

F

74

S7707

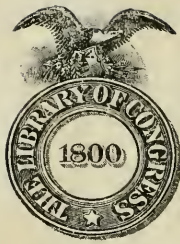
1841

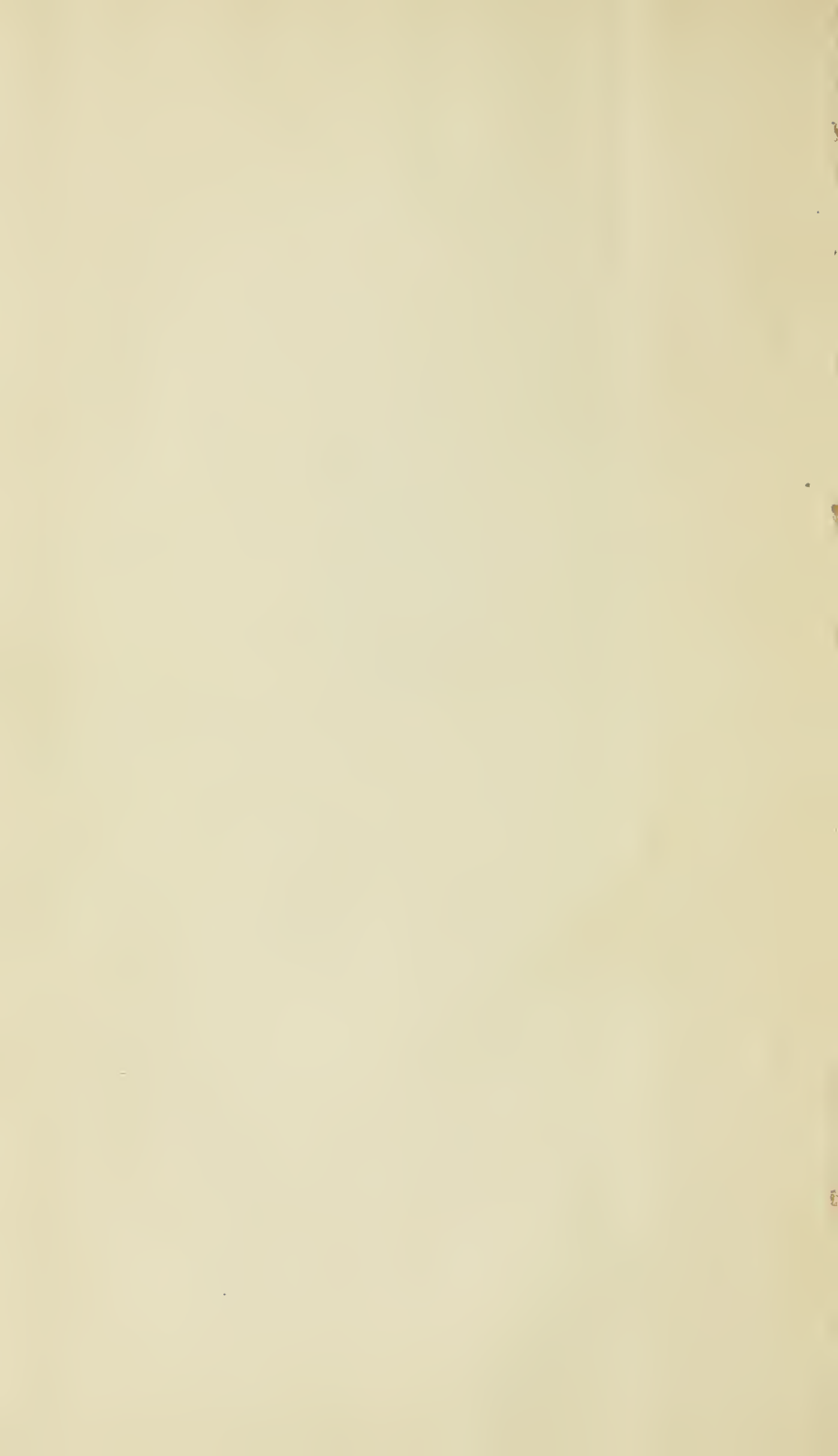
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0000183096A







HISTORY OF SPENCER

FROM ITS

EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE YEAR 1841,

INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH OF

LEICESTER,

TO THE YEAR 1753.

BY JAMES DRAPER.

"We wish to rescue the past from being forgotten, and to give honor to whom honor is due."

WORCESTER:
SPOONER AND HOWLAND, PRINTERS.
1841.

ANCIENT PLAN OF SPENCER.

Scale 400 rods per inch.

North Brookfield.

Brookfield.

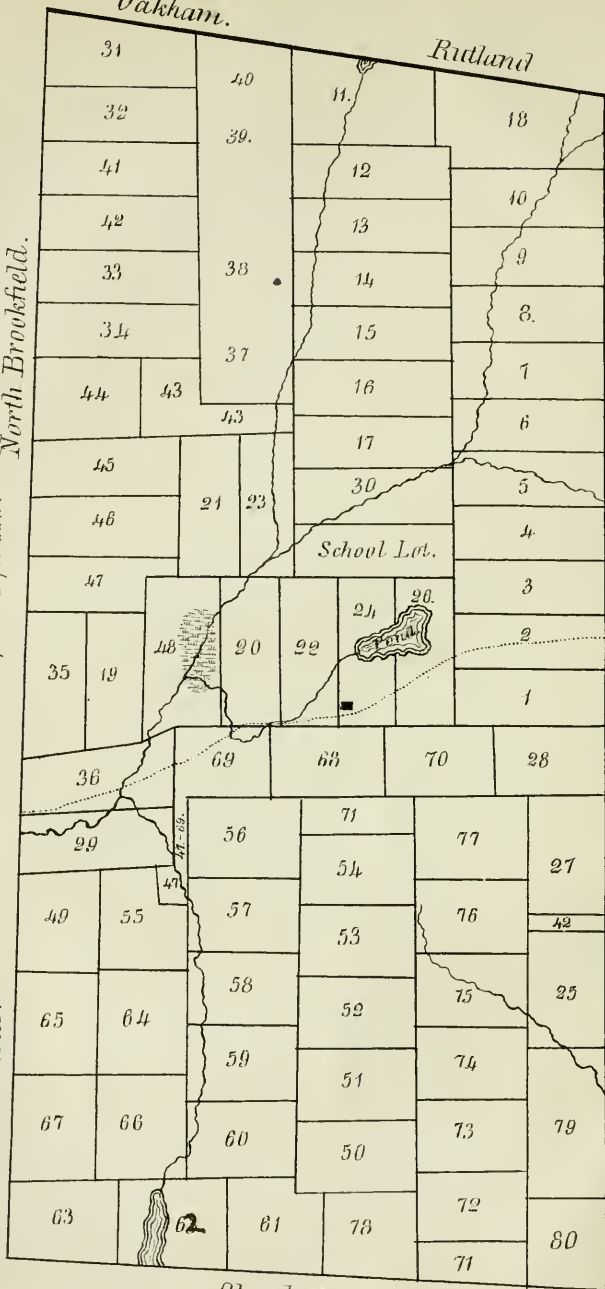
Oakham.

Rutland

Puton.

Leicester.

Charlton.



HISTORY OF SPENCER

FROM ITS

EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE YEAR 1841,

INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH OF

LEICESTER,

TO THE YEAR 1753.

BY JAMES DRAPER.

“ We wish to rescue the past from being forgotten, and to give honor to whom honor is due.”

WORCESTER:
SPOONER AND HOWLAND, PRINTERS.
1841.

F-74
S77D7
1841

2898C10
29 July 44

P R E F A C E .

It cannot be expected, in the History of a town situated in the interior, like Spencer, that many facts or incidents would have happened, connected with its earliest settlement, and but few events in the succeeding stages of its existence, which would excite much interest in the general reader, and much less could this be expected of any thing relative to the present state of the town, or its inhabitants. It may, however, lay some claims to antiquity, by being once, a component part of the town of Leicester, but the annals of its earliest period can exhibit no details of bloody conflicts with the Indian, nor can it boast of having produced any great and illustrious characters, either in peace or war. No exciting or interesting details of this kind, will form any part of this history.

These pages are the humble effort of a native citizen of Spencer, and have been especially prepared for the benefit and gratification of his fellow citizens. The compiler makes no pretension to the character of an accomplished writer, and indeed the execution of such a work does not require much talent, or literary acquirements. All that is necessary, and all that may be expected, is a faithful de-

tail of names, dates, facts, incidents and events, such as have occurred with little variation, in most of the towns in New England. The brief sketches, and genealogies of families, will undoubtedly be dull and even tedious to many, while others, and perhaps most of the native inhabitants, will esteem this the most valuable part of the work. However satisfactory, or acceptable this may prove, or however it may be esteemed, it has cost a great deal of time and labor, indeed so much, that had it been known and realized at the commencement, it would have been abandoned before it was undertaken. The writer has aimed at the truth, and every statement and fact of any importance, may be strictly relied upon. For materials, access has been had to the county records of Suffolk, Middlesex and Worcester; to the Council and Legislative records of the state; to histories of other towns; to the town, church and proprietors' records of Leicester and Spencer; to Magazines, old files of Newspapers, and occasional sermons; to ancient manuscripts, deeds, and other authentic documents; to the memories of aged people; and even the tombstones have furnished sources of information, from which something has been gleaned. In the hope that it may be of some benefit, and be acceptable to the parents and children of his native town, the author cheerfully submits it to their candor and intelligence.

CORRECTIONS.

- Page 95, line 7 from top, for come read ensue.
 100, 17 from top, for Tanner read Tansur.
 119, 11 from top, for Eliza read Elizabeth.
 136, 3 from top, for to read from.

INDEX.

- Accidents by fire, page 62, 63.
Act to prevent monopoly, 39.
Adams, David, 114.
Allen, Daniel, 14.
 David, 114.
- Baldwin, Asa, 36, 131.
 Joseph, 126, 138.
 David, 131.
Ball, Eleazer, Dea., 137.
Baptists, 103.
Barnes, David, 142.
Barton, Joshua, 116.
Bemis, family of, 105.
Bemis, Samuel, 82, 106.
 Samuel, Jun., 106.
 Edmund, 107.
 William, 108.
 Joshua, 109.
 Nathaniel, 108.
 Jonas, 109.
 Dexter, 146.
- Capen, family of, 117.
 Samuel, 117.
 Timothy, 118.
 James, 118.
- Census, 32.
Chandler, John, 14, 15, 18.
Church established, 85.
Civil History of Leicester, 19.
Civil History of Spencer, 33.
Clark, John, 14.
 Mathias, 125.
- A.
Allen, Israel, 143.
Aged persons, 150.
Andrews, William S. 157.
Aspomsok, Asnebumskit, 10.
Assessors, 152.
- B.
Bigelow, Joseph, 136.
Bisco, John, 43, 45, 48, 52, 141.
 Abijah, 145.
Boundaries of Spencer, 9, 19.
Boundaries of Leicester and Spencer, 18.
Bounty of rattlesnakes, &c. 60, 61.
Bradhurst, Ralf, 13, 14.
Bridge, Thomas, 125.
Bridges, David, 131.
Bright, Henry, 145.
Bunker Hill, battle of, 37.
Burden, Asa, 143.
Burgoyne, General, 40.
Business, 73.
Burial place, 104.
- C.
Convention at Leicester, 50.
Concord, skirmish at, 37.
Confederation, 41.
Cornwallis surrendered, 46.
Courts stopped, 51.
Courts oppressive, 50, 51.
Constitution of Massachusetts, 44, 62.
Crage, Nathan, 38.
Cranson, Elisha, 130.
Crosby Stephen, 92.

- Committee of correspondence, 146. Cunningham, Nathaniel, 24, 83,
Converse, Luke, 139. 113.
Congress at Salem, 35. Cunningham, family of, 112.
At Cambridge, 35. Robert, 112.
At Watertown, 35. John, 112.
Convention at Worcester, 35, 43, Curtis, Jonathan, 13, 14.
49. John, 113.
At Concord, 43.
- D.
- Davenport, Addington, 14.
Davis John, 157.
Denney, Thomas, 34, 35.
Depreciation of the currency, 43.
Description of Spencer in 1788, 53.
Draper, family of, 123.
Richard, 13, 14.
Thomas, 123.
James, 4th, 124.
Joshua, 124.
- Draper, David, 146.
Double dating, 12.
Drury, William, 130.
Benjamin, 144.
Dudley, Joseph, 10.
Thomas, 10.
Paul, 14.
William, 15.
Dummer, Jeremiah, 13, 14.
William, 22.
- E.
- Earthquakes in New England, 60,
61.
Eaton, Joshua, 84, 125.
Joshua, Jun. 146.
John Elliot, 145
- Ecclesiastical, 74.
Elliot, John, 138.
John, Jun., 146.
Elliot, Richard Roswell, 146.
- F.
- Flagg, John, 136.
Samuel, 140.
- First settlement of Spencer, 105.
Frink, William, 144.
- G.
- Gale, Henry, 53.
Gamlin, Benjamin, 13, 14.
Gardner, Thomas, 13, 14.
Henry, 36.
Garfield, Samuel, 128.
Gates, Oldham, 126.
Gleazen, Benjamin, 142.
Goodenow, Cornelius, 130.
Goddard, David, 82.
Graham, John, 127.
- Greaton, John, 109.
Grant, original of Leicester and
Spencer, 9.
Gray, Harrison, 36.
Green, Benjamin, 137.
Griffin, David, &c., 132.
Grosvenor, Daniel, 90.
Guilford, Jonas, 144.
Jonas, Jun. 145.
Nathan, 146.
- H.
- Hall, Willis, 49.
Hathaway, James, 53.
Henshaw, Joseph, 35.
Hills, 69.
- Hobbs, Warren, 146.
Howe, Thomas, 14, 15.
Hutchinson, Thomas, 14.
William, 14, 15.
- I.
- Indian deed of Leicester and
Spencer, 9.
Indians, 21.
- Independence declared, 38.
Insurrection of Shays, 47.

- J.
 Jenks, Isaac, 48.
 Johnson Benjamin, 31, 127.
- Lamb, Joshua, Col. 13, 14.
 Jonas, 38.
 Lamb, family of, 109.
 Jonathan, 109.
 Jonathan, Jun. 110.
 Joshua, 110.
 John, 110.
 Lamond, Archibald, 113.
- Mason, Ebenezer, 37, 142.
 May, David, 52.
 William, 131.
 Meadows, 70, 72.
 Meetinghouses 84.
 Ministerial & school lands sold, 61.
 Miscellaneous items, 60.
- Newhall, Thomas, 20.
- Original grant of Leicester and
 Spencer, 9.
- Packard, Levi, 98.
 Page, Nathaniel, 13, 14.
 Parish incorporated, 84.
 Parmenter, Nathaniel, 135.
 Parsons, Joseph, 20.
 David, 74.
 Parsonage, 98.
 Pensioners, 140.
 Physicians, 143.
 Pope, Gregory, 12.
 Joseph, 90.
 Joseph, Jun. 146.
 Ponds, 70.
- Queen Ann's war, 13.
- Read, John, 116.
 Revolution, 33.
 Rice, Peter, 38.
 Asher, 115.
- J.
 Jones, Asa, 145.
 Justices of the Peace, 146.
- L.
 Lawyers, 157.
 Leicester, first settlement of, 15.
 Lexington, battle of, 37.
 Livermore, Joseph, 37, 140.
 Abijah, 53, 139.
 Moses, 133.
 David, 142.
- M.
 Minzee, Judge, 20.
 Minerals, 72.
 Moose pond, 17, 70.
 Morgan, Robert, 125.
 Muzzy, John, 43, 133.
 Nathan, 145.
- N.
 Newhall, John, 122.
- O.
 Ormes, John, 24, 111.
 James, 143.
- P.
 Post offices, 74.
 Potter, Cheney, 144.
 Property of our ancestors, 148.
 Prouty, David, Capt. 40.
 Prouty, family of, 118.
 Richard, 118.
 David, senior, 118.
 Jacob, 119.
 John, 119.
 Adam, 120.
 James, 120.
 Isaac, senior, 121.
- Q.
 Quoristers chosen, 100.
- R.
 Representatives, 154.
 Roads, 65.
 Robinson, Josiah, 123.
 Ruggles, Samuel, 13, 14.

- Schools, 63.
 Segar, Oliver, 123.
 Selectmen, 151.
 Settlement, first of Leicester, 15.
 Sewall, Samuel, 14.
 Shay's Insurrection, 47.
 Shirley, Governor, 24.
 Sinclair, William, 114.
 Slaves, 32.
 Smith, Moses, 12, 89.
 Snow storm, 61.
 Soil and productions, 72.
 Soldiers families provided for, 41, 43.
 Spencer, boundaries of, 9, 19.
- Tea proscribed, 34.
 Topography, 69.
 Tories, 41.
 Town officers in 1753, 31.
- Universalists, 104.
- Valuation, 40, 148.
 Votes for Governor, 155.
- Wainwright, Francis, 14.
 Watson, Oliver, 38, 44, 49, 122.
 Watson, William, 146.
 John, 130.
 Warville's travels, 56.
 Wealth of our ancestors, 148.
 White, John, 14.
 John, Lieut. 28, 129.
 Josiah, 40.
 Henry, 121.
 Whitefield, George, 88.
 Whitney, Joshua, 126.
- S.
- Spencer, incorporation of, 31.
 Sprague, Anthony, 38.
 Thomas, 38.
 Stebbings, John, 16, 82, 116.
 Sternhold and Hopkins version, 100—102.
 Stoddard, Jacob, 121.
 Stoughton, William, 12.
 Strawberry Hill, 16.
 Streams, 71.
 Steele, Thomas, 30, 31.
 Suits at court, number of, 50.
 Sumner, John, 50.
 Bradford, 157.
- T.
- Town Clerks, 153.
 Town Treasurers, 154.
 Toutaid, 9, 13.
 Tray, Philip, 10, 11.
- U.
- Upham, Jacob, 135.
- V.
- Version of Sternhold and Hopkins, 100—102.
- W.
- Whittemore Jeremiah, 138.
 Wilson, family of, 110.
 James, 110.
 James Jun., 111.
 Benjamin, 111.
 Simeon, 129.
 Joseph, 111.
 Wood, Nathaniel, 19, 105.
 Worster, John, Dea. 28, 128.
 Wright, Edward, 136.
 Woodward, Robert, 126.
- Y.
- Young, David, 52.

HISTORY OF SPENCER.

THE town of Spencer is situated eleven miles a little to the South of West from the *Depots* of the several Rail Roads in Worcester. It is bounded East by the towns of Leicester and Paxton; North by the towns of Rutland and Oakham; West by the towns of North Brookfield and Brookfield, and South by the town of Charlton.

Spencer was once a part of the town of Leicester. It will, therefore, be necessary to give a brief sketch of Leicester, including Spencer, until the Westerly half was incorporated into a town by the name of Spencer in 1753.

ORIGINAL GRANT.

More than one hundred and fifty years ago, a number of wealthy gentlemen belonging to Boston and its vicinity, were in the habit of purchasing large tracts of unsettled lands, of the Indians, in the interior of the state. Leicester, Hardwick and other tracts were purchased by them, in what is now, the county of Worcester. The following is a copy of the Indian deed of the town of Leicester to some of those gentlemen.

“Know all men by these Presents, that we the heirs of Oraskaso, Sachem of a place called Toutaid, situate and lying near the now town of the English called Worcester, with all others which may under them belong unto the

same place aforesaid. These heirs being two women with their husbands newly married, which being by name called Philip Tray with his wife Momokhue, and John Wampson and Waiwaynom his wife, for divers good causes and considerations us thereunto moving, and more especially for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen pounds current money of New England to us in hand paid by Joshua Lamb, Nathaniel Page, Andrew Gardner, Benjamin Gamlin, Benjamin Tucker, John Curtice, Richard Draper and Samuel Ruggles with Ralf Bradhurst of Roxbury in the county of Suffolk in New England, the receipt of which we do fully acknowledge ourselves to be fully satisfied and paid, have given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, infeoffed and confirmed, and by these presents do fully and absolutely, give, grant, bargain, sell, alienate, infeoff, and confirm unto the said Lamb, Page, Gardner, Gamlin, Tucker, Curtice, Draper, Ruggles and Bradhurst, their heirs and assigns, a certain tract of land containing by estimation, eight miles square, situate, lying and being near Worcester aforesaid, abutting Southerly on the lands of Joseph Dudley, Esqr.,* lately purchased of the Indians, and Westerly, the most Southernmost corner upon a little pond called Paupokquamcok, then to a hill called Wekapokotounow, and from thence to a little hill called Mossonachuds, and unto a great hill called Aspomsok, † and

* Joseph Dudley, Esq., was a younger son of Thomas Dudley, who was first Lieut. Governor of Massachusetts in 1630. He was appointed by King William, Governor of Massachusetts in 1701. The lands referred to is a gore about one mile wide lying South of Leicester and Spencer. So much of this gore as lay South of Spencer was a few years taxed to Spencer, and when Charlton was incorporated, became a part of that town. The Eastern end of it, was in 1778, made a part of Ward, now Auburn, and the remainder in 1838 was annexed to Oxford. He died 1720, aged 73.

† This hill is probably what is called "Bumskit," and lies in the

so then Easterly upon a line until it comes against Worcester bounds and joins unto their bounds, or howsoever otherwise butted and bounded, together with all and singular the rights, commodities, liberties, privileges and appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging or however otherwise appertaining. To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land situating, containing and bounding as aforesaid to the said Lamb, &c. their heirs and assigns in common tenancy, to their only proper use, sake of and benefit forever. And the said Philip Tray and Momokhue and John Wampscon and Waiwaynom their wives, with all others under them as aforesaid, do covenant, promise and grant for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators to and with the said Joshua Lamb, &c., their heirs and assigns, that they will the above granted and bargained lands and every part and parcel thereof, with their and every of their appurtenances, warrant and defend from all and every person and persons whatsoever, claiming any right or title thereunto or interest therein from, by or under us. In witness whereof, the said Philip Tray and Momokhue and John Wampscon with Waiwaynom being their wives, have hereunto set their hands and seals this twenty-seventh day of January, Anno Domini one thousand six hundred and eighty-six.

<i>Signed, sealed and delivered</i>	}	Philip Tray © his mark	(seal)
<i>in presence of us,</i>		Momokhue Tray † her mark	(seal)
Tom Tray © his mark.		John Wamscon,	(seal)
Nonawano ∞ his mark.		Waiwaynom Wamscon †	^{her} _{mark} (seal)
Capt. ⚔ Moogus his mark.		Wandwoamag ☐ the deacon	^{his} _{mark} (seal)
Andrew 8 Pitteme his mark.		Jonas his O wives mark	(seal)

South-east part of Paxton, and was known anciently by the name of "Hasnebumskit" or "Asnebumskit." It is the highest land in the county of Worcester, excepting Wachusett in Princeton. The other bounds mentioned in the deed are now not known.

Philip Tray, Momokhue his wife, Waiwaynom and Wandowamag, all personally appearing before me underwritten, one of his Majesty's Council of his territory and Dominions of New England, June 1, 1687, did acknowledge this instrument to be their act and deed.

William Stoughton.

Recorded, March 8th, 1713-4.*

Pr. John Chandler, Town Clerk."

Nothing further is heard of this tract of land for more than twenty-six years. In the mean time Brookfield be-

* There are many instances like this, in the ancient records, of double-dating. To conform to the new style, this date instead of March 8, 1713-4 should be March 20, 1714. It was found that the Julian year (adopted by Julius Cæsar) consisting of 365 days and 6 hours, and every fourth year of 366 days, was a fraction too long, and carried the spring months gradually into the summer; the error had already amounted to 11 days. In order therefore to bring the Vernal Equinox on the 21st of March, Pope Gregory XIII. in 1582, ordered 11 days to be stricken from September 1582, calling the 3d day the 14th. And in order to provide that the Equinox should continue to fall on the 21st of March, the year was made to consist of 365 days, with an intercalary day in February, every fourth or leap year, omitting this additional day, 3 times in 400 years. It was omitted in 1800, making 12 days between the Old and New Style. After the Calender had thus been corrected by Pope Gregory, the correction was immediately adopted by all the Catholic Countries, but it was not adopted in England, or the American Colonies until 1752, when the alteration was made by an act of Parliament. Previous to this the year commenced on the 25th of March, which is called old style; now it commences on the 1st of January, which is new style. The 25th of March, is denominated by the Catholic church, Annunciation, or Lady Day. As most of the nations had adopted the new style, in order to conform in some measure to it, the English adopted double-dating until Sept. 2, 1752. Thus as above, March 8, 1713, would be old style; March 20, 1714, would be new style. Therefore to bring old style into new style, in all dates between the 1st of January and the 25th of March for a century previous to Sept. 2, 1752, twelve days should be added. In this compilation, where the dates happen between January 1st, and March 25th, the year conforms to the new style, but the date of the months remains unaltered.

gan to be settled on the West, and Worcester on the East. But the war commonly called Queen Ann's war,* breaking out, all the plantations and new settlements in this part of the country, were broken up, and many of them entirely destroyed. This probably discouraged the proprietors from making any attempts to settle Touthaid or Leicester. However, at the close of the war, they presented a petition to the General Court, praying a "confirmation of the said tract to them and their associates; that they may be encouraged to proceed to settle the same with inhabitants, under such directions and reservations as shall be thought meet." Accordingly, on the 15th of February, 1713-4, it was "ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted; provided that within seven years time, fifty families settle themselves in as defensible and regular a way as the circumstances of the place will allow, on part of said land; and that a sufficient quantity thereof be reserved for the use of a Gospel ministry there and a school. Provided also, that this interfere with no former grant, and this grant shall not exceed the quantity of eight miles square. The town to be called Leicester, and to belong to the county of Middlesex."

On the 23d of the same month of February, the original grantees, admitted thirteen other gentlemen as associates and proprietors of the said township. The following are the names of all the proprietors at this time, viz., Joshua Lamb, Samuel Ruggles, Benjamin Gamlin, Benjamin Tucker, Jonathan Curtis, Ralf Bradhurst, Richard Draper, Thomas Gardner, Nathaniel Page, Jeremiah Dummer,

* This war commenced in 1692, and peace was concluded in 1713. The Indians, stimulated by the French, overran most of the frontier settlements. Worcester was entirely destroyed, and remained desolate until 1713. Brookfield suffered severely, and was almost entirely depopulated.

Paul Dudley, John Clark, Addington Davenport, Thomas Hutchinson, John White, William Hutchinson, Francis Wainwright, John Chandler and Thomas Howe as one, Daniel Allen and Samuel Sewall as one, and William Dudley, making twenty-two proprietors for twenty shares.*

* These proprietors were all gentlemen of wealth and respectability, and many of them of very high standing in the community. Joshua Lamb, belonged to Roxbury, was Colonel of one of the Suffolk regiments, a magistrate and a great landholder. Samuel Ruggles belonged also to Roxbury, and was grand-father to the celebrated Brigadier Ruggles of Hardwick. He died in 1716. Benjamin Gamlin was also of Roxbury, and was grand-father to the first wife of Stephen Rogers, the farm being his wife's inheritance. Benjamin Tucker was of Roxbury. He died in 1728. One of his sons, Samuel, died in this town and left posterity here. Jonathan Curtis belonged, also, in Roxbury. He had two sons, Jonathan and John, who both came to Leicester. John died in Spencer, leaving posterity here. Ralf Bradhurst, also, lived in Roxbury. This name was afterwards written Bradish. He died about 1730. Richard Draper was a merchant in Boston. In his will dated December 26, 1728, he is styled "son of Edward Draper and Ann his wife, late of Boston near Banbury in the county of Oxford, Great Britain, and only brother of William Draper senieur of Boston aforesaid." Thomas Gardner was son of Andrew Gardner of Brookline. One of the same name was minister of Worcester and Lunenburg, probably the same person. Nathaniel Page belonged to Billerica. Jeremiah Dummer was born in Boston, educated at Harvard College, and was a gentleman distinguished for his learning and talents, was agent at England for the Province of Massachusetts from 1710 to 1721. He was called in history "a great man," died in 1739. Paul Dudley, was son of Gov. Joseph Dudley, was in 1702, appointed by Queen Ann, Attorney General of Massachusetts, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Died 1751, aged 78. John Clark was a representative from Boston to the General Court, was chosen speaker of the house in 1721. His son, John, an eminent physician in Boston, inherited his estate in Spencer. He died December, 1728. Addington Davenport, was of Boston, and one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. Thomas Hutchinson, was a distinguished merchant of Boston, Colonel of a regiment, many years a Counsellor, and father to the late Governor Hutchinson. He was the man who personally, seized the famous pirate, Capt. Robert Kidd, when he offered violent resistance to all. He died 1739,

On the same day they voted "that one half of the township of Leicester be disposed of, or sold to fifty families that shall settle and establish themselves there according to the injunction of the General Court." The Eastern half (now Leicester) was accordingly appropriated for that purpose, and the Western half (now Spencer) ordered to be divided among the Proprietors, into twenty shares.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF LEICESTER.

On the 14th of May, 1714, a committee of the Proprietors repaired to the Easterly half of Leicester, for the purpose of locating house lots, to such persons as chose to take them on the prescribed conditions. These conditions were, that one shilling per acre should be paid for each house lot, and that a family should be settled on each of them within three years, or else be forfeited and return to the proprietors. These house lots contained generally forty acres, but some lots contained fifty acres, and some only thirty, and every house lot was entitled to one hundred additional acres, to be taken up in some other part of the town, to every ten acres of the house lots. These were called after rights. Thus by paying forty

aged 65. John White, was many years clerk of the house of representatives. He died of the small pox, 1721. William Hutchinson, was a man of large fortune and one of the representatives of Boston. Francis Wainwright, was a merchant of Boston. John Chandler belonged to Woodstock, was one of the Council, one of the proprietors of Oxford, Chief Justice of the first Court of Common Pleas established in Worcester; also, first Judge of Probate, and Colonel of a regiment, died in 1743. Thomas Howe was a gentleman of Marlborough. Daniel Allen was a merchant of Boston. Samuel Sewall was a gentleman of Brookline. William Dudley belonged to Roxbury, was brother of Hon. Paul Dudley, speaker of the House of Representatives, an active officer at the taking of Port Royal in 1710, Colonel of a regiment, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. Died in 1743.

shillings, a settler was entitled to a house lot of forty acres, and four hundred acres in addition. Roads were located between the ranges of house lots, and two of those, one running North and the other South, from the village, still remain where first located. The first house lot was granted to John Stebbings, of whom mention will hereafter be made. It was located on Strawberry Hill, the present site of Leicester village, and extended principally South of it. Several failed to comply with the prescribed conditions, so that more than eight years expired before fifty families were permanently settled on the territory.

Having at length succeeded in effecting a settlement of the required number of families in the town, the proprietors, by their committee, on the 8th of January, 1724, executed a deed of conveyance of the Eastern half of Leicester to the following persons, who had previously settled thereon; viz: John Stebbings, Joseph Stebbings, James Wilson, Samuel Green, Arthur Cary, Moses Stockbridge, Hezekiah Russ, John Peters, William Brown, Thomas Hopkins, Daniel Denny, John Smith, Ralf Earle, Nathaniel Kanney, Samuel Stimson, Benjamin Woodbridge, John Lynde, Josiah Winslow, Josiah Langdon, Joshua Henshaw, Mr. Joseph Parsons, Nathaniel Richardson, John Menzies, Esq., Joseph Sargent, Daniel Livermore, James Southgate, Daniel Parker, Esq., Thomas Baker, Richard Southgate, Samuel Prince, Dorothy Friar, Thomas Dexter, William Keen, James Winslow, Stephen Winchester, Paul Dudley, Esq., and John King, being 37 persons only; but some of these settled two or three families in different parts of the town, making fifty families in the whole. Several of these families have left numerous descendants, such as the Greens, the Dennys, the Earles, the Henshaws, Southgates, &c. Nathaniel Kanney, Josiah Langdon, Josiah and James Winslow, Samuel Prince and Paul Dudley

Handwritten note:
 "The above list of names is taken from the
 1. Boston, July 29, 1852 - Boston Rec -

never were residents in Leicester, but settled other families there. John Stebbings and James Wilson soon removed from the Eastern part of Leicester and were some of the first settlers of Spencer.

