparatively recent years

were used for the grinding of grain. About 1800 there were six of these in the town. Between 1850 and 1860 there were nine, two in South Chatham, one kept by Eben Bearse and one by Seth Bearse, one on the North road west of the old burying ground, at one time owned by Joshua Crowell and later kept by Stephen Ryder, one in West Chatham kept by Ezekiel Young, one near the Oyster Pond, one on the Stage Harbor road kept by Christopher Taylor and later by Oliver Eldredge and Zenas Nickerson (the last one operated in the town), one near the Lights, one at the Old Harbor and one at Chathamport.

#### STORES.

Among the early stores, mostly for the sale of general merchandise, were those of Ezra Crowell, known as "Squire Crow," John Topping and Isaiah Nye, near the old meeting house; Zoeth Nickerson, on the North road east of the East Harwich meeting house; Christopher Ryder and Enos Kent in Chathamport; Thacher Ryder, Zenas Atkins and Captain Benjamin F. Freeman in North Chatham; Stephen G. Davis, who about 1830 established himself in West Chatham on the Oyster Pond river near where it turns to the south; Daniel Howes, who succeeded Davis and afterwards moved the store to the main road; Nabby C. Taylor, widow of Reuben C. Taylor, also in West Chatham; Levi and Hiram T. Eldridge in South Chatham. In the village the first stores were probably those of Elisha Hopkins on Stage Neck and Richard Sears near the Soldiers' Monument. Others that followed were those of Josiah Hardy at his wharf near the Lights, Charlotte W. Hallett and her son, Solomon E. Hallett, Ziba Nickerson, Sullivan Rogers (tin, sheet iron and other hardware), Edward Howard (tailor), Samuel M. Atwood (market), Washington Taylor; Levi Atwood (long town clerk, clerk of the Congregational Church and familiar with the history of the town), south of the head of the Oyster Pond, and in the same locality the lumber yard of John Emery; while north of the head of the Oyster Pond was the crowded store of David Howes, where everything seemed ill-arranged and in disorder, but from which no customer ever went away empty-handed, no matter how out of date or unusual the article he desired. Some of the earlier stores sold liquor and in that respect served the purpose of taverns. In the vicinity of the old meeting house, the Widow Knowles long kept a tavern, which was resorted to at times of general training and on other public occasions.

#### HABITS.

In the early history of the town there was much that differed from present conditions. Reaping was done with the sickle. The clothing and the coverings for the beds were of wool or flax and chiefly made at home. The large and small spinning wheel, the hatchel, cards and the loom were a necessary part of the

household furniture. The beds were filled with straw or feathers. The women made their own soap, and the tallow candles, which, with whale oil, supplied the light, were of domestic manufacture. There were no friction matches. The tinder, flint and steel sufficed to kindle the fire. There were no clocks at first. Hour glasses were used, as well as sundials. The houses were built fronting the south so that the shadow of the chimney would indicate noon. There were no stoves. The houses had large chimneys with enormous fireplaces where the family in winter nights could sit on either side of the fire of green wood which burned between huge fore and back logs. The crane and pot hooks, the spit, the andirons and bellows were necessary apparatus. If the back of the dweller when facing the fire was cold he could warm it by turning it to the blaze. A feature of each house was the brick oven built into the chimney, heated by building a fire in it. In it, when the fire was drawn, the pies and cakes the puddings and pots of beans, and the loaves of brown bread were placed on Saturdays, to be cooked by the slowly diminishing heat, which lasted through the night. The earlier inhabitants did not seek the main roads as sites for their houses. They preferably built near ponds where good water was at hand or on the shores of the bays convenient for fishing. Markets did not exist. Fresh meat was obtainable in the fall when a hog or a beef animal was killed for winter use. At other times a fowl, a calf or a sheep of the domestic stock might be used, or the "beef cart" patronized, which once or twice a week came to the door. While efforts were earlier made to check the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, the idea of total abstinence did not take root until about 1830 or later. Before that a supply of Medford rum was a necessary part of the winter's stock and on days of general training or other public occasions liquors were supplied on the spot or at the tavern. Sunday was strictly observed. Churchgoing was obligatory and could be enforced by law. The Puritan Sabbath resembled that of the Jews from whom it was borrowed. It began at sunset Saturday night and ended at sunset Sunday night. A bride was expected to carry to her new home an outfit for housekeeping largely made with her own hands. The men wore knee-breeches, and their hair was braided in queues. The tailoring was done by women. The boots and shoes were made by the cobbler of the neighborhood. The chairs were of domestic manufacture, bottomed with flags. The travel, when not on foot, was on horseback, the man in front on the saddle and the woman behind on the pillion. Sometimes oxcarts were used. Carriages for pleasure or comfort were late in coming. At first they were two-wheeled chaises. I have been told by my elders that the first chaise in town (probably about 1800), and long the only one, was owned by Squire Sears. In the early years there was little money. Taxes were collected in kind and transactions were carried on



