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AN

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF EAST PROVIDENCE,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE TOWN AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS OF  
EAST PROVIDENCE,

JULY 4TH, 1876,

BY

GEORGE N. BLISS.

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PROVIDENCE:

John F. Greene, Printer, 13 Market Square.

1876.

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J. G.





# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

## TOWN OF EAST PROVIDENCE.

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The territory now known as East Providence, has since its first settlement by white men, submitted to the government of two States and three towns. It was originally a part of the old town of Rehoboth, in the State of Massachusetts, which at one time included within its limits the present towns of Rehoboth, Seekonk, Attleborough, and a part of Swansea, in Massachusetts; East Providence, Cumberland, and a part of the towns of Pawtucket and Barrington, in Rhode Island.

Leonard Bliss, jr., in his "History of Rehoboth," published in 1836, says "The first purchase of land for the settlement of the town was made of Massasoit in 1641, and was according to the measurement of those times, "a tract eight miles square,"\* and embraced what now constitutes the towns of Rehoboth, Seekonk and Pawtucket. The second purchase was the tract called by the Indians, (and after them by the English) Wannamoiset, and forms a part of Swansea and Barrington. The third and last pur-

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\*This tract of land measures ten miles square.

chase was the 'North Purchase,' forming now Attleborough, Mass., and Cumberland, R. I. The last was formerly called 'Attleborough Gore.' In 1667, Wannamoiset was included in the town of Swansey, which was then incorporated, including, besides the present town, Somerset, Mass., Barrington, and the greater part of Warren, R. I. The 'North Purchase,' was incorporated into a separate town by the name of Attleborough in 1694; and this was subdivided in 1746, the 'Gore' becoming Cumberland. The rest of the ancient town continued together till 1812, when Seekonk became a separate township assuming its original Indian name\*; and in 1828, Pawtucket† followed the example and was separated from Seekonk."

The Rev. William Blackstone was the first white settler of Rehoboth. He was also the first white inhabitant of the peninsula of Shawmut, where Boston now stands. He sold his lands at Boston in 1634, and in the spring of 1635, a year before the arrival of Roger Williams, built a house on the banks of the Blackstone river, about three miles above Pawtucket, in Cumberland, R. I. Upon leaving his Boston friends, he said "I came from England because I did not like the Lord-Bishops, but I cannot join with you, because I would not be under the Lord-Brethren "

About the middle of April, 1636, after a bitter winter voyage of fourteen weeks in an open boat, Roger Williams landed at the mouth of Ten Mile River, a place now

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\*Seekonk is composed of two Indian words: *Seaki* meaning *black* and *konk*, *goose*—black goose—the Indian name for the wild goose, which is partly black. The adjective *seaki* always loses the *i* when combined with other words, and sometimes becomes *sek*.—*Williams' Key to the Indian Language*.

This spot received this name, probably, from the circumstance, that great numbers of wild geese used frequently, in their semi-annual migrations to alight in Seekonk river and cove. They frequently alight there now.

†Pawtucket is an Indian name, and was applied by the Indians to several places where there were streams or rather falls of water.

called Manton's Neck. Here he planted corn, and made other preparations for a permanent residence. In a letter written to Major Mason, June 22, 1670, he says, "I first pitched and began to build and plant at Secunk, now Rehoboth; and in a letter dated Providence, 13th of the 10th month, 1661, he writes "I testify and declare in the holy presence of God, that when at my first coming into these parts, I obtained the lands of Secunk, of Osamaquin, the then chief Sachem on that side, the Governour of Plymouth, (Mr. Winslow) wrote to me in the name of their Government, their claim to Secunk to be in their jurisdiction, as also their advice to remove but over the river unto this side, (where now, by God's merciful providence we are,) and then I should be out of their claim, and be as free as themselves, and loving neighbors together." In accordance with this advice Roger Williams, with five others, William Harris, John Smith, Joshua Verin, Thomas Angell, and Francis Wickes, who had joined him at Seekonk, embarked in a canoe about the middle of June, 1636, and leaving their growing crops of corn to the spoil of the wild beasts of the forest, crossed the river to commence the settlement of the city of Providence. The boundary between the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island remained in dispute for two hundred and twenty-six years, until in 1862 it was finally settled by an adjustment which proves Roger Williams to have been in the right in first locating upon the East shore of the Seekonk, as Rhode Island soil. From the Plymouth Colonial Records, Vol. 11, p. 67, it appears that one John Hazell was residing at "Seacunck" in 1642, but the first general permanent settlement of the town was made in the Spring of 1644, by a colony of fifty-eight men with their families, from Weymouth and Hingham, Mass., under the leadership of

the Rev. Samuel Newman, who gave the town the name of Rehoboth, remarking, "the Lord hath opened a way for us." The houses of this colony were built in a semi-circle around Seekonk Common, opening towards Seekonk River, with the church and parsonage in the centre. The first church stood within a few rods of the spot now occupied by the Congregational Church. This circle was known as "The Ring of the Town." At a town meeting holden June 21st, 1644, it was voted that a meeting should be holden by all the inhabitants on every fortieth day "for the consideration and acting of such necessary affairs as concern the plantation." July 3d, 1644, the folcompact was signed:

"This combination, entered into by the general consent of all the inhabitants, after general notice given the 23d of the 4th month."

We, whose names are underwritten, being, by the providence of God, inhabitants of Seacunck, intending there to settle, do covenant and bind ourselves one to another, to subject our persons (torn off) (according to law and equity) to nine persons, any five of the nine which shall be chosen by the major part of the inhabitants of this plantation, and we (torn off) to be subject to all wholesome (torn off) by them, and to assist them, according to our ability and estate, and to give timely notice unto them of any such thing as in our conscience may prove dangerous unto the plantation, and this combination to continue until we shall subject ourselves jointly to some other government.

William Cheesborough,  
Walter Palmer,  
Edward Smith,  
Edward Bennett,  
Robert Titus,

Ephraim Hunt,  
Peter Hunt,  
William Smith,  
John Peren,  
Zachery Rhoades,

Abraham Martin,  
 John Matthews,  
 Edward Sale,  
 Ralph Shepherd,  
 Samuel Newman,  
 Richard Wright,  
 Robert Martin,  
 Richard Bowen,  
 Joseph Torrey,  
 James Clark,

Job Lane.  
 Alex. Winchester,  
 Henry Smith,  
 Stephen Payne,  
 Ralph Alin,  
 Thomas Bliss,  
 George Kendricke,  
 John Allen,  
 William Sabin,  
 Thomas Cooper.

“ At a general meeting of the town of Seakunk being the 9th of the 10th month, (December) 1644, at lawful warning given, by reason of many meetings, and other strong causes for the easing of the great trouble, and for the (illegible) and the deciding of controversies between party and party as well as the proposing of men’s levies to be made and paid, and for the well ordering of the town affairs, as may stand with future equity, according to our former combination, the inhabitant of said place have choose these men here named.”

Alexander Winchester,  
 Richard Wright,  
 Henry Smith,  
 Edward Smith,  
 Walter Palmer,

William Smith,  
 Stephen Payne,  
 Richard Bowen,  
 Robert Martin.

These men were called “ townsmen,” and were the predecessors of the officials called Town Councils in these days; the “ townsmen,” however, had greater powers.

At a subsequent meeting of the “ townsmen,” “ it is ordered that the recording of any man’s land in the town book, shall be to him and his heirs a sufficient assurance forever.”

In 1645, the people submitted to the jurisdiction of the Plymouth Court, and were incorporated under the Scripture name of Rehoboth.