In the mean time, the Proprietors having disposed of their interest in the Eastern part of the township, turned their attention to the sale and settlement of the Western part. Previous to this time, a few settlements had been made in that part of the town. October 11, 1716, the proprietors met at Boston and voted that 10,000 acres of it should be surveyed and divided into forty "allotments" of 250 acres each, and two of these *allotments* set to each of the proprietors, and that all cedar swamps in the said half lie in common for the present, that no person be allowed to sell, dispose or destroy any more than for his own use, and that Moose pond lie and remain common for the use and benefit of all the proprietors, and that convenient high-ways be laid out thereto."* These 40 lots were surveyed and an additional one for the use of schools and the ministry, and the proprietors again met in June, 1717, and the allotments were divided by lot among themselves, being 500 acres to each. This 10,000 acres comprises about one half of Spencer, taking nearly all the land North of the great post-road, with three or four lots South of it. The first settlements commenced upon these lots. This was called the first division, and these lots were generally one mile long and 125 rods wide. The second division was not completed until July, 1730, when the remainder was divided into 40 lots more, each lot containing 240 acres, with an addition of about 9 acres of meadow, all meadows of 20 acres or more being reserved for that purpose. These meadows were Seven-mile river

* There is no record of any roads being ever laid out to Moose pond.

meadow, commonly called the Great meadow; Branch meadow at the North-east part of the town; Cranbury meadow, now overflowed, and the meadow adjoining Cedar swamp. The settlement of Spencer was a slow process. The first was probably in 1717, and in twenty years there were not perhaps, more than twenty families permanently located in the town.

BOUNDARIES OF LEICESTER AND SPENCER.

In 1714, John Chandler, Esq., by order of the General Court, made a survey of the whole town. His return, accompanied with a plan, was made June 19, of the same year, and established by the court as the legal bounds of the town. According to this survey the East line on Worcester, was North and by West, 8 miles and 20 rods; North on Rutland, West 7 deg. North, 7 miles and 100 rods; West on Brookfield, due North and South, 8 miles; South on the Gore East 4 deg. South, 9 miles and twenty rods, containing "forty thousand, nine hundred and sixty acres, being the quantity of eight miles square." The Western line, between the towns of Brookfield and Leicester, was the cause of some contention, between the two towns, so much so, that the legislature were called upon to interfere. The line was run by Brookfield in 1701, and was stated to be due North and South. John Chandler's in 1714, was the same course. But the selectmen of Brookfield, in 1719, perambulated the line anew, and made the South corner between the towns 38 rods further East, the line running South 2 deg. East, and to this line the owners of land in Brookfield claimed. The inhabitants of Leicester petitioned the General Court for redress, and in 1730, the same John Chandler, with two other gentlemen, by order of the Court, again run the line, and that run by Brookfield 1719, was confirmed, thus taking a triangular

piece of 38 rods at the South, and running to a point at the North, from Leicester, or what was supposed to be then, and adding it to Brookfield. A strip 22 rods wide was severed from Nathaniel Wood's farm, on the great post-road.

In 1830, the town of Spencer was accurately surveyed. The following are the exact lines and courses. Beginning at a stone monument it being the South-west corner of Spencer on Brookfield line and running on Charlton South 88 1-2 deg. East, four miles and forty-three rods, to a stone monument on Leicester line; thence on Leicester, North 2 1-2 deg. West, six miles and one hundred and forty rods to a stone monument, being the South-west corner of Paxton; thence same course on Paxton two miles and ten rods to a stone monument on Rutland line; thence on Rutland South 85 deg. West, one mile and forty-one rods to a stone monument, being the South-east corner of Oakham; thence same course on Oakham, two miles and two hundred and ten rods to a stone monument, being the North-west corner of Spencer, the South-west corner of Oakham, the South-west corner of New Braintree and the North-east corner of North Brookfield, thence South 1-2 deg. East on North Brookfield, four miles and one hundred and twenty rods to a stone monument, being the dividing point between North Brookfield and Brookfield; thence same course on Brookfield, four miles and sixty-six rods to the place of beginning, containing 21,594 acres.

CIVIL HISTORY OF LEICESTER.

The first town-meeting on record, was held March 6, 1721, for the choice of town officers. There must, however, have been a town-meeting, the year previous, and town officers chosen, for at a meeting in May 1721, a vote was passed choosing "the present selectmen a committee to

reckon with the *last year's treasurer* for monies already raised, &c." The town was represented in the General Court for 1721, although there is no record of it, but at a town-meeting May 15, 1722, the town voted "to pay his honor Judge Minzies, Esq., for his serving us in the General Court the year 1721." But Judge Minzies declared himself satisfied without any pay, whereupon it was voted "that Judge Minzies be our representative for the year 1722." Although the inhabitants of Leicester had so far exercised the elective franchise for 1720 and 1721, as to choose municipal officers, and even elect a representative, yet it seems they were not fully and legally authorized to exercise all the powers of incorporated towns. Accordingly June 14, 1722, the selectmen presented a petition to the General Court, "praying that the town may be confirmed in the enjoyment of the powers and privileges of a town, and to be enabled to gather and collect a tax, &c." The request was granted and Daniel Denny was authorized to collect taxes as a constable, &c." The same year the town voted, that if Joseph Parsons, Esq., would build a corn mill for the use of the town, it should be free from taxes. It was accordingly built, and stood, as tradition says, about half a mile west of the meeting-house, near the site of the brick card factory.

In 1723, Judge Minzies was elected a representative and again refused to receive any pecuniary remuneration for his services, declaring he was "fully satisfied and paid." The next year, 1724, being assembled again for the choice of a representative, they passed a vote of thanks to Judge Minzies "for his good service as a representative the year past, and whoever should be chosen this year, should be paid the same as Judge Minzies *and no other.*" They then made choice of Lieut. Thomas Newhall "*to serve on the conditions abovesaid.*"

It is believed the inhabitants of Leicester have never had their midnight slumbers broken by the hideous yells of the savage war-whoop, nor have any of their numbers fallen by the tomahawk or scalping knife of the Indian; yet the first settlers of both the Eastern and Western part of the town, were frequently alarmed and disturbed by small parties or individual Indians prowling about the neighborhood or through the town. Garrisons had been established in various parts of the town, and one around the house of the Rev. Mr. Parson, near the meeting-house. The following document will show the situation of Leicester at this time.

“ *Leicester,** April 30, 1725.

“ To his Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

“ With all deutful respect, these are to acquaint your Honour, that just now there came news to us of two companyes of Indians discovered between us and the Wachussetts, which is very surprising, considering our inability for our own safeguard. As to the truth of the report with the circumstances we are altogether at a loss: but we hear there is a Post gone down to your Honour about it. Your Honour having always been ready to keep us, and we having had some encouragement upon our late Petition, we are encouraged to beseech your Honour, if it may be that we have some speedy assistance of Soldiers to defend us. Our number of inhabitants is vary small and several were much discouraged. It was so late the last summer before we had Soldiers that we were exceedingly behind with our businesse. So wishing your Honour all happi-

* See National *Ægis* of April 24, 1839. In 1722, scouts were posted in Leicester, under the command of Major John Chandler, and in 1724, twenty-nine soldiers from Capt. William Chandler's company, were posted there as a guard for the protection of the inhabitants. *Lincoln's History of Worcester*, Pages 51-53.

ness, and confiding in your Honour, and rather from our experience ; we are your Honours in all gratitude and obedience,

Thomas Newhall,	William Brown,
Richd. Southgate,	John Smith,
Benjamin Johnson,	James Southgate,
Ralf Earle,	Nathl. Richardson.
John Lynds,	

“To the Honourable William Dummer, Lieutenant Governor dwelling in Boston, for his majesty’s service.”

The same year, the selectmen presented a petition to the General Court, “setting forth that the said town is a *Frontier*, and has been very much exposed and reduced to very low circumstances by reason of the late *Indian War*, and therefore praying that this court would compassionate their distressed case, and abate their proportion of the Province tax for the present year.” The tax was accordingly abated.*

In 1726, the garrison around Mr. Parson’s house was repaired and put into a defensible state by a vote of the town. In 1727, a committee was chosen, again, to repair the same garrison.

After this, the inhabitants of Leicester were not further disturbed by fears from the depredations of hostile Indians. The town increased rapidly, in population and wealth, especially the Eastern, or settlers’ † part. This was settled under peculiar advantages, the settlers having paid merely a nominal price for their farms, a sum barely sufficient to defray the expenses of the survey and

*The town’s proportion of the province tax for 1725, was seven pounds.

† The Eastern part of the town, was called the “settlers’ part” and the Western part, the proprietors’ part, and afterwards the West Parish of Leicester.

other incidental charges. But the inhabitants of the Westerly part were not so favored. The proprietors having given away one half of the town, in order to comply with the conditions of their grant, retained the other half in their possession until they could dispose of it to the best advantage. Consequently, the progress of settlement was much slower, and up to 1740, there were probably, not more than one hundred and fifty inhabitants in that part of the town. They were, however, taxed for all purposes, whether municipal, parochial or otherwise, in the old part of the town.* But the corporate privileges and advantages which they received in return, was not, in their opinion, a sufficient compensation for the amount of their taxes. No roads had been located for their particular accommodation, and this, together with the distance, prevented the attendance of but few at church, and they received no benefit, whatever, from what they paid for the support of schools. In 1736, a tax of one penny per acre was laid on the whole town towards the support of a minister. The proprietors and settlers of the Westerly part petitioned the General Court, that their part of the tax might be applied towards the support of preaching in that part of the town. But their application did not prevail.

In 1751, they presented a petition to the town, at their annual meeting, requesting to be exempted from paying the minister and for the support of schools. But in this too, they were unsuccessful. At a subsequent town-meeting the same year, they asked to be "set off" as a distinct

* In 1731, three persons, only, living in the Westerly part of the town, appeared to be taxed, viz: Samuel Bemis, Jonathan Lamb and John Greaton. 1733, five persons were taxed, viz: Samuel Bemis, Jonathan Lamb, John Greaton, James Ormes and Jonathan Ormes. 1739, seventeen were taxed. 1742, forty-one were taxed.

town. This request was granted. Application was afterwards made, by them, to the General Court for that purpose. This request was also granted, and a bill for that purpose passed both houses, but was vetoed by Governor Shirley. This result produced a general dissatisfaction, as both parts of the town, and the proprietors also, were desirous a separation should take place. Accordingly, the proprietors and some of the inhabitants of the Westerly part, met at the Royal Exchange Tavern in Boston, February 15, 1743-4, and voted, "That Col. Samuel Willard, Thomas Hutchinson and Eliakim Hutchinson, Esqrs. Messrs. Nathl. Cunningham, Samuel Hunt and Grafton Feveryear, be a committee in the behalf of the proprietors and settlers to wait on his Excellency the Governor and inform him of the difficulties they labor under for the want of his Excellencies consent to a petition by them presented to the General Court for making them a separate town from the Easterly half of Leicester, which has passed both Houses, but his Excellency was not then inclined to give his consent thereto, and to use their best endeavours to obtain his Excellencies consent that the same may be made a separate Township." Governor Shirley perhaps, was as popular as any of Royal appointment, yet he would not, during the period of his government, consent to the bill.

The inhabitants of both parts of the town, acquiesced in this state of things with as much grace as they could, making a virtue of necessity. They became resigned to what they could not prevent, and nothing further occurred to disturb the harmony of the people, for several years.

The inhabitants of the Westerly part, however, continued to persevere in their attempts to become a separate corporation. John Ormes was employed as agent in their behalf, to petition to be made a distinct town, or other-

wise, to be a parish. May 30, 1744, he presented a petition to the General Court representing "that the difficulties which moved him to apply that they might be a distinct Township do still subsist, and may in a great measure be removed by their being made a Precinct." This request was granted, and they became a Parish by an act of incorporation July 18, 1744.

In 1749, four of the selectmen belonged to the East Parish, and one only, Moses Smith, belonged to the West Parish. They were requested to locate certain roads in the West Parish. This was thought reasonable, as the town had been at considerable expense, for two or three years previous, for making several new roads in the East Parish. But a majority of the selectmen thought proper not to comply with this request. The West Parish, by their committee, John Newhall and Moses Smith, petitioned the court of Sessions at Worcester to lay out suitable roads for their accommodation. The selectmen were cited to appear, to show cause why their prayer should not be granted. The town, accordingly, chose a committee to appear at court to oppose the petition. A compromise, was, however, effected, and the next year, eleven roads were located for the special benefit of the West Parish, constituting what are now, some of our most useful roads. The inhabitants of the town were somewhat disturbed by this coercive measure, and they determined to take immediate measures to effect a separation, and thus leave the West Praish to make their own roads. Accordingly, November 22, 1749, the following petition was presented to the General Court.

"Petition to the Honorable Spencer Phipps, Lieutenant Governour, by the subscribers, a committee of the town of Leicester, stating that the inhabitants of the Westerly part of said town, have built a meeting-house and settled

a minister, and stating further, that about eight years ago, *moved to the town of Leicester* for their consent to be set off and made a distinct town, which was readily granted, whereupon application was made to the court about three years afterwards for the same ; but instead of being made a town, was made a precinct only, which was very grievous to both, nor had the town any opportunity given them to offer any reasons to the Honorable Court to the contrary, although they had many to give, and one was that the West part called upon the selectmen of Leicester to lay out roads for them, upon the joint expense of both parts of said town, so that the inhabitants of the West part might get to meeting, &c. They further state, that when the land in the Easterly part was laid out, sufficient land was appropriated for roads, but when the West part was divided, it was laid out into lots, and no land left for roads, and now the East part was called upon to be at their proportion of the expense, which they considered unjust. That the inhabitants of the West part preferred a complaint to the Court of Sessions for a committee to lay out roads for their accommodation. They therefore pray the Court to erect the West part of Leicester into a distinct and separate town, &c.

Daniel Denny,
Steward Southgate,
John Brown."

The General Court being thus urgently pressed by the inhabitants of both parts of the town, brought in a bill for the purpose of erecting the West Parish into a town. But his Honor Lieutenant Governor Phipps, was not inclined to gratify the unanimous wishes of all parties, in this respect, but like his predecessor five years before, to veto the bill, and on December 22, 1749, the Secretary delivered the following Message from the Lieutenant Governor to both Houses, viz :

“Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives—The Secretary has laid before me for my signing, an engrossed bill passed by both Houses for incorporating the West or second Precinct in the township of Leicester into a distinct or separate township, &c. Whereupon I must inform you that I am restrained from giving my consent to this bill, unless provision be made that the number of Representatives be not thereby increased, or a clause for suspending the execution of the act until His Majesties pleasure shall be known thereupon, be inserted in the said act.”

The House became indignant at such unreasonable and tyrannical conduct of the Lieutenant Governor, and on January 4, succeeding, transmitted to him the following spirited message. “May it please your Honour. The House taking into consideration your Honour’s message of the 22d of December, beg leave to say, They are at a loss to know why your Honour apprehends yourself restrained from giving your consent to the bill unless provision be made that the number of Representatives be not thereby increased, or a clause for suspending the execution of the act until His Majesties pleasure should be known thereupon be inserted in said bill, but must suppose your Honour induced so to judge either from the reason or nature of the thing, or from some restraint in their late Majesties charter to this Province, which are the only rules of government in this his Majesties Province; In neither of which can the House find any restraint; in which opinion the House are more confirmed from the fate of a late bill in the Hon’ble House of Commons, of which your Honour is well knowing.* The House apprehend the forming that part of Leicester into a distinct township will be for the prosperity of

* What bill the House here refer to, is not known.

His Majesties subjects, in which his Majesty always takes pleasure, the ends of government being his Majesties honour and the happiness of his subjects ; and that the people be fully represented is for His Majesties Honour and the happiness of his subjects and is agreeable to his Majesties character and laws of this Province, is the opinion of the House. But were it not so, the number of the Representatives the town of Leicester by charter and the laws of this Province are now entitled to, is not enlarged by this bill ; And therefore the House flatter themselves, your Honour will give your consent." His Honor, however, remained incorrigible. These documents shew the liberal sentiments prevailing in the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, and which were always opposed and thwarted by the royal governors. This struggle continued, and sometimes with great animosity, from 1692 to 1775, when the unconstitutional and tyrannical power of Great Britain over this country was finally and effectually resisted, and the people became triumphant.

Thus were the inhabitants of this town doomed a second time to suffer the pangs of disappointed hope, by the tyrannical acts of a governor, not a governor chosen by the voluntary suffrages of a free people, but one appointed by the British Crown, and one who had no personal interest in the welfare of the people. Although sadly disappointed they were not discouraged, but determined to persevere until their efforts should be crowned with complete success. They, however, waited three years longer, when at a Parish Meeting, March 6, 1753, Capt. Benjamin Johnson, Lieut. John White and Deacon John Worster, were chosen a committee to prefer a petition to the General Court, once more asking to be incorporated into a town. The application at last was successful and Lieutenant Governor

Phipps condescended to give his consent to the bill, and it became a law.

The following is a copy of the act.

Anno Regni { ROYAL } *Regis Georgii*
secundo vicessimo { SEAL. } *Sexto.*

An act for erecting the second Precinct in the town of Leicester into a separate District.*

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and House of Representatives, that the said second Precinct in Leicester bounding North on the town of Rutland, Easterly on the first Parish in Leicester, Southerly on land called the Country Gore,† Westerly on the town of Brookfield, be and hereby is erected into a separate and distinct District by the name of Spencer,‡ and that the said District be invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities that towns in this Province by law do, or may enjoy, that of sending a Representative to the General Assembly only excepted; and that the said District shall have full liberty and right from time to time to join with the town of Leicester in choosing a Representative to represent them at the General Assembly, and that the said District shall from time to time be at their proportional part of the expense of such representative. And that the town of Leicester, as often as they shall call a meeting for the choice of Representatives, shall from time to time, give reasona-

* It was called a "District" because it was prohibited from choosing a representative. This was the case with Barre, Oakham, Paxton, and many other towns when first incorporated. This restriction continued until the commencement of the revolution in 1775, when every town or district, being freed from British bondage, was allowed to send a representative, and so continued until 1780, when the constitution guaranteed the right.

† This is now a part of the town of Charlton.

‡ This town was probably named Spencer, in honor of Lieutenant Governor, Spencer Phipps.

ble notice to the clerk of said District for the time being, of the time and place of holding of said meeting, to the end that said District may join therein, and the clerk of said District shall set up in some public place in said District a notification thereof accordingly.

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, that the said District shall pay their proportion of all Town, County and Province taxes already set or granted to be raised by said town, as if this act had not been made.

And be it further enacted, That Thomas Steele, Esqr., be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant directed to some principal inhabitant in said District, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants of said District qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet at such time and place as shall be therein set forth, to choose all such officers as shall be necessary to manage the affairs of said District.

April 3, 1753. This bill having been read three several times in the House of Representatives, Passed to be enacted. T. Hubbard, Spkr.

April 3, 1753. This bill having been read three several times in Council, Passed to be enacted.

J. Willard, Secry.

April 12, 1753. By the Lieutenant Governor, I consent to the enacting of this bill. S. Phipps.

Published, April 14, 1753.

Thos. Clark, Depty. Secry.

It will be seen by the provisions of this act, that the town of Spencer was especially prohibited from sending a Representative of their own, but the inhabitants had the privilege, if they chose, of going to Leicester and voting for some gentlemen in that town for the office. This was a kind of partnership, that if the labor and expense were equal, yet the honor and profits were shared by one of the parties only; for during the period of more than

twenty years, while this state of things existed, the town of Spencer was not so fortunate as to have one gentleman, who was sufficiently qualified, *in the opinion of the inhabitants of both towns*, to be a representative to the Great and General Court. Agreeable to a special provision of the aforesaid act, Mr. Justice Steele of Leicester issued his warrant to Capt. Benjamin Johnson, and a meeting of the inhabitants was called and the town was organized by choosing municipal officers as the law directed. It may be a curiosity to some of the present generation, to see who were the men that composed the first organization of the town, and what office their ancestors had the honor first to hold.

The following is a list of officers for the town of Spencer, at the first organization of the town, May 14, 1753.

Capt. Benjamin Johnson, Moderator.

“ Benjamin Johnson, Town Clerk.

Deacon John Worster,	}	Selectmen.
John Cunningham,		
John Muzzy,		
Deacon James Willson,		
Capt. Benjamin Johnson,		

“ Benjamin Johnson, Treasurer.

Samuel Bemis, Jun.,	}	Constables.
James Ormes,		

Voted, the Selectmen be the Assessors.

Ensign John Stebbings,	}	Highway Surveyors on the North side of the country road.
Samuel Garfield,		
John Prouty,		
Caleb Bridges,		
Robert Griffin,		

Jacob Stoddard,	}	Highway Surveyors on the South side of the country road.
Jonathan Lamb,		
David Adams,		

James Richardson, Highway surveyor on the country road.

Joshua Draper, }
 Benjamin Woodard, } Hogreeves.
 Deacon John Worster, }
 Thomas Bridges, } Fence Viewers.
 Israel Holton, Sealer of Leather.
 Lieut. John White, Sealer of Weights and Measures.
 James Draper, }
 Jacob Stoddard, } Tythingmen.

The population of the town at that time, probably did not exceed 500, and that of Leicester, about 700. The inhabitants of this town being mostly agriculturists, population has not increased so rapidly as in some other towns in the County where large manufacturing establishments exist. The following is the population of the town at different periods, from 1764, to 1840.

Years.	Houses.	Families.	Males under 16.	Females under 16.	Males above 16.	Females above 16.	Negroes.	Total No. of persons.
1764	100	111	174	173	160	152	*5	664
1776								1042
1790								1322
1800								1432
1810								1453
1820								1548
1830								1688
1837								†2085
1840								1604

From 1753, to the revolution, nothing occurred in the town, which is particularly worth relating. Population gradually increased, new lands continued to be taken up and settled upon, county and town roads were constructed

* These were slaves, and were owned by the Rev. Mr. Eaton, John Elliot, Esq. and John White, senior.

† When the census was taken in 1837, there were about 400 people, mostly Irish, who were temporarily here, working on the Western Rail Road, and included in the number, who have since left the town.

in various parts to suit the growing wants of the inhabitants, the town was divided into suitable school districts and school houses erected, and various other improvements were made. During this time, war between the English and French continued, in which this state was naturally involved, and a great many men, as officers and soldiers, went from this town, to Crown Point, Ticonderoga and other places, some of whom were destined never again to return.

CIVIL HISTORY OF SPENCER.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The inhabitants of Spencer took an active part in the measures that brought about and sustained the revolution, and it is believed, contributed their full share of men and money, towards the consummation of that glorious event. But it cannot be expected that a full account can here be given of what was done by this town in that great struggle for liberty, nor is it necessary. But little more than a mere sketch of their official doings will be here presented.

The town of Boston, which was always the first to move in every patriotic measure throughout the revolution, had transmitted a circular to the inhabitants of the several towns in the Commonwealth, accompanied with a pamphlet "wherein the rights of the colonists and the infringements thereof are set forth." The towns of Leicester, Spencer and Paxton, as early as January 1, 1773, assembled at Leicester to take the same into consideration. This is the first movement of an official and organized character, which was made by this town in opposition to the oppressive measures which this country received from

Great Britain. At this meeting, a committee from the several towns was appointed, (Moses Livermore and Joshua Lamb, from Spencer,) who presented to the meeting several patriotic and spirited resolutions, which were unanimously passed. They also presented instructions of the same import to their representative, Thomas Denny, Esqr. of Leicester, which were accepted. Did room permit, they would be highly worthy of insertion. Suffice it to say, they breathe the most noble and patriotic sentiments, and are expressed in excellent language. The inhabitants of the same towns met again at Leicester, December 27, 1773, when other similar resolutions were passed, among which the following is selected. "Resolved, That we will not use any tea in our families, nor suffer any to be consumed therein, while loaded with a tribute contrary to our consent; and that whoever shall sell any of that *destructive herb*, shall be deemed by us, inimical to the rights of his country, and as endeavoring to counteract the designs of those who are zealous for its true interests." A committee of fourteen was also chosen "for the inspection of any teas that may be sold or consumed," and to report the names of the offenders at the next meeting. This resolution was carried into the most rigid effect. No tea was drank or suffered to be drank among the people; and the ladies being quite as patriotic as their husbands, agreed to dispense entirely, with the use of that "destructive herb" and if any frail sister was found to offend so far as privately to sip a little bohea, she was treated with scorn and neglect by all her acquaintances.

During the year 1774, the inhabitants of the said towns of Leicester, Spencer and Paxton, met not less than five times in legal town meetings at Leicester, to take into consideration, as they express it, "the melancholy situation of our public affairs at this critical conjuncture." At the

meeting May 23, Thomas Denny, was again chosen representative, and a committee, of whom Deacon Oliver Watson and Lieut. Joshua Lamb, were from Spencer, were chosen to draft instructions. At the same meeting they chose the committees of correspondence in the several towns, delegates to a convention in Worcester, which met August 9, 1774, and continued by adjournment until May 31, 1775. At their meeting July 6, a committee was chosen to prepare resolutions, expressing the sentiments of the people assembled. The committee were

Thomas Denny,	}	<i>Leicester.</i>
Joseph Henshaw,		
Joseph Allen,		
James Draper,	}	<i>Spencer.</i>
Joseph Wilson,		
Oliver Witt,	}	<i>Parson.</i>
Ralf Earle,		

Their report commenced by saying that they were assembled "not tumultuously, riotously or seditiously, but soberly and seriously, as men, as freemen and as christians, to take into consideration the distressed situation of our affairs, &c." It presented a very able and luminous exposition of our situation with the mother country, accompanied with several patriotic resolves, all of which was accepted by the meeting. Another meeting was had September 29, and Thomas Denny was chosen a delegate to sit in Congress, which was holden at Salem, from October 7, 1774, to December 10, of the same year. At another meeting, Col. Joseph Henshaw of Leicester was chosen a delegate in a Congress which met at Cambridge Feb. 1, 1775, and continued by adjournment to other towns until May 29, of the same year. At a subsequent meeting of the towns aforesaid, Deacon Oliver Watson of Spencer, was chosen a delegate to attend a Congress which was holden at Watertown, May 31, 1775, and was

dissolved July 19, of the same year. During this time, with the exception of the meeting of the last mentioned Congress, hostilities had not commenced, nor had American blood been spilt. But the ominous gathering of the clouds of war, drew nearer, and the people far from quailing or being dismayed with its frightful aspect, made vigorous preparations to meet it. Arms and equipments and military stores of every description, were put in immediate requisition, companies of men were enlisted to be ready at a minute's warning, and the public mind was in a state of the highest possible excitement.

From this period, the inhabitants of Spencer, met only in their own town, and all their future transactions were done in their own individual capacity. In all their votes and proceedings, while passing throughout the perils and trials of the revolution, they were nearly unanimous, there having never been found among them a single citizen meriting the name of tory. The town voted to pay their share of the expense of the several Congresses, and as Harrison Gray, Esq. the State Treasurer was a tory, they directed the constables to make their remittances of all the public taxes to Henry Gardner, Esqr. of Stow, and voted to indemnify them against all damage which might arise by so doing. Congress having recommended a non-importation of all goods and wares with Great Britain ; they chose John Cunningham, Oliver Watson and Asa Baldwin a committee to see it carried into complete effect. They also voted to raise fifty "effective men" immediately, and furnish them with blankets, equipments, &c. And as there was a large number of British troops quartered upon the inhabitants of Boston and Charlestown, they voted that a subscription be raised for their relief.

The eventful year of 1775 commenced, bringing with it, portentous signs of an approaching conflict, and events

soon followed which sealed the destiny of the colonies. The town had raised a company of "minute men" who were placed under the command of Capt. Ebenezer Mason. These were directed to meet often to exercise and prepare themselves for military action. A town meeting was called to be holden on the 24th of April, to make provision for the soldiers, should they be called into actual service by some emergency, which was highly probable, might soon happen. Before the day of meeting arrived, however, General Gage had sent a body of British troops to take possession of the military stores in Concord, and on their way, at Lexington, they fired upon the people there assembled, and eight American citizens were slain. After having a skirmish at Concord, they were repulsed and driven back to Boston with considerable loss. An alarm was immediately spread through the country like an electric shock, the farmer left his plough in the furrow and the mechanic his tools upon the bench and there was an instantaneous gathering of the people to do whatever should be necessary to be done. The company of minute men buckled on their knapsacks, shouldered their muskets, and were immediately on their march, and although the town had not met to make provision for the exigency, yet the good wives of the soldiers, with the assistance of the selectmen of the town, furnishing them with a hasty and imperfect supply of provisions, they marched quickly to Cambridge. Finding the enemy disposed to remain in his strong hold for the present, part of them enlisted for eight months to be stationed in the vicinity of Boston, and the remainder returned home. On the 17th of June, the memorable battle of Bunker Hill was fought. A company, composed of soldiers from Leicester and Spencer, commanded by Capt. Seth Washburn of Leicester, fought at this battle; Joseph Livermore from Spencer was Lieuten-

ant. Anthony Sprague, Thomas Sprague, Jonas Lamb, Peter Rice and others from this town, were in the company. It is believed that no individual of this company is now living except the venerable Lieut. Nathan Crago of this town who now survives at nearly 87 years of age.

This year, the town of Boston being occupied by British troops, the General Court held their sitting at Watertown. The inhabitants of this town were notified to meet in their own town July 17th, at one o'clock in the afternoon, to see if they would then proceed to Leicester, as the meeting in that town was held at three o'clock, to join in electing a representative, or otherwise to choose a representative for themselves. When the day of meeting arrived, the inhabitants decided, for the first time, to assume the right of an independent town and choose a representative for themselves, and Deacon Oliver Watson was elected to that office.

During the whole series of the acts of British oppression, for ten years commencing with the Stamp act, 1765, the colonies never represented as one cause of complaint, that they were subject to the government of Great Britain; but when the Port of Boston was closed and the town besieged with an armed force; after our citizens were cruelly murdered at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, and the town of Charlestown was wantonly burnt, they began to think seriously of assuming the position of an independent nation.

In anticipation of this, the town voted June 24, 1776, "that should Congress think it expedient to declare the Colonies independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, we do hereby, *fully, freely* and *solemnly* engage with our lives and fortunes, to support Congress in such a measure;" and they instructed Oliver Watson, who was their representative, this year also, to communicate the same to

the General Court, and he was further instructed to use his influence to support the credit of the paper currency. The crisis, which for more than a year past, had been anticipated, was now arrived, and Congress, July 4, 1776, solemnly declared the Colonies to be free, Sovereign and Independent States. A copy of this was sent to all the towns, and the General Court ordered the same to be read in the several churches after divine service, and the town clerk to record this solemn manifesto in the town records, "there to remain as a perpetual memorial thereof," with all which, this town complied.

In 1777, the General Court passed "an act to prevent monopoly and oppression," and the selectmen and committee of safety in the several towns were directed to set a price upon all articles usually bought and sold, and none were allowed to exceed those prices. The following are the prices of some of those articles as fixed upon for this town, viz: A days work for a man in summer 3s., a days work for a yoke of oxen 1s. 6d., a bushel of wheat 6s., bushel of rye 4s., bushel of corn 3s., imported salt 13s. per bushel, salt made from sea water 14s. 6d. per bushel, charcoal 3d. per bushel, sheep's wool 1s. 10d. per lb., cotton wool 3s. 8d. per lb., brown sugar 8s. per lb., coffee 1s. 4d. per lb., molasses 4s. 6d. per gallon, a meal of victuals 9d., a night's lodging 3d., *West India flip* 11d. *per mug*, *New England flip* 9d. *per mug*.