by exchange. Some English silver was in circulation and Spanish silver also appeared. The first bills of credit of the province, which appeared before 1700, became soon depreciated, and were known as the "old tenor." Other issues, known as "middle" and "new tenor," followed. In 1749 the value of the old tenor was fixed by law at a little over one-eighth of its face value in silver, and the middle and new tenor at about one-half. During the Revolution the Continental paper was also rapidly depreciated, until in 1780 it was worth only one-thirtieth of its face in silver, and it ultimately became worthless. Prices became very high, and they attempted to regulate them by law, as has so often been attempted before and since, and no doubt with a like result. The town voted August 16, 1779, to appoint a committee to fix prices and wages. This committee reported on the 6th of September. The meeting approved the schedule presented and voted that anyone violating it should be deemed an enemy of the country and treated as such.

There were few safe means of investment, and those who had money hoarded it. Luxuries were not entirely wanting. Some families had silver spoons and other articles brought from Boston or abroad, and gold beads for the ladies were not wholly absent. A writer in 1802 says: "The inhabitants are very industrious. The women are engaged in the domestic employments and manufactures usual in other parts of Massachusetts, and a number of them in curing fish at the flake yards." If we substitute "cranberry bogs" for "flake yards," this description would not be far astray today.

The conditions of the ancient life had their beneficial effects. Not only the spirit of self help was called out, but mutual helpfulness was a necessity and must have softened the harder side of humanity which the stern struggle for a somewhat isolated existence would tend to foster. The care of the sick appealed to all, and while there were no trained nurses, the neighborhood produced men and women experienced in watching and caring for the sick according to the light of the times. House raisings, sheep shearings and huskings brought the people together in social meetings with amusement and jollity, as the church services did in a more serious mood. The poor were always present. At first when help at home did not suffice they were farmed out to those citizens who would take them for the least sum per week or year, having the benefit of their services. Later the town bought for an almshouse and poor farm the house and farm of James Taylor in West Chatham that had belonged to his father, Samuel Taylor. This house and its successor built by the town were managed by keepers and the town's poor cared for there until 1878, when the house and farm were sold and a new almshouse established next to the Baptist Church.

### POSTOFFICE.

In early times letters could be transmitted only by private messenger or by the casual traveler. The first postoffice in the town was opened January 1, 1798, with James Hedge as postmaster. He served until 1801, when he was succeeded by Ezra Crowell, who held the place until 1819, when he was succeeded by Theophilus Crowell, who served till 1821. He was succeeded by Josiah Mayo June 8, 1822, who held the place until 1861, being also from 1847 to 1873 town clerk and treasurer. In 1861 Ziba Nickerson succeeded Mayo and was postmaster for 20 years. Until after the appointment of Mr. Mayo the postoffice was located in the northern part of the town near the old burying ground, which, as we have stated, had been the chief center of the town, but, after 1820, the locality now known as the "village" began to forge ahead and later became the most populous part of the town. A demand for the removal of the postoffice sprang up. At a town meeting held March 6, 1826, the question was raised whether the postoffice should be moved to another part of the town or steps should be taken to have an additional postoffice. Both propositions were negatived. But in 1828 a postoffice was established at North Chatham, with Isaiah Nye as the first postmaster, and at this time the old postoffice had no doubt been removed down town. The West Chatham postoffice was established in 1856 with Daniel Howes as first postmaster. The Chathamport and South Chatham postoffices were both established in 1862 with Enos Kent and Levi Eldridge, Jr., as the incumbents respectively. At first the mail was received weekly, by 1815 twice a week and after 1820 three times a week. In 1827, the late Samuel D. Clifford, then a boy of 14, carried the mail on horseback, starting from and returning to Yarmouth the same day. Daily mails were established in 1848. The telegraph reached the town in 1855, and the office was placed in charge of our venerable fellow citizen Ziba Nickerson. The telephone first appeared in 1883. News was not obtained so promptly as now. In the years preceding 1860 Boston semi-weeklies were taken chiefly for their shipping news and often one paper served for two or more families. Local news was chiefly obtained through the Barnstable Patriot, established in 1830, and the Yarmouth Register, established in 1836. The Chatham Monitor first appeared in 1871.