On the 9th of June, 1645, lots were drawn for land upon the great plain, and the list gives, it is reasonable to suppose, the names of all the original settlers. The lots were drawn by the following persons, in the following order :

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Payne.        | 30. Thomas Bliss.         |
| 2. Widow Walker.         | 31. John Peram.           |
| 3. Robert Martin.        | 32. Joseph Torrey.        |
| 4. Edward Gilman.        | 33. John Holbrooke.       |
| 5. Ralph Shepherd.       | 34. James Clarke.         |
| 6. Richard Wright.       | 35. Edward Sale.          |
| 7. Abraham Martin.       | 36. George Kendricke.     |
| 8. The Teacher.          | 37. Mr. Leonard.          |
| 9. Will Carpenter.       | 38. Richard Bowen.        |
| 10. Robert Titus.        | 39. Edward Patteson.      |
| 11. Walter Palmer.       | 40. John Read.            |
| 12. James Walker.        | 41. John Matthews.        |
| 13. Alexan'r Winchester. | 42. Matthew Pratt.        |
| 14. Samuel Butterworth.  | 43. Robert Sharpe.        |
| 15. William Sabin.       | 44. Ephraim & Peter Hunt. |
| 16. Thomas Hitt.         | 45. Zachary Roades.       |
| 17. Edward Smith.        | 46. John Meggs.           |
| 18. Edward Bennett.      | 47. John Miller.          |
| 19. Thomas Clifton       | 48. Thomas Holbrooke.     |
| 20. John Cooke.          | 49. The Schoolmaster.     |
| 21. Mr. Browne.          | 50. Mr. Peck.             |
| 22. Wm. Cheeseborough.   | 51. Richard Ingram.       |
| 23. Ralph Allin.         | 52. Isaac Martin.         |
| 24. James Browne.        | 53. John Allin.           |
| 25. The Governor.        | 54. Mr. Henry Smith.      |
| 26. William Smith.       | 55. Mr. Newman.           |
| 27. John Sutton.         | 56. The Pastor.           |
| 28. Job Laine.           | 57. Obadiah Holmes.       |
| 29. Thomas Cooper.       | 58. Robert Morris.        |

At a town meeting in December 1650, it was voted "to have a convenient way four rods wide, (to be made by Edward Smith) to be for the town's use, or any that shall have occasion to pass from town to Providence, or to Mr. Blackstone's." Peter Hunt was chosen Town Clerk at this meeting, which contains the first record of anyone being chosen for this office.

"June 11th, 1652. It was voted, that by the assent of the town then present, and being lawfully warned, that those lots which lie beyond the lot of Goodman Mathew should remain to the ox-pastor, and henceforth not be lotted." This land was used for the common pasturing of oxen, sheep &c., and was situated north east of Seekonk Common between the new road from Seekonk to Pawtucket and the Seekonk river, extending down the river to the mouth of Ten Mile River.

At a town meeting holden November 20th, 1657 "it was voted that persons neglecting to attend town-meeting should be fined 6d."

"December 16th, 1662. A fine of 18s. 6d. was ordered to be imposed on those who neglected to attend town-meeting." An Indian called Sam took charge of the cows and other cattle of the people of the town for many years, driving them to the "ox-pastor" in the morning and returning them to their several owners at night, in which capacity he become so popular as to secure an admission to equal rights with the other colonists, the only instance of such privileges being granted in this colony. The record is as follows. "May 22d, 1665 Sam, the Indian that keeps the cows, was admitted by the town as an inhabitant, to buy or hire nouse or lands if he can, in case the Court allow it."

The Indian war known by the name of "*Philip's War*" commenced in 1675 and lasted two years. In July of

this year Philip was discovered crossing Seekonk plain and the Rev. Noah Newman son of and successor of the Rev. Samuel Newman as pastor of the Congregational Church led an attack against him with such success as to kill, one account says twelve and another thirty of Philip's force, without any loss to the attacking party. On Sunday, March 26th, 1676, Captain Michael Pierce of Scituate, Mass., marched from Seekonk Common with a force of sixty-three English and twenty of the Cape Indians, in search of the enemy and having fallen into an ambuscade of Indians near Valley Falls formed his men into a ring where they fought thus back to back for about three hours until fifty-five of the English and ten of the Indians had fallen dead upon "the bed of honor." The enemy paid dearly for this success having sustained a loss variously estimated from one hundred and forty to three hundred warriors. The following letter was written by the Rev. Noah Newman the day after "Pierce's Fight" which was the name given to this engagement.

"Rehoboth, 27 of the first, '76.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR.

I received yours dated the 20th of this instant wherein you gave me a doleful relation of what had happened with you, and what a distressing Sabbath you had passed. I have now, according to the words of your own letter, an opportunity to retaliate your account with a relation of what yesterday happened to the great saddening of our hearts, filling us with an awful expectation of what further evils it may be antecedent to, both respecting ourselves and you. Upon the 25th of this instant Capt. Pierce went forth with a small party of his men and Indians with him, and upon discovering the enemy, fought him, without damage to himself, and judged that he had considerably damnified them.



Yet he being of no great force, chose rather to retreat and go out the next morning with a recruit of men; and accordingly he did, taking pilots from us, that were acquainted with the ground. But it pleased the Sovereign God so to order it, that they were enclosed with a great multitude of the enemy, which hath slain fifty-two of our Englishmen, and eleven Indians. The account of their names is as follows. From Scituate 18, of whom 15 were slain, viz :

Capt. Pierce, Samuel Russell, Benjamin Crittenden, John Lothrope, Gershom Dodson, Samuel Pratt, Thomas Savary, Joseph Wade, William Wilcome, Jeremiah Bars-tow, John Ensign, Joseph Cowen, Joseph Perry, John Rowse. (Rose).

*Marshfield*, 9 slain—Thomas Little, John Eams, Joseph White, John Burrows, Joseph Philips, Samuel Bump, John Low, More ——, John Brance.

*Duxbury*, 4 slain—John Sprague, Benjamin Foal, Thomas Hunt, Joshua Fobes.

*Sandwich*, 5 slain—Benjamin Nye, Daniel Bessey, Caleb Blake, Job Gibbs, Stephen Wing.

*Barnstable*, 6 slain—Lieut. Fuller, John Lewis, Eleazer C——, (probably Clapp), Samuel Linnet, Samuel Childs, Samuel Bereman.

*Yarmouth*, 5 slain—John Matthews, John Gage, Wil-liam Gage, Henry Gage, Henry Gold.

*Eastham*, 4 slain—Joseph Nessefield, John Walker, John M—— (town officer), John Fitz, Jr., John Mil-ler, Jr.\*

Thomas Man is just returned with a sore wound.

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\*John Fits, Jr., and John Miller, Jr., belonged to Rehoboth, and also Thomas Man. What is torn off had on it, probably, the name of one from Eastham, and the word Rehoboth. It will be seen that besides what is torn off, there are five names that follow Eastham.

“Thus, sir, you have a sad account of the continuance of God’s displeasure against us; yet still I desire steadfastly to look unto Him, who is not only able but willing to save all such as are fit for His salvation. It is a day of the wicked’s triumph, but the sure word of God tells us his triumphing is *brief*. O, that we may not lengthen it out by our sins! The Lord help us to join issue in our prayers, instantly and earnestly for the healing and helping of our land! Our extremity is God’s opportunity.

“Thus, with our dearest respects to you and Mrs. Cotton, and such sorrowful friends as are with you, I remain,

Your ever assured friend,

NOAH NEWMAN.

On the day after this letter was written, March 28th, 1676, the “Ring of the Town” was burned by the Indians under the command of King Philip, destroying forty houses and thirty barns. Two houses only escaped—the garrison house, which stood a short distance from the place now occupied by the house of Phanael Bishop, and another house on the south side of the Common, which was saved by a number of black sticks placed in the ground about it so as to present at a distance the appearance of being strongly guarded. The fire was set early in the evening, and next morning a few smoking ash heaps alone remained to mark the site of the thriving village. All the inhabitants of the town, save one, sought the garrison house for safety—a strong building which the Indians prudently declined to attack. The one who did not join the others was Robert Beers, an Irishman, and by trade a brick-maker. He was religious, but superstitious and eccentric. When the alarm was given that the Indians were coming, he refused to seek safety in the garrison house, but sat in his own house reading the Bible, believing that nothing could harm him while

reading that book. The Indians shot him through the window, and he fell dead with the Bible in his hand, the only person slain on this occasion.

“December 4th, 1699. The selectmen agreed with Mr. Robert Dickson to keep school in Rehoboth for six months, to begin on Thursday, the seventh of this instant; he engaging to do his utmost endeavour to teach both sexes of boys and girls to read English and write and cast accounts. In consideration of said service, the said selectmen, in the town’s behalf, do engage to pay him thirteen pounds, one half in silver money, and the other half in good merchantable boards, at the current and merchantable price; the boards to be delivered at the landing place at Samuel Walker’s and Sergeant Butterworth’s mill. This landing place was at the cove, at the mouth of the ten mile river, in Seekonk. It is said that early in the history of the town, there were wharves built out into the river near the mouth of this cove; that stores were erected here, and considerable trade carried on, and that the people of Providence frequently came over here to purchase their goods.”\*

Mr. John Lynn taught a school in Rehoboth during three months of the year 1708, agreeing to instruct in reading, writing, grammar and arithmetic, for the sum of seven pounds in current money of New England.