Being called upon to furnish their quota of men to fill up the continental army, the town voted to allow £20, bounty to each man who should enlist for three years or during the war. The town was also called upon to furnish blankets, and one pair of shirts, stockings and other clothing at the rate of one sett for every male person in the town over 16 years of age. The General Court passed another act, calling in four hundred thousand pounds

of the State's outstanding debts, which were lying without interest, and ordered each town to raise its proportion of that sum and place the same on interest until paid. This distressed the minds of the people, as another large sum for Continental debts became due about the same time. They instructed their representatives, Oliver Watson and John Bisco, to use their influence that the act might be repealed. In this however, they were unsuccessful, and they raised their proportion by a tax, being nine hundred and ninety-one pounds seventeen shillings.*

The success of the British arms, at the North, under General Burgoyne spread consternation and terror throughout New England, and every sixth man in the county of Worcester, capable of bearing arms, was drafted to join the Northern army. Companies of men, under the command of Capt. Josiah White and Capt. David Prouty, a large proportion of whom, belonged to this town, went to Bennington and other places in that vicinity, to meet the invading foe, who by rapid marches, was passing through and ravaging our Northern borders. A battle was fought at Bennington under General Stark, which partly put a check to their depredations. And when the British forces reached Saratoga, an alarm was immediately sent through the country, and the people in Spencer like their brethren elsewhere, arose to arms, almost *en masse*, and marched

* In making the valuation this year, the assessors were directed by the town to place the following value on the taxable property. Unimproved land 20s. per acre,—Horse £7—two year old colt £4—yearling do £3—spring colt £2—ox £5—cows and three years old steers £3—two years old cattle £2—yearling do. £1—spring calves 10s.—Sheep 5s.—swine one year old £1—Pigs 6s.—wheat 5s. per bushel—rye 3s. 4d.—corn 2s. 6.—barley 2s. 6d.—oats 1s. 3d.—beans 4s—potatoes 8d—cider 3s. per barrel—flax 7d. per lb.—English hay £1 6s. 8d. per ton—Meadow hay 13s. 4d. per ton.

to the rescue, but a portion of them did not arrive until after the surrender of Burgoyne and his whole army.

The town appointed a committee to ascertain what services each person had rendered towards the war, either by men, money or otherwise, since April 19, 1775, but the task proved so difficult that it was abandoned.

January 5, 1778, the town voted to accept "the articles of perpetual union between the States" called the confederation, as proposed by Congress. The General Court having formed a constitution for the State of Massachusetts, the town assembled May 20, to take it into consideration. It was rejected, there being not a solitary vote for its acceptance, and against it 102 votes. It was rejected throughout the State by a large majority.

March 10, the town voted that the selectmen make provision for the families of the continental soldiers who were out in the service of their country. Seven men enlisted into the army for the term of nine months, and the sum of £30 was allowed as a bounty to each, amounting when paid, including the interest, to £219 9s. The selectmen were called upon by the State to provide thirty-seven pairs of shirts, shoes and stockings for the use of the army.

1779, the town was called upon to furnish six soldiers to go to Rhode Island for six months. This requisition was granted, and the money voted to pay them for their services. Sixty pounds was also voted to provide for the families of the soldiers who were out in the public service. This year, a number of tories, who in the beginning of the revolution had fled from the country, to avoid the resentment of the people, had returned again, and the town of Boston sent circulars to the several towns, advising them of this fact. Thereupon, the town called a meeting to respond to the call from Boston. Resolutions

were passed declaring that "the town highly approve of the spirited conduct of the town of Boston, in their endeavors to take up and secure such *odious persons*, who had the *impudence* to appear in that town, that they may be dealt with according to a *good and wholesome law* of this State; that this town is in full sentiment with the town of Boston with respect to those professed enemies to the Rights and *Liberties* of *Mankind*; and that we will to the utmost of our power, aid and assist the civil magistrate in the execution of all laws made for the purpose of excluding all such *hateful creatures* from among us, &c." While we admire the devotedness of the patriots of the revolution to the sacred cause of liberty; such entire devotedness as we may never expect to witness again in this or any other country; while we are astonished at the great sacrifices they made, and the fortitude with which they sustained their burthens and deprivations, such as were sufficient to overwhelm ordinary minds; it is not surprising that they should be somewhat exasperated at those, who not only stood aloof from the work which demanded the united aid of all hearts and hands, but opposed all their patriotic exertions and cruelly mocked at their sufferings and derided their cause. Yet some of them were, undoubtedly, treated with too much severity. Many of these suspected persons were good citizens at heart and friends to their country, but who preferred waiting longer and were for trying further pacific measures before coming to actual hostilities with the mother country. Perhaps they were inexcusable for their hesitation and timidity, but many of them were not intentionally, enemies to their country. This year the taxes and burthens of the war were so great that the town refused to grant any money for the support of schools or highways. The highway surveyors were directed to invite those within

their limits to work on the highways as much as they were willing to do *voluntarily*, and no more. A committee was chosen to provide for the families of the continental soldiers.

Deacon John Muzzy was chosen representative, and he was instructed "to use his best endeavors to support the credit of our currency, and not to give his consent to any act for making up the sink of money between debtor and creditor either public or private, *soldiers and officers in the continental army excepted.*" The town was called upon to furnish seven men for the continental army, and four men to go to Rhode Island. For paying these men and others who had been sent to guard the prisoners in Rutland, a tax of five thousand four hundred pounds was assessed upon the inhabitants.

August 7, Deacon John Muzzy was chosen a delegate to attend a convention at Worcester "to act on business of importance," and the 17th of the same month, Maj. Asa Baldwin was chosen a delegate to attend a convention at Concord for regulating the prices of the necessaries of life. These conventions prepared a detailed statement of prices, with an address, which were sent to the several towns for approval.*

Deacon John Bisco was chosen a delegate to attend a convention at Cambridge for forming a State Constitution.

* The following prices will show the depreciation of the currency. A bushel of corn £3 12s.,—rye £5 2s.,—wheat £8 2s.,—oats £1 16s.,—barrel cider £4,—hay per cwt. £1 10s.,—Labor in husbandry per day £2 14s.,—women's labor week £2,—Beef, pound 5s. 6d.—Mutton and veal 3s. 6d.,—butter 11s.,—cheese 5s. 6d., wool £1 4s.,—men's shoes, pair £6,—Stockings £3. 12s.,—shirts tow cloth £4 17.

At the close of the year 1779, a committee was appointed by the Massachusetts line of the army to adjust and settle the accounts of the officers and soldiers, with regard to the depreciation of the currency. This committee formed their scale of depreciation for three years upon

1780. In the beginning of this year the currency became depreciated in the proportion of 40 to 1, and before the close of the year, as low as 240 to 1! The pressure was so heavy upon the people of this town that 41 persons were unable to pay their taxes for this and the last years, and they were abated by the town.

A number of men were required in the service for six months, and the town voted that each soldier who enlisted should receive a bounty of one hundred dollars, to be paid at the rate of 3s. for corn, and 4s. for rye per bushel, or stock in that proportion.

Oliver Watson chosen Representative. Agreeable to a resolve of the General Court, the town furnished 7150 lbs. beef, as a part of their quota for the army. Raised by a tax sixteen thousand pounds in the currency of the time, in part payment of what was then due for soldiers wages.

May 22. The town assembled in legal meeting to take into consideration the constitution, or new form of government for the State. All the articles received the approbation of the town with the exception of the 2d arti-

the mean prices throughout the State, of beef, Indian corn, sheep's wool, and sole leather, as follows :

	1777.	1778.	1779.
January 31st,	1,03 for 1	4,64	9,34
February	1,03	4,80	10,87
March	1,28	5,19	12,35
April	1,57	5,80	14,14
May	1,69	5,91	16,02
June	1,82	6,34	22,57
July	2,38	6,30	20,38
August	2,50	6,90	16,95
September	3,82	6,90	17,14
October	3,96	6,97	23,87
November	4,34	7,47	30,35
December	4,50	8,38	32,50

Worcester Magazine, Page 135.

cle of section 3d of chapter 1st. They thought the provision for representation to be unequal, and that those towns and plantations not having 150 rateable polls should have the privilege of uniting together, or with some adjacent town, for the purpose of choosing a representative.

September 4. The town assembled, for the first time, under the new constitution, for the election of State officers, to serve until the next May. The whole number of votes were 69, all of which were for the Hon. John Hancock. October 12, John Bisco was elected representative to serve until May.

Agreeable to an order of the General Court, the town authorized the selectmen to hire money to purchase clothing and blankets for the soldiers. Forty-eight thousand, four hundred and fifty-six pounds was raised to pay soldiers, who were then in the service, some for six, and some for three months.

October 17. The town was called together again to devise means to pay for beef for the army, and the sum of twelve thousand pounds was raised for that purpose, also, the sum of three thousand five hundred and sixty-five pounds, to provide horses for the use of the army. December 28, another town meeting was called, on a requisition of the General Court, to provide 13,874 lbs. of beef for the soldiers. The town voted to provide the beef and raised £467 to pay for it; also, the sum of £3,050, to hire fourteen men to serve for three years in the continental army. The whole amount paid into the treasury of the town this year for various purposes, was £88,633 9s. It would be difficult at this time, to ascertain how much this would amount to, in hard money. It is probable, however, it was not less than four thousand dollars.

1781, was a dark period in the American history. The British arms were almost every where successful; Lord

Cornwallis, was overrunning the Southern States with feeble opposition; the resources of the States were exhausted and paper money was so much depreciated as to become nearly worthless. In this critical period the town was again called upon to furnish more men and beef for the public service. In the warrant for calling a meeting June 20, they say "Whereas, filling up and supplying the continental army is of the utmost importance at this critical time, and the town being in danger of having executions sent upon it both for their deficiencies in men and beef, and at present nothing will procure said men and beef, but *hard money*, Therefore, &c." They, however, voted to comply with the requisition, and raised the sum of four hundred and sixteen pounds, *hard money*, for said purposes, and chose a committee to hire the money. July 23, the town being further called upon to furnish more soldiers, some to go to "head quarters" for 3 months, and others to go to Rhode Island for 5 months, and also, for more beef for the army, chose a committee to hire the soldiers and voted the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds *hard money*, to pay for the beef. At a subsequent meeting September 6, two hundred pounds, *hard money*, was voted for paying the soldiers. The assessors had made out lists of taxes for a part of the sums of money granted by the town, graduated in the paper currency, and committed them to the collectors. The town ordered the tax bills to be returned, and that the same, together with the remaining sums, be reduced to *hard money* currency, by the assessors, in new tax bills.

The two last requisitions of beef from this town, amounted to 7090 lbs. and was furnished alive, the animals being driven to the agent. This year closed brilliantly, by the surrender of Cornwallis and his army to the American arms, which diffused great joy throughout

the United Colonies, as the bright harbinger of peace, which was finally concluded in 1783. Although the war was virtually closed, the town was called upon in March, 1782, for their quota of soldiers to enlist for the term of three years, which was the last requisition made upon the town, specifically, until the army was disbanded.*

SHAY'S INSURRECTION.

The American Revolution originated, not so much by actual oppression, or insupportable burthens thrown upon the Colonies by the mother country, as by a series of acts, tending ultimately, as they believed, to undermine their liberties, and subject them to the entire control of Great Britain. Massachusetts was the first to resist these measures—the first to sound the alarm to her sister colonies; she led the way, and was the foremost in devising ways and means and furnishing men and money throughout the whole contest. By thus devoting her whole moral and physical powers to the cause of freedom, her resources became exhausted, and at the close of the revolution, she found herself, together with the towns and the whole people, loaded with an enormous weight of public and private debts. Paper money, which was nearly the whole currency, had depreciated until it was of no value, and credit was nearly as low as paper money, and to crown the climax, the legislature of Massachusetts very unwisely undertook to provide funds for extinguishing the whole

* It ought to be borne in mind, that our records show but a small proportion of the officers and soldiers, who went from this town, and served in the war of the revolution. Much the largest proportion served by voluntary enlistment, and only those whom the town furnished by special requisition from the General Court or from Congress, appear on the town records. The company and regimental returns being at Washington, there is no means at hand to ascertain the whole number.

amount of her debt, in a much shorter period than circumstances would warrant, by laying taxes on the people.

As early as 1782, signs of discontent began to be visible, which were soon followed by open complaints and loud murmurs. As the good people of this town experienced their share of the general pressure, they very naturally united in the general discontent. The General Court had passed an act for making a general valuation of the taxable property of the people, and another act levying an excise or duty on several articles of trade. These acts produced dissatisfaction, and they were thought to interfere with their rights; were unequal and unjust. A remonstrance was sent to John Bisco, Esq., their representative, to present to the General Court, requesting those acts to be repealed, or otherwise "redress grievances too palpable to be denied and too great to be borne."

A circular was sent to the several towns in the county of Worcester to send delegates to a convention to be held at Worcester "to take into consideration the many grievances the good people of this Commonwealth labor under." The town chose Mr. Isaac Jenks a delegate to attend said convention. They met on the 14th of April, and again by adjournment, in May, of the same year. The convention reported a list of grievances, which were sent to the several towns. Mr. Isaac Jenks was chosen representative, and he was instructed to urge upon the General Court, the adoption, generally, of the articles of reform recommended by the convention. He was also instructed to procure laws to be passed, that no suit should be commenced without previously giving notice to the debtor; that State notes and certificates be made a tender for all debts on executions; that all property attached for debt, whether real or personal, should be appraised to the creditor to satisfy his debt, &c. In 1784, the town was

indebted to the State for two year's delinquent taxes, and executions were issued against all the constables for the same. A circular was received from Willis Hall, moderator of a town meeting in Sutton, recommending another convention to be held at Worcester, March 16th, 1784. A town meeting was called and Deacon Oliver Watson was chosen delegate. This convention, also, reported another list of grievances, one of which was, that the impost was granted to Congress for twenty-five years. This report was laid before the town by their delegate, the town approved of it, and instructed their representative to lay the same before the General Court. The pressure now became exceedingly heavy and the prospect appeared ominous. A large State tax was laid, to meet a requisition from Congress, and the town was still in arrear for past taxes.

In this situation, a town meeting was called November 9, 1785, and the town voted to send a petition to the General Court asking for a redress of grievances. In this petition they say, among other things, that the town is deeply in debt for hiring soldiers and procuring beef for the army; private contracts pressing—no cash, property sold for less than half of its value on execution, &c. and they pray that a bank of paper money may be established, or that property may be made a tender for payment of debts.

June 8, 1786, a special town-meeting was called "to see if the town will take into consideration the present distress of the good people of this commonwealth, occasioned for want of a circulating medium to satisfy the demands now called for." At this meeting a committee was chosen and directed to send circulars to other towns in the county for another convention, to "consider the present distresses, &c." This committee consisting of Deacon Oliver Watson, Capt. Joshua Draper, Asa Sprague,

John Sumner and Benjamin Bemis, Jun. notified a convention to be held at Leicester June 26, 1786. Mr. John Sumner was chosen a delegate. Delegates from seventeen towns only met, and they adjourned to August 15th. In the mean time another town-meeting was called and Col. Benjamin Bemis was chosen as additional delegate. The delegates were instructed to use their best endeavors to obtain "a *bank of paper money*," &c. The legislature however, were wise enough and firm enough to decline granting their request. Another town-meeting was called to petition the General Court for a *bank*, &c., they also voted to send a petition to the Court of Common Pleas, to adjourn all suits from June to September, without giving judgment in any case. The town approved of the doings of the last convention, who reported a farther list of grievances, one of which was, the existence of the judicial courts !*

The public mind became now highly inflamed and the voice of discontent was raised to the highest pitch, and a large majority of the inhabitants of this town were united in sentiment and in action with the malcontents. Some of the greatest alleged causes of complaint and irritation among the people were, the high salaries of public officers ; the fees of lawyers and sheriffs ; the frequent suits at law and the consequent costs of court. These were considered grievances of an enormous and oppressive character. In spite, however, of the remonstrances, the clamors and threats of the people, the courts continued to entertain all actions for the recovery of debts, and to issue executions as usual.†

* March 22, 1786. It was voted to pawn their "State securities" for money to discharge executions, from the state against the town.

† In 1784, more than two thousand actions were entered in the county of Worcester, then having a population less than 50,000, and in 1785,

As the courts declined suspending judgments and executions on suits for the collection of debts, the malcontents formed the rash and desperate resolution of taking the law into their own hands ; to stop the sittings of the courts by force and violence and thus prevent the issuing of any executions. Accordingly, at the time for the session of the court of common pleas in September, 1786, considerable numbers of the people from most of the towns in the county, assembled at Worcester, consisting of about 400 men, and about one half of them armed. They succeeded in preventing the sitting of the court ; no business was done, and the court adjourned and continued all actions to December. At the term in December, the rising of the people became more general. Armed companies from Ward, Holden, Spencer, Rutland, Barre, Petersham, Paxton, Grafton and other towns, marched in hostile array to Worcester. Detachments, from Shrewsbury, Hardwick, Princeton, Hubbardston, Leicester and other towns joined them, and the whole number armed and unarmed, probably exceeded 2000 men, all either actively engaged, or aiding and abetting the insurgents. The company that marched from this town, was armed and equipped with

about 1700. Lands and goods were seized and sacrificed on sale, when the general difficulties drove away purchasers. Lincoln's History of Worcester. Page 131.

The courts had become so odious to the people of Spencer, that they presented a petition to the legislature, January 1, 1787, praying that the " courts may be abolished," declaring that they " conceived their existence to be a great and unnecessary burthen upon the people!" At this time it is said, that the offices of Levi Lincoln, senior, of Worcester, Dwight Foster of Brookfield and John Sprague of Lancaster, being the principal lawyers in the county, were thronged every day with suitors, and presented the appearance of some public day, when there is a gathering of the people, the door-yards of their offices and adjoining fences, being lined with horses and carriages of unfortunate debtors, and of not much less unfortunate creditors.

powder and ball, ready to do the deadly work, if necessary. In this company were several veterans of the revolution, who still fancied they were engaged in the defence of their liberties! The court were again overawed and again adjourned without doing any business, agreeable to the direction of the general court, to the 23d of January 1787, at which time, government sent on armed forces to protect the sitting of the court, and they proceeded unmolested to transact the usual business.

During the winter, however, parties of the insurgents under the command of Shays, Wheeler, Day and other leaders, traversed various parts of this and the other western counties, to overawe the peaceable and loyal inhabitants of the state. For this purpose, a company of about 200 insurgents assembled at New Braintree, on the second day of February, one of whom, was David May of this town. About twenty horsemen and 150 infantry in sleighs were sent to dislodge them. They were fired upon by the insurgents, and Doct. David Young and another person was wounded. Young afterwards commenced an action against May, and recovered large damages, which exhausted his whole property in satisfying. The insurrection was finally quelled with but little bloodshed. Two or three commissioned officers of the militia in this town were temporarily disqualified, and all who arose treasonably against government, were ordered to take the oath of allegiance before John Bisco, Esq. and surrender their fire arms to his keeping during the pleasure of government.

Many of the insurgents were imprisoned in different parts of the commonwealth, and this town petitioned Governor Bowdoin that they might be pardoned and set at liberty. They also sent a petition to the General Court to pass a general act of indemnity, and suspend the action

of the courts *until after the election*. The day of election came and Governor Bowdoin was superseded by Governor Hancock. The votes in this town were, for Hancock 87, for Bowdoin 7.* Henry Gale of Princeton, one of the leaders of the insurgents, was tried for high treason and sentenced to be executed. A special town meeting was called and a petition was sent to Governor Hancock for his pardon: other towns did the same. He was brought out to the gallows for execution, where he was reprieved and afterwards pardoned.

During the reign of terror, when the law was almost prostrate and the arm of government paralyzed, Abijah Livermore and six others of the inhabitants of Spencer, broke open the town's magazine and took away the entire stock of powder, balls, &c. After peace was restored and the law once more triumphant, Mr. Livermore and three of his companions, made a humble confession to the town, which was put on record, and no farther notice was taken of the matter.†

Having brought the civil history of the town down to 1788, within the memory of many of the inhabitants now living, and nearly to the time when the United States government went into operation under the present constitution; a farther continuation of this subject will not be attempted at this time. Only a few insulated and disconnected *memoranda* will be added.

Before doing this however, it may be proper to give a description of the town, the people, their manners, &c. at

* James Hathaway was elected representative this year. A committee was appointed to draft instructions for him. In commencing their instructions they say, "It is a day of public distress and trouble, and dark clouds hang over this commonwealth."

† See Minot's history of the insurrection, and Lincoln's history of Worcester.

that period. As more than half a century has since gone "with the years beyond the flood" and with it most of the inhabitants, who then occupied our places. It may be useful to the present generation, that they may thus be enabled to compare and appreciate their own pleasant habitations and circumstances, with that of their fathers.

The highways were then intolerable. The great Post Road, by far the best in the country, and which has since experienced so many straightenings and levellings, was then so rough and hilly, that it was only competent for a team of four horses to transport the weight of one ton to Boston and return with the same weight in one week! Now, the same team will easily transport thrice the amount of weight, over the same road, within half the time. Our town roads were mere *single tracks*, just wide enough for the passage of a pair of wheels, and *without any turnouts*; for the chief instruments in repairing the roads, were the cart and the iron bar; the plough, now considered indispensable on the highway, was then never used for that purpose; and what rocks could not be removed with the iron bar alone, stood their ground in whatever part of the road they happened to be located, bidding defiance to the horses' hoofs or the wheels of the carriages; for the use of gun powder in removing rocks was then unpractised and unknown. It is probable that not more than two thirds of the land was under cultivation, and the other third in its primeval state. The dwelling houses were mostly of one story in height, and not half a dozen in town were painted. As for a chaise or other pleasure carriage, there was scarce one in town, and the only locomotive to transport a family to meeting, was a horse, saddle and *pillion*. With this accommodation, the good man, on a Sunday morning, would mount the saddle, taking a little one before him, and his wife on the *pillion* behind,

and trudge along five miles to meeting without a murmur ; while his barefooted children in their homespun, would walk cheerfully the same distance. During the interval between the services, the young lads and lasses, with cheerful countenances and sparkling eyes, were collected in the gallery pews, engaged in happy conversation, the old ladies, in groups below, were no less engaged in low, murmuring voices, scarce above a whisper, and the old men, in companies, sat upon the grass under the shade of trees, which then grew on the common, were discoursing of the sermon and hard times, while munching their bread and cheese. That part of the public common, west of the meeting house, was then limited to a space of about five or six rods square, and on this place was located the town's pound, seven or eight horse stables, the town stocks, and a fixture somewhat resembling a public stage or rostrum, but now obsolete, and in common parlance called a *horse-block*. A similar structure stood at the east end of the meeting house. At the close of the religious services, and after the town-clerk had verbally given notice, to the retiring congregation, of those who were about to enter the state of matrimony ; then might be seen, standing erect on those fixtures, the ancient dames and the damsels, awaiting their turns to vault upon their saddles or pillions, while the shrill neighings of the numerous young colts in attendance, mingled with the responsive calls of their dams, added *pastoral* music to the scene.

There were then but three houses in what now constitutes the lower village, and these stood in juxtaposition, and were all taverns, viz : the house kept by Capt. Ebenezer Mason, now owned by his grandson, Joseph Mason, the one kept by Mr. Isaac Jenks, now kept by E. B. Draper, and one kept by Mr. James Livermore, on the site of Amos Brown's. These have irreverently been compared

to the three taverns alluded to by St. Paul, when he "thanked God and took courage." In what is now the upper village there were but two houses, viz: the Rev. Mr. Pope's and Mr. Josiah Cary's, now occupied by Mr. Amasa Bemis. A school house stood on what now constitutes the western part of the common. The house now owned by Lemuel Smith, was then owned by Mr. Jeremiah Whittemore and occupied as a tavern. The only stores, was one kept by Josiah Cary and a small grocery in the South part of the town, owned by David Wilson.

A French gentleman, M. DeWarville, travelled through the States, for the sole purpose of seeing the country and observing the habits and manners, of the inhabitants. After his return to France he published an account of his travels, which was translated and published in this country. He landed in Boston, July 30, 1788. His first journey was to New York, by land. A new line of stages had just been established by Pease and Sikes, by way of Spencer, and in the summer season, the journey was performed in *four days*.* This journey was commenced in the stage August 9. It is presumed the following extract from his book of travels, though somewhat long, will not be found to be uninteresting. After giving a short description of his journey to Worcester, he proceeds.

"We slept the first night in Spencer, a new village in the midst of the woods. The house of the tavern was but half built; but the part that was finished, had an air of cleanliness which pleases, because it announces that degree of competence, those moral and delicate habits, which are never seen in our villages. The chambers were neat, the beds good, the sheets clean, the supper passable; ci-

* The journey from Boston to New York, is now easily performed by steam, in *fifteen hours*.

der, tea, punch, and all for fourteen pence a head. There were four of us. Now compare this order of things with our French taverns—chambers dirty and hideous, beds infected with bugs, those insects which Sterne calls the rightful inhabitants of taverns, if indeed long possession gives a right; sheets ill washed and exhaling a fœtid odour, bad covering, and wine adulterated, and every thing at its weight in gold; greedy servants, who are complaisant only in proportion to your equipage; grovelling towards a rich traveller and insolent towards him whom they suspect of mediocrity. Such are the eternal torments in France: add to this the fear of being robbed, the precautions necessary to be taken every night to prevent it; while in the United States, you travel without fear and without arms, and you sleep quietly among the woods, in an open chamber of a house whose doors shut without locks, and now judge which country merits the name of civilized, and which bears the aspect of the greatest general happiness.

“We left Spencer at four o’clock in the morning. New carriage, new proprietor. It was a carriage without springs, a kind of waggon. A Frenchman who was with me, began, at the first jolt, to curse the carriage, the driver and the country. Let us wait, said I, a little, before we form a judgment; every custom has its cause, there is doubtless some reason why this kind of carriage is preferred to one hung on springs. In fact, by the time we had run thirty miles among the rocks, we were convinced that a carriage with springs would very soon have been overset and broke.

“The traveller is well recompensed for the fatigue of this route, by the variety of romantic situations, by the beauty of the prospects which it offers at each step, by the perpetual contrast of nature, and the efforts of art. Those vast ponds of water, which lose themselves in the

woods; those rivulets, that wash the meadow, newly snatched from uncultivated nature; those neat houses scattered among the forests, and containing swarms of children joyous and healthy, and well clad; those fields covered with trunks of trees, whose destruction is committed to the hand of time, and which are covered under the leaves of the Indian corn; those oaks, which preserve still the image of their ancient vigor, but which, girdled at the bottom, raise no longer to heaven but dry and naked branches, which, the first stroke of wind must bring to the earth; all these objects, so new to an European, arrest him, absorb him, and plunge him into an agreeable reverie. The depths of the forests, the prodigious height and size of the trees, call to mind the time when the savages were the only inhabitants of this country. This ancient tree has beheld them; they filled these forests; they have now given place to another generation. The cultivator fears no more their vengeance, his musket, formerly his necessary companion at the plough, now rests suspended in his house. Alone, with his wife and children, in the midst of the forests, he sleeps quietly, he labors in peace, and he is happy. Such were the ideas which occupied me the greater part of my journey; they sometimes gave place to others, arising from the view of the country houses, which are seen at small distances through all the forests of Massachusetts. Neatness embellishes them all. They have frequently but one story and a garret; their walls are papered; tea and coffee appear on their tables; their daughters, clothed in calicoes, display the traits of civility, frankness and decency; virtues which always follow contentment and ease. Almost all these houses are inhabited by men who are both cultivators and artisans; one is a tanner, another is a shoemaker, another sells goods; but all are farmers. The country stores are well assorted; you

find in the same shop, hats, nails, liquors. This order of things is necessary in a new settlement; it is to be hoped it will continue, for this general retail occupies less hands and detaches fewer from the great object of agriculture. It is not supposed that one third of the land of Massachusetts is under cultivation, and it is difficult to say when it will be so, considering the invitations of the Western country and the province of Maine. But the uncleared lands are all located, and the proprietors have enclosed them with fences of different sorts. These several kinds of fences are composed of different materials, which announce the different degrees of culture in the country. Some are composed of the light branches of trees; others of the trunks of trees laid one upon the other; a third sort is made of long pieces of wood, supporting each other by making angles at the end; a fourth kind is made of long pieces of hewn timber, supported at the ends by passing into holes made in an upright post; a fifth is like the garden fences in England; the last kind is stones thrown together to the height of three feet. This last is most durable, and is common in Massachusetts.

“From Spencer to Brookfield the road is good as far as the last town. The situation of Brookfield is picturesque. While breakfast was preparing, I read the Gazettes and Journals, which are distributed through all the country. Our breakfast consisted of coffee, tea, boiled and roasted meat; the whole for ten pence, New England currency, for each traveller. From this place to Wilbraham the road is covered with rocks, and bordered with woods.”

This tavern house in Spencer “half built” situated in a “new village in the midst of the woods” was none other than Jenks’s tavern, which was at that time, being repaired. At this time, it is believed, there was no post office be-

tween Boston and Springfield, excepting Worcester. Since 1788, what changes have taken place! the generation then in existence and in active life, have nearly all disappeared. We, a new generation, have succeeded to their places, and are also, fast disappearing. But very few houses, which were then standing, but what have given place to other and better ones, or undergone a radical change.

“Through devious ways, and paths unknown,
Through forests dark and drear,
Our fathers sought these mountain streams,
To plant their offspring here.

“Through years of toil, through years of want,
They bravely struggled on;
And lo! the forest melts away;
The sturdy oaks are gone.

“Their names are left for us to bear;
Their spirits, they are fled;
On yonder hill their bones repose,
Among the slumbering dead.”

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND MEMORANDA. SINGULAR VOTES, &c.

March 27, 1729. The town of Leicester voted to allow three pence for each rattlesnake killed within the limits of the town.

October 29. The Great Earthquake, so called, being the most remarkable that ever happened in New England. In the county of Essex, the earth burst open in many places, from which were thrown vast quantities of earth and stones.

1732. The town was presented at the quarter sessions in Worcester, for want of a standard of weights and measures.

1735. Jonathan Sargent was allowed by the town, thirty pounds, three shillings, and nine pence for providing a dinner for "six Worcester gentlemen that came as mediators between Mr. Parsons and the town."

January 11, 1737. Benjamin Richardson was allowed eleven shillings for killing twenty-eight rattlesnakes.

1740. Voted, to allow six pence per head for killing grey and red squirrels and rattlesnakes, three pence per head for killing jays, red-headed wood-peckers and black-birds. Whole amount allowed for killing these animals this year was £41 0s. 3d. divided among 63 claimants. Jonathan Witt received £5 15s. 9d. Thomas Smith £4 1s. 3d. &c.

Voted, Andrew Locker's rates be given him the year he had his house burnt.

The town was again presented for want of a standard of weights and measures.

1744. The selectmen of Leicester were directed by the town to lay out a road for the accommodation of Jonathan Tucker who lived in the South Gore, that he might "go to meeting and market, as others of the King's subjects do."

1745. In locating a highway, the selectmen report, that they commenced the same "near Doct. Green's wolf pitt."

November 18, 1755. Another memorable earthquake in New England; in many places stone walls were thrown down, and tops of chimnies shaken off.

1759. The town of Spencer, by leave of the General Court, sold their ministerial and school land. The former containing 105 acres and 108 rods, was sold for \$336,67, the school land containing 109 acres, was sold for \$436.

October 26, 1765. A snow storm commenced in the evening and continued through the night, and next mor-

ning it was estimated to be more than two feet in depth, on a level.

March 1, 1779. Maj. Asa Baldwin, Capt. Ebenezer Mason and Lieut. Benjamin Bemis, chosen "*Inspectors of the market*" agreeable to a then late law.

March 6, 1780. Jonas Bemis Senior and Isaac Jenks being chosen constables, each paid at the time, into the hands of the Moderator, forty pounds, as a fine for declining to serve in the office, and were then excused by the town.

1784. At the annual meeting in March, Voted "that each person keep on his hat, if he pleases while in the meeting."

1791. "Voted, to take fifteen shillings on the pound for what the State owes the town."