### RAILROADS AND OTHER PUBLIC MEANS OF TRAVEL.

Communication with Boston was at first a matter of considerable time and discomfort. The journey could be made on horseback, or advantage could be taken of the casual vessels that made the voyage from Chatham to that port. The fishing vessels in the fall frequently took the dried fish there for sale and returned with provisions and goods to supply the winter needs of the inhabitants. About 1830 packets were run from Brewster and Chatham to Boston. Some of us

can remember the Chatham packets at the wharf of Josiah Hardy near the Lights and the ball and flag on the former doctor's house on the north road that indicated the sailing and arrival of the Brewster packet. Much use of this was made by the Chatham people to avoid the trip around the Cape. The railroad was completed to Sandwich in 1848. It was extended to Yarmouth and Hyannis in 1854. Lines of stages were then run from Chatham to Yarmouth and at one time there was a line also to Hyannis. In 1865 Harwich was reached by the railroad and from that time on a short carriage ride was required until the Chatham railroad was opened in 1887.

#### LIGHTHOUSES AND LIFESAVING STATIONS.

The inhabitants of Chatham were early called upon to give relief to seamen wrecked upon its shores. In 1711 it is stated the village "has often heretofore been a place of relief to many shipwrecked vessels and Englishmen cast ashore in storms." No public action was taken looking to the succor of men cast ashore until the Humane Society with headquarters in Boston placed houses of refuge along the coast. In 1802 one of these huts was located half way between Nauset and Chatham harbors. "The meeting house of Chatham is situated from it southwest. This meeting house is also without a steeple and is concealed by the Great Hill, a noted landmark. The hill appears with two summits which are a quarter of a mile apart." There was another hut a mile north of the mouth of Chatham harbor, east of the meeting house and opposite the town. Still another was on Monomoy beach.

The Chatham Lights, on James Head, were established in October 1808, and after one of them was washed away, they were rebuilt 255 feet west of the original position, in 1877. Monomoy light station was established in 1823, and the house was moved 212 feet southerly in 1849. The Stage Harbor (or Harding's beach) light station was established in 1880. Lifesaving stations were first established on this coast in 1872, when the Monomoy station, rebuilt in 1905, was constructed. The Chatham station was established in 1873 and reconstructed in 1893. Monomoy Point station was built in 1874 and rebuilt in 1900. The Old Harbor station was established in 1898.

#### EARLY NOTICES.

It may be interesting to know what was written about us a century ago.

A writer, in 1791, says:

"Southeast from Harwich is Chatham, situated in the outer elbow of the Cape, having the sea on the east and on the south; Harwich on the west and Eastham on the north. The land is level and cleared of wood, and in many places commands a fine view of the sea. The soil in general is thin, the average produce of Indian corn being 12 bushels, and of

rye 6 bushels, to the acre. There is not a stream of running water in the town. Their mills are turned by wind, as on other parts of the Cape. No town is more conveniently located with respect to water conveyance, having two harbors and many coves and inlets making up into every part of the town. They are well situated for carrying on the cod fishery, and employ about forty vessels in that business; some of them fish upon the banks of Newfoundland and others upon the shoals. As the harbors of this town are in the elbow or turn of the Cape, they afford a shelter for vessels of a moderate size, when passing and re-passing. But the harbors being barred, renders the ingress somewhat difficult to those who are not well acquainted with them. The depth of water is sufficient for vessels of two or three hundred tons burthen. Besides the fishery carried on in vessels at sea, they have plenty of cod at the mouths of their harbors, which are taken in small boats. They take plenty of bass in the season for them. Their coves abound with eels; they have plenty of oysters and other shell fish for their own consumption." "The scarcity of wood obliges the inhabitants to use it with great frugality, five cords of wood being a year's stock for a small family. Pine wood is two dollars and an half, and oak three dollars and an half per cord."

The same writer, speaking of Cape Cod, says:

"The winds in every direction come from the sea, and invalids by visiting the Cape sometimes experience the same benefit as from going to sea."