Mr John Lynn entered into another engagement with the town to teach school one year, from the 28 day of February, 1709, for the sum of twenty-nine pounds in current money of New England. The different divisions of the town in which the school was to be kept successively this year, and from each of which one of the school committee was taken, are named as follows in the records, with the length of time allotted to each: “The

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\*Bliss’ History of Rehoboth, page 132.

ring of the town” and “the neighborhood on the east side of the ring of the town”—21 weeks ; “Palmer’s river”—14 weeks ; Watchemoquet\*—13 weeks ; ‘Capt, Enoch Hunt’s neighborhood” and “the mile and a half”—9 weeks.”†

“December 23, 1718. It was voted by the community, that the rules to be observed in seating the new meeting house for the Sabbath are as followeth : Firstly, to have regard to dignity of person, and secondly by age, and thirdly according to the charge they bare in respect to the public charges, and what charge they have been at in building the meeting-house.” A committee was chosen to seat the house in accordance with these rules.

In the war of the Revolution, the town was distinguished for a faithful and untiring support of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, which was manifested in a substantial manner by sending three hundred and ten of its men to the continental army (thirty-seven of whom served as commissioned officers), and furnishing large quantities of saltpetre, manufactured in a building erected near the mouth of Ten-mile river for that purpose.

The following letter of instruction given by the town to its representative in 1773 proves the patriotic spirit of the town.

“To Capt. Joseph Barney, Representative for the town of Rehoboth :

*Sir :—*

“It is evident from the repeated suffrage of the free-

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\*This name was given to that part of the present town of East Providence, which lies below the mouth of the Ten-mile river, along the Seekonk river and Narragansett bay, as far down, probably, as the point of land now called “Bullock’s neck,” and including it.

†Bliss’ History of Rehoboth, page 133.

holders, and other inhabitants of this town, that your late conduct in the General Assembly of this Province has met with a favorable reception. With pleasing hopes and expectations we trust you will, in this day of general oppression and invasion of our natural and inherent rights and liberties, join in every salutary and constitutional measure to remove those unconstitutional burdens and grievances that this Province, and America in general have long and justly remonstrated against. Nevertheless we think it our duty to express our sentiments in regard to the encroachments made on our rights and liberties, as stated by the worthy inhabitants of the metropolis of this Province, whose loyalty, vigilance and patriotic zeal, in this time of common danger, has not been equalled in the present nor exceeded in former times; of which we have the highest opinion, and shall ever acknowledge with gratitude, the particulars of which we do not think expedient to enumerate, but refer you to a pamphlet (for your careful perusal) sent from Boston to this and every other town in the Province, which (upon the most careful and critical examination) we humbly conceive very justly states our rights and privileges as men, as subjects, as Christians, and the unparalleled encroachment made on them by a ministry, who, fond of arbitrary sway, in open violation of the most sacred contract and agreement, entered into with our predecessors, the patentees of this Province, and solemnly ratified by King William and Queen Mary, have hitherto, with impunity, profanely violated the faith and promise of a king, on whose royal word we made the most firm and indubitable reliance, and have involved this province and continent in the utmost distress and calamity, and in its consequences have deeply affected the parent State, whose prosperity and happiness we have ever considered as near and dear to us

as our own. And it now is, and ever has been, our earnest desire and prayer that there may never be wanting one of the illustrious House of Hanover to sway the sceptre of Great Britain and America, in righteousness, so long as the sun and moon shall endure.

We, your constituents, desire and expect that you exert yourself to the utmost of your ability, not only to secure our remaining privileges inviolable, but also to obtain a full redress of all those many grievances, so justly complained of—a full restoration and confirmation of all the rights and privileges we are justly entitled to by nature and the solemn compact aforesaid; that generations yet unborn may know that this town has not been dormant, while the enemies thereof have been vigilant and active to wrest from them every privilege and blessing that renders life worthy of enjoyment.

We trust you will be vigilant even among your brethren, lest some of them, through sinister views or ambitious designs, be induced to barter away and betray our dear-bought privileges and liberties, together with this, our paternal inheritance, established with so much toil, and raised to such a height of glory, and transmitted down to us at no less price than the blood and treasure of our ancestors. Though we hope, and presume, there will not be found a man in that august assembly so abandoned, so profane, so enthusiastic, so mad as to disturb the repose of the pious dead, and bring upon himself not only the just indignation of all the virtuous, but the ire of that dread Sovereign, beneath whose awful frown audacious monarchs and minions tremble.

“We present these hints to your judicious consideration, and wish that not only you, but all true friends to the English constitution, may be guided in the path of wisdom and equity, and never be diverted from the

steady pursuit of the true interests of yourselves, your king, your country and posterity.

EPHRAIM STARKWEATHER,	} Committee of Correspondence."
NATHAN DAGGETT,	
THOMAS CARPENTER, 3d,	
JOHN LYON,	
JOSEPH BRIDGHAM,	
WILLIAM COLE,	

In Bliss' History of Rehoboth may be found a long list of former residents of this town who became distinguished for learning, civic service or in the professions and among them appears the name of Capt. Thomas Willet the first English mayor of the City of New York.

On the surrender of New York to the English, under Col. Nichols, in August, 1664, by the Dutch governor Stuyvesant, Capt. Willett attended the Commissioners of Appeals—Nichols, Curr, Cartwright, and Maverick,—to that city; and rendered them great service, by his acquaintance with the customs, usages and language of the Dutch, in organizing the new government. Judge Davis informs us [Memorial, p 311] that "Col. Nichols, in a letter to Gov. Prince, written from New York the spring after the reduction of the Dutch settlements, requests that Captain Willett may have such dispensation from his official engagement in Plymouth colony, as to be at liberty to assist in the modelling and reducing the affairs, in those settlements, into good English. He remarks that Mr. Willett was more acquainted with the manners and customs of the Dutch, than any Englishman in the country, and that his conversation was very acceptable to them." He performed his duties here to the entire satisfaction of all concerned; and his services were so highly appreciated, and he rendered himself so popular with the people, that, after the organization of the government, he was elected

the first English Mayor of the city of New York. He was elected a second time to the office.

Capt. Willett returned here at the close of his official life in New York and died in Swansea August 4th 1674. He was buried in East Providence at the head of Bullock's Cove at a place called Little Neck Burying Ground, where a rough stone with a rudely carved inscription still marks his grave.

#### CHURCHES.

A tax was made to build a meeting house in 1646 and in 1647 it was so far completed as to be used for public worship. It stood where the tomb now is, south of the present Congregational Church. A tax for finishing the church was levied in 1648; in 1659 it was enlarged and then continued in use until 1718 a period of fifty-nine years,\* when the second church was erected thirty feet East of the first and remained until 1814 a period of ninety-six years; it was then torn down and a part of the lumber was used in building the present Town Hall. The house now used by the Congregational Society was erected in 1810. Sylvanus Chace Newman, A. M., in his historical oration, delivered in this Church July 4th, 1860, says: "In the absence of bells, they beat the drum to give notice of the time for public worship; and seating the meeting according to seniority and other orders of respectability, was the delicate task of a yearly committee, appointed by the town." The first pastor of this Church, Rev. Samuel Newman, was a man of great literary ability, who compiled the first full Concordance of the bible in English, Mr. S. C. Newman says of it: "The first edition was

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\*It seems probable that this church must have been burned by King Phillip, when the town was destroyed, March 28, 1676: but there is no special record of its destruction to be found.



printed at London in 1643—the last year of his ministry at Weymouth. The second edition was prepared in this town and printed at London in 1650, and the third and last edition, still more complete, was prepared here and printed in London in 1658. It has been pronounced by Biblical scholars a monument of learning, genius, industry and skill.” He left a son named Noah, who succeeded him as pastor of this Church, and who, as we have already learned, in the perilous times of Philip’s war, was as ready with the sword as was his father with the pen.

The first meeting, for devising means to erect a Baptist Church on Seekonk common, was held Dec. 17, 1793. The Church was organized November 27th, 1794, consisting of forty members. The first minister who preached to this church was the Rev. John P. Jones, a member of the Baptist church in Newport, R. I., and the edifice in which he preached has remained to this day, and is now known as the First Baptist Church.

Since the addition of East Providence to the State of Rhode Island, a Union Chapel has been erected at Cedar Grove, a second Baptist Church and an Episcopal Church have been built at Watchemoket, while a flourishing society of Methodists at the latter place are expected soon to construct an edifice for religious worship.

On Saturday, March 1st, 1862, a part of the old town of Seekonk passed under the jurisdiction of Rhode Island, and since that time has been known by the name of East Providence. The following account of the proceedings at the time was published in a daily newspaper printed in the City of Providence.

#### EAST PROVIDENCE.

“That part of the town of Seekonk which, on Saturday, became a portion of this State, has been called East Providence, that name having been bestowed upon it by

Governor Sprague, who was requested by a vote of a citizens' caucus to name the town.

