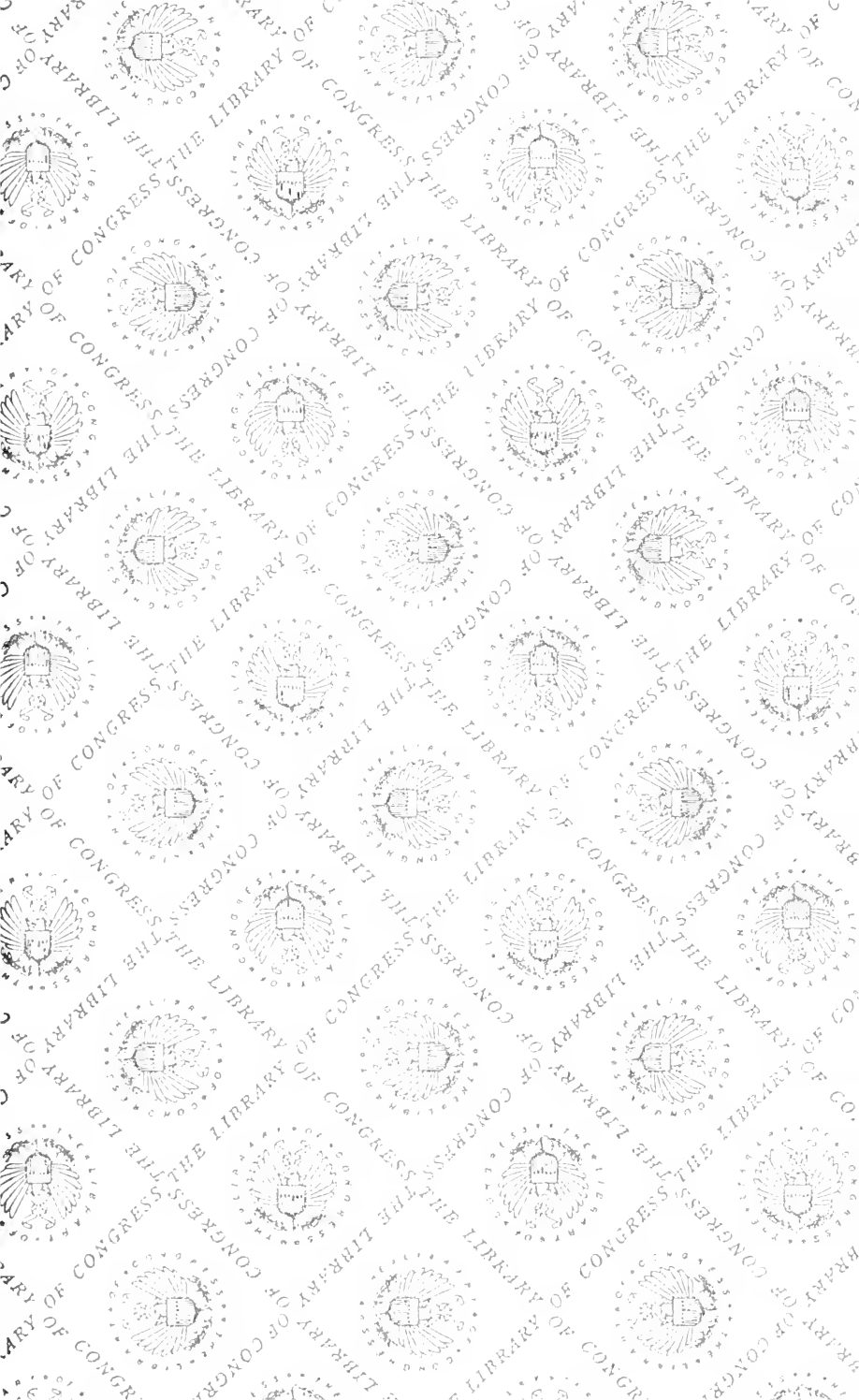
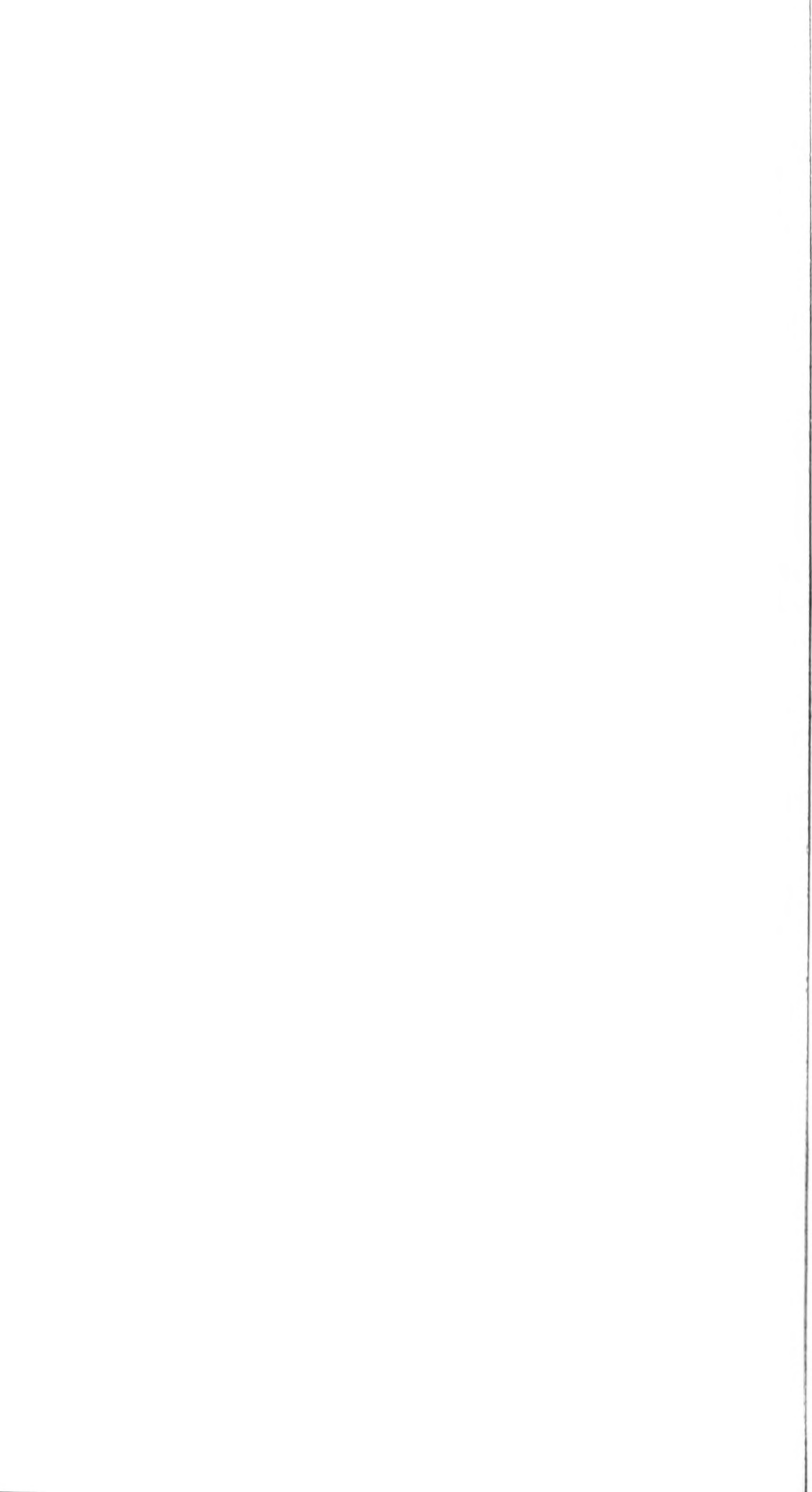


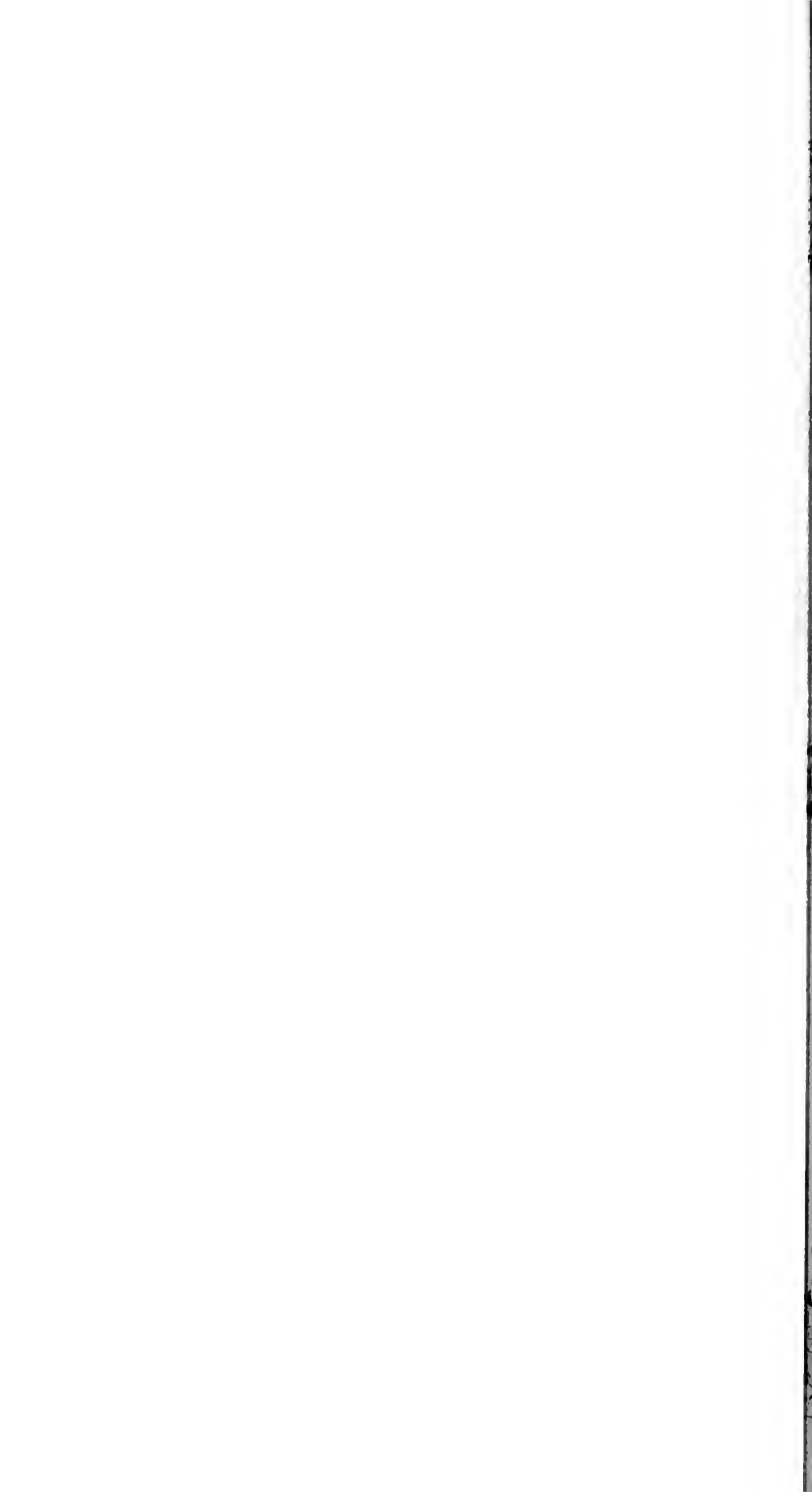
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HISTORY

OF

SHAPLEIGH,

BY REV. AMASA LORING.

1851.

BROWN THURSTON, PRINTER, PORTLAND.



A

HISTORY OF SHAPLEIGH.

BY REV. AMASA LORING.

“What the Fathers have told us, we will not hide from the Children.”



PORTLAND:
PRINTED BY B. THURSTON.

1854.

At a Legal Town Meeting of the inhabitants of Shapleigh, Dec. 24, 1853, it was voted to purchase two hundred and seventy-five copies of the following History, when published, for general distribution through the town.

First settlement of Shapleigh commenced in the Winter of 1772 and 3 — by Joseph Jellison and Son.

Entered by Claimants — May, 1773.

Claim established by the General Court of Massachusetts — Oct. 30, 1778.

Incorporated as the town of Shapleigh — March 5, 1785.

The West Parish set off and incorporated, as Acton, March 6, 1820.

A portion of Shapleigh adjoining Dam's Mill's, annexed to Newfield, June 1844.

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5322

H I S T O R Y .

EXPLORATION.

The white man first penetrated this howling wilderness, in pursuit of *game* and *timber*,—nature's spontaneous productions. The hunter traversed the margins of its numerous streams and quiet ponds, to trap the beaver, otter, and musk-quash; with which those waters then teemed,—and crossed its rolling swells, or climbed its rugged hills, to drop the moose, deer, and bear; those early occupants of its solitudes.