Another writer, in 1802, says:

"But husbandry is pursued with little spirit, the people in general passing the flower of their lives at sea, which they do not quit till they are fifty years of age, leaving at home but the old men and small boys to cultivate the ground." "A few of the young and middle aged men are engaged in mercantile voyages and sail from Boston, but the great body of them are fishermen. Twenty-five schooners, from 25 to 70 tons, are employed in the cod fishery. They are partly owned in Boston and other places, but principally in Chatham. About one-half of them fish on the banks of Newfoundland; the rest on Nantucket shoals, the shores of Nova Scotia and in the straits of Belle Isle. On board these schooners are about 200 men and boys, most of them are inhabitants of Chatham; and they catch one year with another 700 or 800 quintals to a vessel. Besides these fishing vessels, there are belonging to the town five coasters, which sail to Carolina and the West Indies." "Few towns in the county are so well provided with harbors as Chatham. The first and most important is on the eastern side of the town and is called Old Harbor. It is formed by a narrow beach, which completely guards it against the ocean. The haven on the western side of this beach is extensive; but the harbor of Chatham is supposed to reach

not farther than Strong Island, a distance of about four miles. Above that the water, which is within the limits of Harwich and Orleans, is known by other names. The breadth of the harbor is about three-quarters of a mile. Its entrance, a quarter of a mile wide, is formed by the point of the beach and James' Head east of it on the main land. - - - There are no rocks either within or near the harbor; but its mouth is obstructed by bars, which extend east and southeast of the point of the beach three-quarters of a mile. On each side of this mouth is a breaker; one called the north, and the other, the south breaker. There are also several bars in the harbor within the outer bars. These bars are continually shifting." "At low water there are seven feet on the outer bar, common tides rising about six feet. - - - There is good holding ground in the harbor. - - - The depth at low water is about 20 feet. Not only do the bars alter, but the mouth of the harbor also is perpetually varying. At present it is gradually moving southward by the addition of sand to the point of the beach. The beach has thus extended about a mile within the course of the past forty years." "The principal business of the town is done near Old Harbor." "The greatest part of the fuel which is consumed is brought from the district of Maine; and costs at present about seven dollars a cord. Five cords of wood are considered as a sufficient yearly stock for a family." "Not more than half enough Indian corn for the consumption of the inhabitants is raised; the average produce to an acre is twelve bushels. Rye, the average produce of which is six bushels, is raised in the same proportion. Thirty years ago a small quantity of wheat was grown, but at present it is wholly neglected." "There are excellent oysters in the Oyster Pond; but they are scarce and dear, selling for a dollar a bushel."

Stage Harbor is also described by this writer.

In 1839 a writer states that forty years before large ships used to come into the harbor, but then it was so injured by a sand bar that had been forming that only small craft could enter. The same writer says that while Chatham is in extent one of the smallest towns on the Cape it was said to be one of the wealthiest. A large amount of shipping was owned by the inhabitants in other places.