The ball which we spoke of as having been arranged for at the Vue de l'Eau Hotel, to inaugurate the new state of things, was largely attended, and was a most jubilant affair. Quite a number of citizens of Providence were present, including Gov. Sprague and Staff, the Adjutant, Quartermaster and Paymaster Generals, and other military gentlemen.

Immediately after twelve o'clock, on Saturday morning, the time when the decree making the town a part of Rhode Island went into effect, the Governor made a brief speech, in which he announced the name of the town "East Providence." Hon. Edward D. Pearce, Senator from Providence, but who we understand is about to become a resident of the new town, also made an appropriate speech.

At sunrise on Saturday, a detachment of the Grenadier Battery, under Sergeant Major A. A. Babcock which was stationed at Fort Hill, fired a National salute in honor of the union just consummated. Another salute was fired at noon and a third at sunset.

While the first salute was being fired, His Excellency, the Governor and Suite arrived at the Washington (India Point) Bridge, and proclaimed it free, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens, and announced the name of the town. The announcements were received with great enthusiasm on the part of those assembled.

A general holiday followed, business being universally suspended, and the time given to joyful demonstrations. Flags and other decorations were displayed, and other manifestations of satisfaction at the new order of affairs were indulged in.

At eleven o'clock the town meeting was held. Mr.

Francis Armington, one of the oldest selectmen, called to order, and read the proclamation of the Governor, under which the meeting was called. Albert K. Gerald was then elected Moderator, by a vote of 80 out of 148, and Chief Justice Ames administered to him the oath of office. Henry H. Ide was next elected Town Clerk, receiving 140 out of 149 votes.

The Moderator announced the name which had been given to the town by Gov. Sprague, and the name was formally adopted by vote of the electors, amid great enthusiasm, and it was further voted that the town be attached to the county of Providence.

After an appropriate address, Dr. Thomas W. Aspinwall introduced the following resolutions, which were adopted, and he and Tristram Burgess, Esq., were appointed a Committee to carry them to the citizens of Seekonk, then assembled in town meeting :

WHEREAS, A new line of boundary between the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island has been agreed upon between the said States, and assented to by the Supreme Court of the United States ; and whereas, this new line of boundary divides the territory known as the town of Seekonk, Mass., thus giving rise to many questions of mutual interest upon which there are natural grounds for disagreement, therefore

*Resolved*, That we, here assembled as citizens of Rhode Island, send friendly greetings to our former fellow townsmen now assembled in the town of Seekonk, Mass

*Resolved*, That the new boundary line shall be, so far as consistent with our common interest, only *nominal*.

*Resolved*, That we will seek that the present questions in dispute between ourselves and our former townsmen may be settled in the *spirit* of kindness and equity ; that we will seek "to do by them as we would be done by."

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to at once bear a copy of these resolutions to the citizens now assembled in the town of Seekonk, Mass.

The electors then proceeded to ballot for a Senator and Representative.

Tristram Burges, Esq., was supported for the office of Senator by Conservatives and Democrats, and Dr. Thomas W. Aspinwall by Democrats alone. The former was elected by three majority. Albert K. Gerald, Democrat, was elected Representative.

The following gentlemen were elected to the other offices without any organized opposition, the whole number of votes cast being 179, and the successful candidates receiving from 132 to 179 votes:

*Town Council*—Francis Armington, Allen J. Brown, George O. Carpenter, Daniel S. Peck, Austin Gurney  
*Treasurer*—Francis Armington,

*Town Sergeant*—Timothy A. Leonard.

*Assessors*—Daniel S. Peck, Allen J. Brown, John A. Wood.

*Collector*—Thomas B. Bishop.

*Constables*—George H. Read, Harvey S. Kent, Nathan M. West.

*School Committee*—Thomas B. Bishop, William S. Munroe, David V. Gerald.

*Justices of the Peace*—Thomas G. Potter, Asa Peck, Robert M. Pearce.

*Overseer of the Poor*—Francis Armington.

At this meeting Christopher Dexter, Esq., presented the town with an elegant ballot box, for which donation he received a vote of thanks "

Since this annexation the growth of East Providence has been rapid and healthy, increasing from a population of 1,250 at that time, to 2,172 in 1865 to 2,668 in

1870, and 4,336 in 1875, thus doubling its population in the last ten years. This new town has also erected new school houses—ten in number—in every district, so that to-day all the school houses within our limits have been built since 1862. For this purpose the sum of \$39,820.07 has been expended. The valuation of the town has increased from \$1,354,935 in 1862, to \$5,383,500, in 1875, an increase of nearly four fold in thirteen years.

Although liberal in appropriating money for public purposes, the town has ever kept in view the excellent rule, "pay as you go," and its debt at the close of the present financial year will not exceed \$7,000. The improvement most necessary now is a new bridge across the Seekonk at Watchemoket, with which will come horse cars and the Pawtuxet water, while the removal of the obstruction to navigation, now presented by Washington bridge, will open the Seekonk to its natural destiny, and line its shores with wharves. Until the year 1793 the Seekonk was crossed by ferries at Watchemoket and the present site of the Central Bridge. In this year bridges were erected at both places; the first team crossed Central Bridge April 9th, 1793, and Washington Bridge April 12th, 1793. Both bridges were carried away by a freshet in 1807, and were again destroyed by the September gale of 1815. A wooden statue of Washington standing on the Providence side of the lower bridge was washed away and lost in this gale. There is now in the possession of Benjamin J. Brown, Esq., a marble slab which stood near the statue, bearing the following inscription:

"Washington Bridge,

Built by John Brown, Esq., 1793 this monument is erected by the founder and proprietor of India Point as a testimony of high respect for the great illustrious Washington."

In 1829 the woodwork of Washington bridge was rebuilt, under the superintendance of James C. Bucklin, architect, who is still working at his profession in the city of Providence, and again in 1875 both piers and superstructure were thoroughly repaired, and now bid fair to last until the new bridge we need is constructed; a happy event which we hope may not long be delayed.

The old Central or Red Bridge remained a toll bridge until 1869, when it became impassable by reason of collision with vessels passing through its inconvenient draw bridge. The present free bridge was opened for travel July 16th, 1872, the State of Rhode Island having contributed \$20,000, East Providence \$15,000, and the City of Providence about \$40,000 for its construction. James C. Bucklin, of Providence, Edward D. Pearce, of East Providence, and C. B. Farnsworth, of Pawtucket, were appointed by the Governor as Commissioners to superintend the construction of the bridge, but Mr. Pearce subsequently resigned, and the Hon. James Y. Smith, of Providence, was appointed to fill the vacancy, and the work was performed in a manner which reflects great credit upon all concerned.

The addition of this free bridge, thus rendering certain the means of communication between the town and the city, gave a wonderful impetus to the growth of the town; the valuation more than doubled in four years, increasing from \$2,461,000 in 1871, to \$5,383,500 in 1875, and the population nearly doubled in the same period.

In the war of the rebellion the people of the town proved themselves true descendants of the fearless men of the olden time—they were prompt in sending brave men to the battle's van, and liberal in providing for the families left behind. God grant that never again may war, either at home or abroad, vex our native land, and that hence-

forth all our efforts may be turned to build up, instead of to destroy. Hasten the glad time when all may strive for the excellence of which the poet sings :

“Clearer eyed the world is learning, through each upward struggling year.  
He is prince whose life is noblest, be he peasant, be he peer.”

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## A P P E N D I X .

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### STATE AND TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED BY THE TOWN OF EAST PROVIDENCE.

#### SENATORS.

March 1st 1862 to May 23d 1863.

Tristram Burges.

June 22nd 1863 to April 6th 1864.

Thomas W. Aspinwall.

1864 to 1866

Francis Armington.

1866 to 1867

Albert K. Gerald.

1867 to 1868

George O Carpenter.

1868 to 1869

Edward D. Pearce.

1869 to 1871

Timothy A. Leonard.

1871 to 1873

Edward D. Pearce.

1873 to 1874

William Whitcomb.

1874 to 1875

Francis Armington.

1875 to 1876

Timothy A. Leonard.

1876 to

Oliver Chaffee.

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 REPRESENTATIVES.

March 1st, 1862 to April 6th, 1863.

Albert K. Gerald.

1863 to 1864

Wm. A. Carpenter.

1864 to 1865

Henry Ide.



1865 to 1866

Albert K. Gerald.

1866 to 1867

George O. Carpenter.

1867 to 1868

Henry H. Ide.

1868 to 1873

George N. Bliss.

1873 to 1875

Albert C. Howard.

1875 to

Alvord O. Miles.

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 TOWN COUNCILS.

March 1st to April 2nd 1862.