The virgin soil bore a noble growth of pine and oak, whose lofty height, straight, sound and giant trunks, out-rival all that has succeeded them. The finest lumber of every description,—ship-timber convenient, and of a superior quality, could there be found, in rich abundance. As it was not far from navigable waters, its valleys, plains, and timber tracts were early threaded with logging roads, over which the long pine and sturdy oak were hauled to Berwick and Portsmouth.

It is said that the officers of the Crown explored these regions, and set the "*Broad-Arrow*" upon its largest pines, by which "sign-royal," all persons were forbid to cut them, save for "His Majesty's Navy." A Royal ordinance had been passed, that all pine trees, standing upon land claimed by the crown which measured more than two feet in diameter, "should be reserved for masting the royal navy."

So good a report of its soil, growth, and other facilities for settlement, went out from both classes of adventurers,—its hunters and lumbermen,—that it awakened a desire to break in upon its forests, in some, and a disposition to obtain its proprietorship, in others. Hence the *title to its soil* began to be agitated about the time that the first settlers "lifted up the ax upon its thiek trees."

PROPRIETORSHIP.

There were two distinct claimants to the soil of New England, "to wit," the British Crown, and the Native Indians. The claim of the former was grounded on the fact of discovery, and on the higher right to reclaim *savage wastes*, subdue them, and convert them into fruitful fields;—the claim of the latter, on the fact of first and actual possession. The practices of civilized nations, the enlarged benefits that would be conferred upon the world by their dispossession, and the evident design of the Great Proprietor of all things that the earth should be brought into its most productive state, sustained the former claim;—and the law of possession, and the equal rights of the races, sustained the latter. The rights of discovery gave the English the precedence of all civilized nations, but did not of themselves authorize them to dispossess the Natives unceremoniously. If they had a claim which the "laws of nations," or the principles of unbending right, would maintain them in justice to them required that it should be honorably extinguished.

But did the occupation of these regions by the Aborigines constitute a real, a substantial possession? They cultivated the soil but little. They occupied it mainly as hunting grounds. They roved from place to place, like the Nomads of the East, without fixed habitations. So that not the soil, but the game that roamed over it, was the object of their pursuit. If they had a claim on the soil, it was barely as so much *hunting ground*. And as civilization has a preëminence over savage life,—the circuit sufficient to sustain one by the chase, would support two thousand when brought under cultivation,—the Natives were under a moral obligation, either to adopt the arts of civilization, or to relinquish their right at a fair equivalent, and retire before the march of improvement.

The crown of England did not stop to examine these points, but without any regard to the claims of the Aborigines, granted large tracts of lands to companies and individuals by Royal Charters, Patents, or Deeds: and thereby made them Proprietors, bodies politic, sometimes subordinate governors over those limits. In this manner, York, Cumberland, and a part of Lincoln Counties were granted by Charles I. to Sir Fernando Gorges, in 1639. Under the authority of this Charter, the first tier of towns upon the sea coast, in York County, was surveyed and conveyed to their respective proprietors, by Tho's. Gorges, a nephew of Sir Fernando, who acted as Deputy Governor under his uncle. The natives were then numerous. And however others might regard their claims, they were disposed to insist upon them, and to defend them with the tomahawk and scalping knife. And as they would sell large tracts for a trifle, proprietors and settlers found it a matter of economy and safety to extinguish their title, or to pacify them by such purchases.

Hence nearly all of York County, except the townships on the coast, was deeded to different proprietors, by Indian Chiefs.

In 1676 the heirs of Gorges conveyed their right to the colony of Massachusetts; reserving those tracts which had been deeded to certain individuals by the native Sagamores.

The Provincial officers were disposed to respect the Indian titles, and the holders of them usually retained, undisturbed, the tracts thus conveyed. Therefore all scruples concerning a moral and equitable title to the soil of York County are removed: for it comes primarily from the natives,—and has been sanctioned and confirmed by Provincial and State authority.

So it was, with the title to the town of Shapleigh:—which was obtained in the following manner: In 1661 Captain Sunda, an Indian Chief of the Ossipee tribe, deeded to Francis Small of Scarboro', the Ossipee tract,—embracing what are now called the "Ossipee towns,"—to wit, Cornish, Parsonsfield, Newfield, Limerick and Limington, a record of which is on the County Registry.

A tradition has come down, which makes this conveyance characteristic of those adventurous times—It runs thus:

Small, in the winter, was keeping a "trading house," upon this tract, somewhere in the present town of Limington or Cornish. Many of the Indians became largely indebted to him, promising furs in the spring. Plotting upon an easier way to extinguish their debt, they conspired together to surround his house, on a certain night, and to reduce it, with its contents and occupant to ashes. This chief, being apprised of it, went and secretly informed Small, and besought him to make a timely escape.

Small at first regarded this as a cunning contrivance to deprive him of his property; but for this, the Chief generously promised to remunerate him, by a conveyance of lands. But knowing something of savage vengeance, and reflecting that "discretion is the better part of valor," on the day previous to the night named for the attack, he left his house in its usual state, and retired to a neighboring hill, where he concealed himself, to see whether the Sachem's account was a friendly warning or a wily trick.

When the shades and silence of night had come, the flames of that trading house lighted up the surrounding forest, and revealed a host of ferocious savages, carousing over the supposed destruction of its inmate.

Small, of course, hastily and secretly left those regions and returned to Scarboro'.

Captain Sunda, faithful to his promise, afterwards met him at Saco, and gave him the above-mentioned deed to indemnify him for his loss.

No one will endorse this story, but certain points in it are well authenticated. It is a well established fact that Francis Small kept a trading house at that time, and in those regions. The claimants

under him so stated in a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts.

A Mr. Chalbourne of Berwick filed an affidavit, which is still preserved, stating that "when he was out on a scouting party, scouring those regions, in the Indian wars, another man observed to him, that they were near the place where Small's trading house was, and on going a little further, they saw the spot where the house had stood, and drank water from a well there." It is also an established fact, that Major Nicholas Shapleigh of Kittery, was in company with Small in the trading house enterprise;—and that Small deeded to him, an undivided half of all the lands conveyed by Sunda's deed.

A long period of Indian wars now commenced. Small, perhaps fearing that he should be an object of savage vengeance, went to Cape Cod and died there, but his family continued in Scarborough'.

These wars suspended all new settlements, and carried desolation into many of the towns already settled. Hence deeds of these new sections, from any source, were for a long time, but a "dead letter."

At length these cruel and destructive wars were ended. The foe no longer lay in ambush by the path of the white man, nor drove him to the crowded block house. The settlements began to recover from their reduced state, and the tide of civilization, began to set back into the unbroken forest. Sanford, including Alfred, was surveyed in 1731, and the settlement commenced about six years later. This was at first called Phillipstown from the Phillips family, to whom it was deeded by the Indians.

Lebanon was surveyed in 1733, and the permanent settlement of it commenced about ten years later. This retained its Indian name, *Tow woh*, till its incorporation.

Lyman began to be settled in 1761, and Waterboro' soon after, called *Massabasic*, from the pond lying west of "Shaker Village."

The territory of Shapleigh lay next in the path of civilization, as it was pressing back the forest frontier, and claimants began to look up their titles.

In 1770, the original "Deed" from Captain Sunda to Francis Small was found by his family among his papers, having lain unrecorded more than one hundred years. The heirs of Nicholas Shapleigh, it seems, well knew that they had an interest in the tract thus deeded. Honestly supposing that the "Shapleigh Township" was included in the tract conveyed, they called a legal meeting of said heirs, at the Inn of William Leighton in Kittery, on the first Monday of March 1772, and took preliminary measures "to go up and possess the land."

After several adjournments and meetings, they appointed Joshua Hubbard and Dependent Shapleigh a Committee, to go and run out the tract.

This committee, accompanied by James Warren, Surveyor, and Joseph Hasty and Gilbert Warren, Chainmen, went into the wilderness in May 1773, and run a line around it, which eventually became its original boundary. The Committee also cleared a small opening, enclosed it with a fence, and planted it with corn and potatoes, in presence of this survey company, as a formal act of possession.

An undivided half of the tract originally conveyed to Small was made over to Maj. Nicholas Shapleigh. His heirs early endeavored to effect a partition by honorable and fair negotiation. They appointed Committees to go to Scarboro', and treat with the heirs of Small, proposing at first, to take the Parsonstown township (now Parsonsfield), the "Shapleigh township," and enough lying on towards the New Hampshire line to make up one half of the whole amount conveyed.

It does not appear that this proposal was accepted in full, though Parsonsfield and Shapleigh were conceded to them, for they afterwards voted to petition the Supreme Court for a legal division. It appears however the division was amicably effected at length; the heirs of Shapleigh taking Parsonsfield, Shapleigh, and one half of Limerick; and the heirs of Small the rest, "to wit," Cornish, Limington, Newfield, and one-half of Limerick—a division by no means equitable to the heirs of Shapleigh, as the sequel will show.

The Shapleigh township, as surveyed by the above-mentioned Committee lies entirely south of the Little Ossipee; and was not included in Sunda's deed to Small. How then it may be asked were these claimants entitled to it? Proprietors, who held lands south and east of it, by Indian deeds, did not extend their claims over it. These proprietors justly claimed a large tract lying contiguous to it on the north. Boundaries were not then well-defined and known. The Colonial governments were at that time engaged in contests with the Crown, which led on to the Revolution; so that subjects of this kind could not be closely scrutinized.

The heirs of Shapleigh therefore, it may be, under a misapprehension, stepped in and took possession of it. Nor did they for some time seem to doubt the validity of their claim. They lotted it out, in part; apportioned it among the different share holders; granted and sold lots; made reserves for public uses; and encouraged the peaceable and lawful settlement of it. They consented to a division with the heirs of Small, much to their disadvantage, if their claim to this tract was not valid.

At length the validity of their claim was questioned. Two families were settled upon it, before they run out the township and took possession of it,—others came and settled, before the township was fully lotted and assigned to separate proprietors. Trespassers were committing depredations upon the timber it bore, and they never failed to dispute any title but their own.

The Proprietors attempted to maintain their claim. Agents were appointed to prosecute trespassers, and to protect the timber, but while the title was doubtful they forebore to do it. The Proprietors evidently began to tremble; for in 1777, they voted to grant to the Hon. James Sullivan, one half of the Limerick township, on condition that he would defend all lawsuits brought against their title.

The next year (1778) they employed Mr. Sullivan to present a petition to the General Court, to have the southern boundary of the township established; concealing under this modest request the question of their title to it, which must of course be confirmed if this boundary was thus established.

In this petition, they set forth in addition to their claim from its connection with the Ossipee tract, that they had expended considerable money in surveying it, laying it out and making roads; had reserved certain lots for public uses; and had at that time nearly forty families peaceably and lawfully settled upon it."

But at this time the Country was engaged in a burdensome war, and the Province of Massachusetts was abandoning its old English Charter and adopting a constitution, consequently Legislative business of that kind lingered. For some time, the petition made no progress. The Proprietors endeavored to urge it on, and added the Hon. Edward Cutts, who had been one of the Provincial council, to Hon. J. Sullivan, as an Agent to prosecute it, before the Legislature. While the subject continued in suspense, a way was opened to effect the object.

The General Court, in May 1781, passed a resolve appointing a Committee on "Eastern Lands," a part of whose duty was to examine private claims, and to confirm peaceable and honest settlers of the public domain, in their title to lots taken up and improved by them. This Committee consisted of Hon. Jedediah Preble of Falmouth, Hon. Jonathan Greenleaf of New Gloucester, Hon. David Sewall of York, John Lewis, Esq., of North Yarmouth, and William Lithgow, Esq., of Georgetown.

The proprietors then concluded to bring their claim before this Committee. They accordingly appointed Hon. Benjamin Chadbourne, (who had been a member of the Provincial Council, and was now a member of the Governor's Council), the Hon. James Sullivan, and Capt. Wm. Rodgers, as Agents to effect it, and to manage the cause before them. A petition to that effect was presented to this Committee, accompanied with an agreement, to abide their decision provided the general Court would confirm it.

A question had arisen about the boundaries between this township and the Phillips tract, which lay on the south and east of it.

Capt. Sunda, and Fluellin Habinowell, an Indian Chief of Saco River, deeded to Maj. Wm. Phillips about the year 1662, a territory extending from Saco River to Lebanon, and this unappropriated

territory, and from Berwick to the Little Ossipee, excepting Lyman which had been previously conveyed to John Saunders. Sir Fernando Gorges in 1670 confirmed this title, with more definite boundaries. The Major's wife, Mrs. Bridget Phillips, out-lived her husband, and by will, conveyed it to Peleg Sandford, her son by a former marriage.

Sandford and Waterboro', and Lebanon likewise were bounded by lines running North-East and South-West, and such as were at right-angles with them.

As this was run out, with its south and east lines, directly East and West, and North and South, its boundaries only touched the most northern corner of Lebanon and the most western of Waterboro', leaving four triangles between it and these contiguous towns.

The Committee, which run out, and took possession of the Shapleigh Township, went with the same Survey Company, run a line around them, and ascertained their respective dimensions — but it does not appear that the "Shapleigh Proprietors" claimed them, excepting part of the tract lying on the N. W. side of Lebanon.