1794. Congress made a requisition upon the several states for a large body of the militia to be enlisted, and be ready to march at a minute's warning, this town's quota being thirty-eight: they were to be allowed \$6,67 per month, when called into actual service. The town voted to allow two dollars bounty to each who should enlist, and make up their monthly wages to ten dollars, should they be called upon to march. The whole number enlisted voluntarily, and the town paid each his bounty. They were not called upon for further service. Agreeable to a resolve of the General Court, the town employed John Sumner to survey the town and make a plan of the same.

1795. Agreeable to a provision in the constitution of this state, the town was called upon to express their opinion upon the expediency of revising that instrument. There were in the affirmative 10 votes, in the negative 66.

Feb. 1837. The Woolen Factory of Amos Brown & Co. was burned. Damage \$14,000, fully ensured.

1839. The Satinet Factory of Chapin and Prouty, was destroyed by fire.

April 21, 1840. A powder Mill owned by Lewis Bemis and Edward Hall, was blown up, killing instantly three persons, viz. Lyman Bullard, Abijah Bemis and Francis Burrows.

April 25. A large fire in the lower village. The dwelling house and barn of David Gates, a large building, containing a carpenter, wheelwright and blacksmith shop, and tannery of Samuel Barnes were consumed. Only a trifling insurance.

October 13. Another powder mill belonging to Bemis and Hall blown up. No lives lost. Damage about \$2,000.

SCHOOLS.

The first notice of a school, on record, in the town of Leicester, is 1731, when the town voted "to provide a school master to *Reed* and *Wright* to be kept three months in three parts of the town." The next year there was no school and the town was presented at the quarter sessions for the neglect. The first school house was built in 1736,* but it seems there was no school kept in it, for the next year, they were again presented for want of a school. In 1738, they probably avoided an indictment, as the records say, Joshua Nichols was allowed £2 11s. 8d. "for keeping *school ten* days and for *answering for school master last summer*," but in 1740, the town was again indicted for the same neglect, and paid £4 12s. as costs of court.

The population of the Westerly part of the town (Spencer)

* This school house was 20 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 6 1-2 feet between the floors, and was set near where the present meeting house stands.

cer) then probably contained between 200 and 300 persons, and although they were taxed and paid their proportion of all town charges, yet no provision had been made for a school there.* The reason probably was, that the population was so sparse, that a school would be of very little benefit. In 1741, the inhabitants of the West-erly part petitioned to be exempted from paying taxes for schools and the minister, but their request was not granted, and this state of things continued until 1748, when the town "voted to have 10 weeks schooling in the West Precinct." For three years there was no further schooling, when in 1751, three schools were established there, "to be kept six weeks, and to be removed twice."

After Spencer was incorporated as a town, and could act independently, no provision was made for schools, for the two first years. 1755, sixteen pounds, and 1756, twenty pounds, were raised for schools. This year when application was made to build one or more school houses, the vote was in the negative.† 1757, a school was kept nine months. 1761, a school kept ten months by three school masters. 1766, the town was divided into six districts, and the next year a school was kept in each district. 1768, voted to build a school house in each district. Some years afterwards, a new division was made, and ten districts, the present number, were made, and 1786, ten school houses were ordered to be built, one in each district. For several years previous to 1805, the sum of 500 dollars, annually was raised and appropriated for the support of schools. Since that period not less than 600

* The taxes derived from this part of the town were considerable, as all the lands, (20,000 acres) whether belonging to non-residents or others, together with the polls and personal estates of the settlers, were assessed and the avails paid into the town treasury.

† At the same meeting "voted to provide *stocks* as the law directs."

dollars, and sometimes 700, or 800 dollars has been raised, annually for the same object. Add to this, the trifling sum of 26 dollars, for 80 years, as the interest of the avails of the school land which was sold, and for the years 1837, 38, and 39, one hundred and fourteen dollars further was added.

For several years past, a high school has been kept for part of each year, supported by voluntary contributions, and numerous primary schools, taught by females, are kept in the intermission, between the town schools, supported also, by private subscription.

ROADS.

The Great Post Road, anciently called the "Country Road," was formerly an avenue of great importance, and was the great thorough-fare from Boston to New-York. The route was from Boston, by the way of Marlborough to Worcester, thence through Spencer to Springfield, thence down Connecticut river to Hartford, thence by the way of New Haven to New York. This road was not located by any legal authority until many years after the traveller or wayfaring man passed through this region. The first settlers of Massachusetts, had not migrated Westerly of Wattertown, until January 27, 1632. On that day Gov. Winthrop and others went up Charles river about eight miles, and from an eminence they discovered a high hill, about 40 miles distant, which is supposed to be Wachussetts.* This is the earliest notice taken of any of this part of the country by the earliest historians of New England. But no attempt is known to have been made to penetrate any farther into the country until November 15, 1635.† Then a com-

* Savage's Winthrop, Vol. 1, Page 68.

† Doct. Harris, in his history of Dorchester says, that Mr. Oldham and some others in 1633, travelled from Dorchester through the wilder-

pany of about sixty men, women and children, with their cows, horses and swine, went from Dorchester by land to Windsor in Connecticut, to commence a settlement there.* This must have been a tedious and difficult journey. Hutchinson † says, "it was near a fortnight's journey, having no pillows but Jacob's, and no canopy but the Heavens; a wilderness to go through, without the least cultivation; in most places, no path nor any marks to guide them, depending upon the compass to steer by. Many hideous swamps, and very high mountains, besides five or six rivers, or different parts of the same winding river (Chicopee) not every where fordable, which they could not avoid." It is probable that they past through, or near this town; because, taking a direct course, by the compass, until striking the Chicopee river, they must have passed near here. Although the intercourse between Boston and Connecticut was mostly by water, yet every year after this, more or less people passed from one to the other place, by land. As this company must have left some landmarks on their route, succeeding travellers would be apt to be guided on the same route, until at length, a visible track or trail would be made. As the tide of emigration continued to set into the country further west, buildings and fences would be erected on these tracks, until ultimately they became roads. In 1648, says Winthrop, "a new way was found out to Connecticut by Nashua, avoiding much of the hilly way."‡ This must have been a circuitous route, passing by the way of Lan-

ness to Connecticut to view the country and trade with the Indians. They brought back such a flattering report, that it determined many of the Dorchester people to remove thither.

* Savage's Winthrop, Vol. 1, Page 171.

† Hutchinson, Vol. 1, Page 48.

‡ Winthrop, Vol. 2, Page 325.

caster and then probably, to Worcester. Another way was, to pass through the Southerly part of Northborough, thence to Westborough and Grafton. This has since been called the "old Connecticut Road." Afterwards, it was varied, or rather a new way was found. Coming from Marlborough, it passed through the centre of Northborough, thence through Shrewsbury, Worcester, Leicester, Spencer to Brookfield, on or near the line of the present road. This was called the "new Connecticut road," from Marlborough to Worcester, and from Worcester to Brookfield the "country road." This last route, was merely a path cut through the woods, and practicable only for passengers on foot, or with horses, and was travelled as early as 1674, at which time there was not a single habitation on it, between Marlborough and Brookfield, except a few log houses in Worcester.* It had no definite location through this town, as late as 1722, for the town of Leicester, this year, voted that "the selectmen make application to the quarter sessions at Cambridge, to have the country road laid out through this town." The application was not successful, and the next year, a similar vote was passed. When it was located is not now known, but in 1725, the town was presented at the sessions for want of a bridge over Seven Mile river. The road then passed the river by a *fordway*, a few rods North of the present bridge. The location, however, was made previous to 1728, as the town that year raised a tax of £12 2s. 5d. to defray their proportion of the expense for its location. In 1729, the first bridge was built over the river, the town having been again presented or indicted, for the want of one. Recently, the towns through which this road passes, have

* Worcester Magazine, Vol. 2, Page 152. Lincoln's History of Worcester, Page 12.

made many valuable improvements and alterations, to accommodate the great amount of travel which passed over it, and which had been gradually increasing for more than a century, but the opening of the Western Rail Road, has deprived it of a large proportion of its business.

The Western Rail Road passes through the Southwest corner of Spencer, more than two miles from the centre. A depot, for the accommodation of passengers and freight, is established upon it. About three miles of this Rail Road, is located within the limits of this town.

The county road from Sturbridge to Worcester, called the South County Road, was located through this town, on the petition of John Newhall of Spencer, and others, in 1756. Previous to the establishment of the Stafford Turnpike, considerable travel passed upon it, but since that period, it has decreased, until the public travel has become nearly extinct.

The county road from Hardwick to Worcester, called the North County road, was located in 1757, on the petition of the celebrated Brigadier Timothy Ruggles of Hardwick, he being at that time, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and General Sessions for the county of Worcester. In 1830, a new county road was made, commencing at North Spencer, and passing through the centre of Paxton to Worcester. On this route, two daily stages, one each way, from Worcester to Northampton, and considerable other travel, pass.

Many of our town roads are not judiciously located, passing over hills and ledges. The original proprietors of the town, when they sold their lands, made no reserve for roads, and the first settlers coming into an entire wilderness, built their houses to accommodate their own interest or whims, without the least reference to the future wants of the public. Their intercourse with each other,

however, compelled them to make some sort of paths to each other's residence, which were often perched upon some of the highest hills. This was first done by marked trees, next by cutting a few, that most obstructed the passage, until at length by long use, with some trifling repairs, they received the name of roads. And as new settlers continued to be added, until their humble dwellings became promiscuously scattered over the town, new paths of the same character were made, or old ones continued, and these were all the roads for the accommodation of the inhabitants, with the exception of the great post road, for more than twenty years. The first roads made by legal authority, was in 1750, and by the town of Leicester. Immediately after Spencer became a town, a great many roads were located, and many alterations in the old trodden paths were made, but in most cases, each was accommodated with a road by his dwelling, and hence many are hilly and circuitous to this day. Those recently constructed, exhibit skill and judgment, and show that this town is not behind the times in modern improvement.

The whole length of all our roads, is something more than eighty miles, and kept in repair by the inhabitants, exclusive of the large bridges and special grants, at an annual tax of 1000 dollars, or about 12 dollars per mile.

TOPOGRAPHY.

HILLS, AND OTHER LOCALITIES. The town abounds with hills, but none remarkably high, or that merit any particular description, and few that retain their ancient names. Moose Hill lies partly in Leicester, the town line running over its centre. This hill derived the name according to Mr. Whitney, "because of the great number of those quadrupeds which were wont to harbor there."

Buck Hill is in the Northeast part of the town, and probably derived its name, from being the favorite resort of those animals. Flat Hill is on land of Caleb Sibley and others. Long Hill on land of Ephraim Wheelock and others. Oak Hill on land of Caleb M. Morse. Orchard Hill on land of Paul Sibley, though not commonly so called, is described by that name in ancient deeds and other records. Bear Hill is situated southwesterly of Elias Adams's, and is wholly covered with wood. The highest land in town is supposed to be on land of Reuben Newhall, near the line of Charlton.

Seven Mile River Meadow, is a large and fertile meadow situated on the river of that name, and belongs to several proprietors. Branch Meadow, is situate on Turkey Hill Brook, in the Northeast part of the town. Burnt Coat Meadow, the greater part of which is in Leicester, and Cranbury Meadow, are now, both flowed as reservoirs for mills. Cedar Swamp, is a tract of about 77 acres, in the southeast part of the town, and when the town was divided into lots between the original proprietors, this was excluded from the division, and reserved in common ownership, by them. Hemlock Gutter, is a ravine which crosses the great Post Road, between the dwelling houses of Henry Eames and Jabez Green, and was formerly a terror to the traveller, being a very difficult pass for teams, now rendered perfectly safe and easy for all kinds of travel. Alder Swamp is near the house of Thomas B. Clark.

PONDS. The only natural Pond, wholly in Spencer, is Moose Pond. This is a small collection of water, containing about sixty acres, situated three fourths of a mile Northeasterly of the Congregational Meetinghouse. It is supplied by springs arising from its immediate margin.

Browning's Pond, is a considerable sheet of water, not more than one fourth of which is in Spencer, the remainder is in Oakham. Another called Johnson's Pond, lies almost wholly in North Brookfield, and only about three or four acres of it in Spencer.

STREAMS. This town being situated on the height of land, between the Atlantic Ocean and Connecticut River, contains no large streams within its borders. Seven Mile River is the largest, taking its rise from Browning's Pond, it runs Southerly and Westerly into Brookfield and discharges itself into Podunk Pond; on this stream, within the limits of Spencer, there are two grist mills, one saw-mill, one wire mill, one wheelwright's factory and one powder mill. Five Mile River has its source principally in Oakham, and after merely touching the Westerly border of Spencer in two or three places, at one of which there were formerly mills, it unites with Seven Mile River in Brookfield. There is a small stream issuing from Shaw Pond in Leicester, on which, after passing into Spencer, there are two wire mills; also, another stream issuing from Turkey Hill Pond, lying partly in Paxton and partly in Rutland, on which after reaching Spencer, there is a saw mill. The two latter streams unite in the Easterly part of this town; after this union, it carries one grist mill, one saw mill, one scythe factory and one wire mill, and then unites with Seven Mile River, near the house of Daniel Whittemore. Another stream issues from Moose Pond and running through the middle of the town, unites with Seven Mile River. On this, there is one powder mill,* one large building lately erected for a Factory, one grist mill, one saw mill, one satinet factory, and other works. Another stream arises from Cranbury Mea-

* Lately destroyed by explosion.

dow and unites with Seven Mile River. On this, there is one grist and two saw mills. There is another small stream, which falls into the last mentioned stream, on which there is one saw mill. All these streams unite, and run Westerly, forming one of the branches of the Chicopee and thence into the Connecticut. There is another small stream arising from Alder swamp, on which is one grist and one saw mill. It then receives the waters from Cedar swamp, passes into Leicester and is one of the sources of French River.

MINERALS. Considerable quantities of common upland iron ore have been dug in this town and carried to the iron founderies in Stafford and Brookfield, and Professor Hitchcock states, that there is iron ore in some of our meadows. Peat, of good quality, has been found, and probably much of it abounds. Clay has also been found in many parts of the town. Sufficient quantities of brick, are annually furnished to supply our own demand, and some for a more distant market. The town contains no granite or other stone suitable for good building material.

SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS. Mr. Whitney calls this town "an exceedingly fertile township." It certainly contains a considerable quantity of excellent lands, for grazing and other agricultural purposes, and considerable quantities of beef, pork, butter, cheese, &c. are annually produced and sent to market, besides sufficient for home consumption. Many beautiful swells of land, of great fertility, are interspersed through the town, producing grass, indian corn, barley, oats, potatoes, &c. in great abundance. There are some excellent meadows, especially, on Seven Mile River, some in Branch Meadow and some on Moose Pond stream, but much of the swamp and other low lands,

have degenerated and are now nearly worthless for grass. In the first settlement of New England, it was considered indispensable, that a piece of meadow should be allotted to each farm, and these were immediately cleared and cultivated for grass. The consequence is, that instead of leaving our wood lots for fuel, on the swamps and other poor lands, where the growth of wood is the most rapid, some of the best and most productive lands, on the hills, have been left for that purpose. The natural growth of trees on the uplands, is the usual varieties of oak, walnut, chestnut, maple, birch, hemlock, &c. Considerable quantities of white pine, suitable for building materials, are also found, although much has lately been taken to supply the wants of the inhabitants. The apple, pear and cherry, flourish well when planted and properly cultivated, but the bleak winds of winter on our highlands, are often too severe for the plum and peach.*

BUSINESS.

The principal business of the inhabitants is agriculture. There are five stores for the sale of dry goods and groceries, three wheelwrights, two cabinet makers, one scythe and hoe manufactory, and the usual complement of mechanics in a country town. In 1837, there were two woolen mills, 4 sets of machinery ; 34,000 yards of cloth were manufactured ; value of woolen goods \$87,000 ; males employed 31 ; females 23 ; there were 52,091 pairs of boots, and 2,940 pairs of shoes manufactured ; value \$106,496 ; males employed 162 ; females 28 ; four wire drawing mills ; 19

* It is a frequent occurrence here, and the remark is applicable in many parts of New England, that there is a rotation of Forest trees. When a forest of pine or hemlock has been cut away, the oak has sprung up, and *vice versa*, when the oak has been cut away.

tons of wire manufactured ; value \$10,480 ; 10 hands employed : there were 2 powder mills : 162,500 lbs. of powder were manufactured ; value, \$14,500 ; there were 29,600 palm-leaf hats manufactured ; value, \$700. Scythes and hoes to a considerable amount, were also manufactured the same year. Since that period, by the casualties of fire and other causes, the manufacturing interest has considerably decreased.

POST OFFICES. There are two post offices in the town ; one near the centre, Eleazer B. Draper, Post Master. The other, five miles North of the centre, called North Spencer, Jonas Wilson, Post Master.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Previous to giving the ecclesiastical history of Spencer, it will be proper to commence with the town of Leicester, and give a brief sketch of its ecclesiastical concerns, until the Westerly part became a separate precinct.

Their first Meetinghouse was built in 1719. It stood near the site of the present one, and continued to be the only house of worship for the congregational society for more than 65 years, and until the present one was erected. The first minister was the Rev. David Parsons. He had been settled at Malden, and lately dismissed, and several of his people had removed to Leicester. These being leading men of the town, it was probably by their influence that application was made to Mr. Parsons to become their minister. He was installed September 15, 1721. The connexion proved to be an unhappy one, both for minister and people. Although this transaction took place 120 years ago, and being so remote from the present day, may be thought to have lost all interest with the present generation ; yet, tradition has handed down many

exciting incidents relative to the ministry and dismissal of Mr. Parsons, so that, if the expression may be used, the recollection is bright in the memories of many at the present day. This may justify a more particular detail, than would otherwise have been given.

It is not known when the congregational church was formed, as the ancient church records are all lost. The following letters to Mr. Parsons, exhibit a species of cant and cringing servility unworthy the character of an ingenuous and high minded people, and which was only equalled by a deportment of entirely an opposite character in their subsequent dealings with him.

“ Rev’d Sir,

“ After our humble duty to you, These we write in behalf of the town of Leicester, are to give you a true and exact account of our proceedings in our last town meeting with respect to yourself, Sir, we are not a little sensible of the Blessing, which we may receive from God, by your Labors amongst us in the work of the ministry, if God in his providence should remove you from your uneasiness and difficulty, when you are to settle among us; and we hope God will stir up the hearts of his people here, to be studying and endeavoring your comfort and happiness, so as we may be a Blessing to you, and you a Blessing to us, which we heartily wish and pray for. Rev’d. Sir, we with one heart and Consent Do call and Invite you to be our settled Minister in the Work of the Gospel amongst us, if you see Cause to accept and see your way clear to remove; but alas, if we reflect back upon ourselves, we cant but see we are utterly unworthy of so great a Blessing, but if you have such a Blessing to bestow on us, as we hope you will be, We desire forever to praise his Name for his Goodness to us ward. And sir, we heartily wish that we were in a better Capacity than at

present we are, to allow a Minister a better salary, than at present we can; but this we hope we can say, so far as we are able, we shall be hearty in, and more especially to such a one as yourself. And so we pray God to direct you for the best, after begging a share in your prayers for us. We subscribe your humble servants to command.

Leicester, November the 30th, 1720.

Thomas Newhall,	Ralf Earle,
William Brown,	Daniel Denny,
James Southgate,	Nath'l. Richardson.

Reverend Sir. This is the substance of what was acted at our meeting, and with the greatest love and least opposition as could be imagined. The town act is as followeth.

Nov. 28th, at a Town Meeting legally warned, Mr. Nathaniel Richardson Moderator, Voted, that the Rev'd. Mr. David Parsons be our Gospel Minister. Voted, that Mr. Parsons have the forty acre lot next the Meetinghouse and the rights in quantity and quality, as other forty acre lots drawn in after division. Voted, that Mr. Parsons have sixty pounds settlement. Voted, that Mr. Parsons have sixty pounds a year salary."

Copy of a Letter to Mr. Parsons about his settlement, 1720.

"Rev'd. Sir. After humble duty to you, These are to inform you that we have received a Letter from yourself which gives us great encouragement, that we may obtain you to settle among us, in order to preach the Gospel among us, which gives us great encouragement to raise to larger offers as follows. We the subscribers have thought fit to raise our former offers as you have had an account of by us: We do oblige ourselves to make your settlement one hundred pounds, and to add to your salary fifteen pounds which makes seventy-five pounds.

*Perhaps the Nathaniel R. of Leicester
who d. at Boston 1729-*

We do humbly beg a brief and speedy relief under the difficulties, which we have labored under a long time,

Your humble servants.

Leicester, January the 13th, 1720-21.

Samuel Green,	Thomas Richardson,
Richard Southgate,	Joshua Nichol,
Samuel Stebbings,	John Peters,
John Smith,	William Green,
William Brown.	John Smith,
Nath'l. Richardson,	John Burton,
Hezekiah Rus,	Peter Carlisle,
John Lynde,	Daniel Denny,
James Southgate,	John Smith, Jun.
William Keen,	Thomas Smith,
Bartholomew Curtis,	James Smith,
James Wilson,	Aaron Bell,
Thomas Wascoot,	Adam Taler,
Joseph Stebbings,	Samuel Thomas,
Oliver Watson,	Joshua Barton."

The foregoing shows the people were very desirous to obtain Mr. Parsons for their minister. He declined the offer of the town, which was 60 pounds settlement and 60 pounds salary. Thirty individuals, then agreed to make the settlement and salary, each 100 pounds, upon their own responsibility. This was accepted. He was removed at the expense of the town and installed, as before stated, September 15, 1721, the town having finally acted on the matter, March 30, 1721.

For a time, peace and harmony appears to have prevailed between minister and people, but difficulties soon arose. The people neglected, or perhaps were unable to pay his salary punctually.

How long this state of things existed is not known, but in 1728, Mr. Parsons commenced a suit at the civil law

for the arrears of his salary, and not satisfied with this, he actually procured an indictment at the quarter sessions at Cambridge, for this neglect. This hasty movement produced great irritation with the people. After considerable altercation, a town meeting was called January 2, 1728-9, "to see if the town would raise Mr. Parsons salary, or, otherwise to see if they were willing he should leave the town." "Voted, that we are *willing he should leave the town*, but shall not raise his salary." Mr. Parsons, again applied to the law for redress and for the arrears of his salary which the town voted not to raise. The town contested his claim, but the court not only sustained his demand, but amerced the town *in a fine* for their neglect, and ordered executions to be issued. Having failed at the Judicial Courts, the town next applied to the legislature, in a petition presented February 26, 1731, "complaining of great irregularities and ill conduct in their minister, Mr. David Parsons, for which the town have voted to dismiss him; Notwithstanding which the petitioners have been fined for not assessing his salary; praying for relief." The court ordered the petitioners to notify Mr. Parsons to appear at the session in May, to attend to the petition, "and that execution be stayed in the mean time." At the session in May, the parties met, and after hearing the answer of Mr. Parsons, the petition was *dismissed*. A large majority of the town and church moved together in all these proceedings; they had voted his dismissal, and chose a committee to supply the pulpit, and after being thus foiled in all their attempts to depose their minister and avoid the payment of his salary, they not only had two or three years' salary to pay on execution, but a fine and a heavy bill of cost. This was a sad disappointment. Although foiled, they were not discouraged, and at the same session of the General Court,

they presented another petition for relief. June 23, 1731, the General Court say, "Whereas, the differences that have arisen between the Rev. Mr. David Parsons, Pastor of the Church at Leicester, and a great number (if not a major part of the Brethren of said church and Inhabitants of said town) have been of long continuance, and proceeded to such a degree as greatly to prejudice the interests and destroy the ends of the Gospel Ministry, the breach between them appearing to be incurable, and so as to leave no hope that Mr. Parson's Ministry may be servicable, at least to a great part of that people, and whereas application is made in the name of said town and church of Leicester to the General Court for relief in the premises; Resolved and ordered that all such of the inhabitants of the said town of Leicester who *conscienciously* dissent from Mr. Parsons' Ministry respecting points, either of doctrine or discipline, alledging *scruples of conscience* as the grounds of their refusal to attend thereon, and do in the space of six months next ensuing signify the same in writing under their hands to Joseph Wilder, Esq., (who is appointed by this court to take a subscription of their hands accordingly), as also, that they are willing and desirous to uphold and maintain the Public Worship of God and Gospel order, accordingly to the constitution of those churches, that then and from thenceforth all such persons so subscribing, together with their ratable polls and estates of themselves and families and such of their descendants as shall and may desire the same priviledges, shall be freed and exempted from all rates, taxes and assessments and charges for and towards the support of the said Mr. Parsons; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; Provided always that nothing in this resolve or order shall be deemed, construed or taken in prejudice of the said Mr. Parsons' right in or unto that two hundred

acres of land * which is, or hath been in his possession, as minister of said town, but that the same shall remain to him his heirs or assigns forever, any thing in the resolve or order notwithstanding ; Provided also, that none of the inhabitants subscribing as aforesaid shall receive benefit or exemptions by virtue of this resolve or order until he or they do respectively provide an able orthodox minister, generally to dispense the word of God among them, or otherwise diligently frequent the public worship in some or one of the neighboring congregations and submit their estates to be taxed a proportionable part with the inhabitants of such town or towns, respectively, where they so attend, for and towards the support of the ministry there ; and do also pay and discharge their respective parts and proportions of Mr. Parsons' salary due or becoming due to him in the interim."

This order was some relief to the petitioners, but it did not cure the difficulty ; Mr. Parsons still occupied the pulpit to the exclusion of all others, and his salary must still be paid to that time. Many of the people however, availed themselves of the privilege, and withdrew from his ministry, and his support.

The town was not yet satisfied, but determined if possible to avoid the payment of his salary. Again another petition to the General Court was presented the same session, July 28, 1731, " setting forth their great grievances in being constrained to maintain Mr. David Parsons as their minister, after the town had voted his removal, and his conduct had become so ill in that office ; therefore praying that this court would explain the act of the Province for the support of ministers upon which they

* It was afterwards increased to 425 acres, and a record of the same, made on the Proprietors' book of records.

were cast at the court of general sessions of the Peace for the county of Middlesex, that they may have liberty to appeal from the judgment of the court, or have a trial *de novo* so that they may have the *benefit of a jury!* and that execution be staid in the meantime." But their petition was not granted in this respect, although execution was stayed until another hearing. The general court at length become worried into the measure and passed a resolve releasing the town from any longer supporting Mr. Parsons, but then the Governor, (Belcher) refused to sign it. This state of things continued until 1734, when "six Worcester gentlemen came as mediators between Mr. Parsons and the town." But the benevolent efforts of these gentlemen did not succeed. At last the town and church obtained an ecclesiastical council, and they dismissed him in March, 1735.

We are astonished in looking back to this period to observe the difference, which then prevailed, in respect to the mode of settling and dismissing ministers, and that of the present day. It was then extremely difficult to effect the dismissal of a minister unless his moral character could be impeached, or his doctrine and mode of discipline did not agree with the Cambridge Platform, and unless some one of these objections was brought against them, they were taken for life! for better or worse, in sickness or health. After his dismissal he lived in Leicester until his death, 1737. "He was by his special direction buried on his own land, apart from the graves of his people. He was unwilling that his ashes should repose by the side of those with whom he had once worshipped in the sanctuary and to whom he had broken the consecrated bread; the grave is now visible in a mowing field, about thirty

rods north of the meeting house—a monument of human frailty.”*

Their next minister was the Rev. David Goddard from Framingham. The town gave him £300 settlement, and £100 salary, so long as he remained their minister. He was ordained June 30, 1736. “His connection with his people was uniformly happy and satisfactory, although his salary was often in arrear.” He died January 19, 1754, at Framingham, where he was seized with a fever, when on a journey, aged 48.†

During the ministry of Mr. Parsons, and seven or eight years of Mr. Goddard’s, the people in the Westerly part of the town paid their proportion of all Parish taxes, and a portion of them, attended upon the preaching there, although previous to this, some attempts had been made to procure preaching among themselves. As early as April 2, 1739, Samuel Bemis and John Stebbings, in behalf of the other settlers, met the original proprietors at Boston, to “consider some way to have the Gospel preached among the settlers, and to be freed from paying towards the support of the minister of the Easterly part of said town, and to come to some agreement about the building a meeting house for the accommodation of the settlers.” At this meeting a vote was unanimously passed, to tax the non-resident lands, to assist the settlers in the proposed objects. Nothing, however, seemed to have been effectually done, until the next January, when the proprietors “Voted unanimously” to lay a tax of three pence per acre on all their lands for the year 1740, and a further tax of two pence per acre annually for the two next years, “for building a good substantial meeting house of forty-five *foot*

* Worcester Magazine, Vol. 2, pages 82—84, Massachusetts Council Records, Book 15, pages 21, 81, 106, 135, 219.

† Worcester Mag. Vol. 2, page 84.

long and thirty five *foot* wide on the land of Mr. Nathaniel Cunningham, where he and the settlers shall agree, and towards a minister's support." Accordingly, Mr. Cunningham, by deed dated February 26, 1740, gave the inhabitants two acres of land, "for the accommodation of the meeting-house and for a training field and for such other public uses as the town shall direct forever." At a subsequent meeting October 29, Samuel Bemis, Jonathan Lamb and Moses Smith were chosen assessors and Samuel Capen a collector, of the aforesaid taxes. Nothing further is heard respecting the meeting house or minister, for three years, when, November 2, 1743,* ten of the inhabitants met the proprietors again at Boston, to see what the "proprietors will give towards the assistance of the inhabitants for encouragement speedily to settle a learned and authordox Minister of the Gospel among them." At this meeting, the proprietors subjected their lands, to a further tax of two pence, old tenor,† per acre, annually, for five years, towards the support of a minister. In the meantime the meeting house was built, but at what time is not now known, but another meeting was had at Boston the 30th of the same month, "to receive the report of the committee who contracted for building the meeting house and

* At a town meeting in Leicester 1741, application was made by the inhabitants of the Westerly part, that the money drawn from them by taxation, for parochial purposes might be appropriated for the support of preaching in that part of the town, but the request was not granted.

† Nearly a century has passed since the currency in New England was calculated in "old tenor." For the information of the present generation it may be here stated, that twenty shillings old tenor is two shillings and eight pence, lawful money, or about forty four cents. Consequently, the salary of Mr. Eaton for his first year being 150 pounds, old tenor, was equal to \$66,67, and a tax of two pence, old tenor, per acre, calculating 20,000 acres of land for the town, would be about \$74,83.

the accounts of the persons employed therein." It is probable therefore, that it was built previous to that time. This house, when said to be built, was but imperfectly so, for it never was finished. The outward walls were covered with unplanned boards and without clapboards. The glazing was small diamond glass, with leaden sashes, according to the fashion of those times, but no inside finishing, with the exception of laying the lower floor. The next year, 1744, the pews next to the walls were built, being 14 only in number, leaving a space at the Southeast and Southwest angles, for stairs to ascend into the galleries, there being no porches to the house for that purpose, and over each of these stairways, were two pews. The interior was filled with four seats on each side of the centre aisle, called "body seats." These with the seats in the galleries, were free for all who chose to use them. And as a small number only of the inhabitants were accommodated with pews, many attempts were made for leave to build pews on part of the ground occupied by the body seats, but never succeeded until 1767, when it being necessary to repair the house, the privilege of building four pews was sold and the avails appropriated for new covering and clapboarding the house and some further finishing inside.

This was indeed a day of small things with our fathers, this house being their only place of worship until 1772, when a new, substantial and even elegant house for those days, was built, being 56 feet long by 47 wide. In 1802, a tower and cupola with a bell was added, and 1838, the same house was enlarged and entirely new finished and new modeled within and without in handsome style. It has already been mentioned, that the act, whereby this part of the town became a parish, was passed June 18, 1744. The first and only candidate for the ministry was

the Rev. Joshua Eaton. He commenced preaching some time in the latter part of 1743. A church was formed May 17, 1744. The same day, the following covenant was subscribed.

“ We whose names are hereunto subscribed, inhabitants of the Westerly part of Leicester in New England, being apprehensive we are called of God to a church state, and to settle the gospel ordinances among us, (in some measure being apprehensive of an exceeding unworthiness of making such near approach to the holy God, through our exceeding proneness to offend him, both in heart and life, have great reason to be unfeignedly humble before God, and entering into and for the better government of ourselves in our church state,) do, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with humble dependence upon the gracious assistance of his holy Spirit, solemnly enter into a covenant with God and one with another as followeth.