Francis Armington,	Allen J. Brown,
Daniel S. Peck,	George O. Carpenter,
	Austin Gurney.

1862 to 1863

Francis Armington,	Allen J. Brown,
Daniel S. Peck,	George O. Carpenter,
	Ephraim Ide.

1863 to 1864

Nathaniel Cole, Daniel S. Peck,  
Timothy A. Leonard.

1864 to 1865

Nathaniel Cole, John A. Wood,  
Timothy A. Leonard.

1865 to 1866

Nathaniel Cole, Luther B. Peck,  
William Daggett.

1866 to 1867

Nathaniel Cole, Timothy A. Leonard,  
William Daggett.

1867 to 1868

Nathaniel Cole, Timothy A. Leonard,  
William Daggett.

1868 to 1869

Nathaniel Cole, Charles A. Cobb,  
Rowland G. Bassett.

1869 to 1870

Nathaniel Cole, John A. Wood,  
Joseph B. Gurney.

1870 to 1871

Nathaniel Cole, Rowland G. Bassett,  
William Whitcomb.

1871 to 1872

Nathaniel Cole, William Whitcomb,  
George H. Read.

1872 to 1873

Nathaniel Cole, William Whitcomb,  
George H. Read.

1873 to 1874

Edward D. Pearce, William Whitcomb,  
George F. Wilson.

1874 to 1875

Joseph J. Luther, Andrew J. Anthony,  
Galen Pierce.

1875 to 1876

Andrew J. Anthony, Oliver Chaffee,  
Samuel S. Barney, Wm. A. Carpenter,  
Alfred A. White.

1876 to 1877

Andrew J. Anthony, Samuel S. Barney,  
Alfred A. White, Wm. G. Bliven,  
James N. Bishop.

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 TOWN CLERKS.

March 1st 1862 to August 7th 1870

Henry H. Ide. (died while in office)

August 8th 1870 to September 29th 1870

Daniel A. Hopkins.

September 29th 1870 to August 5th 1875.

Charles L. Hazard.

August 5th 1875 to April 5th 1876

Ellery H. Wilson.

April 5th 1876 to

Charles E. Scott.



TOWN TREASURERS.

March 1st 1862, to March 27th 1865.

Francis Armington.

1865 to 1866

Thomas Cole.

1866 to 1869

Francis Armington.

1869 to 1870

William Armington.

1870 to 1875

Francis Armington.

1875 to

Christopher Dexter.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

March 1st 1862 to April 2nd 1862

Thomas B. Bishop,                      Wm. S. Munroe,  
David V. Gerald.

1862 to 1863

Thomas B. Bishop                      David V. Gerald,  
George M. P. King.

April 14, 1862, Thomas W. Aspinwall was elected to fill  
vacancy ; Mr. King failing to serve.

1863 to 1864

Thomas B. Bishop,                      Seth L. Horton,  
George F. Wilson.

1864 to 1865

Thomas W. Aspinwall,                  Thomas G. Potter,  
George M. P. King.

1865 to 1866

David V. Gerald,                      Seth L. Horton,  
George F. Wilson.

1866 to 1867

David V. Gerald,                      Seth L. Horton,  
George F. Wilson.

George F. Wilson resigned May 23, 1866, and George  
N. Bliss was elected in his place.

1867 to 1868

Thomas W. Aspinwall,                  Isaac Chesebrough,  
George F. Wilson.

1868 to 1869

Isaac Chesebrough,                    Allen J. Brown,  
   Samuel E. Evans.

Isaac Chesebrough resigned April 14, 1868, and George N. Bliss was elected to fill the vacancy.

1869 to 1870

Isaac Chesebrough,                    Thomas G. Potter,  
   William S. Munroe.

1870 to 1871

George N. Bliss,                        Rowland G. Bassett,  
   Thomas I. Bentley.

1871 to 1872

George N. Bliss,                        Thomas I. Bentley,  
   Charles L. Hazard.

1872 to 1873

George N. Bliss,                        Charles L. Hazard,  
   George E. Carpenter.

1873 to 1874

Albert C. Howard,                    George E. Carpenter,  
   Ahaz Bassett.

Albert C. Howard resigned, and Charles L. Hazard was elected May 1, 1873.

1874 to 1875

Robert H. Paine.                        Ahaz Bassett,  
   George E. Carpenter.

Ahaz Bassett resigned June 1, 1874, and Isaac Chesebrough was elected to fill the vacancy.

1875 to 1876

Robert H. Paine, Isaac Chesebrough,  
George E. Carpenter.

1876 to 1877

Robert H. Paine, Isaac Chesebrough,  
Hiram E. Johnson

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## A P P R O P R I A T I O N S .

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The following appropriations are all that have been made at Town Meetings since March 1st, 1862 :

### A P P R O P R I A T I O N S .

April 2nd, 1862.

Schools.....	\$ 500.
Highways.....	1.200.
Incidentals, including State Tax.....	1 700.

May 5th, 1862.

For erection and repairs of school houses, and for payment of District property taken by the Town.....	\$ 9.500.
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August 4th, 1862.

For Bounty for volunteers.....	\$ 3.000.
“ Pay of recruiting officer.....	100.
“ Printing, advertising, rent of offices &c	60.
“ Committee.....	15.

August 29th, 1862,

For raising the Town's quota under the President's call for 300.000 men for nine months.....	\$ 6.000.
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August 29th, 1862.

To aid the families of those who are in  
their Country's service.....\$ 500.

April 27th, 1863.

For Schools.....\$ 1,000.  
 " School House Debt..... 1,000.  
 " Incidentals..... 3,000.  
 " Roads and Bridges..... 1,200.  
 " School Houses..... 1,800.

May 20th, 1863.

For School house in District No. 2, in ad-  
dition to what may be received from  
sale of old house.....\$ 1,200.

July 20th, 1863.

For families of drafted men.....\$ 9,000.

April 25th, 1864.

For Schools.....\$ 1,200.  
 " Sinking fund for debt..... 1,400.  
 " Highways and Bridges..... 1,200.  
 " Incidentals and State tax.... 3,500.  
 " building School house in District No 7 1,000.  
 " " " " " " " 2 1,500.  
 " " " " " " " 6  
 together with proceeds of sale of old house 1,000.

March 27th, 1865.

For Schools.....\$ 1,200  
 " Sinking fund and Interest..... 1,400.  
 " State Tax..... 5,085.  
 " Incidentals..... 2,100.

March 26th, 1866.

For Schools.....\$ 1,400.  
 " Sinking Fund and Interest..... 1,200.  
 " State Tax..... 5,085  
 " Incidentals..... 2,100.



March 25th, 1867.

For Schools.....	\$ 1 600.
“ Sinking fund and Interest.....	1.300.
“ Highways.....	3.000.
“ Incidentals and support of Poor.....	2.000.
“ State Tax.....	5.084 20

April 6th, 1868.

For Schools.....	\$ 1.600.
“ Sinking fund and Interest. ....	1.300.
“ State Tax.....	4.500.
“ Highways.....	3.000.
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor.....	2.000.

April 12th, 1869.

For Schools.....	\$ 1.800.
“ Sinking fund and Interest.....	1.300.
“ State Tax.....	4 500.
“ Highways.....	4.000
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor....	2.800.

December 9th, 1869.

Towards building a bridge across Seekonk  
River at the site of Central Bridge... \$15.000.

April 6th, 1870.

“ For Schools.....	\$ 2.000.
“ Sinking fund and Interest.....	1.300.
“ State Tax.....	4.500.
“ Highways.....	4.000.
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor.....	3.000.
“ Roads leading to Red Bridge, to be used only in case said bridge is built.....	} 1.000.

April 10th, 1871.

For Schools.....	\$ 2.000.
“ Sinking fund and Interest.....	1.500.
“ State Tax.....	4.500.

For Highways.....	4.000.
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor.....	4.000
October 21st, 1871.	
For building wing walls at the East End of Central Bridge.....	\$ 2.000.
February 13th, 1872.	
For completing walls at Central Bridge..	\$ 800.
April 8th, 1872.	
For Schools.....	\$ 2.800.
“ Sinking fund and Interest.....	2.000.
“ State Tax.....	4.500.
“ Highways.....	4.000.
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor....	3.500.
“ Wing Walls at Central Bridge.....	1.000.
June 29th, 1872.	
For building School house for Districts Nos. 2 and 8.....	\$ 4.000.
“ constructing stations for Police pur- poses.....	1 500.
November 16th.	
For Police.....	\$ 1.200.
April 14th, 1873.	
For Schools.....	\$ 5.500.
“ Evening Schools.....	200.
“ Sinking fund.....	2.500.
“ Interest.....	1 500.
“ State Tax.....	5.500.
“ Highways.....	4.500.
“ Incidentals.....	4.500.
“ Police.....	2.500.
“ Completing Grammar School & grounds	1.000.
April 13th, 1874.	
For Schools.....	\$ 5 500.
“ Evening Schools.....	250.