It was necessary to have this question concerning the boundaries, examined and adjusted. Hence they solicited the claimants under Mrs. Bridget Phillips, to submit their claim to the same committee of reference.

To this the Phillips heirs consented, and appointed Col. J. Waters, Hon. Tristram Dalton, John Mason, Esqr., and John Avery, Esq., Agents, to manage it before them.

These claimants respectively agreed, that if their claims should be established, they would not distress settlers already upon the territory, and would sell them land as cheap as they were selling lands of the same quality to others.

This Committee, in the Summer of 1782, met in Sanford, and went into a thorough investigation of the different claims.

On the 19th of July they reported to the General Court of Massachusetts, in substance as follows: —

"After hearing statements of both parties, examining original deeds, and obtaining information from all available sources, it appeared to them that the claimants under Mrs. Bridget Phillips were entitled to all the land lying above or West of the head line (i. e. the line on N. W. side) of Biddeford, Arundal and Wells, to the South-Western and North Western lines of Sanford;—thence from the North-East corner of Sanford adjoining Waterboro, on a North West line till it struck the Little Ossipee river — thence by said river till it entered the Saco — thence on the Saco river to the North-West corner of Biddeford. This included the towns of Sanford, as originally surveyed, with Alfred, Lyman, Hollis, and Waterford, together with quite a large tract on the North East corner of the Shapleigh Township. This did not embrace the Southern Gore, which lay between Sanford, Lebanon and "Shapleigh

Township," nor the South-Eastern Gore, now known as Alfred Gore, which were afterwards attached to Lebanon and Sanford.

Why Lyman was not excepted, I cannot understand, for it appears to be a fact in history that it was never claimed by the Phillips heirs.

This Committee further reported, that the territory called the "Ossipee Tract," in their opinion, was the lawful property of its claimants. And as the Shapleigh Proprietors apprehended that they had a claim to lands South of the Little Ossipee, and had entered upon it, expending considerable money in making settlements upon it, they recommend that these Proprietors have the tract granted to them, included within the following boundaries — on the following conditions, to wit:—

"Beginning at the Point on the line running from the North-East corner of Sanford, North-West to Little Ossipee river — said Point to be 780 rods from the North-East corner of Sanford — thence South 1070 rods, till it strikes Sanford North-West Line — then West 720 rods — then South 250 rods — then West nearly six miles to Salmon Falls river: — then by said river and New Hampshire line — (called "Province Line", run by Gov. Belcher, in 1711) 10 miles to Little Ossipee Pond — then on this pond and river, till it struck the line of the Phillips claim — then South-East on the line of the Phillips claim, till it came to the point first mentioned — which was the South-East corner of Waterboro, on "Fort Ridge," likewise to include the Small Gore of 300 acres which lay South of this line, and between New Hampshire line and Lebanon; — provided they faithfully reserve the lots already appropriated by them for public uses, and pay £100, current money, into the State Treasury within one year."

This report, being presented to the General Court, was committed to a Joint Committee, consisting of Hon. Abraham Fuller and Nathaniel Wells of the Senate — and of Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Vaus and Col. Grow of the House; which, after adding to the conditions that the Proprietors pay one-half of the expense of the Committee which sat upon it, recommended its passage.

The Bill accordingly passed both branches of the Legislature, and Oct. 30, 1782 was signed by Nath'l Gorham, Speaker of the House, and Sam'l Adams, President of the Senate; John Avery, being Secretary of State, and John Hancock, Governor.

The Southern boundary as thus established did not differ materially from the line ran by Surveyor Warren in 1773. But the East line, instead of continuing North the whole length, as originally run, sheered to the North-West from the South-West corner of Waterford, and continued in this course till it struck the Little Ossipee. This would cut off six or eight hundred acres, originally embraced. The Shapleigh Proprietors purchased this of the Phillips heirs and paid them £60 for it. The East line was therefore restored to its first land-marks.

It will now be seen, as this township was not included in the tract held jointly by the heirs of Small and Shapleigh, the latter did not obtain a full share of the tract originally conveyed, in the division with the heirs of Small. Yet they appeared to be well pleased with the terms, on which their title was confirmed. At the next meeting after the Bill passed, they voted "to confirm a grant of 100 acres to Hon. B. Chadbourne, and also to make him a Proprietor in the Township, to share one forty-fourth part of the whole original survey. This was to compensate him for his efforts in conducting their cause before the Committee and the General Court, as he had borne the principal part of the burden.

They also took measures, to raise the sum required by the terms of the grant, and assessed £640, upon the share-holders. But the collection was not seasonably made; or else was not completed.— Money was hired of Hon. David Sewall, to meet the demand, and time elapsed, suits were brought, shares were advertised, and probably sold, before the debt was extinguished.

The Proprietors now feeling that they were "Lords of the soil," resumed their business with redoubled efficiency — and took measures to secure an act of incorporation.

The names of those who were the lawful heirs of Maj. N. Shapleigh — and who were admitted to right of Proprietors by the consent of the claimants, will now be given: —

Samuel Shapleigh,	Dr. David Pierce,
John Shapleigh,	Rev. Alpheus Spring,
James Shapleigh,	Capt. John H. Bartlett,
Dependent Shapleigh,	Nathaniel Remick,
Elisha Shapleigh,	Capt. Phillip Hubbard,
Joshua Hubbard,	Gen. Ichabod Goodwin,
Nathan Bartlett Jr.,	Capt. James Garvin,
Simon Jenness,	Humphrey Scammon, Jr.,
Jonathan Sayward, Esq.,	Nicholas Scammon,
Hon. James Sullivan,	Wm. Stacy,
Daniel Moulton,	Dennis Fernald,
James Gowen,	Capt. Wm. Rodgers,
Hon. Edward Cutts,	Robert Rodgers,
Jonathan Moulton,	Dea. John Hill,
Capt. John Frost,	Maj. Samuel Leighton,
Dea. Wm. Leighton,	Wm. Parsons,
Jonathan C. Chadbourne,	Tobias Fernald, Jr.,
Alexander Scammel,	Mark Fernald,
William Frost,	Robert Parker,
Capt. Samuel Stacy,	Andrew P. Fernald,
Samuel Jenness,	Hon. Benj. Chadbourne.
Moses Hanscom,	

The name of a Rev. Mr. Foster appears among the Proprietors,

in some of their business, and he, probably, made the 44th — though it is not in the list — as recorded by the Clerk.

A question some time afterwards arose, in respect to the Southern boundary upon which Commissioners were appointed by the State. These Commissioners run off a strip 30 rods wide, formerly claimed by the Shapleigh Proprietors and attached it to the town of Lebanon. The Proprietors voted to indemnify the settlers who had purchased the lots thus reduced.

GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW.

The Township, as thus surveyed and incorporated, was bounded on the North by the Little Ossipee Pond and River which separate it from Newfield; on the West by Wakefield, N. H., and Salmon Falls river which separate it from Milton, N. H.; on the South by Lebanon and Sanford; on the East by Alfred and Waterboro.

Its length North and South was 10 miles; its breadth 8 miles; containing, according to Williamson, 32,150 acres.

Nearly one fourth part of its surface (7000 acres) are plains, lying in the North and North-East part; the remainder is divided into precipitous hills: pleasant swells or ridges; low marshes or meadows, and extensive ponds of water. The plains were originally covered with a valuable Pitch Pine growth, interspersed with Norway and White Pine; which the Pitch Pine of a diminutive size has succeeded, thickly set with whortleberry bushes and and tangling shrub-oak.

The hills and ridges bore a heavy growth of White, Red, and Yellow Oak, Beech, White and Grey Birch and Maple, intermixed with Pine, Spruce and Hemlock.

Upon its low lands were found the Alder, Oak, White Maple, Birch, and huge White Pines.

Ponds and streams of water abound, which afford many available mill-privileges. *Great East Pond*, lying partly in this township and partly in New Hampshire, is an extensive sheet of water, from which the Salmon Falls river flows, marking the boundary between Maine and New Hampshire in its whole course to the Piscataqua, and affording several fine mill-sites. *Garcin's Pond* is connected with this. Near the New Hampshire corner is the *Bilch Pond*, formerly called the Little Ossipee Pond, in which the Little Ossipee river has its source, which also affords a steady and convenient supply of water for milling. This river receives a large branch from the Eastern part, called Heath-Meadow Brook, which rises near the centre of the East Parish, and flows Northward — upon which several mills have been erected.

Long Mousam Pond extended North and South, nearly in the

centre of this township — above which lie two smaller called the Upper and Lower Goose Ponds. Still farther North and West lies Square Mousam Pond, approaching quite near to the last mentioned in a certain place, but having its outlet on the South West part, its waters flow quite a distance in a stream called “Hubbard Brook,” before they reach Long Pond. This stream has in times past turned a mill.

Mousam River drains off the waters of these Ponds, having three excellent and occupied Mill sites before it crosses its Southern boundary — though its distance is less than two miles.

Another stream called “Pump-Box Brook” rises near the centre of the East Parish, and by a very circuitous course passes Shapleigh Corner, where it turns two or three mills a part of each year and enters Long Pond on the Eastern side.

This chain of Ponds extending North and South through the centre was skirted with Plains, unfit for settlement, making a natural division of the township. This led the Proprietors to divide the township into two Parishes, calling them the East and West respectively ; which the town, after its incorporation, confirmed ; and which eventually led to a permanent division.

Its soil, as might be supposed, is various. The plains are not adapted to grass, and are but little cultivated, though with proper treatment they yield good corn and rye. The ridges are fertile, though considerably stony, and produce fine crops of corn and grain — and have been sure for wheat. The hills are very stony, though productive, if cultivated, and fine for pasturage. Its marshes and lowlands yield the meadow or low ground hay.

Some of its ridges are as beautiful landscapes as can be found. As they are well defined, being bounded by plains or deep valleys, they have received distinctive names. Fort-Ridge stretches along upon the Eastern border, the highest and largest of any in that Parish. Its name is earlier than its settlement, and it is not certainly known whence it was derived. There is no account or tradition, that any stockade or garrison was ever located upon it. The only information that I could obtain in reference to it, is that when masts were cut in these regions, a short turn in the road was found necessary. A brow was therefore constructed upon which the long mast would be unloaded and swung round, and reloaded in the right direction to follow the turn in the road. This brow resembled a Fort, hence the name of “Fort Ridge.” On the same side of the Pond there were Stanley’s, Pillsbury’s Bartlett’s, Norton’s and Linscot’s Ridges — so named from their first or principal settlers.— On the West side there was Fox’s, Hilton’s, Brackett’s, Cook’s, Hubbard’s, Young’s and Leighton’s.

Cook’s Ridge is higher than Fort Ridge, and from the summit of either, nearly all of York County can be seen ; the adjoining portions of New Hampshire ; the White Hills in the North ; and the Ocean, on the South East.

South of the Plains in North-East parts there rises some high steep hills, which were early called the "*Peaked Mountains*" — Among these hills, and likewise among certain hills on the Western side there is a peculiar shaped valley, called the "*Hopper*."

Many of the ledges in this township are composed of Granite, and yield readily to the wedge and hammer. Ledges and stones are also found which contain sulphur and copperas, so much of the former that the smell of it is distinctly perceived in warm weather.

Granite is found upon the West side of the Pond and an occasional boulder on the East side. A large portion of its stones bear a striking resemblance to Granite, but a close inspection shows that some of the elements of Granite are wanting. An occasional "lead" of trap-rock has been discovered here and there — and specimens of Plumbago, Red Ochre, and Hornblend have been picked up. Iron ore has proved a most valuable mineral. A considerable extensive bed of it has been found upon the banks of the Little Ossipee, which has been worked and which yielded 40 per cent of pure iron.

LOTING AND APPORTIONING.

In 1774, "the lotting out" of the township was commenced. The same Surveyor and Chainmen, who run out the tract, were employed to do it. It was separated into ten ranges running North and South, and numbered, 1, 2, 3, &c., beginning on the East side. A strip two rods wide was thrown in between two adjoining ranges, to accommodate the settlers with roads, gratuitously. The southern part of the the western half, was lotted into portions of 300 acres each, and numbered, 1, 2, 3, &c., beginning at the southern boundary.

When this was done, and a plan was presented, the Proprietors met, and took measures to parcel it out, to the different owners. This was done by casting lots. Ballots containing the number and range of each lot, were put into a hat; and others containing the name of each proprietor were put into another. Two persons then drew out, at a venture, from each hat; and the several Proprietors, took the lot whose number was drawn simultaneously with his name. Thus fifty-two lots, of 300 acres each, called "the first division of lots," were drawn and recorded, at the first allotment. Before commencing, they voted that if any proprietor could afterwards make it appear, that the lot drawn by him was inferior in quality, to the average of the township, he should receive enough from the unappropriated land, to make it up. Such cases afterwards arose, and disinterested persons were appointed, to appraise the lot and to report what addition should be received.