In the first place, we do expressly avouch the Christian Religion, according to the scriptures of truth contained in the books of the old and new testaments, and as explained and held forth in our well known Catechism, and New England Confession of faith, agreeable to which (in humble dependence on the grace of Christ,) we do engage to walk and govern ourselves as long as we live. In order whereunto, we do solemnly avouch the only living and true God to be our God, as he is our God in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We take God the Father, to be our Father; God the Son, to be our Redeemer; and God the Holy Ghost, to be our Guide and Sanctifyer; we do solemnly avouch him the Lord Jehovah, to be our Prophet, Priest and King forever, to love him, to seek and serve him, and to be at his direction, as his people in all things, faithfully to stand for him, and the cause of his truth and kingdom to our lives end. We

give ourselves to holy communion with him, as members of his mystical body, to worship God according to the institution of Jesus Christ, in solemn attendance on all his holy ordinances, in attention to his Word, prayer and singing praises, and to hold communion with one another in the use of both ordinances, viz. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That we will in the way of his word, ordinances and the gospel profession, labor after advancement in knowledge, faith and holiness, studying mortification, heart religion, and a most strict and devout walk with God. We do engage to walk orderly and lovingly together, endeavoring one another with mutual good and edification, admonishing one another in love, and comforting one another as occasion serveth. We do engage also, to walk in our houses by the same rule, governing, instructing and commanding our houses to keep the way of the Lord. We likewise promise peaceably to submit ourselves to the holy discipline of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the gospel and agreeable to the constitution of Congregational churches, and with due regard to the New England Platform of church discipline. That vicious persons may be suppressed, and the holiness which God requireth may be maintained by us, obeying them that have the rule over us in the Lord, shewing all meekness, gentleness and forgiveness (as the word of God recommendeth in its place.) Now may the God of Peace, establish, strengthen, and settle us, &c. Amen.

Joshua Eaton, Pastor,	Josiah Robinson,
James Wilson, Deacon,	James McClure,
Joshua Barton,	John Lawden,
Archibald Thomas, Deacon,	Oliver Watson."
Jonathan Ormes,	

May 28, 1744, the church and society gave an invitation to Mr. Eaton to be their minister, offering him all

the land tax, besides an additional sum by subscriptions, as a settlement, and one hundred and fifty pounds, old tenor, for salary. Mr. Eaton gave his answer in the affirmative, September 24, of the same year. The parish also, voted to add five pounds annually, to the salary, until it should be 200 pounds old tenor, and the sum was to be made equal to silver at twenty-six shillings and eight pence per ounce. In 1748, the currency became so depreciated, that £100, was added, and 1766, it was made equal to about \$244, and so remained until his death.

Mr. Eaton was ordained November 7, 1744. Mr. Prentice of Grafton, made the introductory prayer, Mr. Hall of Sutton preached the sermon from 1 Timothy 6: 20. "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely so called." Mr. Cheney of Brookfield made the prayer previous to the charge, Mr. Hall gave the charge, Mr. Goddard of Leicester, made the prayer after the charge, Mr. Webb of Uxbridge gave the right hand of fellowship and Mr. White of Hardwick, "joined in laying on the hands."

The Rev. Joshua Eaton, was the only son of Mr. Joshua Eaton, and was born at Waltham, then a part of Wattertown, December 15, 1714, old style. He was graduated at Harvard University in 1735. His parents * had designed him for the ministry, but contrary to their wishes, and to their great disappointment, he turned his attention to the law, and studied that profession with Judge Trow-

* His parents, says his biographer, were "honest and respectable." They removed to Worcester, where his father, carried on the business of a tanner, and was one of the selectmen of that town in 1742. They afterwards removed and lived with their son at Spencer, where his mother died June 5, 1760, aged 73. His father died February 26, 1767, aged 84.

bridge of Cambridge, then an eminent attorney at law. In 1737, he commenced the practice of law at Worcester, being six years after the incorporation of the county, and is the first lawyer who established himself in that town. He continued in the practice only about five years. His talents were respectable and he soon acquired an extensive business in his profession. "He early shone with a promising lustre in the knowledge and practice of the law, and he had the fairest prospect of acquiring to himself a good and great name in that profession, and an ample fortune."* About the year 1740, he received a powerful impression in favor of the subject of religion, which induced him, in accordance with the desires of his parents, to turn his views to the ministry; and for that purpose he commenced the study of theology. He is supposed to have received his first religious impression from the celebrated George Whitefield, who in one of his itinerations through the country, visited Worcester and preached there in 1740. The glowing eloquence, the ardent and impetuous zeal of Whitefield, created great agitation, distraction and division among the New England churches. True he was opposed by a large majority of the clergy, but a few joined with him and encouraged his preaching.† The enthusi-

* Funeral sermon by Rev. Eli Forbes of North Brookfield.

† Mr. Whitefield was a man of extraordinary powers of elocution, and he won multitudes, but his language was coarse and disrespectful to his opponents, of revolutionary tendency and sometimes bordering on impiety, and his measures disorganizing. President Clapp, of Yale College, testifies, that he heard Mr. Whitefield make use of the following language. "I intend to turn the generality of the ministers of this country out of their pulpits (who are half beasts and half devils,) and bring over ministers from England." His preaching produced great divisions and great acrimony of feeling between those of the clergy who adhered to him, and those who opposed him. The former asserted that he ought to be supported, "because the doctrines which he preaches are agreeable

asm of Mr. Eaton, so far carried him beyond the bounds of propriety, that he incurred the censure of the church in Worcester, and was suspended from their communion. By his own request, an ecclesiastical council was convened to advise in the matter between him and the church. Upon this he remarks in his diary, Nov. 25, 1743, "The church was pleased to restore me to christian privileges without any acknowledgment, and gave as a reason for what they had done in censuring me, that they looked upon me as being actuated by an over heated brain." About this time, he had commenced preaching, as a candidate in Spencer. He was married to Sarah Elliot "of an ancient and honorable family," December 26, 1739. She died October 28, 1770.*

Mr. Eaton lived with his people in great harmony, during his ministry, and though often called from his labors by severe indisposition, they did not complain, but cheerfully paid him the small pittance of a salary, and their affection to him continued unabated to his death, which took place April 2, 1772, aged 57, and in the 28th of his ministry.

Mr. Eaton was tall and slim in person, of slender con-

to the standard of truth, and also, because of his remarkable success.' In reply it was asked if it was true "that God loveth sinners as *sinners*?" which was quoted as one of Mr. Whitefield's assertions, and in answer to the second they reply, "It is to be observed with lamentation, that the success of his ministry (if it may be called success) hath been to raise in the minds of many, a spirit of censoriousness, and uncharitableness, of bitterness, anger, wrath, malice, envy, revenge, in many, as is evident to every observing eye, by the carriage of his admirers toward many of the brethren, with whom, before he came amongst us, they lived in peace and good agreement. Such success he hath had, to the grief of many godly persons." Dean's History of Scituate, pages 235, 402, 403.

* Mrs. Eaton was sister to John Elliot, Esq. of whom some account is given, in another place in this work.

stitution, of ardent piety and tender sensibility, as he often addressed his people from the desk, in tears. His preaching was plain and practical, and he seldom or never delivered doctrinal discourses. After his death, a volume of his sermons was printed, which are characteristic of his general preaching. To this volume was added a memoir of his life, together with his funeral sermon, by the Rev. Eli Forbes of Brookfield.

His children were, John, born May 19, 1741, and died July 11, 1754; Sarah, b. May 12, 1744, died, October after; Sarah, b. October 11, 1745, and was married to Doct. William Frink; Mary, b. October 1, 1747, died July 2, 1754; Joshua, b. January 2, 1749; Samuel, b. March 14, 1752, died January 21, 1754; John Elliot, b. February 9, 1756, and was a physician of some eminence in Dudley, where he died in 1812, aged 56.

After the death of Mr. Eaton, Daniel Grosvenor supplied the pulpit two Sabbaths,* and a Mr. Z. Buttler, four Sabbaths. Next, Joseph Pope preached as a candidate, and continued to supply the pulpit until he was ordained. The Rev. Joseph Pope was born in Brookline, (Conn.) then a part of Pomfret, September 28, 1746. He was graduated at Harvard University in 1770. He was employed one year, teaching a Latin school in Worcester, where he fitted several young gentlemen for college. He commenced the study of theology with the Rev. Mr. Searl of Stoneham, (Mass.) and completed his course under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Putman of Pomfret, the minis-

* Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, was a native of Pomfret, (Conn.) He was ordained at Grafton, October 19, 1774, and dismissed January 1, 1788, afterwards installed at Paxton, November 5, 1793, and dismissed November 17, 1802. He afterwards removed to Petersham, where he lately died at an advanced age. He has one or more sons, now in the ministry.

ter of his native town. After preaching about three months at Uxbridge, he came by invitation to this town, and giving satisfaction to the people of this place, they with great unanimity, gave him a call, February 15, 1773, to settle with them as their minister. He was offered the sum of £133 6s. 8d. (\$444,45) as settlement, and \$244, same as Mr. Eaton in the latter part of his life, as salary, "*during the time he shall supply the pulpit in this place.*" The settlement and salary, for aught that appears, were satisfactory, but the conditions were rejected. The offer was then qualified so as he should receive his salary "so long as he shall continue in that office in this place." These terms were accepted and he was ordained October 20, 1773. Eleven clergymen, with their delegates, assisted at the ordination, viz: Mr. Putman of Pomfret, Mr. Hall of Sutton, who also assisted at the ordination of Mr. Eaton, 29 years before. Messrs. Ward, Forbes and Fiske, from the three parishes in Brookfield, Mr. Searl of Stoneham, Mr. Conklin of Leicester, Mr. Paine of Sturbridge, Mr. Macarty, of Worcester, Mr. Sumner of Shrewsbury and Mr. Thayer of Paxton. Mr. Pope was married to Miss Anna Hammond, daughter of Colonel Benjamin Hammond, of Newton, October 9, 1777. During his long ministry, nothing occurred of a serious nature to disturb the harmony between him and his people. A considerable portion of the time of his ministry, and especially during the period of the revolutionary war, owing to the depreciations of the currency, the salary was unreasonably small, and was by no means a sufficient remuneration for his services. But this was a time of universal distress, when not only ministers were deprived of an adequate support, but the people were literally crushed to the earth, beneath the enormous burthens, that were heaped upon them. Occasionally, however, an additional allowance was made, but seldom sufficient to compensate for the depreciations

of money, or the rise in the articles of living in modern times. He continued to supply the pulpit until November 1818, when a sudden stroke of paralysis, rendered him nearly helpless, during the remainder of his life. He continued to linger, however, for more than seven years, when death, who must have been a welcome messenger, put a period to his almost worn out existence, March 8, 1826, in the eightieth year of his age and fifty third of his ministry. After he was unable to officiate at the sacred altar, a junior pastor was settled, and again dismissed, before the decease of the venerable senior.

Mr. Pope's literary acquirements were superior to the generality of the clergy of that age. He was a good classical scholar, and during his ministry, prepared many young gentlemen for college. In his religious sentiments, like his predecessor, he was Calvinistic, and like him too, his sermons were plain, practical discourses, and seldom preached upon controversial subjects.* His amiable and venerable consort survives him at the advanced age of 86. His children are, Joseph, born July 14, 1778, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1798, and is now an attorney at law in Portland, Maine; Charles, b. February 26, 1780, and now resides in Maine; William, b. December 10, 1781, is a Justice of the Peace, and inherits the homestead; Anna, b. February 16, 1786, and was married to Professor Shurtleff of Dartmouth College, and deceased, March, 1826, nearly at the time of her father's decease.†

After the pulpit became vacant by the sickness of Mr. Pope, Stephen Crosby of Thompson, Conn. was employed as a candidate. He had preached but about ten Sab-

* The only printed discourse of Mr. Pope's, is a sermon delivered at the funeral of the Rev. Mr. Williams, of Brimfield.

† See sermon preached at the funeral of Mr. Pope by the Rev. John Nelson, of Leicester.

baths, when the society, by an unanimous vote, passed March 15, 1819, invited him to become their minister. They offered as a salary \$650 per annum, "as long as he should remain in said office, and should regularly supply the pulpit in this place." The proposition and the condition were couched in explicit terms, and required a plain, explicit answer. His answer was given April 10, 1819, wherein he says "your unanimous call is prayerfully received and cheerfully accepted. Understanding the clause 'shall regularly supply the pulpit in this place' not as referring to occasional absence and temporary sickness, but as importing merely, that my salary shall cease whenever my ministerial connection with you shall be dissolved, in the manner specified by the town," that is, by a mutual council. The answer was received, on the third day of May, when the people were assembled in legal meeting for that purpose. There was not a little disagreement manifested in the minds of the people, as to its purport. It is obvious the town* intended his salary should continue no longer than he regularly supplied the pulpit. But according to his "understanding" it was to continue until he should be dismissed by a mutual council, whether the pulpit was supplied or not. After deliberation, it was voted "not to accept of the answer;" the meeting was adjourned to the sixth of the same month, and a committee chosen to confer with Mr. Crosby, and report at the adjournment. But Mr. Crosby declined making any further communication or explanation through this committee to the town. The meeting was again adjourned to the 20th of the same month, and the same committee were directed to have further conference

* At this time, all parish business was done in the name of the town, and the words "town" and "society" are here, indiscriminately used.

with Mr. Crosby upon the subject. This conference, however, resulted like the former. At the last adjourned meeting, the friends of Mr. Crosby prevailed, and a majority of the society were infatuated enough to accept of his answer, with all its ambiguity, and he was ordained June 9, 1819.

By some unaccountable fatuity, a majority of the society were deceived, as to the true import of the answer. However, nothing material occurred to disturb the harmony between the parties for four years, when doubts having arisen relative to the true nature of the contract, the town, in March 1823, chose a committee to confer with Mr. Crosby upon the subject. Although he declined making any written communication to the town, he disclosed to the committee his own views of the nature of the contract. The following communication was then immediately transmitted to him. "Dear Sir, you will recollect, that when this society gave you an invitation to settle with them in the gospel ministry, one condition upon which said invitation was given, was that your salary should annually continue so long as you should '*regularly supply the pulpit in this place,*' and their intentions were, that whenever your regular ministrations should cease, your salary should cease also. But your answer contains some ambiguity of phraseology, which at that time was not understood by a majority of the society but is now understood by them to imply, that your salary should continue to any indefinite period whatever, without any regard to the regular performance of your ministerial labors with the society, unless an ecclesiastical council should see fit to dissolve the connexion thus subsisting between you and the society. And this, sir, the society has been informed, is your construction of the contract. Now, sir, the society cannot but view this contract, as it is thus understood, as entirely destitute of that

reciprocity, which is the only firm basis of all *equitable* contracts, and which is so essential to promote the harmony and the good understanding, as well as the interests of the contracting parties. Viewing it in this light, sir, and prompted by the dictates of prudence to ourselves, and justice to our posterity, and being desirous of averting the disastrous consequences, which would inevitably come, should such a contingency happen, as has been alluded to in this communication, the society has thought fit to enter anew, into a negotiation with you, and to solicit your compliance, that the aforesaid contract may be so altered or amended, as to conform to the wishes of the society, and to the spirit and intention of the instrument, wherein they gave you an invitation to become their minister. Accordingly, at a legal meeting of the society, called and convened for that purpose, they have voted, that you be requested to consent to a modification of the aforesaid contract, so that it may conform to the views and wishes of the society as herein expressed, and that you be also, respectfully requested to signify your assent to, or your dissent from this proposition, in writing, to the committee, who may present this to you, if convenient, on or before the first Monday in May next, when the society will again be convened, for the further consultation, and determination of this subject." April 7, 1823.

The answer was received May 5, and although of great length, it was in its character, altogether *non committal*. He neither admitted nor denied, that the construction now put upon the contract, was, or was not, the true one; he neither consented nor declined to alter or amend or make a new contract. In fine, he entirely avoided coming to the point at issue between them; professed to be somewhat indignant at the "charge," as he was pleased to term it, of ambiguity, and finally stated that if the town would

call another meeting, he would present a proposition to them upon the subject.

Accordingly, another meeting was held on the 26th of the same month agreeable to the wishes of Mr. Crosby. At this meeting he read a paper, but stated that he did not mean to have it considered a formal communication. Consequently no action was had on it, and the paper was withdrawn, the meeting was adjourned to the 16th of June and a committee appointed to confer with him further upon the subject. At the adjournment, the committee reported that they had "held a conference with him, but notwithstanding, had no new communications to make to the town."

March 15, 1824, another committee was chosen "to request the Rev. Mr. Crosby to alter the contract between him and his people, or join with them in calling a council to dissolve the connexion," and they farther proposed that the amount of salary should be only \$600,00. The meeting was adjourned to the 5th of April. Mr. Crosby then wished the town to vote on the following proposition. "Those who desire my continuance with them, on fair and equitable terms would signify it." The votes were 44 in favor and three against it. He then read his communication, but it was not satisfactory to the town, and it was withdrawn. It was then voted that the town request Mr. Crosby to unite with them, in calling an ecclesiastical council for the purpose of dissolving the contract. A committee was chosen to present the vote to him, and the meeting was farther adjourned to the 19th. At this meeting a vote was taken on the following proposition. "All those who wish the Rev. Mr. Crosby to continue with us, under existing circumstances, will please to signify the same by voting." Voted in favor one—against it forty-five. The meeting was farther adjourned to the 3d day

of May. At this meeting, Mr. Crosby made another dissatisfactory communication, and the town then chose a large committee, and delegated to them full power to act for the town in any circumstance which might arise, and they were expressly charged to call an *exparte* council if necessary, to dissolve the connexion, and then dissolved the meeting.

August 30, 1824, another meeting was called, to consider a new proposition from Mr. Crosby. One condition in this was that, whenever two thirds of the society should desire his dismissal, and should give him six months notice in writing, and the reasons for such desire, at the expiration of which, and vice versa, on his part; then both parties agreed to a dissolution of the contract, and a mutual council was to be called for that purpose. The society accepted this proposition by a vote of 30 in favor and 19 against.

The society became so disaffected towards Mr. Crosby, that in two months, viz. November 1, another meeting was called to see if two thirds of the society would agree to give him six months notice for a dismissal. The vote was, for his dismissal 56, against it 26, being more than two thirds in favor of dismissing.

Many attempts and fruitless negotiations were made between the parties to effect an immediate dissolution of the contract, without the formality of waiting six months, but it only served to increase the mutual irritation. A mutual council was at length convened, consisting of all the neighboring ministers with each a delegate, and, although Mr. Crosby earnestly contended and protested before them, against a dissolution of the contract, yet they were unanimously in favor of effecting it, and he was dismissed May 31, 1825.

The Rev. Stephen Crosby was the son of a respectable

farmer in Thompson, Conn. He commenced his education at Brown University, but finally was graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y. in 1816 or 1817. He completed his Theological studies with Doct. Nott, President of the last named college. After being settled in Spencer, he was married to Miss Julia Cowles, daughter of a wealthy merchant in Farmington, Conn. After his dismissal, he was installed in East Granby, Conn. He was dismissed from that society, and was settled in the Western part of New York. He was finally settled in or near Norwich, Conn., where he died in 1839.

After the dismissal of Mr. Crosby, the society was supplied with occasional clergymen during the remainder of the year, when application was made to Mr. Levi Packard to preach a few weeks, as a candidate. He continued to supply the pulpit until the third day of April 1826, when the society gave him a call, by a unanimous vote, to be their minister, offering him a salary of \$550 per annum, on condition that the contract should be dissolved, after six months notice by either party. Mr. Packard accepted the proposition, with the qualification that the society should pay \$475, as salary, and should also furnish him with a respectable dwelling house for him and his family during his continuance with the society as their minister. This was complied with, and he was ordained June 14, 1826. The following clergymen assisted at the ordination. Mr. Huntington of North Bridgewater, Mr. Ide of Medway, Mr. Sweet of Palmer, Mr. Nelson of Leicester, Mr. Clark of Rutland, Mr. Conant of Paxton, Mr. Snell of North Brookfield, Mr. Stone of South Brookfield, Mr. Tomlinson of Oakham, Mr. Park of Southbridge, Mr. Newhall of Oxford, Mr. Pond of Ward, and Mr. Bond of Sturbridge.

Agreeable to the contract, the society built a parsonage house and other accommodations, the present residence of

Mr. Packard, which, including one acre of land, cost the sum of two thousand dollars.

Rev. Levi Packard is son of Mr. Levi Packard of North Bridgewater, and was born in that town, February 4, 1793. He was graduated at Brown University in 1821. He completed his Theological studies with the Rev. Jacob Ide of Medway. Was married to Miss Clarissa Sandford, daughter of Mr. Philo Sandford of Medway, August 16, 1826.

SINGING.

Sacred music, as anciently performed, would hardly add much to the edification of modern christian assemblies. After the psalm was read by the minister, some one who acted as chorister, gave out the tune to be sung. As but few had psalm books, who joined in singing, one of the Deacons read the first line of the psalm, which was responded to, by the singers, who were promiscuously seated over all parts of the house. The next line was then read in the same manner, and alike responded to, until the whole psalm was sung. By this method, those who were destitute of books, were enabled to sing with those who were fortunate enough to have them, as they could repeat each line by memory, after it had been pronounced by the deacon. After practising several years in this way, Mr. Eaton recommended, that instead of one line only, a whole verse should be read by the deacons. Complaints were immediately made, by those who had no books, against this, as an innovation from the ancient and sacred manner of performing that part of public worship. But the perseverance of the minister overcame all opposition and remonstrance, and the new method was continued, for many years. At length, it was found expedient for the congregation to supply themselves with books, and to dispense altogether

with the services of the deacon in reading the psalm, and this practice continues to be in favor to the present time.

As has been mentioned, the singers originally sat promiscuously in all parts of the house. Many efforts were made to effect a reform in this matter, and have them sit together, as manifestly more convenient for the singers and more edifying to the audience. But this too, was considered an innovation, not to be peaceably acquiesced with. Even as late as 1782, an article was inserted in the warrant at the annual meeting "to see if the town will grant seats in the gallery in the meeting house to the singers that they may sit together." But it passed in the *negative*. The town having been favored with the services of Mr. Solomon Howe, a celebrated instructor in sacred music, who substituting some of the sweet and pleasing airs of Billings, for the slow movements of Williams and Tanner, effected such a reform in church music, that the singers were allowed to sit together, and the front part of the gallery was appropriated for their use.*

Anciently, the chorister was chosen by the united votes of the church and congregation, and not as now, and ever ought to be, by the singers. Accordingly, we find it recorded, in the church records, "March 22, 1770, The church and congregation voted for a chorister. Doct. Ormes had 23 votes, Mr. Mason had 18 votes. March 2, 1775. The church chose John Muzzy, Jun. for chorister. December 25, 1782. The church and congregation chose Lieut. Jonas Muzzy for chorister, and Mr. Oliver Watson, Jun. as assistant."

The old version of Sternhold and Hopkins, continued

* One old gentleman felt himself so much outraged, with what he considered such an improper manner of performing public worship, that he told the minister if he gave his encouragement to such improprieties he would *serve them a trick that the devil would'nt, he would leave them.*

to be used throughout the greater part of Mr. Eaton's ministry. This version had become stale and obsolete, and the ministers generally, (whose poetic taste, was much superior to the generality of their hearers,) were desirous of a change. But the old people, cherished this version with great reverence; it being bound in the same volume with their bibles, it was considered a part of the same, and quite as sacred; while the beautiful poetry of Brady and Tate and Doct. Watts, was considered little short of profanity. In June, 1761, the church met to take the matter into consideration, and after some debate, it was voted, that having made trial of Brady and Tate's version for some time, they would try the old version for four sabbaths, and Doct. Watts, until September, "that then the church and congregation meet and choose which of the three versions they think best to use." After having made trial as aforesaid, the church and congregation met, and the vote was for the old version, 33, for Doct. Watts, 14, for Brady and Tate, 6. So Sternhold and Hopkins preponderated, and Watts, with Brady and Tate, *kicked the beam!* After this, they voted to refer the matter to three ministers, viz. Mr. Ruggles of New Braintree, Mr. White of Hardwick and Mr. Forbes of North Brookfield. These gentlemen advised them to make use of Brady and Tate on trial for six months, and then determine which should be used, by vote, concluding their advice by recommending them for "constant use, as we do apprehend it most for the glory of God, and the edification of the church." Here the matter rested, the old version was used eight years longer, and no action was taken upon the advice of these ministers until May, 1769, when it was voted to accept of their report and make trial of Brady and Tate. But the minority were so much dissatisfied, that the old version was continued two weeks longer, when it

was voted, that the old version, with Doct. Watts, should be used unitedly, "till the church and congregation shall come to a better understanding as to what version may be sung." This method would place the two versions in contrast every Sunday. This was continued until October 19, 1769, when the good taste of the people prevailed, and the church and congregation voted to make use of Doct. Watts' Psalms and Hymns. The votes were for Doct. Watts', 26, and "about 6 votes for the old version."*

* As most people, now on the stage of life, have probably never seen Sternhold and Hopkins', collection, called the "old version," the following stanzas, selected from that version, taken promiscuously, and almost at random, will serve as a specimen.

" In thy great indignation,
O Lord, rebuke me not ;
Nor on me lay thy chastening hand,
in thy displeasure hot.

Lord, I am weak, therefore on me
have mercy and me spare ;
Help me, O Lord, because thou know'st
my bones much vexed are.

But I have all my confidence
thy mercy set upon ;
My heart within me shall rejoice
in thy salvation.

By thee through troops of men I break,
and them discomfit all ;
And, by my God assisting me,
I overleap a wall.

For without cause, they have for me
their net hid in a pit ;
They also have without a cause,
for my soul digged it.

Let ruin seize him unawares,
his net be hid withal ;
Himself let catch, and in the same
destruction let him fall.

BAPTISTS.

The first Baptist Church in Spencer was constituted June 30, 1819. Their meeting house was built the next year, 1820, and is situated at the Northeast part of the town, near to the line of the town of Paxton. The society is small and is composed of individuals from the adjoining towns of Spencer, Rutland, Paxton and Leicester. Their first minister was the Rev. Amos Levafor, who was ordained in the winter of 1821. How long he continued with them, is uncertain. The next minister, was Mr. — Phippin, who preached 1827 and 1828. Edward Kenney, was employed in the ministry for 1829 and 1830. Rev. Moses Harrington preached for the society for 1834 and 1835. The next minister was Willard Glover, who preached only for the year 1837. Elder Luther Goddard of Worcester, preached occasionally for 1838 and 1839. Mr. Urijah Underwood is engaged as their pastor for

Our belly also on the earth,
fast cleaving hold doth take ;
Rise for our help and us redeem,
even for thy mercies sake.

With emerods in the hinder parts
He strake his foes withal :
And put them into a shame
that was perpetual.”

The following is a typographical specimen, taken from the edition printed in 1609, as used by the Pilgrims.

“ Attend my people to my law,
and to my words incline ;
My mouth shall speak strange parables,
and sentences diuine ;
Which we ourselues haue heard and learnd,
euen of our fathers old,
And which for our instruction too,
ovr fathers haue vs told.”

1840. The above account is meagre and very imperfect, but as the records of the society are unfortunately lost, it is all that could be obtained.

UNIVERSALISTS.

The Universalist Society in Spencer, was incorporated April 22, 1830. At this time it consisted of ten members only, viz : Phinehas Jones, Jacob Wilson, Rufus Sibley, Caleb Sibley, Jonas Sibley, Oliver C. Watson, Wilber Howland, Nathaniel Wilson, Alonzo Temple and Lemuel Smith. The society was organized by the formation of a constitution and the choice of officers on the day of incorporation, since which time, thirty-eight other members have joined with their families. The meeting house was built in 1833, and dedicated November 20, of the same year. Dedicatory sermon by the Rev. L. S. Everett, then of Charlestown. The church was formed October 29, 1834, and the same day Rev. Gilman Noyes, was installed over the society. Sermon by Rev. Sylvanus Cobb, of Malden. The first two years, the society was partially supplied by occasional preaching. William A. Stickney preached for them for 1832. Gilman Noyes, was their regular minister for six years, from the spring of 1833, to the spring of 1839. Mr. Noyes was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and studied theology with Rev. Sylvanus Cobb. The Rev. John Harriman is their stated minister for the years of 1839 and 1840.

BURIAL PLACE.

It is probable that all who died here previous to 1740, were carried to Leicester for interment, where their bones now lie crumbling beneath their meeting house, horse stables, &c. But in 1740, Mr. Nathaniel Cunningham

conveyed two acres of land to the inhabitants of Spencer, "for the accommodation of a meeting house," and for other parochial and municipal purposes, and more than half of which was appropriated for a place to bury their dead. In 1791, nearly half an acre was added to it, for the same use, and in 1817, it was further enlarged, by the addition of nearly one and a half acres more, making in all about two and a half acres. This constitutes the only burial place in the town, and nearly all who have died here for a period of one hundred years, besides many from other towns, have been here deposited. During this period, the whole number of the dead, consigned to this narrow 'spot, is probably *two thousand*, outnumbering those who survive, within the limits of the town, by four hundred!

BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF SPENCER.

"Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore
 Who danced our infancy upon their knee,
 And told our marvelling boyhood legends store,
 Of their strange ventures happ'd by land or sea,
 How they are blotted from the things that be!
 How few, all weak and withered of their force,
 Wait, on the verge of dark eternity,
 Like stranded wrecks, the tide returning hoarse,
 To sweep them from our sight. Time rolls his ceaseless course."

WALTER SCOTT.

The first settlement was made by Nathaniel Wood some time in 1717. His farm of 100 acres, was taken from the Western ends of lots 29 and 36, now the residence of John Howland. Nothing is now known of his family, but it is believed he had no children born, while he lived in this town. He was here in 1730, but he probably removed from the town early, and is supposed, to Brookfield.

FAMILY OF BEMIS. The second settlement was made by

Samuel Bemis from Watertown, 1721. He was doubtless a descendant of Joseph Bemis, who emigrated to Watertown, in 1640, and was probably the ancestor of all who bear that name in this part of New England. Mr. Bemis purchased the remainder of lots 29 and 36, being 400 acres. He commenced felling the ancient forest, which covered his farm, before he removed hither his family. At that time, the Indians had not all retired from this part of the country, and they frequently came into his cabin and tarried with him through the night, contrary to the wishes of Mr. Bemis. In 1722, when his wife was about to give birth to her third son, (William) fearing the Indians she made a journey to Sudbury for safety during that critical period, and when her little son was only two weeks old, she rode home on horse back, a distance of nearly 50 miles, in one day, and carried her infant in her arms, although the greatest part of the distance, the road past through an entire wilderness! He acquired a handsome estate and built the first framed house in town, which was a two story building, and now stands on the farm, having been erected about 115 years. He was born 1688, and was married to Sarah Barnard, of Sudbury. She died September 30, 1756, aged 62. His children were Samuel, born May, 1716; Edmund, November 1, 1720; William, November 1, 1722; Nathaniel, 1725; Sarah, December 12, 1727; Joshua, July 14, 1729; Elizabeth, about 1732, and Jonas, March 25, 1737.

The following is the inscription on his tombstone in the graveyard.

“In memory of Mr. Samuel Bemis, one of the first settlers in this town, who died August 1776, in his 84th year.

Where nothing dwelt but beasts of prey,
Or men as fierce and wild as they;
Our kind forefathers did repair,
And built us towns and cities there.”

Samuel Bemis, son of Samuel, was married to Rebekah Newhall, of Leicester, January 9, 1740. She died leaving no children. He was next married to Mary Johnson, daughter of Capt. Benjamin Johnson, November 11, 1742. His children by her were Benjamin, born January 18, 1744; Mary, December 3,

1745; Rebekah, January 2, 1747; Samuel, September 18, 1749; Reuben, June 10, 1752; Bulah, September 26, 1754. His wife Mary died January 3, 1760. He was soon after married to Mehetable Dunnell, by whom he had Lydia, born May 10, 1761; Jonathan, April 9, 1765; Joel, February 7, 1768; Judith, August 27, 1769; Wait, June 20, 1772.