For Sinking Fund.....	3.000.
“ Interest.....	1.500.
“ State Tax.....	5.685. 81
“ Highways.....	7.500.
“ Incidentals and Support of Poor....	4.500.
“ Police.....	3.000.

April 12th, 1875.

For Schools.....	\$ 6.750.
“ Evening Schools.....	250.
“ Sinking Fund.....	5.000
“ Interest.....	1.500. ✓
“ State Tax.....	5.685. 81
“ Highways.....	10.000
“ Incidentals.....	3.000.
“ Support of Poor.....	1.000.
“ School House Account.....	500.
“ Police.....	2.000.
“ Lighting Streets.....	400.

June 7th, 1875.

For lot for Grammar School.....	\$ 4.000.
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February 26th, 1876.

For Schools.....	\$ 1.100.
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April 10th, 1876.

For Schools, repairs &c.....	\$ 9.500.
“ Sinking Fund.....	6 000.
“ Interest.....	2 000.
“ State Tax.....	5.700.
“ Highways.....	11.000.
“ Incidentals.....	4 000.
“ Police.....	3.200.
“ Support of Poor.....	1.000.
“ Lighting Streets.....	350.

In addition to these appropriations by the town, School

District No. 1 (Watchemoket) has raised by district tax for school purposes the following amounts :

June 22d 1864.....	\$ 500.
October 30th 1865.....	134.
November 20th 1865..	700.
September 4th 1866.....	700.
October 15th 1867.....	750.
August 11th 1868.....	900.
November 30th 1869.....	1200.
August 12th 1870.....	1400.
November 3d 1871.....	1700.
November 19th 1872.....	\$ 900.—\$8.084

Commencing in 1873 the town has since appropriated sufficient money for school purposes and rendered district taxes unnecessary.

March 30th 1867 a tax was voted for school purposes in District No. 8, by which the sum of \$55 was raised.

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PERCENTAGE OF TAXATION.

1862.....	\$1 12½ per \$100
1863.....	61 “ “
1864.....	80 “ “
1865.....	78 “ “
1866.....	73 “ “
1867.....	75 “ “
1868.....	70 “ “
1869.....	72 “ “
1870.....	80 “ “
1871.....	80 “ “
1872.....	80 “ “
1873.....	95 “ “

1874.....	75	per \$100
1875.....	70	“ “
1876.....	80	“ “

The following is an extract from the report of Christopher Dexter, Esq., Town Treasurer for the year ending April 10th 1876 :

“Year.	Net Receipts.	Net Expenditures.	Highways.	Schools.
1862—3	\$12,243 78	\$19,761 31	\$1,200 00	\$ 500 00
1863—4	8,706 81	6,624 33	1,200 00	1,000 00
1864—5	13,173 78	12,212 51	1,200 00	1,200 00
1865—6	11,660 64	9,638 27	10cts. per \$100.	1,200 00
1866—7	13,956 86	12,397 69	1,600 00	1,400 00
1867—8	13,648 18	16,685 42	3,000 00	1,600 00
1868—9	16,540 65	13,476 87	3,000 00	1,600 00
1869—70	16,609 52	18,680 18	4,000 00	1,800 00
1870—1	17,250 83	19,350 93	4,000 00	2,000 00
1871—2	21,006 38	29,879 77	4,000 00	2,000 00
1872—3	23,867 79	22,812 88	4,000 00	2,800 00
1873—4	28,937 30	27,280 30	4,500 00	5,700 00
1874—5	43,168 88	39,118 97	7,500 00	5,750 00
1875—6	41,562 87	52,712 02	10,000 00	8,100 00

\$282,334 27      \$300,631 45

Net Receipts, as above.....\$282,334 27

Outstanding notes..... 19,000 00—\$301,324 27

Deduct Net Payments, as above ..... 300,631 45

Balance in Treasury..... \$702 82

The cost of the various school houses and lots are included in the foregoing table as follows:—

In 1862—3, built No's 3, 4, 8, and raised No. 1 one story, cost with two lots, \$6,066 95. In 1864—5, built No's 2 and 7, cost with one lot, \$3,411 83. In 1867—8, built addition to No. 1, cost \$4,188 57. In 1869—70,

built No's 5 and 6, cost \$4,661 74. In 1872—3, and in 1873—4, built Grammar, 2 and 8, cost with lot, \$5,145-10. In 1875—6, built Grove street house, No. 1, cost with lot and superintendence, \$16,345 88.

## TOWN VALUATION AND TAXES.

For the following Table, except the year 1862, I am indebted to Nathaniel Cole, Esq.

The figures for 1862 may not be absolutely correct, but the errors, if any, will not exceed a few dollars.

Years.	Real Estate.	Personal Estate.	Total.	Rate of Tax, per \$1000.	Amount of Tax
1862	\$1,122,050	\$232,885	\$1,354,935	\$11 25	\$15,243 02
1863	1,085,650	245,150	1,330,800	6 10	8,117 88
1864	1,182,075	287,750	1,469,825	8 00	11,758 60
1865	1,268,600	387,375	1,655,975	*6 80	11,260 63
1866	1,336,800	456,625	1,793,425	7 30	13,092 00
1867	1,403,200	433,700	1,836,900	7 50	13,776 75
1868	1,538,700	423,500	1,962,200	7 00	13,735 40
1869	1,629,700	459,150	2,088,850	7 20	15,039 72
1870	1,692,900	442,500	2,135,400	8 00	17,083 20
1871	1,885,100	575,900	2,461,000	8 00	19,688 00
1872	2,151,475	563,325	2,714,800	8 00	21,718 40
1873	2,641,800	742,100	3,386,900	9 50	32,175 55
1874	4,524,400	823,900	5,348,300	7 50	40,112 25
1875	4,565,700	817,800	5,383,500	7 00	37,684 50

\*Also, \$1 00 per \$1000, highway tax in labor."

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE AN  
ESTIMATE OF THE RATABLE PROPERTY IN  
THE TOWNS OF PAWTUCKET AND EAST  
PROVIDENCE.

The Commissioners who were appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly, passed at their May Session, A. D 1862, entitled, "An Act to provide for the valuation of the property within the territory, over which the State of Massachusetts, prior to the first day of March last, exercised jurisdiction for taxation, and for other purposes," respectfully

REPORT.

That they were severally engaged to the faithful performance of their duties ; they appointed one freeholder in each of said towns to assist them in making said valuation, and conformed in their proceedings to the law of this State, passed May, A. D., 1855, under which the valuation of the towns in this State, in Chapter 12, Title III, of the Revised Statutes was made, and now present the following, as the valuation by them made :

The whole value of the ratable property in the town of Pawtucket, according to the mode of valuation prescribed by said Act is.....\$2,129,000

The value of the whole ratable property in the town of East Providence, according to the mode of valuation prescribed by said Act, is.....\$1,130,000

The total value of the ratable property within the territory, over which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hath, before the 1st day of March last, exercised juris-

diction, and which since said 1st day of March last, has been deemed a part of the State of Rhode Island, comprising the territory heretofore called Pawtucket, now the town of Pawtucket, in this state, and that part of the town heretofore called Seekonk, in the State of Massachusetts, now the town of East Providence, in this State,.....\$3,259,000

The entire valuation of the said towns, if the property was estimated at its full value, would be :

Town of Pawtucket.....	\$2,178,000
Town of East Providence.....	1,378,000
	<hr/>
Total of the two towns.....	\$3,556,000

All of which is respectfully submitted by

(Signed,)

EDWARD D. PEARCE,  
ROBERT SHERMAN,  
JOSEPH W. SWEET.

The following documents are copies of original papers now in the possession of Joseph Brown, Esq., of Seekonk, and never before published. They were kindly loaned by Mr. Brown for this purpose :

[L. s.] Province of the }  
Massachusetts Bay }

William Shirley, Esq., Captain  
General and Governour in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England,  
etc.

To William Brown, Gentleman—Greeting.

By virtue of the Power and Authority, in and by His Majesty's Royal Commission to Me granted, to



be Captain General, etc. over this His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, aforesaid; I do (by these Presents) reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Good Conduct, constitute and appoint you the said William Brown—to be Quarter-Master of the Fourth Troop of Horse, under the Command of Maj'r Zephaniah Leonord in the Second Regiment of Horse in the province aforesaid whereof Samuel Miller Esq. is Collonall ——— ———

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a Quartermaster ——— in leading, ordering and exercising said Troop—in Arms, both inferiour Officers and Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order and Discipline; hereby commanding them to obey you as their Quarter-Master—and yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions, as you shall from time to time receive from me, or the Commander in Chief for the Time being, or other your Superiour Officers for His Majesty's Service, according to Military Rules and Discipline, pursuant to the Trust reposed in you.