In the Spring of 1776, all of the remainder was lotted, except

the first three ranges. James Warren was employed to do it, and received as a compensation for the whole expense, £30. This was separated into 150 acre lots, and distributed among the several proprietors, in the same manner as the first. This was called the "Second Division."

The 1, 2 and 3 Ranges lay unlotted till their title was confirmed. It was then attended to—3600 acres of this division was set off to Capt. Robert Parker and Andrew P. Fernald, for some consideration not known; some lots, and parts of lots given to settlers, and the rest divided among the Proprietors by lot.

RESERVES FOR PUBLIC USES.

The course of the Proprietors, in this respect, was liberal, and has proved highly beneficial to the inhabitants of the town. It is a redeeming consideration, that they sought not their personal gains alone, but the improvement and happiness of the settlers. Hence they made appropriations for the encouragement of learning and piety.

From the first division they reserved a lot of 300 acres for the use of the ministry.

In 1778, they voted to reserve 300 acres for the use of schools and likewise 300 acres for the benefit of Harvard College.

Upon further consideration, as the township was large, and divided by ponds and plains, and as it would be inconvenient for the people when it become settled to worship together; they voted to reserve, on the east side of the Pond, 300 acres, for the use of the Congregational ministry, the avail of which, should be expended for the Congregational minister settled in that parish. They also voted to reserve a one hundred acre lot, for the first Congregational minister, settled in the East Parish; likewise, voted that the first Congregational minister who settled in the West Parish, have a large island in Square Pond. They also voted that the amount reserved for schools, be located, in equal parts, in each Parish; and that the income of each reserve, be expended for the use of schools in its respective parish. In the West Parish, (Acton) it sold for \$501—in East (Shapleigh), \$1034,18. It is worthy of note, that these two reserves for schools, and one in Parsonsfield made by the same Proprietors, are the only funds now existing, for that purpose, in York County.

The ministerial lot in the West Parish was selected by common consent, at the "1st Division of lots."

After their title was confirmed, they raised a committee of seven, consisting of Hon. B. Chadbourne, John Frost, Esq., Major Samuel Leighton, Capt. Robert Parker, Dependent Shapleigh, James Warren, and Benjamin Connor, to locate the public lots,

in the East Parish. They instructed them to select as good land as could be found unappropriated, and by this committee the amount was duly located.

SETTLEMENT ENCOURAGED.

As soon as the "first division of lots" was drawn, the Proprietors endeavored effect the sale and settlement of them. In Jan'y 1775 they voted, that they would endeavor to have a Congregational minister settled in the town, within seven years. They also voted that each Proprietor should have two acres cleared upon his lot, within one year; and within two years, should have a house built upon it, not less than eighteen feet by twenty-one, and have a family living in it. In case any failed to meet these conditions, their lots were to be forfeited, and went back to the Proprietary. Many, however, must have failed, but it does not appear that the forfeiture was enforced.

At this early period they appointed a committee to locate a road from the Lebanon line to the little Ossipee, through the West Parish; likewise from the Sanford line, to the same river, through the East Parish; and sometime after from the head of Long Pond to Salmon Falls River, in such places as would best promote settlements. The Committee however did not attend to it. Mr. Jas. Warren was sent, the next year, 1776, to lay out the road from Lebanon to the Little Ossipee. Mr. John B. Hanson was employed to cut it out, bridge the streams and sloughs, and make a good cart road the whole length of the town. The same road running nearly through the center of Acton is still traveled. Mr. Warren received one lot of land and Mr. Hanson, two lots, for their respective services.

In 1778, the Proprietors voted to expend 150 days' labor, in clearing, and bringing into improvement, the Parsonage lot in the West Parish, and appointed Capt. Wm. Rodgers, Andrew Rodgers and Capt Phillip Hubbard a Committee to attend to it. Each proprietor had the privilege of working out his part, in a given time, and failing to do this, he was to pay an equivalent in money.

In 1779, Rev. Alpheus Spring, Gen. J. Goodwin and son, were appointed a Committee to procure a Congregational minister to preach in the town three months, at the expense of the Proprietors. It is not known that any one was obtained. The next year a meeting of the Proprietors was held in the Shapleigh township at the house of Moses Coston. They voted to raise £300 current money, to be levied on the lots already apportioned, to be expended in making and repairing highways, and appointed an agent to expend it. They also chose a committee to procure a minister to preach a part or the whole of the year, within the town.

But this meeting was not legally notified, and the doings thereof were not carried out. Another meeting was called, and money raised, to make and sustain highways at their expense.

Grants of lots were made by the Proprietors, to such individuals as sought them, sometimes gratuitously, or for a small consideration, but of this we will speak in the details of the settlement.

FIRST SETTLERS.

NAMES, LOCATIONS, AND TIME OF SETTLING.

It will be apparent, that much difficulty would arise, in ascertaining with accuracy the *date* of every beginning, after a lapse of three-fourths of a century, in which no memorandum of these events had been kept.

With great pains however, some reliable dates have been rescued from oblivion. The Records of the Proprietors afford, here and there, a clue to them—the recollection of the aged, when corroborated by some distinct event, has in some cases been relied on. When there is an uncertainty, it is left *blank*, preferring not to write, than to write at random. In many instances, I can only say previous to such a time, as I fix that date by some matter of *record*. These individuals, might have been for some time upon the soil, before the action of the Proprietors, which brought them into notice.

As the West Parish has been a separate town (Acton) for more than twenty years, and as a history* of it has been already published, I have made no attempt to ascertain the settlement of that part. A few allusions to it however will be unavoidable.

The *time* of the *first* settlement is established beyond a doubt; though earlier than others have fixed. The Chainmen who assisted in running out the township in 1773, afterward declared in a deposition still preserved, that the two families hereafter named, as the first settlers, were then settled thereon—and that they knew of no other within its limits. This accords with the statements which I had gathered from the aged, who could recollect the time of their own entrance.

Timber, it has already been remarked, was one of the first attractions which drew adventurers into these solitudes. As a proof of it, we have to state, that a Saw Mill, was the first building raised in town; and the arts of civilization had a permanent introduction, for purposes of lumbering.

In 1772, Mr. Simon Emery, of Berwick threw a dam across the Mousam, at its egress from Long Pond, and erected a Saw Mill upon it; and thus commenced operations, at the place still known as *Emery's Mills*.

* Fullerton's History of Acton.

In the winter following, 1773, the first settlers, Joseph *Jellison* and his son Joseph, moved in, and settled at this place.

A daughter of Mr. Jellison the elder, deserves to be honorably remembered, above all others as the first settler. She accompanied her father when he moved the first load of his household effects to his wilderness home. The next morning the father returned to Doughty Falls, to bring up more, leaving this daughter, with a small supply of provisions, and a dog for company, "to keep the castle,"—intending to return the following day. But during the night a heavy storm of snow came on, the great depth of which prevented all traveling. The lonely daughter, about twelve years of age, was therefore compelled to remain sole occupant of that dreary abode, with no human being within five miles of her, till the snowy blockade could be broken. For two long weeks did she remain, in perfect solitude, save the company of her faithful dog, immersed in the depths of an almost unbroken forest, at the end of which her anxious friends, broke through and relieved her. She lived, it should be added, to be twice married, and to reproduce herself in a line of hardy and daring descendants.

In the spring of 1774, James Davis and William Stanley, came with their families from Kittery, and settled on Stanley's Ridge. The next spring, 1775, Geo. Ham moved in, as the *fifth* family, in the east part of the town. The circumstances of his entrance deserve a brief notice. An old hunter by the name of Wales, had long pursued the business of the "Red Man" in those undisturbed forests. When he found that civilization was pressing in upon his beat, he selected a fine tract of settling land and felled a slight hedge around it, enclosing several hundred acres, and laid claim to it as its first possessor. Upon his return to Kittery, he gave a flattering account of its superiorities, and sold it to Mr. Ham and four of his neighbors, for an amount of neat stock valued at \$100 or more. Some of their neighbors, John Patch and James Sayward afterward followed Mr. Ham, and settled upon it. Mr. Ham had a large family, which afterwards settled in town; and bringing in workman, he cleared up a farm more rapidly than most of his neighbors. One man in his employ, a Mr. Hammond, was accidentally killed soon after his removal, while felling trees. On him the work of death commenced in the township. His remains were carried to Sanford for burial;—and the tree lay to mark the spot, till its complete decay. The *father* of this Mr. Geo. Ham, spent the last of his days with his son, and lies interred in the field which his son had subdued from the wilderness. By the side of him lies that son, and a grandson—all of whom lived successively in that new home, and died in a good old age.

Previous to the spring of 1776, Capt. Wm. Rodgers, a proprietor of more than ordinary note, and the first Justice of the Peace in the town, had built a bridge across the narrows of Long Pond,

and erected a house, on the west side of it. The time of his removal is not known, though it must have been early. He and his sons, Andrew and Robert, became important citizens in the town. Though they have all removed, a bridge on the same spot where his stood, still perpetuates their memory, by being called "*Rogers' Bridge*,"—and the house was till recently standing, which he so early erected, and which was probably the first house built in the West Parish.

In July 1778, a census of the settlers upon the township, and of persons who had made the beginnings but were not residing on them was taken by John Gilman of Wakefield, N. H., and John Rowe of "Shapleigh town." This gives the names of the actual settlers as follows:—"John Gilman, Jonathan Moody, Benj. King, John York, John York, Jr., Joseph Remmick, Wm. Bean, Daniel Veazy, John Carr, David Jewitt, Moses Leveret, Benj. Connor, Samuel Willey, John Rowe, Thomas Horn, John Hussey, Moses Abbot, Joseph Goodwin, John Legrow, Jeremiah Emery, Ham Nason, George Ham, John Par'ch, Elisha James, Phillip Durgin, Joth'n Heard, Benj. Drew, and Eleazer Tibbetts."

The following persons had made openings:—Capt. Zebulon Gilman, Jeremiah Gilman, Joth'n Gilman, Daniel Cook, Bartholomew Gould, Joth'n Copp, John Connor, Reuben Huzzey, Paul Farnham, Ralph Farnham, John Stacy, and Clement Steele.

As this census was to aid the Proprietors in securing the establishment of their claim, it is a fair inference, that the names of such Proprietors as were settled upon it, were omitted. Hence, Capt. Wm. Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, and Capt. Phillip Hubbard were omitted, who were probably then settlers there.

Previous to 1780, Jeremiah and Stephen Hodsdon settled in the township, and purchased of the Proprietors 100 acres of land each.

In 1781, 100 acres of land was granted by vote of Proprietors to Gilbert Warren, Joseph Hasty, Samuel Hasty, and Darling Huntruss each, upon which they were then, or soon after settled.

Previous to the time when the Proprietors' claim was established 1782, about 40 persons had made openings in the eastern part of the township, without purchasing their lots or having them surveyed. The Proprietors finding themselves "Lords of the soil," took this subject into consideration. A committee was appointed to examine the amount of land thus cleared, and to report what would be a fair consideration to the settlers, and what price they ought to pay for such additional quantities as they might wish to buy. This Committee was instructed to assure the settlers that the amount they should pay, would be expended to improve the privileges of the settlement. Upon the report of this Committee, the Proprietors voted to give each settler the opening he had cleared and as many acres of wild land adjoining, and to sell each one the remainder of the lot upon which he was found at \$2.00 per acre.

provided he would sign an acquittance to all other lands in the township. Some settlers were not satisfied with these terms, but finding that they would be ejected if they did not comply, they eventually came to them with but few exceptions, and had their lots run out and deeded to them. In certain cases special grants were made. Simon Emery who built the first Mills, had the lot upon which they stood gratis. Joseph Parsons had built mills upon the Salmon Falls River near Wakefield, and performed other services, and 200 acres were granted to him gratis. Dominicus and Ichabod Goodwin, who had bought out the Jellisons, received a large tract and one half of the privilege at Emery's Mills, by paying £30. Capt. Joshua Trafton and Samuel Trafton had been in the Continental Army, and the latter had lost an arm in the service of his country, and there was granted to them respectively one hundred acres gratis. A blind man by the name of Kent had taken up a piece of land, near the Little Ossipee, and to him they gave four times as much land as he had cleared. To J. Jellison, 300, and to J. Jellison, Jr., 200 acres. The course thus pursued by the Proprietors must be considered liberal and obliging. They had asserted a claim to this territory in advance of all, save the first two settlers; and when confirmed to them by the "powers that were," they had a legal right to all of it. In the part lotted out they had been selling wild lots to applicants, deeding and receiving their pay.

According to the above-mentioned vote, the following persons, who had come in to town previous to 1782, received gratuitously the amount here given—upon the lots occupied at this time, (1854) by the persons named,—“to wit:”

In the first Range of lots on the east side of the town.

FIRST SETTLER.		PRESENT OCCUPANT.
John Giles,	30 acres,	Wm. Pike.
John Davis,	37 “	Eleazer Thing.
Jos. & Jos., Jr., Giles,	50 “	Widow of A. Giles.
Daniel Giles,	90 “	Charles Thing.
Joseph Moody,	24 “	Samuel Hasty, Jr.
Nath. Thing,	35 “	Saul Thing.
Moses Philpot,	20 “	Charles Conant.
Ebenezer Ham,	30 “	Benj. Fernald.
Wm. Thompson,	10 “	Thos. Garvin.
Benj. Webber,	8 “	Thos. Shackley.