In 1742, he purchased a part of lot 56, where he built a house, on the hill North of S. Luthers. He afterwards lived in various parts of the town, and died August 15, 1793, aged 77. His wife Mehetable, died February 24, 1807.

Edmund, son of Samuel Bemis, Senior, was married to Eunice Chadwick of Western, (Warren) 1749. His children were, John, born September 3, 1749; Joseph, November 20, 1750; Susannah, May 3, 1752; Phinehas, October 7, 1754; Eleazer, May 24, 1756; Ruth, December 23, 1757; Lydia, March 29, 1760. His wife Eunice, died April 13, 1761. He afterwards was married to Widow Smith, of Charlton. He first established himself on a part of the homestead, but finally purchased the whole of lot 80, in 1769, where he died, and where some of his posterity now live.

Besides being an officer at the taking of Louisburgh in 1745, he was a captain in the expedition to Crown Point in 1755 and 1756. The following obituary notice appeared in the Massachusetts Spy, December 26, 1810.

“Died in Spencer, Capt. Edmund Bemis, aged 90 years. There are some things worthy of record in the life of this aged and war worn veteran. His father was the first settler in Spencer, having removed from Sudbury, to this town, about the birth of this son, that is, about the year 1720. This son Edmund has been very remarkable for his habits of honesty, industry and temperance, which have produced a long life of health and happiness. He early entered into the service of his country, and was a Lieutenant at the reduction of Louisburgh in the year 1745. At this siege he was a zealous and active officer. After the French had surrendered to the victorious arms of New England, it was found they had spiked their cannon, intending thereby to render them entirely useless to the captors. It had been heretofore deemed an impracticable thing, after a gun was thus

spiked, to drill it out, or by any other method whatever, to render it again fit for service. The commander of the American forces, offered a premium to any one who would undertake the task, if he should prove successful. Lieut. Bemis undertook it, and by a process heretofore unthought of, effected the desired object. Instead of drilling, as was supposed to be the only practicable method, he collected a large quantity of wood around the cannon, and setting it on fire, heated it to such a degree, that with a cold punch, the spike was easily driven into the barrel. Thus was he the author of a useful discovery to his country, which has ever since been followed with complete success. After the reduction of Louisburgh, he was a Captain in the war with France which succeeded, at the close of which, he returned home, to seek that repose among his friends, which he has since enjoyed without interruption. It will be perhaps, worthy of notice, as one singular circumstance, that he dug the grave for the first person in Spencer, upwards of seventy years ago. As he was the first person who prepared a mansion for the dead in this town, so likewise he is the last inhabitant who has removed to those gloomy mansions, between which times, there are supposed to be not less than twelve hundred persons consigned to the same place, which he first marked out, and of which he has since taken possession."

William Bemis was married to Rebekah White, July 5, 1750. His children were Jesse, born June 3, 1751; Sarah, June 3, 1753; David, October 21, 1755; Sibbilah, February 2, 1758; Rebekah, March 12, 1761; Persis, January 10, 1764; William, August 18, 1766; Silas, May 14, 1770. He died March 23, 1801, aged 78. His wife Rebekah, died March 17, 1819, aged 86. He was a captain in the militia, when it was considered an honor to hold such a commission. He purchased the East end of lot 15, in 1746, where he remained until his death. The farm is now owned by Artemas May.

Nathaniel Bemis, was married to Ruth Harrington, of Brookfield, January 10, 1753. His children were Hannah, born May 23, 1753; Elizabeth, October 1, 1755; Barnard, November 2, 1757; Ruth, August 13, 1758; Nathaniel, August 29, 1760; Nathan, May 11, 1764; Betty, June 6, 1766; Moses, May 14,

1769. He received 100 acres of the homestead, where he died, January, 1784, aged 61. His wife Ruth, died August 21, 1817.

Joshua Bemis, was married to Sarah White, September 18, 1755. His children were, Martha, born October 15, 1755; Amasa, October 10, 1757; Lucy, October 22, 1760; Sarah, February 10, 1763; Molly, May 5, 1765; Joshua, October 21, 1768; Fanny, July 24, 1771; Elias, December 23, 1773; Katherine, June 24, 1778; Esther, November 14, 1780; Anna, January 2, 1784. He also received 100 acres of the homestead, where he died, March 24, 1789, aged 59. His wife Sarah, died June 2, 1791, aged 54.

Jonas Bemis, was married to Dolly Wood, of Brookfield. His children were Obadiah, born October 9, 1758; Jonas, June 29, 1760; Israel, December 9, 1762; Asa, December 16, 1764; Dolly, October 9, 1766; Phebe, March 27, 1768; Sarah, October 15, 1769; Elijah, January 19, 1772; Molly, July 25, 1774; Hannah, January 30, 1779. His farm was part of lot 60, where his son Jonas Bemis, Esq., now lives. He served his country both in the old French war, and in the war of the revolution. He died May 7, 1790, aged 53. His wife Dolly, died June 26, 1814.

Sarah Bemis, was married to Daniel Lynde, of Leicester, June 20, 1751. Elizabeth Bemis, was married to Jonathan Moore, of Worcester, July 10, 1755.

JOHN GREATON, from Medford (originally from England,) made the third settlement in Spencer. He purchased lot 25, in 1723, now owned by Phineas Jones. His children were John, Sarah, Mary, Thomas, James, Martha, Hannah and Joseph. He was killed on his own farm by the fall of a tree, which himself cut down, April, 1737. James was married to Hannah Baldwin of Leicester, April 27, 1749. He settled on a part of the home farm. His children were John, born December 22, 1749; James, October 30, 1751; Mary, August 19, 1753; Hannah, May 7, 1755. Thomas, August 1, 1757; Nathan, July 28, 1759; Some of his descendants are now living in Leicester.

FAMILY OF LAMB. The fourth settlement was made by Lieut. Jonathan Lamb 1726 or 1727. He purchased lot 27, and built

a house, where Deacon Joel Grout now lives. His children by his wife Lydia were Jonathan, Joshua, Dorothy and John, born March 5, 1727. Lieut. Lamb was a useful man and highly respected in the community where he was known. He died in 1749.

Jonathan Lamb Jun. was married to Elizabeth Richardson of Leicester, in 1737. He settled on lot 28, where Joseph Wheat now lives, and where he died, April 9, 1760, aged 46. His wife afterwards was married to — Nichols, and died June 21, 1780, aged 62. His children were Ruth, born December 28, 1737; David, December 14, 1739; Jonathan, July 3, 1742; Nathan, November 3, 1744; Thomas, April 13, 1747; James —. Ruth was married to Luke Converse.

Joshua Lamb, was married to Sarah Wilson, March 19, 1741. He received a part of the paternal estate and built the house where Thomas G. Kingsbury lives. His children were Joshua, born July 3, 1741; Samuel, July 4, 1743; David, May 24, 1745; Sarah, August 24, 1747; Mary, August 8, 1749; Lydia, April 8, 1752; Benjamin, April 27, 1754; Jonas, June 24, 1755.

John Lamb, was married to Abigail Smith of Leicester, April 21, 1752. He purchased and settled on lot 6, where his son, Maj. Isaac Lamb lives. His children were James, born April 14, 1753; John, March 22, 1755; Abigail, July 29, 1757; Nathaniel, March 22, 1760; Mary, July 6, 1762; Isaac, December 30, 1764; Pliny, March 5, 1767. He died January 13, 1796, aged 69. His wife died May 7, 1799, aged 66.

Dorothy Lamb was married to Jacob Shaw, Senior, of Leicester, June 10, 1742.

FAMILY OF WILSON. Deacon James Wilson, came from Lexington to Leicester and settled on house lot No. 10, in 1714. How long he remained in Leicester, and when he came to Spencer, is not certainly known. His title to lot 5, bears date in 1730: he did not remove however until some years after that date. His house stood about 50 rods South of F. Howe, Esqr., where the remains of the cellar may now be seen. He was often promoted to offices of trust both in Leicester and Spencer, and was the first deacon of Mr. Eaton's church in 1745. His children by

his wife Mehetable were Joseph, Dorothy, Sarah, Mehetable, James, Anna, born May 15, 1725; Benjamin, May 22, 1727; William, April 4, 1729; John, March 26, 1730; and Azariah, August 25, 1731. Deacon Wilson remained in this town until 1758. At this time the Stockbridge Indians were about selling their lands and emigrating farther west. The fertility of these lands, arrested the attention of purchasers, and Deacon Wilson being of an unstable mind, in his worldly pursuits as well as in his religious* character, sold his farm and removed to Stockbridge. Thus he became the pioneer in the settlement of three towns, Leicester, Spencer and Stockbridge.

James Wilson, Jun. was married to Lydia Vinton of Leicester, March 15, 1748. He owned the mills, now belonging to F. Howe, and were the first erected in this town, having been built probably about 1740. His children were, Hannah, born January 28, 1749; Peter, Sept. 30, 1750; Elizabeth, January 22, 1753; Abigail, May 16, 1755.

Benjamin Wilson was married to Mary Stover, of Leicester, July 7, 1748. His children were Mary, born December 29, 1748; Abigail, July 18, 1751; Rachel, June 21, 1753.

Joseph Wilson was married to Grace Harrington of Brookfield, October 8, 1745. His house was afterwards owned by his son Samuel, now owned by Edmund Muzzy. His children were, Grace, born June 25, 1746; Samuel, May 11, 1748; Lucy, June 21, 1750; Isaac, November 2, 1752; Azariah, October 1, 1756, and Mary——.

The children of Warner Livermore are the fifth generation from Deacon Wilson.

In 1732, John Ormes purchased part of lots 49 and 65. He came from Watertown. His house was on the hill west of Nath'l.

* Soon after he was elected deacon, he left his church and joined himself to a few fanatical foreigners, who had also left the Rev. Mr. Frink's church in Rutland and formed themselves into a Presbyterian society in the South part of that town. After being united with them about three months, he deeply regretted the course he had pursued and begged to be restored again to his former standing in Mr. Eaton's church. After some altercation and mutual crimination he was again received.

Bemis. He died April 12, 1755. His wife Elizabeth died May 19, 1785, aged 100 years 5 months and 9 days, being born in December 1684. He had three sons, John, Jonathan, James. John removed to Providence, R. I., Jonathan lived on the farm, now owned by Warner Livermore. His children by his wife Elizabeth, were Jonathan, born October 7, 1745; Elizabeth, December 10, 1747. His wife died and he was married to Hannah Canada, in Sept. 1748.

A notice of James Ormes will be given in another place.

One of the sixth generation from John Ormes is living in Spencer.

FAMILY OF CUNNINGHAM. Robert Cunningham settled on the South part of lot 18, as early as 1732.† He was born in Ireland 1677, and emigrated to this country, about 1717, and lived in Boston, until he came to this town. He had four children, viz. John, born 1700, Hugh, Robert and James, all born in Ireland. He died May 13, 1766, aged 89.

John Cunningham, was married to Ann Sinclair, March 22, 1739. He was a man of sound judgment, unimpeachable moral character, was frequently promoted to offices of trust and honor in town, and acquired a handsome estate, having added 500 acres (lots 10 and 14) to his paternal estate. He died February 9, 1789, aged 89. His children were Robert, born March 25, 1740; John, February 28, 1746; Jonathan and David, (twins) June 6, 1748; Nathaniel, March 16, 1752; William, November 15, 1754. His wife died November 3, 1775, aged 63.

Hugh Cunningham, was married to Elizabeth Scott, of Leicester, December 2, 1742, and the same year, he established himself on a part of the homestead, where his son Nathaniel, lately lived, and where his widow now resides. His children were, John and Nathaniel. He died in 1754. The farm of Robert Cunningham, Senior, has been owned by his posterity in regular succession for 108 years, some of the sixth generation now inheriting it.

† The deed from Col. Joshua Lamb to Robert Cunningham and Archibald Lamond bears date Sept. 29, 1731.

Archibald Lamond settled on the North part of lot 18, as early as 1732. The farm is now owned by Edmund Newton and Elisha Prouty. He was born in Scotland, in 1677; it is not known when he emigrated to America. He came from Worcester to Spencer. He died April 4, 1771, aged 94. His wife Margaret died September 5, 1775, aged 88. His children were John, Robert, Archibald, Anna, Ruth and Elizabeth. Robert died August 7, 1753, aged 30. John died in 1755. Anna, was married to Thomas Harman of Rutland, November 13, 1744, a celebrated surveyor of land. Ruth was married to Arthur Furbush, of Rutland, June 30, 1749. Elizabeth was married to Daniel Gray, of Pelham, August 18, 1752.

In 1733, Nathaniel Cunningham, a wealthy merchant of Boston, purchased lots 24 and 36, containing 500 acres, and erected the large house, now owned by Lemuel Smith, being considered quite a prodigy for those days. This house was the third erected on the great post road in this town, and although having stood some years more than a century, is still in good repair. Mr. Cunningham also built two other houses on these lots, one on land owned by Josiah Green, and one on land of Maj. Thomas Peirce. These were called the East, West, and North farms, and were inhabited by various tenants until 1760, when Mr. Jeremiah Whittemore purchased 200 acres of the Eastern part, and John Elliot, Esq., purchased 300 acres of the Western part. These lands extended from the East line of the farm of W. Pope, Esqr., to the West line of the farm lately owned by John Stebbings deceased, and from the North line of the farms of Nathan White and Doct. Jonas Guilford to the South line of the farm owned by John Muzzy deceased, comprehending some of the best lands in town.

JOHN CURTIS, was the son of Jonathan Curtis of Roxbury one of the original proprietors of the town, and commenced about 1734, on the South part of lot 67, where John F. Guilford now lives. He continued to reside there until 1759, when he removed to Charlton. He was married to Mary Spear of Leicester, December 12, 1732. His children were Sarah, born August 24, 1735; Abigail, May 9, 1742; Elizabeth, July 8, 1744; Rachel,

October 7, 1747; Thankful, November 16, 1750; Jonathan, June 19, 1754; Rebekah, April 6, 1757; Sarah died in Spencer a few years since. Rachel, was married to Peter Bowen of Brookfield, June 26, 1788; Jonathan removed from Charlton to the State of Ohio, where he died. He was married to Dolly Wilson of Spencer, January 15, 1778.

DAVID ALLEN, from the gore South of Leicester, in 1735, entered upon the North part of lot 61, now owned by Daniel Hobbs. He was married to Esther Newhall of Leicester, July 10, 1732. After her decease, he was married to Sarah Barton, June 6, 1751. Becoming infirm in his bodily health, in 1743, he gave an undivided half of his farm to his brother-in-law, John Newhall, in consideration of being supported through life. It is presumed he had no children.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR (or St. Clair) purchased the West half of lot 68, in 1735. He was born in Ireland, in the County of Down and Parish of Drumbloo, in 1676, and came to New England in 1729. He lived in this town 18 years and died July 4, 1753, aged 77. His wife Mary died August 9, 1765, aged 79. He had four daughters, Ann, Mary, Agnes and Elizabeth. Ann, was married to John Cunningham and has left numerous descendants. Mary, was married to Jonas Mays. Agnes, to William Breckenridge, of Palmer, December 11, 1746, and Elizabeth to John Dunn of Northbridge, October 6, 1774, afterwards removed to Brookfield. The farm is now owned by John Muzzy.

In 1734, DAVID ADAMS, from Medway, purchased a part of lot 65. His children by his wife Abigail were, David born February 10, 1744; Amos, February 15, 1746; Abigail, May 14, 1748; Christian, November 26, 1750; Jemima, April 3, 1753; Lydia, October 26, 1755; Persis, October 24, 1757; Jonathan, May 27, 1761. His wife died March 22, 1801. David was married to Martha McClure, March 1, 1770. Amos, to Mary Lynde of Leicester, February 25, 1766. Christian, to Ebenezer White of Charlton, February 22, 1770, and is now living at the age of 90, and is the only person known to be living who was married by Rev. Mr. Eaton. Jemima, married to Jude Adams, of Brookfield, August 29, 1771. Persis, married to Caleb Nich-

ols, of Leicester, June 13, 1780. David was married to Hannah Bemis, second wife, April 3, 1793.

In 1736, ASHER RICE, purchased and took possession of the West half of lot 7. Mr. Thomas Rice, father of Asher, was the first settler in Westborough, then a part of Marlborough, and was for several years, representative for the town of Marlborough in the General Court. His house was made a garrison in 1711, and stood on the plain, where the village of Westborough is now situated.* On the 5th of August, 1704, as several persons were at work in the field, a party of 8 or 10 Indians rushed from the woods, and killed Nahor, son of Mr. Edmund Rice, and captivated two more of his sons, Silas and Timothy, and also, Asher and Adonizah, sons of Thomas Rice, and carried them to Canada. Silas, Timothy and Adonizah never returned, but Asher was redeemed by his father, and returned in about four years. When taken by the Indians, he was about 10 years of age. While in Westborough, he married Tabitha —, by whom he had Asher, born in 1734, Tabitha, born 1746. These came with him to Spencer. His other children were, Sarah, born July 20, 1738; Anna, June 1, 1741; Jacob, May 20, 1744; Martha, June 14, 1746; Nathaniel, July 4, 1750; David, June 30, 1752; Jedediah, April 2, 1755. Asher was married to Sarah Phelps, a second wife, October 3, 1782, by whom he had several children, now living in Spencer. He died, May 13, 1823, aged 89. Tabitha, was married to Abner Hollowell, November 6, 1761. Anna, was married to Ebenezer Smith of Leicester, December 2, 1767. The house of Asher Rice, Senior, was on the Western side of the "Waite Road," about half a mile Westerly of the house of Elliot Boice, where may be seen the vestiges of his cellar. While among the Indians, he imbibed many of their peculiarities, some of which he retained through life. He erected forts and garrisons to guard against the Indians, long after they had all disappeared. His eccentricities of character, on other matters, were somewhat remarkable. He spent much time in

* The garrison of Mr. Rice stood, on the spot now occupied by the house of the late Mr. Fayerweather.

abortive attempts at building mills and other projects, all on a plan, peculiarly his own. He died August 20, 1773, aged 79.

JOHN READ, settled on the Eastern half of lot 7, in 1736. He was born in Ireland 1699, and emigrated to this country in 1729, and removed from Milton to Spencer. He died January 31, 1787, aged 88. His first wife Ann, died in 1743. His second wife, Martha Blair, from Warren, to whom he was married in 1745, died in 1791, aged 82. He had a son named John. The farm is now owned by Elliot Boice.

The North part of lot 67, was settled by Joshua Barton in 1737. He was originally from Oxford, from whence he came to Leicester, as early as 1720, and thence to Spencer. He had several children by his wife Anna, viz: Joshua; Timothy born April 13, 1732; Nathan, July 23, 1734; Reuben, March 28, 1738. Joshua, Jun., was married to Abigail Pratt, of Framingham in 1750. His children were, Daniel, born August 25, 1751; Nathaniel, July 28, 1753; Margaret, December 18, 1755; Reuben, April 28, 1758; Hannah, July 27, 1760; Tabitha, October 21, 1763; Joshua, October 9, 1766; Abia, October 25, 1769. The farm of Joshua Barton, Senior, is owned by Jonas Guilford, 2d, and others. The farm of Joshua Barton, Jun., is owned by Silas Grout and others.

Capt. John Stebbings, was the son of Samuel Stebbings, and to him and his brother Joseph Stebbings, was assigned the first house lot of 30 acres, in Leicester in 1714. Tradition says they came from England, at what time is not known, but he and his brother were neither of them 21 years of age when they came to Leicester. This house lot was on "Strawberry Hill," and comprehended a considerable part of the present village in Leicester. He was the first grantee, named in the deed, giving the Easterly half of the town to the first fifty families, dated January 8, 1724. He was a housewright by trade, but he acquired only a moderate property; yet he was a man of intelligence and influence, and was often promoted to offices both in civil and military life. While in Leicester he was married to Sarah Southgate of that town. His children by her while in Leicester were, Sarah, born September 30, 1732; Elizabeth,

September 2, 1734. He came into Spencer in 1737 or 1738, and took possession of lot 6, (now owned by Maj. Isaac Lamb.) After this, his children were, John, born July 21, 1738; James, April 23, 1740; Mary, October 2, 1742. His wife died November 16, 1742, and he was married to Mary Hinds of Brookfield, in 1743. By her he had Benjamin, born June 25, 1744; Reuben, April 18, 1746; Patience, August 19, 1747. He was a soldier in the French war in 1746, under Gov. Shirley, then raging in Canada and Nova Scotia. In 1755, he was an officer in the next French war and died in 1756, near Lake George. His daughter Sarah, was married to Joseph Bigelow. Elizabeth, was married to Daniel Newhall of Leicester. John Stebbings Jun., was married to Olive Muzzy, daughter of Dea. John Muzzy, October 11, 1764. He lived in Spencer and acquired a handsome estate, two thousand dollars of which, he generously gave to the congregational society in Spencer. He left no children and died July 17, 1821, aged 88. His widow died March 1, 1840, at the advanced age of 96.

Moses Smith was in Spencer, as early as 1738, and purchased the most part of lots 21 and 23, comprehending what are now the farms of Daniel Whittemore, Washington Hill, Jesse Cutter, Luther J. Clapp, Eli Prouty, part of the farms of Nathan Prouty, the late Asa Prouty and Joshua Hill. His house stood about 40 rods North of the house of Daniel Whittemore. After selling off several farms to various individuals, he sold the remainder with the buildings to Samuel Bemis, Jun. in 1750. In 1752, he owned the "Jenk's tavern and farm," and in 1754, he sold it to John Flagg of Waltham, and removed from town. His children by his wife Elizabeth, were Jonas, born March 18, 1739; Moses, August 10, 1743, Elizabeth, August 13, 1745; Amos, April 28, 1750; Joseph, March 26, 1752.

FAMILY OF CAPEN. Samuel Capen, originally from Dorchester, came to Leicester about 1733, from thence he came to Spencer and purchased lot 19, in 1738, now owned by Nathaniel Green and Elliot Hall. This he sold to John Lamb and in 1751, purchased a part of lot 48, now owned by Elias Hall. About 1760,

he removed to Belchertown, where he died. He was Parish clerk from 1747 to 1753, and assessor several years, and is said to have been celebrated as a mathematician. His children by his wife Deborah were Ann, born November 11, 1724; Timothy, 1726; James —. These were born in Dorchester. While in Leicester, he had Samuel, born March 14, 1734; Elizabeth, January 14, 1735; John, May 1, 1737; Hannah, May 22, 1739; Edmund, July 16, 1740; Phebe, January 6, 1742; Samuel 2d, August 29, 1743; Purchase, September 25, 1746.

Ann was married to Jacob Prouty.

Timothy, purchased a part of lot 48, in 1750, now owned by his grandson, Capt. Daniel Capen. He was married to Mary Merrit of Leicester, April 2, 1751, by whom he had Timothy, born August 8, 1752; Elizabeth, October 10, 1754; Mary, June 1, 1756; Hannah, November 2, 1758; Abijah, September 23, 1762; Deborah, January 14, 1764; Patience, May 3, 1766. Timothy Capen, senior, died in 1804, aged 78. His wife Mary died March 31, 1714. James Capen, was married to Elizabeth Prouty, November 28, 1758. He commenced with his father, on part of lot 48, in 1751. In 1763, he purchased and built on part of lot 17, now owned by William Bemis. His children by his first wife were Lydia, born August 16, 1759; Ruth, March 1, 1769; James, August 3, 1762. She died and he was married to Sarah Sawin, December 30, 1762, by whom he had three daughters. He died June 14, 1807.

THE FAMILY OF PROUTY. This name is the most numerous of any in Spencer, and they derive their ancestry from Richard Prouty, who lived in Scituate as early as 1667. Isaac Prouty, son of Richard, was married to Elizabeth Merrit in 1710, by whom he had a numerous family of children, of whom six sons, viz. Jacob, David, John, Adam, James and Isaac, and one daughter, Elizabeth, removed to Spencer. David Prouty was born in 1716. In 1739, he purchased a part of lot 23, lately owned by his son, Asa Prouty, deceased, and the same year he was married to Elizabeth Smith, sister of Moses Smith. His children were David, born November 27, 1739; Elizabeth, August 27,

1741 ; Ruth, September 12, 1743 ; Mary, May 21, 1745 ; Sarah, March 10, 1747 ; Jesse, March 13, 1749 ; Asa, Feb. 1751 ; Lucy, Feb. 26, 1753 ; Bulah, March 27, 1755 ; Oliver, May 27, 1757 ; Rhoda, May 17, 1759 ; Lucretia, 22, 1761. He died December 29, 1767, aged 51. His wife Elizabeth, died April 24, 1789. David Prouty, son of David Prouty, was married to Hannah Ball, daughter of Deacon Eleazer Ball, November 27, 1761. He settled on the east end of lot 30, where his son David lives. He was a soldier in the war with France, a captain in war of the revolution and major in the militia, and often one of the selectmen and assessors. He died August 25, 1814, aged 75. Eliza Prouty was married to Daniel Ball, Feb. 6, 1772 ; Ruth to Jonathan Munroe, October 19, 1769 ; Mary to James Draper, May 31, 1769 ; Sarah, to Benjamin Hayward, December 29, 1774 ; Asa to Lydia Livermore, and afterwards to Tabitha Ormes September 29, 1785 ; Bulah to William Knight, July 7, 1774 ; Olive to John Graham, May 30, 1780.

Jacob Prouty was born March 14, 1715, and was married to Ann Capen, daughter of Samuel Capen, December 8, 1741. In 1470, he purchased the Northeast part of lot 23, and built a house which stood about half a mile Easterly of the house of Maj. Eli Prouty. His children were Deborah, born October 19, 1742 ; Phebe, July 23, 1744 ; Lydia, June 4, 1747 ; Anna, November 22, 1748 ; Samuel, January 19, 1750 ; Jacob, April 11, 1752 ; Hannah, August 15, 1754 ; Caleb, September 7, 1756 ; Joshua, May 18, 1759 ; Nathan, October 22, 1761 ; Mercy, September 14, 1763. Deborah was married to John Bisco, Esq., May 10, 1764 ; Phebe, to Peter Harwood, May 25, 1763 ; Lydia, to Silas Stevens, June 20, 1765 ; Anna to Amos Munroe, December 1, 1768 ; Jacob to Rachel Eddy, September 29, 1774 ; Joshua to Molly Muzzy, November 8, 1781 ; Nathan to Patience Converse, September 30, 1784 ; Mercy to Buckminster White, April 8, 1784.

John Prouty was born in 1718, and was married to Abigail Johnson, daughter of Capt. Benjamin Johnson, October, 1745. He also settled on a part of lot 21, where he built a saw and grist mill, on Seven mile river, now owned by Muzzy and Nichols.

His children were, Benjamin, born October 1, 1746; John, January 4, 1749; Isaac, December 22, 1750; Johnson, January 8, 1754; Abigail, November 27, 1756; Eli, September 8, 1757; Daniel, July 15, 1759; Rebekah and Esther (twins,) June 11, 1764; Lucy, June 5, 1766; Molly and Dolly, (twins) April 19, 1768. John Prouty senior, died January 29, 1792, aged 73. His widow died January 31, 1801, aged 74. Benjamin was married to Sarah Green, January 10, 1774; John to Lucy Gleason, October 13, 1771; Isaac to Anna Dannel, January 20, 1772; Johnson, to Anna Livermore April 5, 1774; Abigail to John Lamb, July 1, 1784; Eli to Rebekah Bemis, May 28, 1782; Daniel to Catherine Palmer, June 7, 1781; Esther to Joshua Whitney, June 7, 1781; Rebekah to Nathaniel Lamb, November 20, 1783; Lucy to Eli Whittemore, July 24, 1783; Molly to Thomas Hatch, November 15, 1787; Dolly to Jonathan Knowlton, March 3, 1791.

Adam Prouty was born 1721. He married early and lived in Scituate and Hanover several years. His wife died after he removed to Spencer and he married Dorothy Howe of Rutland, January 15, 1751. In 1763, he purchased a part of lot 17. He afterwards purchased a part of lot 64, where he died. His wife Dorothy died October 23, 1809. He had a numerous family of children, but there is no record to be found of any of them except Seth, who was born November 12, 1761. His children by his first wife were Grace, Sarah, Luther, Isaac, &c. and by his last wife, Seth, Rhoda, Eunice, Patty, Desire, Dolly, Adam, Lucy, &c. Isaac Prouty, son of Adam, was married to Molly Watson, of Leicester, December 10, 1778. Rhoda was married to Jude Hamilton of Brookfield, April 18, 1793; Eunice to Abia Barton, May 26, 1793; Patty to Simeon Phelps, November 3, 1796; Dolly to James Adams, October 8, 1800. The farm where he died is owned by Elias Adams.

James Prouty was born 1730. After residing on different farms he finally settled on a part of lot 40, where his son Reuben now lives and where he died. He was married to Mary Dinsmore, June 25, 1765. He died May 3, 1813, aged 83. His wife died June 1, 1803. His children were Amos, born March 8, 1766;

Reuben, December 18, 1771; Sarah, December 10, 1777; Susannah, March 8, 1782; Lydia, October 17, 1783; James, January 30, 1786; Polly, December 9, 1788. Reuben was married to Sally Bartlett of Vermont; Sarah to James Bothwell, October 2, 1797; Susannah to John Bothwell, December 26, 1799; Lydia to Brigham Morse, Feb. 2, 1804; Polly to Alpheus Bemis, August 12, 1805.

Isaac Prouty, senior, was born 1732. He was married to Priscilla Ramsdell. He came to Spencer and settled on the west end of lot 16, in 1757, where his grandson, John N. Prouty lives. He died May 5, 1805, aged 73. His widow died July 13, 1814, aged 80. His children were Priscilla, born October 1, 1756; Elijah and Elisha, (twins) January 27, 1759; Sage, November 2, 1762; Joseph, March 26, 1767; Thomas, June 13, 1769; Jesse, August 6, 1771; Avis, April 27, 1775; Betsey, January 24, 1780; Elijah, was married to Anna Munroe, June 19, 1788; Elisha, to Elizabeth Demond of Rutland. Sage to Alexander Dean of Oakham, March 18, 1784; Joseph to Betsey Draper, May 19, 1791. Thomas to Louis Wood, September 19, 1793; Jesse, to Abigail Burden, April 22, 1798.

The organ of Philoprogenitiveness must have been prominently developed in the family of Proutys, as among their numerous descendants, there have been no less than seven pairs of twins.

In 1739, Henry White from Dedham, purchased the Northerly part of lot 79, now owned by Jacob Wilson. He was married to Abigail Draper, daughter of Capt. James Draper of Dedham. She was born December 12, 1721. Their children were Rebekah, born December 11, 1741; William, May 20, 1744; Abigail, April 4, 1747. He died 1748. His widow married to Asa Baldwin and died November 3, 1817, aged 94. Rebekah was married to John Worster, April 28, 1763; William was married to Esther Lynde, May 12, 1768; Abigail to Johnson Lynde, May 21, 1767. William inherited the homestead, had a Major's commission, was married to Elizabeth Browning for 2d wife 1817. He died February 1826, aged 82. His wife Esther died August 5, 1815.

Jacob Stoddard settled on the south part of Lot 79, in 1740. His children by his wife Rachel were, Jacob, born 1730; Rachel,

March 1731; Jonathan, April 1734; Eleanor, July 11, 1735; Elijah, January 15, 1737; Sarah and Mary (twins) March 25, 1739; Abigail, August 28, 1741. His wife Rachel died and he was married to Hannah Minot, November 20, 1744. By her he had Mary, born Sept. 6, 1745; Richard, January 25, 1747; second Richard, Sept. 30, 1748; Samuel, June 23, 1750; Hannah, August 11, 1752; second Mercy, May 31, 1755. His second wife died and he was married to Mary May, widow of William May, October 25, 1757; Jonathan was married to Elizabeth Baldwin of Leicester April 10, 1760; Eleanor to Jonathan Snow, of Leicester, May 20, 1758, and again to Dea. John Muzzy; Mary to David May, April 5, 1764; Mercy to Samuel Bryan June 18, 1778; Jacob Stoddard's house stood about half a mile southeast of the house of Jacob Wilson. The farm was afterwards owned by Daniel Atwood and now owned by Jacob Wilson.