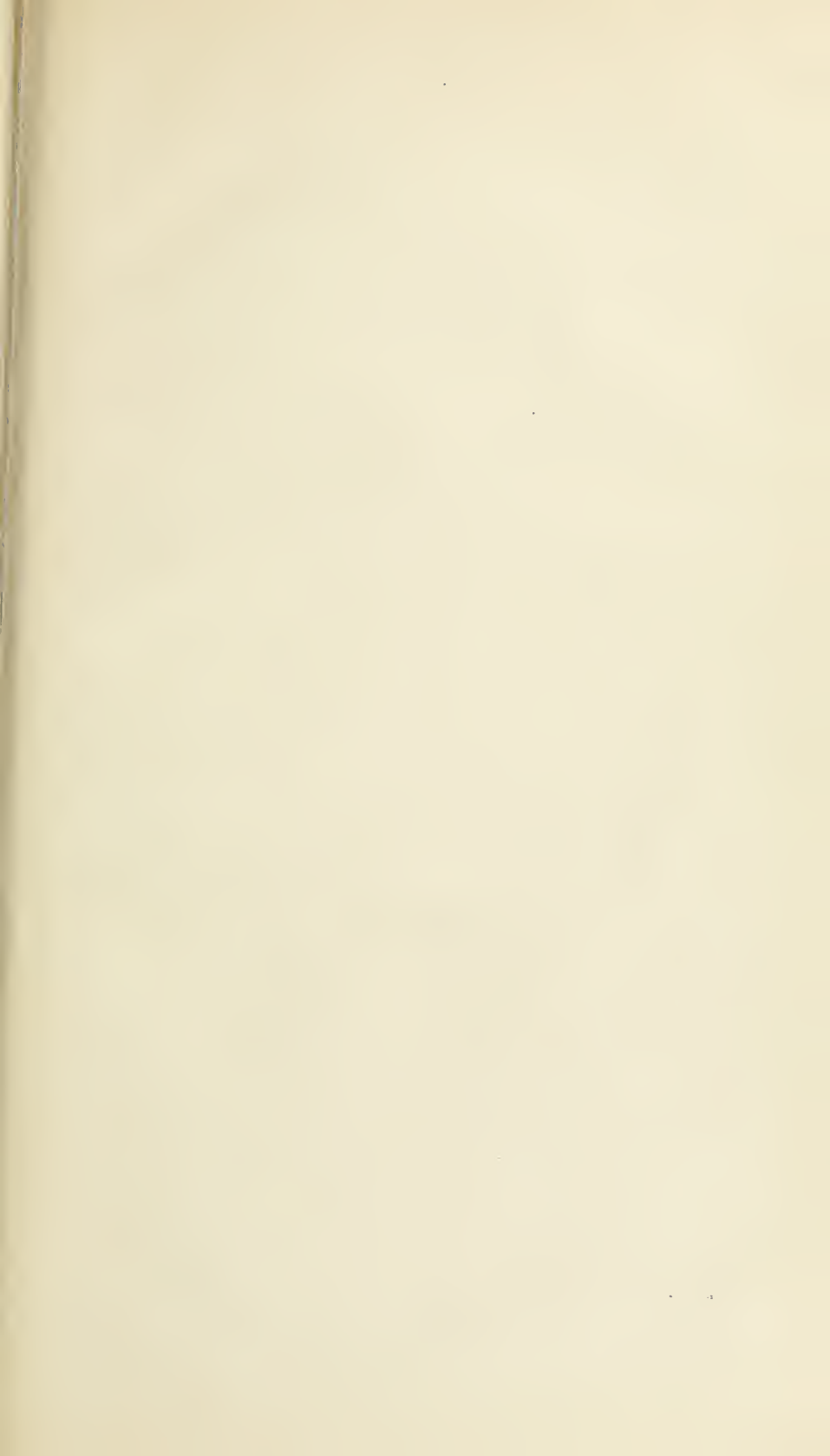
In 1846 it is said:

"The Harbor of Chatham which was formerly a good one is now nearly destroyed by the shifting of the sand bars near its mouth. Where the entrance to it formerly was there is a beach 25 feet high, covered with beach grass, and a mile in length." "There is considerable wealth in this place. A large amount of tonnage is owned here which sail from other places. The value of fish cured at Chatham is very considerable, and large quantities of salt are made."

How different is the world of today from the world of 1712? What changes have taken place? France was under the rule of the Bourbons. The French Revolution and Napoleon were nearly a century in the future. Italy, now united and progressive, was under the heel of foreign princes or consisted of fragmentary and hostile communities. Germany, now a mighty, consolidated empire, was a loose confederacy of small principalities under the leadership of Austria. St. Petersburg had just been founded, and Peter the Great was still at his task of converting Russia from Asiatic backwardness and isolation into a modern European power. On this side of the ocean a feeble fringe of English colonies stretched along the coast from the Savannah River to Maine. Georgia was not yet settled. North of Maine all was French. West of the Alleghanies the territory was claimed by the French. From Texas to the Isthmus of Panama and over substantially the entire continent of South America the Spaniards held sway, except in Brazil, which had been colonized by Portugal. Through the entire field of industry the means were essentially those of the ancient world. All the great changes that have been wrought by steam and electricity, guided by inventive genius, were yet to come. Through these two centuries, through all these mighty developments, this little community has moved steadily on its way, not driven from its moorings, nor on the other hand producing events that will find their place in general history, but the scene of the honest lives of brave, industrious and energetic men and women. Without such as these the republic would not exist.

In closing this address, I must not fail to say a word for those who like myself have long lived away from the old home. Those who have remained here can scarcely understand our feelings as we visit this scene of our childhood and youth. There rush upon us the memories of former days. The companions with whom we played live again, though too many have gone before. The little schoolhouse is peopled again. Here are the graves where rest the bones of our ancestors, and here the old house calls up the tender and hallowed memories of father and mother, of brother and sister. Can we ever forget? How can I better answer than by quoting the lines of Burns in his lament upon the death of his benefactor, Lord Glencairn?—

“The bridegroom may forget the bride  
Was made his wedded wife yestreen;  
The monarch may forget the crown  
That on his head an hour has been;  
The mother may forget the child  
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee;  
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,  
And a' thou hast done for me!”









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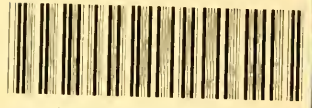


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