In the second Range,

Sam'l Low,	30 acres,	} Ahira Baker, Esq.
Barzilai Low,	16 “	
Wm. Stone,	31 “	James Stone & son.
Stephen Pillsbury,	51 “	Jos. Pillsbury & son.
Benj. Crocket,	30 “	Moses Abbot.

FIRST SETTLER.		PRESENT OCCUPANT.
James Davis,	20 acres,	George Ham.
Jotham Trafton,	12 "	Oliver Trafton.
Dea. Jonathan Ross,*	16 "	Gideon Ross.
Benj. Goodwin,†	40 "	Elisha Goodwin.
Dea. Thos. Shackley,†	40 "	Moses Goodwin.
Charles Emery,	40 "	Wm. T. Stanley.
In the third Range,		
James Davis, Jr.,	12 acres,	Wm. Davis.
David Tiney,	16 "	Greanleaf Webber.
Richard Tiney,	12 "	Widow McLellan.
Joseph Tiney,	30 "	Ivory Hall.
Benj. Abbott,	20 "	John Abbott.
Moses Abbott,	20 "	Elias Ham.
Gilbert Warren, Jr.,	6 "	—————
Edmund Neal,	40 "	Charles Staples.
James Sayward,	25 "	Wm. & Jas. Sayward.
Samuel Patch,	10 "	George Twambly.
Joseph Welch,	16 "	Thomas Ham.
Daniel Wilson,	40 "	Thomas Ham.
George Ham,	144 "	Ruf. & Ab'h'm. Ham.
John Patch,	15 "	James Patch.
Nath. Kent, blind,	39 "	Uninhabited.
Joseph Jones,	10 "	"
Jethro Smith,	6 "	Dam Mills Village.
Abigail Kent,	6 "	Eben Day.
David Maxwell, Jr.,	14 "	Joseph Day.

It also appears that Wm. Stanley, Simon Richards and Saul Emery, Jr., refused to sign an acquittance, and take the proposed quantity.

The lots granted gratuitously, or sold previous to this time were located as follows :

GRANTEE.	RANGE.	PRESENT OCCUPANT.
Jeremiah Hodsdon,	100 acres, 2	Hiram Winer.
Stephen Hodsdon,	100 " 2	George Gilpatrick,
Gilbert Warren,	100 " 4	W. Parsons, I. Stiles, and H. Pray.
Joseph Hasty,	100 " 3	Joseph Hasty, 3d.
Samuel Hasty,	100 " 3	Simon Huntress.
Darling Huntress,	100 " 3	Otis Huntress.
Joseph Parsons,	200 " 3	H. Lindsey, G. Heard, and O. Lord.
Capt. Joshua Trafton,	100 " 1	Betsy Pillsbury.
Lemuel Trafton,	100 " 1	David Goodwin.

* This lot was taken up by Josiah Nasen.

† Taken up by James Davis—who sold and took up George Ham's.

The first settlers of other lots, will now be given, so far as they can be ascertained.

FIRST SETTLER.	PRESENT OCCUPANT.
Wm. Stanley,	Robinson Hooper.
Samuel Ham,	Lebbeus & Levi Ham.
H. N. Davis,	Paul Garvin.
Nathan Coffin,	John Leavitt.
Edmund Coffin,	James Coffin.
Capt. J. Bartlett and	P. Webber & Parsonage.
D. S. Kimball,	
Arthur Bragdon,	Levi & Ivory Bragdon.
Josiah Trafton,	C. K. Sayward and
	Widow Trafton.
Capt. John Hasty,	E. Bodwell, Esq.
Aaron Warren,	Joseph Huntress.
Bartholomew Davis.	Benjamin Abbott.
Elder — Simonds,	Jonathan Ross, Jr.
Elias Hall,	Lyman Ham.
Samuel Timan,	Jotham Ham.
John Norton,	G. Webber & J. Norton.
David Boston,	Town Farm.
Wm. Linscot	Earlsworth Pillsbury.
Joseph Linscot,	D. Welch & I. Ridley.
Jeremiah Leavitt,	Noah Ross, sen.
Samuel Leavitt,	Saul Leavitt.
Daniel Wilson,	Samuel Hooper.
Jedediah Low,	J. & Thomas Low.
Abraham Chick, Sen.,	Abraham Chick, Jr.
Lewis Trafton,	H. A. M. Ferguson.
Daniel Ferguson,	Nathaniel Ferguson.
Robert Fernald,	Robert Fernald and Son.
Wm. Thompson, Jr.,	Frederick Fernald.
Noah Ross,	Nahum Ferguson.
John Thompson,	Luther Thompson.
James Thompson,	Jordan Wilson.
John Neal,	J. N. Garvin.
John Pillsbury,	Tobias Pillsbury.
Samuel Stanley,	Same.
Rufus Wadleigh,	Same.
Darling Huntress,	Simon Pillsbury.
Simon Goodwin,	James Gowen.
Ham Nason,	J & Oliver Horn.
Abraham Pugsley,	John Goodwin.
Jeremiah Emery,	Isaac Wentworth.
John Webber,	Eliakim Webber.
Simon Ricker, sen.,	Simon and Thatcher
	Ricker.

FIRST SETTLER.

Wm. Stanley,*
 John Hooper,
 Samuel Shackley,
 David Thing,
 Maturin Abbott and Son,
 Joshua Trafton,
 John Thompson,

PRESENT OCCUPANT.

George Hooper.
 John Bragdon.
 — Welch.
 David Thing.
 Jacob Abbott.
 Ivory Trafton.
 Nahum Thompson.

INCORPORATION AND TOWN OFFICERS.

It does not appear that a Plantation was organized in this township, previous to its incorporation. The Proprietors in their records had usually called the place, "Shapleigh town;"—by the settlers, and in neighboring places it was called, "Hubbard's-town."

In 1785, the inhabitants and Proprietors being in favor of its incorporation, an act to that effect was obtained. The name was selected in honor of Nicholas Shapleigh, from whose early purchase, the propriety came. The control of its affairs then passed from the hands of the Proprietors to its lawful inhabitants, who could not complain of the foundations which had been laid for them.

May 3, 1785, the meeting of "Incorporation" was held in the West Parish, and the following persons have been chosen to the principal

TOWN OFFICES.

1785	{ John Cook, <i>Moderator</i> , Joshua Brackett, <i>T. Clerk</i> , Wm. Rodgers, <i>Treasurer</i> , Joshua Brackett, }	{ John Cook, Simon Ricker, Joshua Brackett, } <i>Selectmen.</i>
1786	Same,	Same.
1787	Same,	{ John Cook, Joshua Trafton, Joshua Brackett, } <i>Selectmen.</i>
1788	Same,	{ John Cook, Joshua Brackett, Simon Ricker, } <i>Selectmen.</i>
1789	{ Joshua Trafton, <i>M.</i> , Joshua Brackett, <i>T. C.</i> , Wm. Rodgers, <i>T.</i> , }	Same.
1790	{ John Cook, <i>M.</i> , Same <i>T. C.</i> , Same <i>T.</i> , }	{ Simon Ricker, Joshua Brackett, Nathan Goodwin, } <i>Selectmen,</i>

* The first Male Child born in town.

1791	Same,	John Cook, Nathan Coffin, Aaron Hubbard, Jr.,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1792	Same,	John Cook, Joshua Brackett, Simon Ricker,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1793	{ Same Moderator, Same Town Clerk, Andrew Rodgers, <i>Treas.</i>	Same.	
1794	Same,	Joshua Brackett, John Bartlett, Nathan Goodwin,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1795	Same.	John Cook, Joshua Brackett, John Bartlett,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1796	Same,	John Bodwell, sen., Jeremiah Emery, Aaron Hubbard, sen.,	} <i>Select'n.</i>
1797	Same,	Same.	
1798	{ John Cook, <i>M.</i> , Aaron Hubbard, sen, <i>T. C.</i> , Andrew Rodgers, <i>T.</i> ,	Aaron Hubbard, sen., Jeremiah Emery, Nathan Goodwin,	} <i>Select'n.</i>
1799	{ Aaron Hubbard, sen., <i>M.</i> Joshua Brackett, <i>T. C.</i> Andrew Rodgers, <i>T.</i>	Same.	
1800	{ John Cook, <i>M.</i> , Joshua Brackett, <i>T. C.</i> , Nathan Goodwin, <i>T.</i> ,	Aaron Hubbard, sen., Jeremiah Emery, Daniel Fox,	} <i>Select'n.</i>
1801	{ John Cook, <i>M.</i> , Andrew Rodgers, <i>T. C.</i> , Nathan Goodwin, <i>T.</i> ,	Jeremiah Emery, Nathan Goodwin, Darling Huntress,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1802	{ John Leighton, <i>M.</i> , Andrew Rodgers, <i>T. C.</i> , Nathan Goodwin, <i>T.</i> ,	Jeremiah Emery, Nathan Goodwin, Moses Folsom,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1803	{ John Cook, <i>M.</i> , Josiah P. Woodbury, <i>T. C.</i> , Nathan Goodwin, <i>T.</i>	Andrew Rodgers, Darling Huntress, Zebulon Gilman.	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1804	{ John Leighton, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr., <i>T. C.</i> , Nathan Goodwin, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, sen., Paul Garvin, Nathan Goodwin,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1805	{ John Leighton, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr., <i>T. C.</i> , Josiah P. Woodbury, <i>T.</i> ,	Jeremiah Emery, John Bodwell, sen., Nathan Goodwin,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1806	Same,	Jeremiah Emery, Nathan Goodwin, John Leighton,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>

1807 Same,	John Leighton, Nathan Goodwin, Moses Jellison, John Bodwell, Jr.,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1808 Same,	John Leighton, Moses Jellison,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1809 Same,	Same.	
1810 Same,	John Leighton, John Bodwell, Jr., Jeremiah Emery,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1811 Same,	John Bodwell, Jr., Abraham Carroll, Nathan Goodwin,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1812 Same,	Same.	
1813 Same,	Same.	
1814 Same,	Same.	
1815 Same,	Same.	

1816	{ Aaron Hubbard, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr., <i>T. C.</i> , Josiah P. Woodbury, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, John Webber, Enoch Wood,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1817	{ Asa Merrill, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr. <i>T. C.</i> , Asa Merrill, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Samuel Heard,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
1818	{ Enoch Wood, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr., <i>T. C.</i> , Josiah P. Woodbury, <i>T.</i> ,	Same.	
1819	{ Samuel S. Wood, <i>M.</i> , John Bodwell, Jr., <i>T. C.</i> , Darling Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	Same.	

	SELECTMEN.	S. S. COMMITTEE.	
1820	{ John Leighton, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , D. Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	Aaron Hubbard, Stephen Pillsbury, John Bodwell, John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Samuel Heard,	Whiting Stevens, Reuben Buck, Wm. Trafton. John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Samuel Heard.
1821 Same,	Same,	Same.	
1822 Same,	* Same,	Same.	
1823	{ Wm. Mann, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , D. Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Stephen Pillsbury, John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Samuel Heard,	R. Buck, Wm. Trafton, Elisha Bodwell. Same.
1824	{ Samuel Stacy, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , D. Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Samuel Heard,	Same.
1825	{ Wm. Mann, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , D. Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Stephen Pillsbury,	Chas. Blanchard, R. Buck, Wm. Trafton.

	SELECTMEN.	S. S. COMMITTEE.
1826	{ Aaron Hubbard, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , D. Huntress, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Aaron Hubbard, Stephen Pillsbury, R. Buck, Wm. Trafton, George Webber.
1827	Same.	Moses Hemming, Elisha Bodwell, Wm. Trafton, George Webber.
1828	{ Aaron Hubbard, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , Elisha Bodwell, <i>T.</i> ,	John Bodwell, Simon Ross, Enoch Wood, Enoch Wood, Wm. Trafton, Elisha Bodwell, Charles Emerson.
1829	Same,	Simon Ross, Samuel S. Wood,

At this period the town was divided; the West Parish being incorporated Acton.