In 1740, Oliver Watson from Leicester purchased lot 2, comprehending the farm of his grandson Jeremiah Watson, part of the farm of Edmund Muzzy and the farm of the late John Stebbings. He was married to Elizabeth Blair of Worcester, December 1742. He was a respectable and useful member of society, was deacon of the Congregational church, a Patriot of the revolution, was promoted to various responsible offices in the town, was a delegate chosen by the towns of Leicester and Spencer to sit in the Convention at Watertown in 1775; was a representative to the General Court from Spencer, being the first chosen by the town alone in its corporate capacity. He died December 20, 1804, aged 86. His children were Oliver, born November 18, 1743; Robert, May 28, 1746; Elizabeth, January 1, 1749; Mary, April 30, 1752; James, July 20, 1754; Abigail, November 27, 1759; Martha, June 18, 1763; David, March 16, 1766. Oliver was married to Rebekah Cunningham 1780. Robert to Tamar Whittemore 1777; Abigail to Reuben Whittemore, March 2, 1779; Martha to Benjamin Green, June 16, 1785.

Capt. John Newhall, was originally from Malden. In 1741, he was married to Dorothy Newhall of Leicester, and in 1743 came into possession of the farm of his brother in law, David Allen, being part of lot 61, now owned by Daniel Hobbs, and the

next year he purchased the remainder of the lot, where his son Allen afterwards lived, and where his grandson, Reuben Newhall now lives. The children of John Newhall were Allen, born July 3, 1743; John, November 26, 1745; Betsey, March 14, 1748; Sarah, June 30, 1751; David, February 11, 1754; Mercy, May 6, 1756; Phebe, February 5, 1759. Allen Newhall was married to Rebekah Bemis, daughter of Samuel Bemis, July 2, 1765, and again to Dolly Bemis daughter of Jonas Bemis, February 23, 1792.

In 1743, Oliver Seager, from Newton, purchased the eastern end of lot 16, now owned by John Bigelow, where he lived until 1750. He lived in various parts of the town and in 1770, purchased a part of lot 37, now owned by Nathan Prouty. He made some pretension to the profession of physic, was married to Lydia Clark July 12, 1749, and died April 4, 1803, aged 83. His children were Ephraim, born February 28, 1750; Lydia, August 8, 1752; Ruth, March 11, 1756; Caleb, June 14, 1758, Henry, August 26, 1760; Joshua ——— Oliver, March 2, 1771.

In 1743, Josiah Robinson, from Uxbridge, settled on the west end of lot 22, and built a house which is a part of the "Jenk's tavern" so called. He was married to Anna Barton in 1738. His children were Samuel, born July 24, 1742; William, June 16, 1744; Joshua, June 2, 1747. In 1752, he removed from the town. His son William, father of the wife of Jacob Wilson, died in Charlton a few years since.

THE FAMILY OF DRAPER. The family of Draper trace their ancestry to Thomas Draper, who was born and lived in Yorkshire, England, in the Parish of Hempstontell and Vicarage of Halifax, and was by trade a clothier. He had six children, viz. Thomas, John, William, James, Mary and Martha, who all died in England, except James. He was born in 1618, and came to Roxbury, Massachusetts, but at what time is uncertain, but probably between 1640 and 1650. The name of one of the first proprietors of the town of Lancaster 1654, was James Draper, and as no other person of that name is known to have been in this country at that time, it is probable he was the person. He was

married to Miriam Standsfield, who came from the same place in England, some time after her husband, by whom he had five sons, viz. James, John, Moses, Daniel, and Jonathan. He died in July 1691, aged 73. His wife, Miriam, died in January 1697, aged 77. James Draper, son of James Draper, was born in Roxbury, 1654, and was married to Abigail Whitney, by whom he also, had five sons, viz. Nathaniel, William, James, Gideon and Ebenezer, all born in Roxbury. The second James Draper died April 30, 1698, aged 44, and his wife Abigail died October 25, 1721, aged 59. James Draper, son of the second James, was born about the year 1694, and was first married to Rachel Aldrich, who died early, leaving no children. He was again married to Abigail — November 12, 1719. He lived in Dedham, and had twelve children by his last wife, among whom was James, born September 22, 1720; Abigail, December 12, 1721; John, June 16, 1723, and Joshua, December 25, 1724, who all came to Spencer. John, came 1744, but died at Dedham, November 8, 1745. Abigail came previous, and was married to Henry White, a notice of whom, has been previously given. James and Joshua, settled on lots 33 and 34, which had been purchased by their father in 1736. James Draper 3d. died in April 1768, his wife Abigail having died November 12, 1767, just forty eight years after they were married.

James Draper 4th, was married to Mehetable Whiting of Dedham, in 1742, by whom he had Rebekah, born May 2, 1743; John, November 16, 1745; James, July 24, 1747; Ira, February 14, 1753; Mehetable, August 29, 1756. Ira died young. Rebekah was married to Benjamin Bemis, son of Samuel Bemis, November 17, 1768; John, to Rebekah Muzzy, December 24, 1770, James, to Mary Prouty, May 31, 1769; Mehetable to Noah Forbush, November 9, 1779. James Draper 4th, died March 2, 1781, aged 61. His wife, Mehetable died July 18, 1763. Joshua Draper, son of James Draper 3d, was married to Abigail Fairbanks. His children by her were, Joshua, born May 14, 1749; Sarah, March 19, 1751; Samuel, May 8, 1752; Abigail, May 2, 1756. His wife died February 17, 1762, and he was married to Sarah Wright of Brookfield, by whom he had Asa, born March 11, 1763;

Simeon, March 29, 1765; Ira, February 18, 1767; Joel, June 18, 1769; William, December 9, 1771. Sarah was married to Jonas Muzzy, May 2, 1771; Asa to Ruth Whittmore, July 7, 1785, Simeon to Polly Bemis, August 24, 1786.

Thomas Bridge, came from Lexington 1744, and settled on the Westerly part of lot 20, and built a house where Joshua Prouty now lives. He was married to Mary Harrington of Brookfield 1745. His children were Thomas, born October 3, 1746; George, February 8, 1748; Jane, June 18, 1752; Amos, June 26, 1755; Mary, April 10, 1757; Millacent, May 14, 1761; Jesse, January 13, 1763; Esther, November 4, 1764. He removed to Shutesbury in 1771, and was living in 1795. Thomas was married to Elizabeth Jones April 21, 1768.

Rev. Joshua Eaton, purchased the Easterly part of lot 22 in 1744. He built his house 1745, the same now owned by William Pope, Esq., and is now in good repair, having been erected more than 95 years. (A sketch of Mr. Eaton and family will be given in another place.)

Robert Morgan came from Beverly, and settled on the Easterly part of lot 53. His house stood on land now owned by Jonathan Grout, on the East side of the road, near where Samuel Baldwin formerly resided. His children by his wife Hannah were, Andrew, Robert and Isaac born in Beverly, and Israel, born in Spencer, August 24, 1744; Martha, June 1, 1747. Robert was married to Anna Jackson, June 15, 1758, and again to Mary Woodard, July 14, 1763. Isaac, was married to Abigail Tucker of Leicester, September 29, 1763. Martha, to Asa Thayer, August 28, 1769. Israel to Sarah Jackson, May 24, 1770.

Mathias Clark, settled on lot 23, in 1745, his house was situated on the East side of the town road, about 30 rods South of the house of Washington Hill, who owns the farm. He was married to Lydia Eaton, sister of the Rev. Joshua Eaton. He had several children, viz., Lydia, who was married to Oliver Seagar, July 12, 1749. Rebekah, to David Barnes, December 23, 1762. Anna, to Joseph Gibbs, of Brookfield, June 3, 1762. Sarah, to David Lamb 2d. September 2, 1767. Mary to Daniel

Hill, September 28, 1769. Martha, to Benjamin Sumner, 1771. Solomon, died in the revolutionary war. Esther, to Elisha Whitney, February 20, 1783. Mr. Clark died 1780. His wife died in August 1800, aged 93.

In 1745, Daniel Hubbard, from Worcester, settled on the West part of lot 53. He was married to Elizabeth Lynde of Leicester, March 2, 1748, by whom he had Jonathan, born June 15, 1750, who settled in Paxton, was a Justice of the Peace, &c. lately deceased. Mr. Hubbard sold his farm to Robert Woodward, of Leicester, in 1750, and removed to Leicester. Robert Woodward was married to Deliverance Demond, of Leicester, sister to Capt. Elijah Demond, January 20, 1743, by whom he had Betty, born September 13, 1744; Caleb, February 4, 1746; Phebe, May 15, 1758. Mr. Woodward sold the farm to Joseph Baldwin formerly from Malden.

In 1746, Joshua Whitney, settled on part of lot 5. He purchased the land of Dea. James Wilson, whose daughter Mehetable he married. His house stood about 30 rods, South-east of Dea. Wilson house, on land now owned by Sarah Wright. His wife died May 1, 1785. Mr. Whitney died the same year. His children were, Phinehas, born June 24, 1740; Lemuel, January 5, 1742; Bulah, June 3, 1745; Elisha, January 8, 1747; John, May 4, 1751; Sibbilah, January 26, 1754; Mehetable, July 7, 1756; Joshua, November 11, 1758; Susannah, August 15, 1762. Bulah was married to John Ball, April 14, 1765. Joshua, to Esther Whitney, June 7, 1781. Elisha, to Esther Clark, February 20, 1783. Susannah, to William Hiscock of Westfield, February 5, 1784.

In 1745, Oldham Gates, from Bolton, settled on the central part of lot 15. He was married to Mehetable Trowbridge of Framingham, 1745, by whom he had Mehetable, born June 13, 1746; Susannah, June 7, 1748; Ruth, March 21, 1750; Jonas, June 27, 1752. His wife died, and he was married to Patience Bartlet, daughter of Nathaniel Bartlet, of Brookfield, November 21, 1754, by whom he had John, born March 2, 1757; James, January 20, 1759; Thankful, July 9, 1760; Dorothy, September 28, 1755. He sold his farm to Capt. Jonathan Wood, of

Upton, who removed on to it 1767, and died February 4, 1796, aged 95. The farm is now owned by Eber Snow.

In 1747, John Graham from Rutland, purchased and settled on the West part of lot 31, and built a house, since owned by Isaac Pratt, and now by Avery Bush. He was married to Jane Thompson by whom he had Robert, born June 19, 1747; Andrew, June 22, 1749; Kate, June 18, 1751; William, August 28, 1753; Elizabeth, August 6, 1755; John, September 1, 1757; Jesse, March 31, 1760; Mary, June 6, 1762; Samuel, September 19, 1764. Mr. Graham died March 17, 1776. His wife Jane died March 18, 1808, aged 87. John was married to Olive Prouty, May 30, 1780. Elizabeth, to Sylvanus Gates, April 4, 1780. Mary to James Bigelow, December 18, 1783. Jesse to Anna Parker, May 12, 1785. Kate to Kerley Ward of Paxton.

Capt. Benjamin Johnson, was an early settler in Leicester, and removed from that town to Spencer 1747, and settled on a part of lot 21 and built a house which is yet standing and owned by Jesse Cutter. While in Leicester, he filled many honorable stations, and the first year of the incorporation of Spencer, he was chosen Moderator, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectman and Assessor! His children by his wife Rebekah, were Rebekah, born May 4, 1719; Esther, May 8, 1721; Mary, April 30, 1724, Abigail, December 15, 1726. Rebekah, was married to Daniel Lynde of Leicester, May 1, 1740. Their children were Johnson, born July 8, 1741; Esther, born ——. Johnson Lynde, was married to Abigail White. Esther, to Maj. William White. Mary Johnson, was married to Samuel Bemis, Jun., November 11, 1742. Abigail Johnson, was married to John Prouty, October 9, 1745. Capt. Johnson died January 23, 1771. His widow died about 1780, aged more than 80 years.

In 1747, David Knapp, from Newton, settled on the North part of 22, afterwards owned by Thomas White, Isaac Jenks, and since by James Draper, and Lewis Bemis. The house was on the hill about 50 rods Westerly of Moose Pond. He lived in various parts of the town and died on lot 28, now owned by Caleb M. Morse. His children by his first wife Sarah, were Anna,

born October 4, 1741; John, May 27, 1744; Joseph, October 16, 1745; David, June 30, 1750; Sarah, May 15, 1752; Enoch, July 18, 1754. His wife died and he was married to Mehetable Rice of Spencer, September 27, 1759, by whom he had Nathan, born September 29, 1760. John was married to Ascenath Green, of Leicester, November 25, 1773. Sarah, to James Lamb, May 4, 1775. Enoch, to Lydia Bemis, daughter of Edmund Bemis, November 28, 1782.

In 1747, Deacon John Worster, came from Boxford and settled on the Easterly part of lot 20, and built a house, since owned by James Livermore, and Benjamin Drury, Esq., and on the same site of Amos Brown. He lived there many years, and then removed from the town, and left the farm to his son John. His children were, Phebe, who was married to Samuel Garfield, 2d., August 9, 1750, and lived on the farm lately owned by Ezra Bennet. Mr. Garfield died September 16, 1766, and she was married to William Watson, January 14, 1768, and lived on the same farm. Mary Worster, was married to Abel Woodard, December 20, 1750, and lived where the house of Lory Grout now stands. John, who is well recollected by many now living, was married to Mary Muzzy, November 20, 1760. She died and he was married to Rebekah White, by whom he had several children.

Samuel Garfield, from Weston, settled on the central part of lot 16, in 1748, where his grandson, Joseph now lives. He was born April 22, 1720. His first wife was Hannah, by whom he had one daughter named Hannah, who was born July 18, 1755. His wife died, and he was married to Abigail Peirce, of Holden, May 27, 1756, by whom he had Samuel, born March 5, 1756; Joseph, September 19, 1758; Daniel, September 29, 1760; Josiah, October 12, 1762; Abigail, August 28, 1764; Enoch, September 28, 1766; Elisha, April 25, 1769; John, July 26, 1771; Elizabeth, September 15, 1773; Silas, January 19, 1776. Samuel Garfield died June 12, 1792, aged 72. His wife Abigail, died January 23, 1816.

He was a large, athletic man, well recollected by many of our old people for his sallies of wit, feats of strength and cheerful disposition.

John White settled on the East part of lot 68, about 1748. He emigrated from England and settled in Framingham, where he followed the trade of a carpenter. While living there he was married to Sibbilah Buckminster, daughter of Col. Buckminster of the same town, who with her father emigrated from Scotland.*

From Framingham he came to Spencer, and lived on the farm where his son John afterwards lived, now owned by Doct. Jonas Guilford. He died August 20, 1778, aged 84. His wife died October 23, 1794, aged 88. His children were John, Thomas, Rebekah, Sarah, Sibbilah and Rand. The first five were born in Framingham. Rand, was born in Spencer, October 15, 1751. John was married to Silence Baldwin, daughter of David Baldwin, May 5, 1757, His children were Silence, born January 19, 1758; Buckminster, April 15, 1759; John, August 18, 1760. Samuel, February 17, 1762; Jonathan, December 8, 1763; Anna, October 17, 1765; Sarah, May 13, 1768; Ruth, July 28, 1770; Nathan, June 9, 1772; David, May 18, 1774. John White, died September 18, 1803.

Thomas was married to Abigail Muzzy, daughter of Deacon John Muzzy, December 30, 1756. His children were Thomas, born November 24, 1757; Thaddeus, July 16, 1759; Abigail, May 3, 1761; Mary, November 11, 1762; Benjamin, August 8, 1764; Joel, May 3, 1766; Sibbilah, February 13, 1768; Nancy, May 25, 1769; Jonah, April 20, 1771; Elizabeth, July 1, 1774, Amos, February 6, 1776; John Bradshaw, February 1, 1778; Molly, September 2, 1782. Thomas White died February 25, 1822, aged 90. His wife Abigail, died September 24, 1811, aged 72. Rand, was married to Mehetable Rice. Rebekah, to Capt. William Bemis, July 5, 1750. Sarah, to Joshua Bemis, September 18, 1755. Sibbilah, to David Baldwin, Jun. January 9, 1763. Maj. Thomas Peirce, owns the farm of the late Thomas White.

In 1748, Simeon Wilson, settled on the West part of lot 50,

* Col. Joseph Buckminster, was 40 years a member of the Provincial Legislature of Massachusetts. Rev. Joseph Buckminster of Rutland, was one of his sons, and consequently, brother to Mrs. White.

which in the early records was called "Orchard Hill," now owned by Paul Sibley. He was married to Dorothy Brown, of Leicester, in 1746. Their children were Thomas, born July 27, 1748; David, February 22, 1750; Lydia, October 6, 1752; Pearly, December 2, 1754; Samuel, February 25, 1757; Dolly, April 20, 1759; Azubah, November 22, 1763; Phebe, May 6, 1766; Simeon, June 13, 1768; Benjamin, August 9, 1770. Lydia, was married to Abel Wheeler, January 2, 1777. Dolly, to Jonathan Curtis, of Charlton, January 15, 1778.

In 1748, Elisha Cranson purchased and settled on the East part of lot 50. He was married to Abigail Baldwin, daughter of David Baldwin, July 24, 1746. The farm is now owned by James Sprague. He afterwards lived in other parts of the town, until he removed to Ashfield, where he died in 1804, aged 84. His children were Samuel, born February 20, 1748; David June 30, 1750; Elisha, February 19, 1752; Frederick, February 20, 1754; Ebenezer, January 19, 1756; Elizabeth, February 19, 1758; Asa, March 16, 1760; Abner, February 19, 1763. David was married to Bathsheba Briggs, December 20, 1770. Elizabeth, to Samuel Guilford. Mr. Cranson has one grand-child living in Spencer, viz. Roxa, the wife of James Kinney.

Cornelius Goodnow, was from Rutland, and settled on the East part of lot 31, in 1748. He lived there several years; not much however, is known respecting him. He had one son, by his wife Abigail, named Jonathan, born May 22, 1751. The land is now owned by Avery Bush.

In 1749, William Drury, settled on the Northeast part of lot 56, now owned by Warner Livermore. He was married to Lydia Adams, of Medway, 1752. His children were Joel, born December 16, 1753; Lydia, July 13, 1757; Susannah, April 11, 1763; Sarah, July 16, 1764. The two first died young. Susannah, was married to Capt. James Capen, May 5, 1785. Sarah, to John Woodard, 3d. May 5, 1784. William Drury, died 1765. The farm was afterwards owned by John Watson. His children by his wife Dinah, were John, born March 6, 1762; Jacob, January 1, 1765; Enoch, August 30, 1767; Lydia, October 1, 1769; Leonard, January 13, 1772; Henry, October 29, 1772; David,

October 2, 1776; Sally, December 8, 1779. John Watson, died April 12, 1789, aged 59. His wife Dinah, died November 20, 1802, aged 65.

In 1749, David Bridges purchased lot 35, and built a house, lately pulled down, and a new one erected by Elisha Drake. His children by his wife Keziah, were David, born March 2, 1751; John, December 7, 1752; Jonathan, January 14, 1755. His wife died July 28, 1755, and nothing further is now known of him.

In 1750, William May, from Leicester, settled on the West end of lot 15. He was married to Mary Snow of Leicester, August 13, 1741. His children were Richard, born December 4, 1743; David, 1745; Sarah, September 16, 1751; Mary, October 14, 1754. He died 1757, and his widow was married to Jacob Stoddard, for his third wife. Sarah, was married to Lemuel Green. David was married to Mary Stoddard, April 5, 1764. He inherited the homestead. His children were William, born June 1, 1765; Esther, June 4, 1767; Samuel, September 19, 1768; Phebe, January 29, 1771; Sibbil, May 27, 1773; Amos, October 16, 1775; Eunice, November 22, 1777; Joel, July 6, 1780; Abigail, November 28, 1782. Mr. May unfortunately lost his whole estate, by a suit at law, having fought against government in Shay's insurrection. He removed to Vermont where he died. The farm is now owned by Maj. Eli Prouty.

David Baldwin, was an early settler of this town. He removed from Hingham, and settled on a part of lot 72, now owned by Joseph Hambry, about 1740. He was born 1701, and died about 1777. He was the Architect of the present congregational meeting house, which was raised, June 9, 1772, although not completely finished until 1776. His children were Abigail, Asa, David, Zebulon, Silence, Mary and Jonathan. Abigail, was married to Elisha Cranson, July 24, 1746. Asa, was a gentleman of respectability, was often one of the selectmen, committee of correspondence, &c. an officer in the war of the revolution, and a Major in the home service. He was married to Abigail White, widow of Henry White, March 7, 1750. He settled on the adjoining parts of the two lots 73 and 50, now owned by Caleb

Sibley. His children were Ruth, born April 8, 1751; Chloe, October 12, 1755; Olive, May 15, 1758; Lucy, July 10, 1760. Ruth was married to Samuel Watson, of Leicester, January 28, 1773. Chloe, to James Sprague, May 4, 1779. Olive, to Peter Rice, November 12, 1778. Lucy, to Phinehas Jones, October 19, 1786.

David Baldwin, Jun. was married to Sibbilah White, June 9, 1763. Silence, to John White, May 5, 1757; Mary, to Daniel Bacon, August 3, 1758. Jonathan Baldwin, was born 1742, and removed to Templeton, was there a Justice of the Peace, and the late Eden Baldwin, Esq. was one of his children. Jonathan Baldwin, Esq. married Sarah Bemis, daughter of Capt. William Bemis, of Spencer, for his second wife, November 23, 1782. Widow Ruth Watson, daughter of Maj. Asa Baldwin, is now living at the age of 90.

In 1750, David and Robert Griffin, with their sister Issabel, settled on the East part of lot 12. They were born in Ireland in the county of Antrim and Parish of Bellowilling. David, was born in 1686; Issabel, in 1695, and Robert in 1697. They were all unmarried and so remained to their death. It is not known when they emigrated to New England, they however lived in Spencer, a few years before the date of their settlement. For a few years they were frugal and industrious, but the latter part of their lives, they all became intemperate, when they were hurried to their graves in quick succession. David died December 14, 1769, aged 88. Robert, July 16, 1770, aged 73. Issabel, July 29, 1770, aged 75. They left no heirs in this country. A nephew, Robert Griffin, came from Ireland and inherited their estate. But he too, becoming intemperate, died a pauper in 1795.

James Smith, Sen., though not an inhabitant of Spencer, yet he formerly owned part of lot 21, and as several of his children settled here, deserves to be mentioned. He was brother to Moses Smith, and was married to Dorcas Richardson, March 13, 1727. He settled on the farm adjoining Spencer, now owned by Robert Watson. He was one of the gallant band, who stormed and took possession of the fort of Louisburgh, on Cape Breton, in 1745, and died there the same year. His children were James, born August 5, 1728; Abigail, September 5, 1733; Israel, October

16, 1735; Nathaniel, September 16, 1738; Deborah, 1741; Bulah, October 29, 1743. His widow was married to Samuel Lynde, July 5, 1750, who continued to reside on the same farm, and while living there, his house was swept to the ground by a hurricane.

James Smith, Jun. was married to Zeruah Hubbard, of Worcester, 1751. He settled in Spencer, on part of lot 3, now owned by Capt. William Watson. They had one daughter, only, Lucretia, born December 16, 1753. She was married to Thomas Dunbar, and afterwards to Jonas Lamb, and is now living at the age of 87. Mr. Smith died from home in the war with France, and his widow was married to Jacob Upham. Abigail Smith, was married to John Lamb, and has been mentioned in another place. Deborah, was married to Elijah Howe, June 24, 1759, and both died in Spencer. Bulah, was married to Eleazer Col- lar, May 19, 1770.

In 1751, Moses Livermore came from Weston, and settled on lot 77, since owned by his son Moses, now owned by Thomas Gilbert of N. Brookfield. He was a patriot of the revolution, and was one of the majority of grand jurors, at the Supreme Judicial Court holden at Worcester, in April 1774, who signed a declaration and presented it to the court, therein stating that they should not proceed to business, if Chief Justice Oliver, who was a tory, should sit on the bench and preside. Judge Oliver, however, did not appear, and the jurors discharged their duty. His children by his wife Sarah were, Isaac, born June 11, 1752; Sarah, July 21, 1754; Moses —, Hannah, November 21, 1760; Amos, June 5, 1763. He died October 18, 1797, aged 69. His widow removed into the State of New York, where she died. Sarah was married to Jonathan Parks, April 18, 1787; Moses to Mary Wilson, November 22, 1781; Amos to Catherine Sargent of Leicester, 1790.

THE FAMILY OF MUZZY. Deacon John Muzzy was a very respectable gentleman, and a useful member of society in his day and generation. He was the son of John Muzzy, Innholder in Lexington, and was born in that town, May 10, 1714, and was

married to Abigail Reed, daughter of William Reed Esqr., of Lexington, November 11, 1736. She was born March 30, 1720. They had fifteen children, all at single births, and all lived to years of maturity. His eldest son, John, was born December 9, 1737; Abigail, May 16, 1739. These two were born in Lexington. In 1739, he removed to Rutland, where he had Thaddeus, born September 7, 1740; Mary, May 20, 1742; Olive, February 7, 1744; Elizabeth Bradshaw, May 9, 1746; Jonas, January 2, 1748; Rebekah, May 24, 1750; Sarah, April 24, 1752. In 1752, he removed to Spencer and purchased the farm now owned by John Bigelow. While there, his children were Bethiah, born June 22, 1754; Lucy, June 27, 1756; Dorcas, March 19, 1758; Amos, February 27, 1762; Edmund, August 25, 1763; Benjamin, August 14, 1765. Here his wife died February 16, 1766, aged 46, and he was again married to Eleanor Snow, widow of Jonathan Snow, May 14, 1778. He died June 25, 1789, aged 75. While he lived in Rutland he was often chosen selectman, assessor, &c., and while at Spencer he was town clerk for several years, selectman, assessor and other offices of responsibility. He was frequently employed as scribe in writing wills, deeds and other legal instruments. He was honored with a commission as Justice of the Peace from Governor Hutchinson dated March 18, 1772, but he declined being qualified to act in the office. He was deacon in Mr. Eaton's and Mr. Pope's churches, being chosen June 12, 1753, which office he held until his death.

His son John, was married to Mary Ball, November 26, 1761. Abigail to Thomas White, December 30, 1756; Mary to John Worster, November 20, 1760; Olive, to John Stebbings, October 11, 1764; Elizabeth Bradshaw, to Jason Wright, January 21, 1768; Jonas to Sarah Draper, May 2, 1771, she died June 14, 1777, and he was again married to Abigail Lamb, June 9, 1778. Rebekah was married to John Draper, December 24, 1770; Sarah to Simeon Wood, December 24, 1771; Bethiah to Abner Tyler of Warren, December 1, 1774; Lucy to Asa Whittemore, March 2, 1775; Amos to Sarah Snow of Leicester; Edmund to Sarah Dwight of Leicester, November 25, 1785; Benjamin, to Elizabeth Inglee of Vermont, January 4, 1787. Thaddeus died

August 12, 1759, aged 19. The first wife of John Muzzy, Jun. died April 23, 1785, and he was again married to widow Rebekah Bartlett of Brookfield, October 12, 1786. Sarah Muzzy, wife Edmund Muzzy, died May 23, 1719. He was again married to widow Jane Boyden. She died and he was again married to widow Lydia Bemis. Bethiah, Dorcas and Edmund are still living. The descendants of deacon Muzzy are very numerous.

Jacob Upham in 1753, first settled on the Westerly part of lot 16, afterwards owned by Isaac Prouty, senior. In 1757, he settled on the East end of lot 1, now owned by Samuel Adams. He was married to Sarah Stower of Malden, 1751. By her he had Phebe, born July 23, 1752; Jacob, March 23, 1754, who died young. Abigail, January 24, 1756. His wife died June 21, 1757, and he was married to Zeruah Smith, widow of James Smith, April 1758, by whom he had Sarah, born December 13, 1758; James, October 26, 1760; Mary, May 15, 1763; Lucy July 21, 1765; Esther, June 21, 1767; Elizabeth, March 21, 1769; Jacob, August 12, 1771, and died May 1790. Abigail was married to Ebenezer Sanderson, December 4, 1777; Sarah, to Asa Washburn, November 16, 1780; Mary to Ebenezer Easterbrook, of Putney, December 25, 1783; Lucy to Hezekiah Sanderson of Westminster, May 26, 1785; Elizabeth to John Grout, July 20, 1786. Esther to Isaac Palmer of Putney, October, 12, 1786. Mr. Upham died by a fall from his horse, April 15, 1785, aged 56.

Nathaniel Parmenter, came from Sudbury and settled on the south part of lot 77, in 1751 or 1752; the land was afterwards owned by Moses Livermore. He had by his wife Susannah, Jacob, born July 26, 1752; Nathaniel, May 12, 1754; Susannah, July 4, 1756. His wife died and he was married to Mary Stebbings, widow of Capt. John Stebbings; June, 1757, by whom he had Nathan, born March 1, 1758. She proved to be an uncomfortable wife, so much so, that preferring the hardships and dangers of the camp, to the enjoyments of home, he became a soldier in the war with France, where he died 1759.*

* It is related of Mr. Parmenter, that coming from his labor in the

Edward Wright settled on the northeast part of lot 33, in 1753, since owned by Stevens Hatch, and now by the town of Spencer. In 1770, he removed to Spencer. His children by his wife Tryphena were Jason; Bezaleel, born February 29, 1752; Jane, May 27, 1754; Jonathan, March 13, 1756; Annah, February 23, 1758; Jesse, February 28, 1760; Tryphena, October 2, 1761; Mary, May 21, 1763; Persis, Feb. 27, 1765; John, Jan. 7, 1768. Nathan was married to Mary Whittemore, October 26, 1779; Bezaleel to Eunice Hayward of Holden, November 28, 1782; Jason to Elizabeth Bradshaw Muzzy; Persis to John Bigelow, and is now living in Worcester.

John Flagg came from Waltham, and purchased the tavern, and farm, formerly Josiah Robinson's, and since owned by Isaac Jenks. He kept a public house seven years, and 1761, he owned lot 69, and built the house now owned by Cheney Sumner. He removed to Waltham in 1767, where he kept a public house until his death. His children while in Spencer by his wife Patience, were, Patience, born May 21, 1755; John, April 15, 1762.

John Bigelow, originally from Framingham, was married to Sarah Stebbings, daughter of Capt. John Stebbings, April 30, 1756. He purchased and settled on lot 43, in 1766, and built the house now owned by William G. Muzzy. His children were John, born August 24, 1757; Joseph, December 6, 1759; Daniel —; James, June 7, 1762; Jabez, March 17, 1764; Wil-

fields to his house, on a sultry day, fatigued and thirsty and in a high state of perspiration, he descended by the way of a trap door, into his cellar for drink. His wife closed the door upon him, and placing herself and linen wheel upon the door, there sat spinning very complacently, until she might finish her *stint*. In vain did he call upon her to release him from his gloomy prison—in vain did he urge that his health was endangered by the unwholesome damps of the cellar. Nor had promises or threats any better effect in moving the obdurate heart of his dear spouse, prayers, threats and complaints, all being drowned in the busy hum of her spinning wheel. After being kept in this unpleasant situation for several hours, he was kindly released by the interposition of a neighbor, when her husband very ungallantly administered to her a very severe castigation. Believing the French and Indians to be less formidable foes than those of his own household, he immediately entered the army, from whence he never returned.

liam, July 1, 1768; Sarah, October 3, 1770; Elizabeth —; John was married to Persis Wright, and is living in Worcester. James to Mary Graham, December 18, 1783, and now lives in Pennsylvania. Mr. Bigelow was a man remarkable for his athletic feats and exploits of strength, though not large of size. He died April 19, 1774 aged 39.