Given under My Hand & Seal at Arms, at Boston the Seventeenth Day of September. In the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Second, Anno Domini. 1742.

By his Excellency's command.

J. WILLARD STORY.

W. SHIRLEY.

Rehoboth May ye 28th 1778,

To the Seelick men of Rehoboth plesse to pay to Capt Nathaniel Carpenter thirty pounds for my Inlisting in to the Continental Sarvis for Nine Mounths after ariving at Camps at fish Kills.

his  
POMP X RESES.  
mark

Rehoboth May ye 28th 1778. Rec'd at Capt. Nathan Carpenters Ninety Pounds in full of all Bounty, and hired money being a soldier in the Continental Service for the term of Nine months—for the third Company of Militia in Rehoboth

his  
POMP X REANS.  
mark

Rehoboth May ye 15th 1770. Wee the Subscribers Do Voluntarily Inlist our Selves into the Service of the United States untill the first Day of July Next to Do Duty at Tivetown under such officers as shall be appointed for the Third company of Milistia in Rehoboth on consideration of the Sum of Thirty Pounds Paid by Capt John Perry on our Signing this Enlistment.

THOMAS WILMARTH, JUN.  
NATHANIEL CHAFFEE.

Rehoboth August ye 11th 1779.

Sir) I have Rec'd orders this Day from Coll. Thonus Carpenter for the Porpouse of Raising two Hundrēd and twenty Eight men out of our Reg't to march to providence, (under the command of the Contanental Genl'. to sarve foure weeks from the time of thare arriving in Camp) as soon as possible and likewise three Cpts. and six lieuts. to command them, with one field officer from the reg't: you are therefore Requiered to Raise out of your company 33 Men: and you are Desired to mate at Mr. Jeremiah Wheelers to-morrow at two o'clock in the afternoon to consult further about this matter. Hereof fail not as you Regard the weelfare of these Stats and make Return of the men Raised as soon as ma be to the Co'll of the Regiment or to my Selfe ———

NATHAN'LL CARPENTER, Major.

(To Capt John Perry)

A list of the men under Lieutenant Brown in Colonel Carpenter's Regiment, 1776 :

## LIEUTENANTS.

First, Samuel Brown,                      Second, John De ———.

## SERGEANTS.

Amos Goff,                                      Remember Kent,  
Miles Shorey,                                  Stephen Burn.

## CORPORALS.

Ezra French,                                    Jacob Allen,  
Elkanah French,                                William Eddy.

## ALARM MEN.

Amos Handy,	Jonathan Carpenter,
Oliver Read,	Training Cand,
Jabiz Carpenter,	James French,
William Daggett,	John French,
Jacob Shorey	John Brown,
Nathan Ide,	Caleb Carpenter,
Daniel Carpenter,	Nathan Read,
William Titus,	David Cooper,
Aaron Read,	Ephraim Carpenter,
Charles Peck,	Jedediah Carpenter,
Ephraim Walker,	Job Carpenter,
Nathaniel Phillips,	Eliphalet Carpenter,
Azaheel Carpenter,	Comfort Chaffee,
William Sabin,	John Barker,
John Bowen,	Amos Whitaker,
John Shorey,	Moses Walker,
Leverrit Cushing,	Richard Whitaker,
John Robinson,	Noah Newman,

Daniel Perrin,	Abraham Ormsbee,
Samuel Woodward,	Ezekiel Carpenter,
Nathan Peckham,	Noah Fuller,
Aaron Lyon,	Benjamin Ormsbee,
James Carpenter	Samuel Bowen,
David Read,	Samuel Allen y <sup>e</sup> 2,
James Bly,	John Woodward,
Simeon Read,	Jabiz Perry,
Benjamin Gage,	Jonathan French,
Samuel Lyon,	Seba French,
Ephraim Turner,	Nathaniel Cooper,
Thomas Munro,	Daniel Ide Perrin,
David Hutchins,	Jacob Carpenter,
Penewell Carpenter,	James Read,
Samuel Butterworth Chaffee,	Ebenezer Short,
Samuel Carpenter,	William Slade,
Nathan Newman,	Aza Bowen,
Simeon Hunt,	Abel Medbery,
	Josiah Chushing, Junr.

Rehoboth September ye 3 : 1776  
 then Received of Samuel Brown the sum of Six Pounds  
 in cash for to go to Crown Pint I say received By Me  
 LEMUEL PERRIN.

Rehoboth September ye 3, 1776,  
 then received of Samuel Brown the sum of Six Pounds.  
 In cash for ingaiging to go to Crown Pint I say Received  
 by me,  
 JAMES COOPER

Rehoboth June 4th 1778.  
 I the Subscriber Do acknowldige, that I Have Received of  
 Capt. Natha'l Carpenter the sum of One Hundred pounds  
 in full of my towns Bounty and Hier for sarving in the

Continental sarvice at the fish Kills for Nine Months I  
say Received By me, JOHN COLE.

Rehoboth June 8th 1778.

I the Subscriber Do acknoledg that I Have Received of  
Capt. Natha'l Carpenter the sum of One Hundred pounds  
it Being for my towns Bounty and Hier in full for my in-  
gaging in the Contanental army at the fish Kills for the  
term of Nine months I say Received By me,

BEZALEEL BOWEN.

Rehoboth July 1st 1779.

Received of Capt John Perry by his Note Baring  
Even Date with this Receipt the Sum of seventy-two  
Pounds with the Bounty for Each our Servies Six months  
in the Army or till the first of January next as witness  
our hands,

JOB CARPENTER,

LEWIS CARPENTER.

Behoboth July 24th 1778.

I the Subscriber Do acknlodg that I have Received of  
Capt. Natha'l Carpenter the sum of twenty Pounds for my  
Hier as a Soldier to Do Sarvise at Cambridg until the  
first Day of January Next as witness my Hand,

BRADOCK CHAFFEE.

Rehoboth July ye 23d 1778.

Then I the subscriber Have Received of Capt. Nathaniel  
Carpenter the Sum of ten Pounds it being a Bounty for  
him to sarve at Cambridge in the Contenental Sarvice un-  
til the first Day of January Next. I say Received By  
me

EPHRAIM TOWNES.

Rehoboth September 24th 1778. A Inlistment.

I the Subscriber for the considerton of forty-five pounds I

do Inlist as a Soldier under the command of Gen'l. Sullien or the Gen'l Court of this State to sarve untill the first of Jeneray Next and to do Sarve as a Soldier for the third Military Companys Quoto in Rehoboth as witness my Hand

BRADOCK CHAFFEE.

Rehoboth June ye 26th 1779.

We the Subscribers do Volentary Inlist into the Contental Service for the term of Nine Months to Serve under such officers as shall be appointed by the Commander in Chief by orders of the Court of the State, as witness our Hands,

NOAH NEWMAN,  
NATHAN NEWMAN,  
SEBA FRENCH,  
SAMUEL CARPENTER.  
DAVID READ, 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
DANIEL PERRIN.

Rehoboth July ye 12th A. D. 1779,

Rec'd. of Capt John Perry in the behalfe of said town By his Note of hand for two thousand Dolers Bearing Even Date Hearwith for my Hier into the Sarvice for Nine mounths for said town.

DANIEL READ.

I the Subscriber Do here unto Subcribed Being of clar mind to serve and defend our Country and Leberties have this day voluntarily Inlisted as Soldier in the Contanental Army for Nine Mounths from the Date unless Sooner Discharged and do Bind myself to conform in all Instances to such Rules and Regulations as Are or Shall Be Establish-ed for the Government of said Army witness my hand,

his  
POMP X KEANS.  
mark.

Rehoboth May 23 : 1778.

Rehoboth June ye 1 : 1778.

A Subscription for the Purpos of Raising men for the third company in Rehoboth to serve Nine months in the Contanental servis after they shall Arive at the Fish kills. ————and for that Porpose we whoze Names are under Ritten Promis to Pay the Sums we shall Annex to our names to Capt. Nathaniel Carpenter for the Above Porpos and to Have for the same Co.