1830	{ Benj. Sayward, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Simon Ross, Elisha Bodwell, John Webber, Simon Ross, Elisha Bodwell, John Ricker,	Wm. Trafton, Elisha Bodwell, John T. Paine. John T. Paine, Elisha Bodwell, Wm. Trafton. John T. Paine, Wm. Trafton, Thomas Garvin.
1831	{ Wm. Mann, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Simon Ross, Elisha Bodwell, John Ricker,	John T. Paine, Elisha Bodwell, Wm. Trafton.
1832	{ John T. Paine, <i>M.</i> , Wm. Trafton, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Same,	John T. Paine, Wm. Trafton, Thomas Garvin.
1833	Same,	Same,	Same.
1834	{ J. T. Paine, <i>M.</i> , Elisha Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Same,	J. T. Paine, Elisha Bodwell, Thomas Garvin.
1835	{ J. T. Paine, <i>M.</i> , Elisha Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Elisha Bodwell, John Ricker, Wm Sayward, Simon Ross,	J. T. Paine, Wm. Trafton, Joseph Gillpatrick.
1836	{ J. T. Paine, <i>M.</i> , Joseph Gilpatrick, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Wm. Sayward, John Gowon, Simon Ross,	Same.
1837	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Wm. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Wm. Sayward, John Ricker, E. Bodwell,	E. Bodwell, Wm. Trafton, Ansel Gerrish.
1838	{ J. Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Jotham Ham, <i>T.</i> ,	John Ricker, Samuel Thing, E. Bodwell,	E. Bodwell, Wm. Trafton, John Gowen, E. Bodwell,
1839	{ Mark Wood, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Ivory Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Samuel Thing, Elihu Webber, Samuel Thing,	Wm. Trafton, Thomas Garvin.
1840	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Ivory Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	E. Webber, Thomas Garvin,	J. Gillpatrick, E. Bodwell, Thomas Garvin,

SELECTMEN. S. S. COMMITTEE.

1841	{ J. Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Ivory Bragdon, <i>T.</i>	E. Bodwell, E. Webber, Thomas Garvin, E. Bodwell,	Same.
1842	Same.	Samuel Roberts, John Goodwin,	Same.
1843	{ Elias Ham, <i>M.</i> , Thomas Garvin, <i>C.</i> , Jotham Ham, <i>T.</i> ,	Samuel Roberts, John Goodwin, Thomas Garvin,	E. Bodwell, J. Gillpatrick, Amasa Loring.
1844	{ Moses Goodwin, Jr., <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , J. Ham, <i>T.</i> ,	E. Bodwell, Stephen Garvin, John Goodwin,	E. Bodwell, A. Loring, J. M. Wedgwood.
1845	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , M. Goodwin, Jr., <i>C.</i> , Ivory Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	J. Gilpatrick, Abijah Littlefield, John L. Horn,	George Heard, E. Bodwell, Alfred Hall.
1846	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , Moses Goodwin, Jr., <i>C.</i> , I. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Stephen Garvin, John Goodwin, Wm. Gillpatrick,	E. Bodwell, A. Hall, J. Gillpatrick.
1847	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , " " <i>T.</i> ,	Elisha Webber, Levi Bragdon, N. S. H. Stanley,	E. Bodwell, A. Hall, Levi Bragdon.
1848	{ J. Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , I. Bragdon, <i>T.</i> ,	Levi Bragdon, N. H. S. Stanley, M. Goodwin, Jr.,	Same.
1849	{ John M. Ham, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , Jotham Ham, <i>T.</i> ,	M. Goodwin, Jr., Thomas Garvin, Luther Thompson,	Same.
1850	{ John Crockett, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , J. Ham, <i>T.</i> ,	M. Goodwin, Jr. Ivory Bragdon, John N. Garvin,	E. Bodwell, George Heard, E. Warren.
1851	{ M. Goodwin, Jr., <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , James Coffin, <i>T.</i> ,	Ivory Bragdon, John N. Garvin, Edward Goodwin,	E. Bodwell, A. Hall J. T. Hall.
1852	{ J. M. Ham, <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , J. Coffin, <i>T.</i> ,	E. Bodwell, E. Goodwin, Elias Ham,	E. Bodwell, J. T. Hall, E. W. Bodwell.
1853	{ Samuel Hasty, Jr., <i>M.</i> , E. Bodwell, <i>C.</i> , J. Coffin, <i>T.</i> ,	E. Bodwell, Edmund Goodwin, Elias Ham,	E. Bodwell, George Heard, E. W. Bodwell.

Till 1801, the town meetings were held in the West Parish. The previous year it was voted to hold them one third of the time in the East Parish. It was accordingly held in the dwelling house of Capt. J. H. Bartlett.

In 1807, the town voted to hold them alternately in each Parish. Owing to the natural separation of the two Parishes, by the Ponds and Plains already described, it was inconvenient to assemble the in-

habitants in either Parish. As early therefore as 1820 the question of dividing the town was agitated. The majority however then opposed it. In 1825 the subject was brought before the town twice and voted down by a handsome majority. To set the matter at rest, the town voted to instruct the Selectmen not to insert any such article in the Warrant again for five years.

It was soon found however that the subject could not be hushed so easily. In 1828, the number of inhabitants being 3000, it was again taken up, discussed, and carried by a large majority. A Committee was raised to draft a petition to the Legislature, to divide the town and incorporate the West Parish, as it had been originally divided, or nearly so. Dr. Reuben Buck, John Bolwell, Elisha Bodwell, Dr. Wm. Lewis, and J. C. Libby were chosen said Committee. In the November meeting a vote was passed instructing the Representative to use all fair and honorable means to effect this object.— It was not accomplished however till the meeting of the next Legislature. The Town then called a meeting, and as it was not represented this year, chose Elisha Bodwell Agent, to attend to the business, and defined the line, by the old Parish line, with one deviation, so as to take in two families. The division was then effected, and March 6, 1830, the West Parish was incorporated as the town of Acton.

In the year 1814, a settlement upon the North-East corner of the town lying contiguous to Dam's Mill's village in Newfield, and lying separate from other settlements in Shapleigh by uninhabited plains, was set off from Shapleigh and annexed to Newfield.

POLITICAL MEASURES.

The first political question which occupied the attention of the inhabitants of Shapleigh was the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts. As early as 1787, a vote was taken upon it, and the town voted against it. Soon after, another meeting was called, in which that vote was reversed.

In 1788, a Convention was held in Boston to act upon the ratification of the Constitution of the U. S. A. as reported by the Convention which met the summer previous in Philadelphia. Each place sent the same number of delegates, as they were authorized, by the State Constitution to send Representatives to the General Court. Shapleigh was entitled to one and sent Jeremiah Emery, Esq. It is not now known how the vote of this town was cast upon that momentous question. The vote through the District of Maine was as follows:—York County 6 yeas, 11 nays. Cumberland, 10 yeas, 3 nays. Lincoln, 9 yeas, 7 nays—making 25 yeas, 21 nays. In April following, the town voted for the first time for Governor.—Elbridge Gerry had 9, John Hancock, 7. This year the first Representative was chosen. As the towns were then required, and up

to 1811, to pay their own representatives, they often voted not to elect any. Up to the year 1806, this town was represented but twice. Money was obtained with difficulty, the town voted that some of the town officers should take lumber and produce in payment for their services.

The town for a while proceeded upon all political questions with great unanimity. In 1792 they voted again upon the "separation." None in favor, 46 against it. In 1796, though a very fierce party excitement was raging throughout the State, all the votes (52) were cast for Samuel Adams for Governor. In 1797, the question of separation was again up — one voted for it, 62 against it.

In 1802, the county was in a great political excitement, and Gerry and Strong were the candidates for Governor. Gerry had but 3 votes and Strong 71. The town voted to send a Representative to the State Legislature this year, and he was elected by 10 votes only the whole number cast.

In 1807, the vote on the "separation" stood 3 in favor, 107 against.

The political excitement, which agitated the county, and threw the population into contending parties, at length invaded this harmonious town.

In the year 1812, famous for its party spirit, the vote for Governor stood, 172 for E. Gerry—84, C. Strong. In 1814, Sam'l Dexter had 197, C. Strong 105. The Militia was called out this year to guard the coast, and the town instructed the Selectmen to provide arms and ammunition for such soldiers as were not able to procure them—and to furnish three days rations, or 50 cents per day, each, for such as were drafted for the public service.

In January, 1816, the Selectmen were chosen a Committee to petition the General Court for a separation. In May following, the vote stood 59 for, 42 against it.

For very obvious reasons the question of separation was made a party question; the Democratic party being in favor of it, and the Federal party generally against it. It was known that if the District of Maine became a separate State, it would be Democratic, while united with Massachusetts it was controlled by the Federal party. The wants of a rising State, however, called for more distinct legislation, than the General Court of Massachusetts would give it. Hence candid men went for it. The matter could not therefore be put to rest. In 1819, the excitement upon it rose high.—Petitions for it were poured into the Legislature. Against a strenuous opposition a Bill for the separation was carried through by a handsome majority. The Bill however required that the voters in Maine should assemble on the 1st Monday of July and vote upon the expediency of the separation according to the Act past. And if, upon the return of votes it appeared that a majority of 1500 were in favor of it, then delegates were to be chosen, and a Constitution framed and adopted. The majority greatly exceeded 1500. Meas-

ures were therefore taken to organize the New State. A Convention of Delegates met in Portland, Oct. 11—consisting of one from each corporate town in the State however small, and as many from the large towns as they had sent of Representatives—to draft and submit to the people, a Constitution.

The Town of Shapleigh sent 3—John Bodwell, J. Leighton, and Samuel Heard. Wm. King, was President of the Convention, and Robert C. Vose, Secretary.

On the 1st Monday of Dec. 1819, the voters again assembled to act upon its adoption.

In Shapleigh but 25 voted for it, and 132 against it. This may be attributed to the fact that two of their delegates, owing to objections against two of the provisions, voted against it in the Convention. It was ratified however by a large majority in the State.

In March following, Maine was admitted into the Union by an Act of Congress—and thus the separation was consummated. The first election of State officers was held on the first Monday of April. This town cast her whole vote, 193, for Wm. King, the first Governor. Gov. King having been appointed a Commissioner of Spanish Claims, vacated the office. The next year A. K. Parris, J. Wingate and E. White were the leading candidates. Mr. Parris was chosen. In this town he received 95 votes. Others 133. The next year the vote stood 193 for Parris, all others 29. For the next three years, Parris received the whole vote, with one or two exceptions.

In 1827 and 8, the town cast its whole vote for Enoch Lincoln. This popular public officer died while Chief Magistrate of the State.

In 1829, J. E. Huntoon, and S. E. Smith were the candidates for Governor. Huntoon had 182, Smith 180. Huntoon was elected.

1830, S. E. Smith, 178—J. E. Huntoon, 67, and this denotes the relative strength of the parties since.

The Representatives to the State Legislature have been as follows:—

1788, Jerniah, Emery,	1815 & 16, J. P. Woodbury.	1837, E. Bodwell.
1802, John Leighton,	1817 & 18, vtd. not to send	1838, S. Webber on 2d
1805, John Leighton and	1819 & 20, J. Bodwell.	trial.
J. P. Woodbury.	1821, no choice.	1839, S. Webber.
1807, John Leighton,	1822, John Bodwell.	1840, Levi Bragdon.
1808, J. Emery and	1823, Enoch Wood.	1841, classed with New-
J. Bodwell, Jr.	1824, no choice.	field, I. Bragden.
1809, J. Emery and	1825 & 6, J. Trafton.	1842, classed with Acton,
J. Leighton.	1827 & 8, A. Hubbard.	&c., I. Bragdon.
1810, J. P. Woonbury.	1829, no choice.	1844, George Heard.
1811, J. Bodwell, Jr., and	1830 & 31, E. Bodwell.	1846, M. Goodwin, Jr.
J. P. Woodbury.	1832 & 3, Simon Ross.	1847, Elias Ham.
1812 and 13 J. Emery	1834, John Gowen.	1851 & 2, Thos. Garvin,
and J. Bodwell.	1835, Elisha Bodwell.	1853, John M. Ham.
1814, Voted not to send.	1836, John Gowen.	

This town has also furnished two members of Senate, John Bodwell, 1828 and 9, and Elisha Bodwell 1841 and 2. Wm. Trafton, a citizen of this town was 13 years Secretary of the Senate. Hon. Elisha Bodwell is now County Commissioner.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

It has been seen that the Proprietors took measures to aid the inhabitants in the maintenance of the gospel among them, and to introduce it early. How much was done by them in sustaining meetings, is not now known. Before the town was incorporated, considerable diversity of religious sentiment prevailed. The F. W. Baptist denomination was then taking its rise — the first church in that connection being organized in New Durham, N. H., by the Elder B. Randall, in 1780. In the course of the same year, a church of that denomination was gathered by Elder Tozier Lord, in the West part of this town, near Milton Mills. This was the first church organized in town. It survived for a season and then became extinct. Eld. Lord, I have learned, was largely concerned in the origin of the Freewill Baptist denomination. He had been ordained as a Calvinist Baptist Minister, at Lebanon, in 1776. In 1779 or 80, a Council of that denomination was called somewhere in that vicinity to set apart a Mr. Edward Lock to the ministry of which Elder Lord was a member. Mr. Lock, it was found, entertained Free-will sentiments. The council not only refused to ordain him, but withdrew fellowship from him. Upon this Elder Lord replied: — “If you withdraw fellowship from Mr. Lock, you do from me also, for I am of the same belief” &c. It was accordingly done. Elder Lord, assisted by lay brethren who sympathized with him, soon afterwards ordained Mr. Lock, and set apart a Mr. Shepard, for a Ruling Elder, from whose lips this account was originally received. Afterwards these two elders ordained Mr. Benj. Randall, at New Durham, N. H. who is generally regarded as the founder of the Society. But if he was first to preach the peculiar doctrines of that denomination — it appears that Elder Lord bore to them the right of ministerial ordination.

In 1781, both a Baptist and Congregational church were organized in the West Parish, embracing members from the other Parish. Being thus divided, after the incorporation of the town, little could be done harmoniously for the promotion of Religion.

In March 1789, the town voted not to raise any money for the support of the Gospel. But in September following it voted to raise and pay into the treasury £60 for that object, to be appropriated to each Religious Society according to the number of male attendants upon public worship, respectively. About three years after, a vote was passed prohibiting the collection of this money till the town should order it.

In 1791, the building of two Meeting Houses and the settlement of a Gospel Minister was acted upon and both negatived.

First Baptist Society in Shopleigh. Religious meetings were held in this part of the town long before any church was organized or house of worship built. Elder Tozier Lord, and Mr. Abraham Pugsley performed a pioneer work, early in the settlement, gathering the people in barns and private houses for public worship. At length Mr. Nehemiah Davis moved into this Parish, who was accustomed to preach and took the lead of their religious meetings. About the year 1787 he was ordained as a Baptist minister, in the dwelling house of Edmund Coffin, near the Corner. This was the first ordination in town. Elder Davis is spoken of by those who can remember him as an humble and pious man—who, though poor, labored gratuitously upon the Sabbath and toiled hard upon a new farm through the week. He was wont to say that he had traveled 300 miles *barefooted*, to preach the Gospel. In the year 1798, he sold his place and moved to Ohio.

In 1802 this Society erected a Meeting House, at "the Corner," near the centre of this Parish — which was the first house of worship in this part of the town. During the next year, 1803, a church was organized, its members having been previously connected with the Baptist church in the West Parish. Mr. — Simonds supplied them for a season; but though a Council was convened for that object, he was not ordained over them.

Elder Delano of Lebanon, spent a part of his Sabbaths with this people, and had, for a season the care of this church.

In September 1818, Mr. John Chadbourne, who was first a Deacon of the church, and then licensed to preach by it, was ordained over it and became its first pastor. He was dismissed at his own request in 1822, and moved into New Hampshire. He afterwards labored in Sanford and Hiram.

Mr. Charles Blanchard succeeded him and was ordained in 1823, and left in 1828. His labors were successful and increased the church.

Rev. P. L. Fogg supplied them, from 1829 till 1832. Rev. Joseph Gilpatrick then labored with them from 1833 till 1841. Rev. John Hubbard supplied them from 1843 till 1848. During his ministry their house of worship was built over, and much improved in convenience and appearance.

Rev. Noah Hooper then supplied the pulpit two years. Rev. Leander S. Tripp commenced preaching with them in 1851 and is the present incumbent.

Congregational Society in Shapleigh. Many of the first settlers of the East Parish were in sentiment Congregationalists. But the materials for a church not being found here early, those who were firmly attached to it, worshiped with the church in the West Parish.

As the land reserved for the support of the ministry was un-

sold, and unimproved, no exertions were made for some time to secure Congregational preaching. No church nor society of this denomination was organized till the Baptist church had been employing a stated ministry more than twenty years. It labored under other serious embarrassments, from the beginning. A certain individual entered upon the land reserved for the use of the Congregational Ministry by the Proprietors, and used it as his own. As the Congregationalists were principally interested in these lands, they commenced a suit for his ejection. While this was pending, many, apprehending a heavy bill of costs, united with the Baptist Society, so as to be beyond the reach of it. At length, the case, going up to a law term of the Supreme Court, was decided against the individual, but he being by this time insolvent, the plaintiff had to meet a large bill of costs. A Society was then incorporated, the Proprietors encouraging it. And in 1823 a small church was organized, and Rev. Henry A. Merrill settled over it, the same day. He spent half of his time with the other Parish. A house of worship was commenced at the Corner, and some were added to the church.

Mr. Merrill received the lot of 150 acres reserved for the use of the first settled Congregational Minister; but the Parsonage land then yielded nothing available. His support therefore was insufficient, and finding many discouragements in his path, he left them in 1824. The same year, Acts were passed by the Legislature, authoring the Society to sell the Parsonage lot, and incorporating a Board of Trustees to hold the Fund, to invest it so as to produce an income and to expend it according to the design of the Proprietors. This was accordingly done, and \$1650 received and invested.—The income of this was annually expended in temporary supplies, generally from neighboring pastors, but these yielded no increase to the Church.

Rev. Clark Cornish supplied them steadily one half of the time from 1831 to 1836. His labors resulted in some hopeful conversions and in a few additions to the church. After he left, Rev. J. Carruthers, I. Kimball and C. Parker, and others, labored with them for short periods.

In the autumn of 1841, Mr. Amasa Loring, from Bangor Theological Seminary, commenced laboring here. Encouragement attended his early labors and measures were taken to retain him. He was accordingly ordained over this church, June 15, 1842.—The old Meeting House which had never been completed, was taken down and a small neat place of worship provided on a better location. Gradual accessions were made to the church, but it still remained small and feeble. At length death and removals preyed upon it, so that Mr. Loring was compelled to leave the field of his early toils and trials. He closed his labors with them in December 1848. Rev. Levi Loring supplied them during the year 1850, but they are now vacant.

Methodist Society at Emery's Mills. Itinerant Methodist preachers visited this part of the town, and some became connected with this denomination. In 1828 a house of worship was erected and a congregation permanently established. For a while, they went on prosperously—but the business of the place declining, and other adverse events reducing their numbers, many of them removing to other places—in 1844 they ceased to hold public worship.

Free-Will Baptist Society, Ross Corner. The commencement of this dates back to 1818. Their House of Worship was built in 1818. A large portion of its members reside in the adjoining town of Waterboro'. Their meeting house is well located so that a large congregation might easily gather there—but for long periods they have been destitute. They are now supplied by Elder S. W. Perkins and their prospects are more encouraging.

Second Baptist Society. A church was organized at Emery's Mills in 1811—and public worship established. It has enjoyed the labors of Elder Geo. Heard, J. M. Wedgewood, J. K. Chase, T. Jameson, Wm. H. Copeland. For a season this society worshipped in a hall; but after the Methodists ceased to occupy their house, they purchased it. Elder G. Heard now supplies them.

EDUCATION.

Some attention was paid by the early settlers to the education of the young, but while they were "*beating the bush,*" it was too much neglected. Some who were reared in those hard times were never taught to read, though they possessed an ordinary amount of mental endowment.

It is not known how early schools were established in the settlements. Towns were not then required by law to raise money for the support of schools, but permitted to do it. Though lands had been reserved by the Proprietors, for this object, they lay unsold and unimproved for a long time and yielded nothing. In 1790, four years after its incorporation, the town voted to raise £40 (about \$133) for the use of schools. The next year the town was divided into two School Districts and £50 were raised. From that time up to 1802, about £60 were raised annually on an average. Then for about 12 years \$600 were raised and thus expended. For eight or ten years more, from \$600 to \$700. After 1822, to the time when the town was divided, \$1000, and upwards was raised for this purpose. When the town was divided, it embraced twenty-one School Districts. Now Acton contains 13, Shapleigh 14.—Now Shapleigh reports 608 scholars—raises \$600 annually—receives \$87, from the State fund, and \$53 from its own School fund—making \$740 in all.

For some time past, there have been several individuals in town who felt a deep interest in common school education; and by their

efforts, the schools have been raised to a commendable standard. In addition to these, "High Schools" have been frequently encouraged, and successfully taught, so that, of late, the youth have been well provided for, and have obtained a very fair education.

MORALS.

In speaking of the State of Society, two things must be taken into consideration, to wit—"*the times and circumstances in which it originated, and the fact that different places think lightly of their own faults, but gravely of their neighbors*".

The contingent difficulties and privations of new settlements, tend to impair morals. Unless religious institutions are early introduced, to send forth the corrections of society—to dispense their improving and refining influences, a lax state of morals is sure to follow. In this respect, the early settlement of Shapleigh evidently suffered. The ministry and the gospel did not have an early entrance—though the Proprietors endeavored to secure it.

The *time* in which the settlement commenced was inauspicious. The din of war was shaking the land; the civil authorities were enfeebled; the camp and the fireside were brought into close proximity, by the frequent exchange of their respective occupants;—the vices of a foreign soldiery were let loose upon us, and a fearful decline of morals overspread the land. Many, dreading the *drafts* which were made upon incorporated places, for men and money to sustain the war, hastened to the forest frontier to avoid them, thereby sacrificing all the better privileges of organized society.—Others who had served in the Army of the Revolution eventually settled here. Sixteen or eighteen pensioners became residents of the East Parish.

Lumbering pursuits also operated unfavorably to the state of society. Immense resources for this business were at hand, and tempted those resolute and industrious men to improve their winters in working and marketing this valuable article of commerce. The elevating and refining influences of home were exchanged for the scenes of the logging camp, and the incidents of long teaming routs. The family suffered the temporary absence of its head;—so when he was at home, his domestic and social habits were found to be injured. Under such circumstances, gentleness, sobriety and temperance are not so easily cultivated, elevating and refining influences were not eagerly apprehended.

It is also undeniable, that the state of society suffered severely here, in common with other places, *by the prevalence of intemperance*. Lumbering and teaming have always been found to conduce to it. During the first half century of the existence of this town, intoxicating drinks were everywhere regarded as an indispensable article. Licenses for the sale of them were liberally

granted ; every merchant kept a full supply of them ; and quantities, incredible at the present day, were disposed of and consumed by the people.

Hard drinking therefore became the great evil, and brought along its accompanying burdens of litigation, poverty and crime.

The first attempt to check this evil was made in 1824. The law then prohibited the sale of ardent spirits, within a certain distance of any regular town meeting. This law was disregarded. The town instructed the Licensing Board, to withhold licenses from such individuals as violated law, and deprived them of the privilege, of selling anywhere. The Board faithfully carried out these instructions and refused Licenses to all such persons. But at the next town meeting they obtained a repeal of these instructions, and were licensed and sold, on all days and on all occasions—religious anniversaries not excepted.

Soon after this, a reform was attempted by voluntary and moral means. The sin of drunkenness having been handled somewhat severely in the pulpit, by one who ran well with the people—the result was, a Temperance Society was formed at Shapleigh Corner. The pledge of this was—*not to get intoxicated*. The idea of total abstinence had not then been broached. Forgetting how hard it is to stay a flowing tide, they aimed to prevent excessive drinking only. The officers elected for this Society, therefore repaired to the Store, and treated their constituents, for honors received, with copious libations. All boasting is excluded of reforms achieved by this association.

A more thorough acquaintance with the destructive habit, evoked the idea of “total abstinence” as the only sure remedy. New light arose upon the community. Societies were formed, pledges taken, and moral suasion put into successful operation. A reform gradually progressed among the people. The destroyer was wounded, though not unto death.

In 1838, the melancholy end of two young men, Geo. Grace, and Joshua Hutchings, who fell victims to this destroyer, gave the temperance cause a vigorous impulse. All day they had toiled hard, without dinner, removing lumber from a Saw-Mill. At night, as they passed the store of their employer, they were treated with as much strong drink as they desired. Having drank freely, they started homewards, still without food. The weather suddenly changed from a mild day, to a cold, freezing night. The snow stiffening, adhered to their feet, and made their steps difficult. The strong drink operated unchecked and cast them down, as it often has the mighty, *to perish*. “Rum’s doings” in this case, sent an awful thrill through the community. Many fled to the pledge as a refuge from the devourer. Opposition to the temperance reform was silent. The cause made a long stride onward, though many who pledged themselves under this excitement fell from their steadfastness.

As much cider was made in town, the pledge opposing the use of all that intoxicates, was not introduced till 1842. A new struggle was then found necessary. Some were ready for it and the cause moved slowly forward. The Board, for the first time, then refused to license common sellers, and that stand has since been maintained. The decline of this evil has wrought a decided improvement in the morals and thrift of the community.

BUSINESS PLACES AND MEN.

Lumbering always invites *mercantile* business, and this was early commenced in this town — while mechanical and manufacturing pursuits have not been so extensively followed as in the adjoining towns of Sanford and Alfred.

Emery's Mills was the first, and for a long time, the *chief business place* in town. Here the first Saw-Mill in town was erected by Simon Emery, and likewise the first Grist-Mill.

Jeremiah Emery, Esq., (the oldest son of Simon) moved here when a young man and took charge of these mills. He was a prominent man in the early public business of the town, being its delegate to the Convention for adopting the Constitution of the U. S., and five times its Representative to the State Legislature. He lived to the age of 94—retaining his faculties remarkably, so that he procured a comfortable subsistence by the labor of his hands till death.

The first stores in town were at this place. Gen. Ichabod Goodwin, who bought out the Jellisons—did something here quite early in the grocery line.