	£	s.	d.
Timothy Titus,.....	3	0	0
Wm. Daggett.....	9	0	0
John Shorey .....	3	0	0
Nathaniel Read.....	3	0	0
Pennal Carpenter.....	7	10	0
Timothy Cob.....	3	0	0
John Carpenter... ..	8	0	0
Elijah Kent.....	6	0	0
Nathan Ide.....	3	0	0
Daniel Daggett .....	5	0	0
John French.....	6	0	0
Elkanah French.....	2	2	0
Nath'l. Cooper, Jun.....	9	0	0
Oliver Read.....	0	18	0
James Cooper.....	0	12	0
Timothy Read, Jun.....	1	10	0
John Lindley.....	5	0	0
Thomas Read... ..	3	0	0
Thomas Munro.....	3	0	0
Simeon Goff.....	0	12	0
William Goff.....	3	0	0
David Perrin.....	6	0	0
Amos Goff.....	1	10	0
Abel Walker.....	3	0	0
Elkanah French.....	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.
Received of John Carpenter.....	2	8	0
Received More.....	3	12	0
	<hr/>		
	£6	0	0

State of  
Massachusetts Bay }  
}

[ L. s ]

JOHN AVERY DOLAY,  
JERAMIAH POWELL,  
ARTEMUS WARD,  
CALEB CUSHING,  
T. CUSHING,  
B. WHITE,  
H. GOVONOUR,  
F. M. DANA,  
SAM'L DANIELSON,  
N. CUSHING,  
JOSIAH STONE,  
A. FULLER,  
SAM'L NILES,  
JOSEPH SIMPSON,  
AARON WOOD,  
JONA'N. PITTS.

The Major Part of the Council of Massachusetts Bay in New England To Samuel Brown Gen'l—Greeting. You being appointed First Lieutenant of the fifth Company Commanded by John Perry in the first Regiment of Militia in the county of Bristol whereof Thomas Carpenter is Colonel. By virtue of the Power vested in me, we do by these presents, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Good Conduct, Commission you accordingly. You are therefore carefully and diligently to Discharge the Duty of a 1st Lieutenant in leading, ordering and exercising said Company in Arms, with Inferior Officers and Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order and Discipline: And they are hereby commanded to obey you as their 1st Lieutenant and you are yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions as you shall from time to time receive from the Major Part of the Council or your Superior Officers. Given under our hands and the seal of said State at Boston the tenth Day of June in the year of our Lord 1779.

By the Command of the }  
Major Part of the Council. }



Bristol ss Rehoboth June ye 29th 1779.—The within Named Samuel Brown Gent'Man personally appeared and took the oath for the faithfull Performance of his office as by Law Required.

THOMAS CARPENTER, Col,  
Before NATHAN'L. CARPENTER, MAJOR.

Rehoboth June 2d 1778.

A Subscription to raise the sum of money that is not Drafted in order to Hire the Contentental Soldiers for the nine months service ; For the third Company's Quota in Rehoboth

We the Subscribers Do Promis to pay to Nathaniel Carpenter Capt. of said company the sum affixed to our Respective Names. As witness our hands.

	£	s.	d.
Ephraim Walker.....	7	0	0
Richard Whitaker.....	9	0	0
Samuel Woodward Jun.....	3	0	0
Samuel Lyon.....	6	0	0
Daniel Carpenter.....	9	0	0
Josiah Cushing, Jun'r.....	6	0	0
David Cushing.....	5	0	0
Jacob Cushing.....	9	0	0
Josiah Ide.....	6	0	0
Caleb Carpenter, 3d.....	3	0	0
Jonathan Carpenter.....	3	0	0
Samuel Woodward.....	6	0	0
Asahel Carpenter, Jun'r.....	6	0	0
Eleazar Carpenter.....	3	0	0

Camp at Foxbury Oct. 27th 1775, an inventory of Lieu't. Aaron Walker's articles, warlike furniture, left in the Company with others who Deceased Oct. 19th 1775.

	£	s.	d.
One Fire Arm and Bayonett..	2	14	0
One Sword.....	0	7	0
One Cartridge Box.....	0	6	0

	£	s.	d.
Amount brought forward,.....	3	7	0
One Flask.....	0	6	0
One Blanket.....	0	8	0
and the one half of one chest.....	0	1	6
one pare shooes .....	0	3	0
	<hr/>		
	£4	5	6

As witness our hands,

JOSEPH ALLEN, Ensign,  
SAM'L. BLISS, Capt.

Foxbury Oct. 30th 1775. This may Certify that I the Subscriber have made Diligent Search, and find this to be a true Inventory of Lieu't. Walkers Estate left in Camp.

ABIAL MITCHELL, Major.

The following letter is deemed worthy of a place here and is well merited by the citizens of a town which has made such liberal appropriations for the improvement of its highways at a time of universal depression in business interests.

(COPY).

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, }  
ATTORNEY GEN'L.'S OFFICE, }

PROVIDENCE, July 6, 1876.

ANDREW J. ANTHONY, Esq.,

Pres. Town Council East Providence.

At the request of your townsman, Geo. N. Bliss, Esq., I took a ride into East Providence a few days ago to look at certain roads, against which complaints had been made by certain citizens.

Without exception, I consider them the finest country roads I have ever seen. They were in every respect first class; and in my opinion reflect great credit upon all concerned. (Signed.)

Very Respectfully

WILLARD SAYLES.

AN  
HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Town of East Providence,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE TOWN AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS  
OF EAST PROVIDENCE,

JULY 4TH, 1876,

BY

GEORGE N. BLISS.

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PROVIDENCE:

John F. Greene, Printer, 13 Market Square,  
1876.







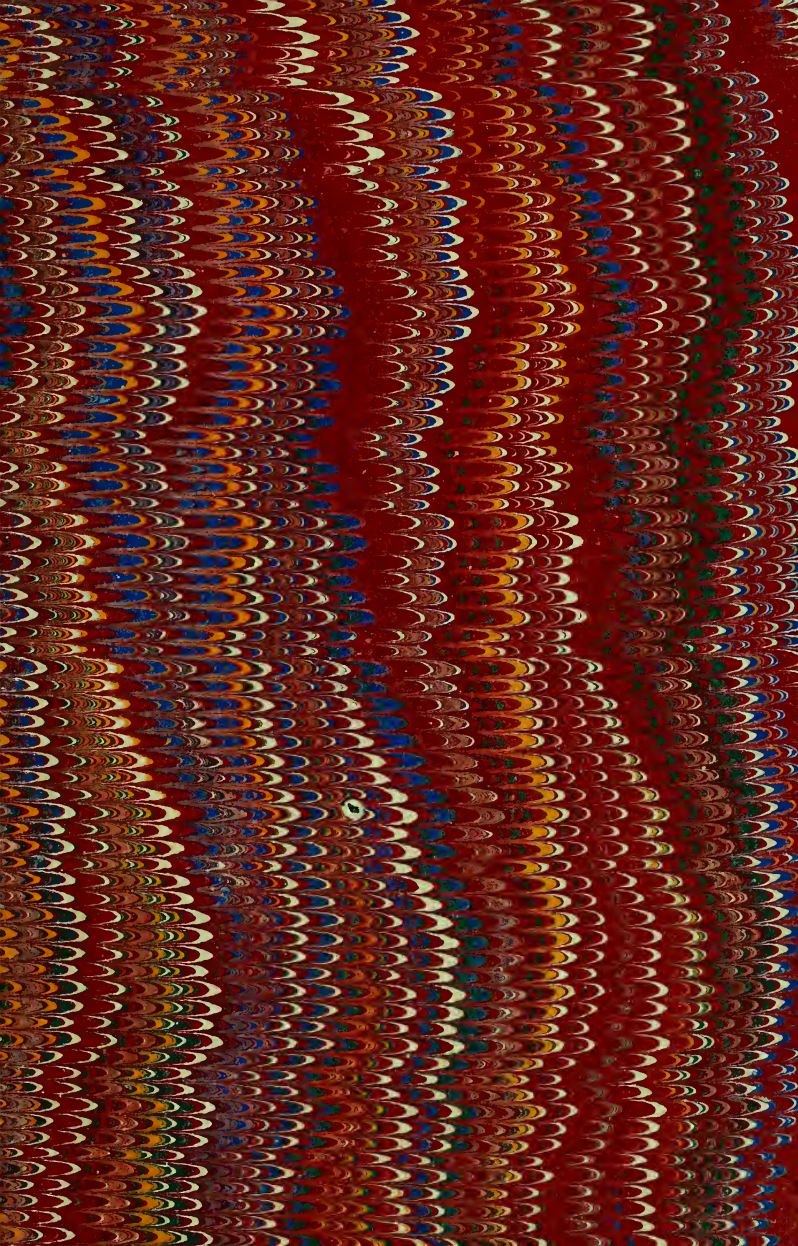












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