In 1793, Andrew and Robert Rodgers built the first permanent store here, upon the spot where the only store in the place now stands. They were the only sons of Capt. Wm. Rodgers, one of the Proprietors, who was an early settler in town. Andrew was the father of the late Jonathan P. Rodgers, a distinguished lawyer, and public officer in our State—who was born near this place. Robert was the father of the late Rev. Nathan B. Rodgers who died soon after taking the pastoral charge of the Congregational church in Hallowell. They continued in this business till 1804, and then sold out to John McGorch—and finally removed to Exeter, N. H.—in 1812. Andrew died a few years since in Augusta.

In the year 1800 *Jacob Emery* (eldest son of J. Emery, Esq.,) and *Moses Jellison*, commenced trade in this place. *Jellison* did not continue long, but Mr. Emery possessing the mills, which belonged to the family for a long time, did a heavy and successful business. He engaged in ship building at Kennebunk, and constructed several large ships there. He purchased extensive tracts of timber land, and became by far the richest man in town. In 1825, he closed up his mercantile business. He possessed a kind and generous spirit, much honesty and integrity, and was highly es-

reemed as a neighbor and man of business. But living in a day when the sale and use of intoxicating drinks were common, he unfortunately fell into habits of intemperance. The town authorities precipitately placed him under guardianship;—but this, instead of protecting his estate only, hastened a fleeing process. His real estate was sold off in such large quantities, and at such unfavorable times, that its honest and lawful owner, realized but a small return for it. Though he once possessed his thousands and tens of thousands, he out-lived it all, and before his death was reduced to actual penury. He died a public charge in 1819, aged 76.

John McGorch, was the son of a wealthy Scotchman, who resided at South Berwick, and who established his son in business here in 1801. But the son was predisposed to fits of depression, or partial derangement, and after occasional interruptions in business from this cause, he terminated his life by suicide in 1808.

John Trafton (son of Josiah Trafton) married the widow of John McGorch, in 1812, and succeeded him in his mercantile business. His trade was extensive, and his prospects for a long season flattering. But in 1836 he went down with a crash, which seriously injured a large number of his friends and endorsers.

John Gowen, Esq., was in trade at this place for a long time, and apparently successful; but the bankruptcy of '37 found him insolvent. Moses Goodwin, Jr., also pursued this business for a few years and voluntarily retired from it.

Mr. — Page and many others have been engaged in mercantile business in this place for a short period; nearly all of which ended in failures.

Mechanical business of different kinds has been pursued here. A small manufacturing establishment once run here but is now abandoned. This place never recovered from the shock which Mr. Trafton's failure gave it. The growth of Springvale, a flourishing village three miles below absorbed nearly all the business. A saw mill and grist mill still run here—and a little business is done in the grocery line.

Shapleigh Corner. At a later period mercantile business was commenced at the Corner, at first called "Haley's Corner." A little grocery store was first kept here by Stephen Pillsbury and James Staples. In 1812, Andrew Haley opened a store and continued it about 20 years.

Hon. Elisha Bodwell commenced trade here in 1823, and has been the most permanent trader ever settled in the place. Others have engaged in it for short periods.

Daniel Lewis (son of Dr. Wm. Lewis) has been doing considerable business in this line, of late.

This place has greatly improved of late in the style of its buildings,—and in the amount of mechanical business. A large shoe manufactory has been carried on here, by C. W. Lewis, but has

recently been destroyed by fire together with the store of David Lewis, *Ross' Corner*. At *Ross' Corner*, (formerly called *Stanley's Corner*) upon the East border of the town, Wm. Stanley opened a store in 1824,—and closed up in 1830. Then Mr. Pike resumed it for a season.

Col. Jotham Allen commenced trade in this place in 1839. His business was extensive. In 1851 he sold out to Abraham Coffin—who also sold out to Samuel Lord, who has since sold out to Edmund Warren. Otis Ross has recently been engaged in trade here.

Twambly's Mills, or Shapleigh Iron Works. This place is on both banks of the Little Ossipee, partly in Shapleigh and partly in Newfield. As early as 1799, Jos. & Wm. Linscott, erected a Saw mill here. Sometime after a Saw and Grist mill were built on the Newfield side by Home & Twambly. Trade was commenced here in 1826 by Benjamin Pillsbury. Simeon Towle did business here in this line for a short time;—likewise Daniel Lewis. A bed of Iron ore was discovered upon the banks of the Little Ossipee, about a mile above this place on the Shapleigh side. In 1836, this was purchased by Huse & Co., and an expansion blast furnace erected. For convenience of location this was on the Newfield side. While this operated it greatly increased the business of the place. But the ore bed proved to be small and the business unprofitable, therefore after a few years it was abandoned. The building and water power are now employed as a Box-making establishment, and a Hat manufactory.

In 1844 a small Woolen Factory was put in operation here by J Hargraves & Sons, who still continue to run it.

PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Charles Powers, of Greenwich, Mass., established himself at the western border near Milton Mills, as early as 1791, and practiced with good success till 1825. He then removed to New Hampshire, and finally died in Shapleigh, in 1847.

Dr. Benjamin Mace commenced the practice of medicine at Emery's Mills in 1803 or 1804. After a stay of two years or more, he left and settled in Lisbon and finally in New Gloucester.

Dr. Whiting Stevens, a native of Winthrop, succeeded him at this place in 1807. He pursued his studies with Dr. Luther Cary of Turner. He still remains, having pursued his practice nearly fifty years, and reared up a large and respectable family.

Dr. Reuben Buck of Wilmington, Mass., entered upon the practice of medicine, at Hubbard's Corner in 1819. He afterwards moved to the western border of the town, to a place called Milton Mills, where he and a son of his still have an extensive practice.

Others have practiced in Acton since the separation.

Dr. L. O. Wood in the year 1820 settled at Haley's Corner, in the East Parish, and continued till 1827.

Dr. Wm. Lewis of Alfred, commenced the practice of medicine at the same place in 1825. He has pursued it successfully to the present time.

Dr. Horace Webber, a native of Shapleigh, practices in the Botanic way

LAWYERS.

Jonathan Clark, Esq., a native of Berwick, opened an office at Acton corner, in 1745. He practiced here but a short time, and removed to Sanford Corner. He is the only lawyer that has attempted a settlement in the West Parish.

John A. Burleigh, Esq., commenced business in this line, at Emery's Mills in 1725. After a few years he moved to Great Falls and is now agent of a large Manufacturing company in that place.

Hon. John T. Paine, succeeded him and continued to practice law till 1736. He then removed to Springvale, in Sanford.

Calvin R. Hubbard, Esq., a native of the West Parish, who had studied for this profession with Hon. N. D. Appleton of Alfred, opened an office at this place, before Mr. Paine left. He also removed to Springvale, and formed a copartnership with Mr. Paine, but died suddenly in 1737.

No one has pursued the business in any part of the town since.

Several persons who were born or brought up in this town, have entered upon professional life in other places. Rev. *Geo. B. Barber*, a distinguished preacher in the Methodist connection, and Rev. *Luther C. Stevens*, son of Dr. Stevens, a minister and editor of the Baptist connection, were natives of this town.

Elders *Nehemiah Davis*, *John Chadbourne*, *Chas. Blanchard*, *Geo. Heard*, *Elbridge Cox*, *J. M. Wedgwood*, and *Joshua K. Chase*, all of the Baptist connection received ordination while residents of the present town of Shapleigh.

Dr. *James Emery* of Frankfort, *Dr. Levi J. Ham* of Erie Co., N. Y., *Dr. Ezra Kimball* of Milo, *Dr. A. W. Stevens* of Parkman, *Dr. Timothy Wilson* of Orleans, Mass., were natives of the East Parish.

The late Hon. *J. P. Rodgers* of Boston, Mass., *Hon. I. S. Kimball* of Sanford, *Wm. A. Kimball, Esq.* of Rochester, N. Y., *Saul Kimball, Esq.* of Illinois, *Asa Low* and *Samuel Thing, Esqs.* of Springvale, and *Charles Lindsey, Esq.* of Lebanon, were all residents of Shapleigh, and all born upon its soil, except *I. S. Kimball* and *C. Lindsey*.

CONCLUSION.

An eventful period in the history of this town, embracing three fourths of a century, has now been briefly surveyed. By the events here snatched from oblivion, we may trace our way back through its various stages of change and improvement, to its earliest settlement—its unbroken wilderness state. We may thus call up scenes long past, by many forgotten or unknown, but which were of thrilling interest to those who mingled in them. We may ask, "The fathers where are they?" Where are they who entered this wilderness, subdued these forests, reared the abodes of comfort, located and made these roads, and planted these institutions of learning, morality and religion? Nearly all have gone down to the grave. But their names, their deeds, their memories, linger behind. These should be preserved as monuments of antiquity, to lift a warning voice if they be found in the way of error—or to encourage to a reproduction, if they mark the bright path of virtue and piety. In the ordinary survey of things, we find no daring exploits, no startling achievements. But surveyed as deciding the destiny of an immortal state, these deeds of life, rise to a towering importance, and this obscure township becomes the theater of the most important contests.

Let public and personal improvement then go on. Let the present moment be improved, the future prepared for, that our earthly residence be it where it may, may eventually be exchanged for one that is peaceful, joyful and heavenly.



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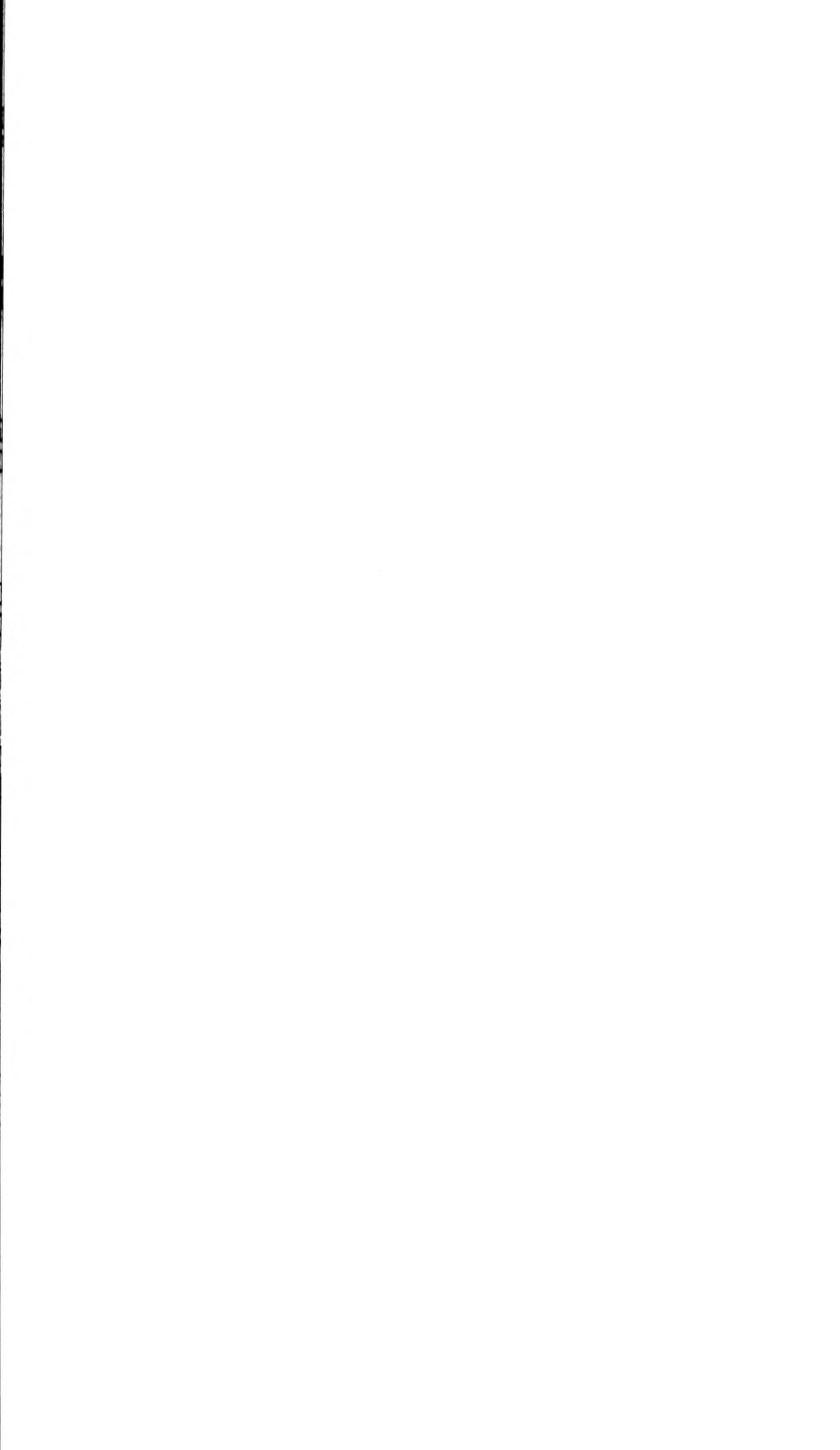
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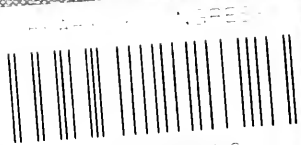
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