Deacon Eleazer Ball was born in Concord 1698, where he married his wife Abigail —. He removed to Rutland about 1719, having previously cleared a few acres and made some other improvements. Being one of the first settlers of Rutland, when the town was almost an entire wilderness, he was not only annoyed by the bear and wolf, but more seriously by the Indians. In the month of August in each of the years 1723 and 1724, the Indians made incursions into the town, killing three persons at each time, one of whom was their minister, the Rev. Mr. Willard. In one of these incursions, deacon Ball received a wound in the arm by a musket ball. He was deacon of the church in Rutland, selectman of the town, &c. His children by his first wife were, Eleazer, born 1728; Grace, 1730; Phinehas, 1732; Abigail, 1735; Sarah, 1737; Israel, 1739; Hannah, 1741. By his second wife Margaret, he had Mary, born 1744; John, 1747. His first wife Abigail, died October 9, 1741. He removed to Spencer in 1758, and purchased the farm formerly owned by deacon James Wilson. Eleazer and some others of his children remained in Rutland, but Israel, Hannah, Mary and John came to Spencer. Israel was married to Petsis Stone of Leicester, April 17, 1760; Hannah, to David Prouty, November 24, 1761; Mary to John Muzzy, November 26, 1761; John to Bulah Whitney, April 14, 1765. Deacon Ball died March 29, 1765, aged 67. He has one grandchild, David Prouty, and some of the fourth, fifth and sixth generations living in Spencer.

Benjamin Green, came from Leicester, and settled on the East end of the school lot. He lived there but two years, when he sold to Thomas White, now owned by Maj. Thomas Pierce. He then removed on to lot 78, where he died. There is no record of any children born in Spencer. He was married to Lucy Marston of Spencer, December 10, 1754. His son Benjamin, was

born in Leicester, December 26, 1755. He was married to Martha Watson, daughter of deacon Oliver Watson, June 16, 1785. He inherited his father's estate, and died there.

John Elliot, Esqr. came from New Haven, Conn. 1760. He was of honorable parentage, being a descendant of the Rev. John Elliot, first minister of Roxbury, the celebrated "Apostle of the Indians," who came to this country from England, in 1631, and died 1690, aged 86. He owned the mansion house, afterwards owned by Isaac Jenks, and about 440 acres of land. He was a gentleman of some distinction—well educated, lived in a style of affluence and considered wealthy, paying much the largest tax in town. He was appointed Justice of the Peace, by Governor Bernard, January 1, 1762, and was often one of the selectmen, Town Clerk, Moderator, &c. After remaining in the town about ten years, he removed again to New Haven, and tradition reports that he afterwards became unfortunate in business and reduced to poverty. He had two sons educated at Harvard University.

Jeremiah Whittemore came from Weston, and purchased 200 acres of the East part of lot 24, in 1760. He fitted up the large mansion house, built by Mr. Nathaniel Cunningham for a tavern, which he continued to superintend as a public house, personally, forty five years. He had several children before he came to Spencer, viz. Asa, Reuben, Mary, Tamar, Sybil, &c. While in Spencer, his children were Aaron, born March 1, 1762; Esther, December 28, 1764; Jeremiah, February 21, 1766; Sarah, March 16, 1768; Asa was married to Lucy Muzzy, March 2, 1775; Reuben, to Abigail Watson, March 2, 1779; Mary to Nathan Wright, October 26, 1779; Sybil to Reuben Underwood, February 3, 1791; Jeremiah to Polly Washburn, of Paxton, Feb. 21, 1792; Sarah to Ebenezer Kingsbury, May 9, 1797; Tamar to Robert Watson. Mr. Whittemore died May 14, 1803, aged 79. His wife, Mary, died July 14, 1802, aged 78.

The ancestors of the family of Baldwin emigrated from England at an early period. One, by the name of Joseph, settled in Malden, and his grandson, also, named Joseph, removed from Charlton to Spencer and purchased the Westerly part of lot 53, in 1760, now owned by his grandson, William Baldwin, Esqr.

His children were, Joseph, Samuel, William, Levi and Zorobabel, born before he came from Charlton; and Sarah, born in Spencer, 1761. Levi was married to Sarah Bemis, June 25, 1789, and again to Lydia Haven, December 30, 1790, Samuel to Elizabeth Livermore, August 19, 1790, and again to Huldah Hamilton, of Brookfield, February 16, 1796; Sarah to Nicholas Morgan, April 11, 1799; Zorobabel, to Persis Bemis, March 27, 1800, and again to Hannah Grout, March 19, 1812. Mr. Baldwin died June 3, 1790, aged 73. His wife Mary, died January 7, 1795, aged 77.

Abijah Livermore, from Weston, settled on the Easterly part of lot 76, in 1761. His children by his wife Anna, were Ezra, born February 13, 1762; Anna, November 17, 1763; Abijah, February 22, 1766; Lot, June 6, 1768; Martha, November 11, 1772; Phinehas, March 28, 1775; Phebe, October 7, 1777; Jesse, February 9, 1780. His wife died October 14, 1793, aged 53, and he was married to Mrs. Sarah Howe, of Rutland, 1795. She died January 4, 1815. He died January 18, 1817. Abijah was married to Rebekah Livermore, February 1, 1791; Phinehas to Polly Lacky, January 4, 1798.

In 1761, Luke Converse, from Charlton, purchased and settled on the Northeasterly part of lot 58, where he built a saw and grist mill, now owned by Elias Bemis and Hiram Howe. Mr. Converse was born in Leicester 1734, and was married to Ruth Lamb of Spencer, June 6, 1759. She was born December 28, 1737. His children were Lydia, born February 10, 1760; Jude, May 17, 1762; Ruth, October 31, 1764; Patience, March 24, 1767; Reuben, April 25, 1769; Esther, November 20, 1771; Asaph, April 22, 1774; Tamar, August 29, 1776; Uriah, March 13, 1779. Mr. Converse died at Leicester, June 10, 1810, aged 76. His wife died January 9, 1821, aged 83. Jude was married to Lydia Bemis, daughter of Samuel Bemis, December 10, 1782; Patience, to Nathan Prouty, September 30, 1784; Ruth, to Jonathan White, November 30, 1786; Reuben to Pamela Stevens, December 18, 1788; Esther to Nathaniel Bemis, October 23, 1791; Tamar to Daniel E. Adams, April 13, 1795; Uriah to Esther Lackey, May 12, 1799.

In 1762, Samuel Flagg, from Waltham, brother of John Flagg, settled on the East end of lots 29, and 36, since owned by Elijah Howe. He afterwards removed onto lot 67, now owned by Jonas Guilford 2d, where he died. His children by his wife Grace, were Susannah —, Sarah, born March 17, 1763; Samuel, July 24, 1765; Hannah, September 19, 1767; Esther —, Polly —, Josiah —. Susannah was married to Solomon Cook, of Charlton, February 20, 1782; Hannah to Elias Adams, December 24, 1789; Esther to James Adams of Brookfield, April 26, 1791; Sarah to John Guilford, May 8, 1793; Polly to John Bemis of Paxton, July 5, 1796; Josiah to Mary Adams of Brookfield, December 29, 1796.

Samuel Tucker was born in Roxbury, and was the fourth son of Benjamin Tucker, one of the original proprietors of Leicester and Spencer.* He removed to Leicester early, and was married to Hannah Sylvester, of that town, June 19, 1740. He remained in Leicester until 1762, when he removed to Spencer, and purchased and built a house on the Easterly part of lot 42, now owned by Amos Bemis. His children were Sarah, born April 25, 1741; Samuel, January 8, 1743; Hannah, February 3, 1745; Isaac, December 15, 1746; Ruth, November 17, 1748; Elijah, 1751; Huldah, April 1, 1755; Ezekiel, August 29, 1757. Sarah was married to David Baldwin of Leicester, September 22, 1774; Samuel to — Livermore of Leicester. Hannah died July 22, 1766; Elijah died of the small pox, May 11, 1777. Ezekiel was married to Hannah Phillips, March 28, 1782. She died September 9, 1784, and he was married to Elizabeth Phelps of Brookfield, August 1786. He inherited the homestead and died January 29, 1814, aged 57.

About 1762, Capt. Joseph Livermore, brother to Moses and Abijah, settled on the Westerly part of lot 77, now owned by Asa and Amos Wilson. He was an officer in the revolution and

* Benjamin Tucker died at Roxbury, 1728. His estate was appraised at £1491 2s. and settled at the Probate office in Boston, 1738. Among the items of charge are £0 9s. 0d. for digging grave and *tolling bell*. For *wine* £4 11s. 0d. For *gloves*, £3 3s. 6d. Paid Caleb Lyman for mourning, £17 15s. 8d.

a Lieutenant at the battle of Bunker Hill. His children by his wife Anna, were Anna, born September 10, 1764; Reuben, May 9, 1769; Joseph, August 20, 1775. After the death of his first wife, he was married to Mrs. Martha Maynard of East Sudbury, 1786. He removed from Spencer. Anna was married to Joshua Rich, March 1, 1781; Reuben to Sally Gould of Sutton, 1790.

John Bisco, Esqr., from Cambridge, settled on the central part of lot 17, in 1763, where his grandson, Foster Bisco, now lives. Being a gentleman of good education, and sound judgment, and sustaining an unblemished moral character, he soon acquired the confidence of his fellow townsmen, and was promoted to the highest offices of honor and trust in their gift. He was either Town Clerk, Selectman, Assessor or Treasurer, every year from 1767, to his death. Was a representative to the General Court for 1777, 1780 and 1781, and a member of the Convention for forming our State Constitution in 1779. Was chosen deacon of the Congregational Church, which he continued to hold during his life; was appointed Justice of the Peace by Governor Hancock, March 1, 1781. He was married to Deborah Prouty, May 10, 1764. His children were John, born May 29, 1765. Elizabeth, October 9, 1767; Abijah, February 7, 1770; Jacob, June 12, 1772; Abigail, July 25, 1777; Anna, March 8, 1780. His wife, Deborah, died February 22, 1795, aged 52, and he was again married to Mrs. Esther Moore, of Worcester in November of the same year. The following inscription is on his tombstone.

"In memory of
John Bisco, Esqr.

who died March 15, 1808, aged 70 yrs.

As a magistrate, he was correct, faithful and impartial, as a christian, he was devout, pious and exemplary; as a man and a citizen, he was honest, dignified and patriotic.

Come christian, see a brother dying—
See him yielding up his breath;
While firmly on his God relying,
Quite disarms the sting of death."

Elizabeth Bisco was married to Enoch Mason, July 15, 1790
Jacob to Sarah Draper, January 1, 1799. Abigail to David

Prouty, Jun. November 7, 1799. Anna, to George W. Harwood, of Brookfield, December 13, 1807.

In 1763, Benjamin Gleason, from Sudbury, purchased lot 70, and the next year removed his family there. He was married to Dorothy Allen, while at Sudbury, and had three children, viz. Benjamin, Elisha and Mary. While in Spencer, his children were Josiah, born July 27, 1765; Phinehas, June 3, 1767; Dolly, November 7, 1770; John, August 16, 1772; Rebekah, April 21, 1774; Samuel, May 8, 1779. Mr. Gleason, died October 15, 1818. Benjamin, was married to Sarah Underwood, February 24, 1785. John, to Sally Cheney, of Sutton, 1805. Phinehas, to Betsey Faucett, March 14, 1808. Rebekah, to Thaddeus White, Esq. of Washington, Vermont, January 14, 1810. Samuel, to Nancy Draper, February 3, 1811.

Capt. Ebenezer Mason, from Watertown, settled on the West-erly part of lot 17, in 1764, now owned by William Bemis. In 1774, he removed on to the central part of lot 22, and built the house, now owned by his grandson, Joseph Mason. He was a man of respectability, was captain in the revolutionary war, and often employed in civil offices of responsibility. He had by his wife Elizabeth, before he came to Spencer, two sons, Ebenezer and William. While in Spencer, he had Elliot, born March 23, 1766; Enoch, —; Elizabeth, August 18, 1772; Joseph, December 15, 1774; Susannah, September 9, 1777; Isaac, February 5, 1782. Capt. Mason, Died March 26, 1798, aged 66. His widow died September 18, 1812, aged 78. Ebenezer, was married to Judith White, December 22, 1785. William, to Nancy White, July 7, 1791. Enoch, to Elizabeth Bisco, July 15, 1790. Joseph, to Elizabeth White, March 11, 1802. Isaac, to Asce-nath Prouty, February 19, 1805. Elizabeth, to Moses Hall, February 23, 1809. Ebenezer Mason, Jun. was married to Sally Beers, for his second wife, September 2, 1794.

David Barnes from Leicester, settled on the South-east part of lots 46 and 47, in 1766, now owned by Willington Hill. He was married to Rebekah Clarke, December 23, 1762. His wife died May 10, 1797. Mr. Barnes died March 9, 1814.

David Livermore, from Leicester, settled on the Southerly

part of lot 59, about 1770, now owned by his son David Livermore. He was married to Anna Haywood of Holden. Mrs. Livermore, died January 12, 1794, and he was again married to Mary Osborne of Holden, sister to his former wife, November 17, 1796. Mr. Livermore, died December 13, 1818, aged 74.

In 1783, Israel Allen, from Shrewsbury, settled on lot 13. This lot was then an entire wilderness, and the only remaining one in Spencer, then in a state of nature. But by the industry of himself and sons, much of the forests soon disappeared; a house and barn were built, and soon after a saw and grist mill. Mr. Allen, was a soldier of the revolution and fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. His wife Thankful, died October 25, 1805, aged 60, and he was again married to Mrs. Sarah Bennet, 1807. She died, 1818. Mr. Allen, died July 17, 1833, aged 90. The farm is now owned by his Grandson, Pliny Allen.

PHYSICIANS.

Doct. James Ormes, son of John Ormes, was the first practising physician in Spencer. He came from Watertown there with his father 1732, when there were few people in the town, and consequently, but few patients. He is still remembered by a few old people, particularly for his loud stentorian voice, as leader of the choir for sacred music. He was married to Frances Hinds of Brookfield, 1733, and again to Rachel Howe of Malden, 1736, and again to Tabitha Wright, of Framingham, 1742. His children were Rebekah, born 1744; Mary, 1746; James, 1748; Tabitha, 1751. Doct. Ormes died 1785, aged 75.

Doct. Asa Burden, was from Scituate, Rhode Island. He studied his profession with Doct. Honeywood, of Leicester, who was an eminent practitioner. Doct. Burden, settled on the South-west part of lot 47, in 1769, now owned by Joshua Sylvester. He was married to Deborah Howland, of Scituate, 1771. He had several children, viz. Mary and Esther, who died young; John, born 1775; Samuel, 1777, and Ebenezer, born August 15, 1779, who was a physician in Charlton. While Doct. Burden, practised in this town, he was quite as eminent for his oddities and eccentricities, as for his skill in the art of healing.

About 1780, he returned to his native place, but afterwards removed to Charlton where he died.

Doct. William Frink, was the son of Rev. Thomas Frink, first minister of Rutland, where he was born December 14, 1742. He was married to Sarah Eaton, daughter of Rev. Joshua Eaton, of Spencer, May 3, 1772. He commenced practice as a physician in the house where he married his wife, and afterwards purchased and settled on the farm now owned by Edmund Muzzy. He was a physician well educated and of good standing in the community. His children were William Eaton, born 1774; Sarah, 1776; Polly, 1778; Issabel Wright, 1780. He removed to Rutland, 1783, where he died by a fall from a load of hay.

Benjamin Drury, Esq. was born in the town of Auburn, (Ward formerly,) April 1758. He studied the profession with Doct. Fiske of Oxford, and commenced the practice of physic at Francistown, in New Hampshire. He continued there for a short period, and 1782, he came into Spencer, and continued in regular practice, more than forty years. Besides practising as physician, he was honored with the office of Representative to the General Court, for seventeen years in succession, a Selectman, sixteen years in succession, and Town Clerk successively, with the exception of one year, thirty-three years. He was also honored with a commission as Justice of the Peace, and besides much other official business he joined together, for better or worse, more than *two hundred couples*, in the bands of matrimony. He is now out of practice, and living at the age of 83. He was married in early life to Elizabeth Larned of Oxford, who died 1820.

Doct. Jonas Guilford, was born in Spencer, August 25, 1759, and was married to Lydia Hobbs, of Brookfield. He studied his profession, with Doct Babbit, of Sturbridge, and commenced practice in his native town, 1783, and continued in practice, twenty-six years. He died July 17, 1809, aged 50.

Doct. Cheney Potter, was from North Brookfield, and was a pupil of Doct. Jacob Kittredge, of the same town, a celebrated surgeon and quite a popular physician. He commenced practice about 1807, and continued several years. He returned to his native town, and is now deceased.

Doct. Asa Jones, was a native of Charlton, and was a student with Doct. Eaton, of Dudley, and Doct. Lamb, of Charlton. He commenced practice in 1811, and continued for twenty years. He died in October 1834, aged 44.

Doct. Jonas Guilford, son of Doct. Guilford, was born in Spencer, November 10, 1788. He was student with Doct. Babbit, of Brookfield, a distinguished surgeon and physician. He is now in regular practice.

Several other physicians have been in practice in Spencer, for longer or shorter periods, viz. Jacob Kittredge, Jun., John McClure, George S. Smith, John M. Smith, Jason C. Spalding, Jedediah Amidon, Reuben Spalding, Joel Vaile, Luther Bugbee and Aaron Green, who has just commenced practice.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED A COLLEGIATE EDUCATION, WHO WERE INHABITANTS OF SPENCER.*

Henry Bright, H. U. graduated 1770. Was son of Widow Bright, who was afterwards wife of Benjamin Bemis, Senior. He died soon after leaving college.

John Elliot, H. U. 1772. Was son of John Elliot, Esq. He commenced preaching, but proved a profligate character. Deceased.

Joshua Eaton, H. U. 1773. Was son of Rev. Joshua Eaton. He studied no profession. Deceased.

Richard Roswell Elliot, H. U. 1774. Was minister at Watertown. Deceased. He was also son of John Elliot, Esq.

John Elliot Eaton, H. U. 1777. Was son of Rev. Joshua Eaton. Was a Physician at Dudley. Died 1812.

Nathan Muzzy, D. C. 1786. Was son of John Muzzy, Jun. of this town. Commenced preaching but soon abandoned it, and emigrated to the State of Ohio. Supposed to be dead.

Abijah Bisco, D. C. 1798. Was son of John Bisco, Esq. Was a candidate for the ministry, and a promising young man. He died 1801.

* NOTE. H. U. stands for Harvard University. D. C. Dartmouth College. B. U. Brown University. Y. C. Yale College. W. C. Williams College.

Joseph Pope, D. C. 1798. Was son of Rev. Joseph Pope. Is now Attorney at law in Portland, Maine.

Nathan Guilford, Y. C. 1812. Was a practising attorney some years in Maine, and Kentucky. Now a resident in Cincinnati, Ohio.

William Watson, B. U. 1818. Was son of Oliver Watson. He studied no profession. Is now absent to parts unknown.

Warren Hobbs, H. U. 1822. Was son of Daniel Hobbs. Being out of health he made a voyage to Europe, and returned with improved health. Taught a school two years in Virginia, and sometime in Tennessee. Was drowned from a steamboat in the Mississippi, July 11, 1826, aged 34.

Besides these, David Draper, was a student at W. C. about two years, 1796-7, and Dexter Bemis, the same length of time at H. U. They were both dismissed by their own request.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

The following is a list of those who have held commissions as Justices of the Peace in Spencer.

Names.	Date of commissions.	Names.	Date of commissions.
John Elliot,	1762	Dead. Frederick Howe,	
John Muzzy,	1772	Do. William Pope,	1827
John Bisco	1781	Do. Walton Livermore,	1835 Dead.
Benjamin Drury,	1789	William Baldwin,	1835
Jonas Bemis,	1809	Walter Sibley,	1839
James Draper,	1810	Daniel Capen,	1840

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE, INSPECTION AND SAFETY.

During the agitations and struggles of the first period of the revolution, most of the officers under the influence of the Crown, were found on the side of loyalty, supporting power and prerogative. The people had withdrawn their confidence from these, and their official conduct was viewed with distrust. As there were but few Post Offices at that time, and many of the Post Masters were tories, the correspondence of the whigs was subjected to a system of rigid espionage; they had therefore, to seek

for other, than the usual channels of conveying the necessary information among the people. Boston was the head quarters of the opposition to the unconstitutional and arbitrary measures of Royal authority, and there, most of the great plans were matured, and thence, sent abroad among the people, the influence of which, like a mighty wind, moved the whole country. It became necessary that there should be some confidential persons appointed in every town, to whom such communications might be made with safety and effect. Hence, originated the "Committees of Correspondence," which were sometimes called "Committees of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection." They were composed of some of the leading and influential persons among the whigs. These political officers were appointed in Boston and some other large towns, in the earliest part of the political contest, but were not general, until about 1774. They became a very important means of enlightening the public mind, of devising plans, of developing the physical resources of the country, and of finally carrying to maturity, the great objects of the revolution. In many cases, they had concurrent jurisdiction with the selectmen of the towns. They were soon recognized by the legislature, as of legal and official authority, and important duties were devolved upon them by the General Court. They were in fact the directors and managers of the great political drama, which was in preparation for general action throughout the country, and we owe much to this little band of patriots, who spent many anxious days and nights, who freely contributed their treasures, and many of them their blood, to effect and secure to themselves and their offspring the blessings of liberty. They were elected in the several towns in the same manner as other municipal officers. The first notice of the choice of officers in this town, was 1775, although, in 1774, three persons were chosen to carry into effect the nonimportation act, agreeable to a resolve of Congress, and who acted substantially, in the same capacity as committees of correspondence.

The following are the names of the persons, who were chosen in this town, during the several years of the revolution.

1774. John Cunningham, Oliver Watson, Asa Baldwin.

1775. Oliver Watson, Moses Livermore, John Muzzy.
1776. Asa Baldwin, Jeremiah Whittemore, Joshua Draper, David Prouty, Knight Sprague, Benjamin Gleazen.
1777. Asa Baldwin, Jeremiah Whittemore, Knight Sprague, Joshua Draper, Benjamin Gleazen.
1778. Joshua Lamb, John Muzzy, Joshua Barton, John Worster, John Watson.
1779. James Livermore, Benjamin Gleazen, John Worster, John Muzzy, Jacob Upham.
1780. John Muzzy, Johnson Lynde, John Sumner, Benjamin Bemis, Jonas Muzzy.
1781. John Sumner, Jonas Muzzy, Johnson Lynde, Jeremiah Whittemore, Nathaniel T. Loring.
1782. Asa Baldwin, Jeremiah Whittemore, Capt. Ezekiel Newton.
1783. James Hathaway, Jonas Muzzy, Isaac Morgan.
1784. James Livermore, Jeremiah Whittemore, John Watson.

PROPERTY AND WEALTH OF OUR ANCESTORS.

By a culpable neglect on the part of some of our former town officers, the records of the valuation of the estates, and taxes of the inhabitants, have not been preserved, until a period of less than fifty years past. Consequently, there are no data, by which a correct estimation may be formed, of the wealth and relative amount of property of the inhabitants of Spencer during the last century. In 1771, the year previous to the erection of the present meeting house, the following method was taken in making disposition of the pews. He or she, whose Real Estate stood the highest in the valuation, had the right for the first choice for a pew, at an appraised value—the second highest in valuation, had the next choice, and so on, until the whole were disposed of. In this way, the relative standing of sixty-eight of the largest landholders, may be known seventy years ago. This, however, was not confined to resident proprietors of lawful age, but non-residents and minors had the same privilege. In justice, however, it must be observed, that Jonas Bemis, John Hill, and perhaps some

others, who did not belong to the society, but whose real estates, otherwise, would have entitled them to a choice of pews, were not included in the calculation.

The following are the names of the sixty-eight persons referred to, numbered according to the relative value of their real estate.

1 John Elliot, Esq.	32 John Muzzy
2 John Sumner, Esq.	33 Nathaniel Bemis
3 Oliver Watson	34 John Graham
4 Asa Baldwin	35 David Baldwin, Jun.
5 William Bemis	36 David Lamb
6 John Cunningham	37 Nathaniel Cunningham
7 Jeremiah Whittemore	38 John Stebbings
8 Joshua Bemis	39 Samuel Garfield
9 Moses Livermore	40 Archibald Lamond's Estate
10 John White, Jun.	41 Samuel Hall
11 John Prouty	42 Elizabeth Prouty (Widow of David Prouty)
12 David Adams	43 Ebenezer Mason
13 Joshua Lamb	44 Luke Converse
14 Josiah White	45 Benjamin Bemis, Jun.
15 John Lamb	46 Abijah Livermore
16 Joseph Greenwood	47 Benjamin Gleazen
17 Isaac Prouty	48 David Adams, Jun.
18 Thomas White	49 Joseph Livermore
19 James Draper	50 Isaac Rice
20 Joshua Draper	51 Jonathan Snow
21 Jacob Prouty	52 Robert Morgan
22 John Watson	53 David Knapp
23 John Ball	54 Jonathan Ward (non-resi- dent)
24 John Worster	55 Zebulon Baldwin
25 Johnson Lynde	56 Isaac Southgate
26 Joseph Wilson	57 Israel Ball
27 Joshua Whitney	58 Oliver Watson, Jun.
28 Simeon Wilson	59 David Prouty
29 William White	60 Phinehas Whitney
30 John Bisco	
31 Thomas Canada (a minor)	

61 John Knapp	65 Joel Green
62 David Barnes	66 Nathaniel Parmenter's heirs
63 John Wilson	67 William Watson
64 Lemuel Whitney	68 Andrew Morgan.

AGED PERSONS.

Spencer has been somewhat notorious for the longevity of many of its inhabitants. The deaths of many of our oldest people have not been placed on record, but the following catalogue shows the times of the deaths of some of the oldest persons, with their ages, all collected from authentic sources, with the exception of Knight Sprague, which is probably nearly correct.

Names.	Time of decease.	Age.
Robert Cunningham,	1766	89
Archibald Lamond,	1771	94
Margaret, his wife,	1775	89
Elizabeth Ormes,	1785	100
John Read,	1787	88
John Cunningham,	1789	89
Jonathan Wood,	1796	94
Experience Ward,	1798	91
Lydia Clark,	1800	93
Knight Sprague,	1804	93
Asa Baldwin,	1811	89
Abigail, his wife,	1817	94
Thomas White,	1822	90
Elizabeth Saddler,	1828	94
Robert Luther,	1829	91
Israel Allen,	1833	90
Daniel Hill,	1837	93
Mary, his wife,	1830	87
Olive Stebbings,	1840	96

The following aged persons are now living and in the enjoyment of health.

William Watson,	90	Ruth Watson,	90
Elijah Hersy,	90	Jesse Cutter,	88

Lucy Watson,	87	Nathan Grage,	87
Lucretia Lamb,	87	Joseph Wheat,	86
Jesse Cutter's wife,	86	Anna Pope,	86

SELECTMEN

Since the incorporation of the town, including a period of 88 years, specifying the years in which they were chosen.

John Wooster, 1653, 55, 57, 58, 61, 62.	David Prouty, 1775, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800.
John Cunningham, 1753, 54.	John White, Jun. 1777, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83.
John Muzzy, 1753, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 70, 72, 74.	Aaron Hunt, 1777, 78.
James Wilson, 1753.	Elijah Howe, 1778, 87, 88, 89, 91.
Benjamin Johnson, 1753, 54, 55, 56, 63.	William Frink, 1779.
John White, 1754.	Isaac Jenks, 1779.
Asa Baldwin, 1754, 57, 59, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71.	Josiah White, 1779.
Oliver Watson, 1755, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 75.	John Stebbings, 1780, 81, 82, 83.
John Newhall, 1755, 58.	William White, 1781, 82, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97.
Joshua Lamb, 1756, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 70, 71, 72, 73.	John Worster, 1782.
Samuel Bemis, Jun. 1756, 57, 58, 60.	David Lamb, 1783.
David Adams, 1756, 70.	John Muzzy, Jun. 1784, 1790.
James Draper, 1757, 63, 70, 71, 73.	William Green, 1784, 85, 86.
John Flagg, 1759, 60.	John Sumner, Jun. 1784, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92.
Eleazer Ball, 1759.	Benjamin Bemis, 1784, 85, 86.
Edmund Bemis, 1759.	Oliver Watson, Jun. 1784, 86, 88, 89.
James Ormes, 1760, 61, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 76.	James Hathaway, 1785, 87.
John Elliot, 1762, 63, 64, 65, 66.	James Watson, 1785, 86, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08.
William Bemis, 1764, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78.	Luke Converse, 1787, 88.
John Prouty, 1766.	Benjamin Drury, 1788, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03.
Moses Livermore, 1767, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76.	Jonas Muzzy, 1790, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13.
John Bisco, 1773, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83.	
Benjamin Gleazen, 1775, 77, 80.	

- Jonas Bemis, 1798, 99, 1800, 01, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35.
 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08. Willard Rice, 1821, 22, 26, 27, 28,
 30, 32.
 David Bemis, 1801, 02, 03. Rufus Adams, 1822, 23, 24, 25, 28,
 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37.
 Elliot Mason, 1804, 05, 06, 07. Elias Hall, 1823, 24, 25.
 Moses Hall, 1804, 05. Eli Prouty, 1824, 27, 28, 30, 37.
 Nathan Crage, 1804, 06, 07, 08. Walton Livermore, 1826, 27, 28, 31.
 Reuben Whittemore, 1806, 07, 08, 09, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Jacob Wilson, 1826, 27.
 Edmund Muzzy, 1808. Oliver Morse, 1827, 28, 29.
 Phinehas Jones, 1809, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16. Joel Wright, 1829.
 Alpheus Demond, 1809, 10, 11, 12. William Baldwin, 1829, 30, 31, 32,
 33, 34, 35, 39.
 Joshua Bemis, 1809, 14, 16, 17. Dennis Ward, 1831, 41.
 Caleb Sibley, 1810, 11. Augustus Rider, 1832.
 Isaac Jenks, Jun. 1811, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. Josiah Green, 1832, 33, 34, 35.
 David Livermore, Jun. 1812, 19. Thomas Pierce, 1833, 34, 35, 36, 38.
 Thomas Sprague, 1813, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20. Walter Sibley, 1835, 36.
 Artemas Prouty, 1836, 37.
 William Bemis, 1814, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31. Daniel Capen, 1837.
 John Boyden, 1814, 15, 23. John Howland, 1837.
 James Draper, 1816, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 38. Eli Jones, 1838, 39, 40.
 Zorobabel Baldwin, 1817, 18. Jonas Guilford, 1838.
 Daniel Hobbs, 1819. Jabez Green, 1838, 39, 40, 41.
 David Prouty, 1820, 21, 22, 23, 24. Eleazer B. Draper, 1839, 40, 41.
 John N. Prouty, 1840, 41.
 Poster Bisco, 1839, 40, 41.

ASSESSORS.

- John Worster, 1753, 55, 68, 69, 72. James Draper, 1756, 61, 62, 63, 67
 John Cunningham, 1753, 54. Samuel Garfield, Jun. 1757.
 John Muzzy, 1753, 54, 55, 58, 59, Edmund Bemis, 1758, 59, 60, 61.
 64, 65, 66, 70. James Ormes, 1758, 60.
 James Wilson, 1753. John Flagg, 1759.
 Benjamin Johnson, 1753, 54, 55. William Bemis, 1763, 64.
 John White, 1754. Joshua Draper, 1765, 71.
 Asa Baldwin, 1754, 56, 62, 66. John Bisco, 1767, 68, 69, 70, 72,
 Oliver Watson, 1755, 56, 57, 60, 61, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 80, 90, 91,
 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99,
 John Newhall, 1755, 57. 1800, 02.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| David Lamb, 1768, 69. | 06, 13, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32. |
| Ebenezer Mason, 1770, 73, 74. | James Draper, 1804, 05, 06, 07, 17, |
| William White, 1771, 73, 74, 75, | 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, |
| 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86. | 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 41. |
| David Lamb, Jun. 1772. | Frederick Howe, 1807, 08, 09, 10, |
| David Prouty, 1775, 76, 82, 83, 84, | 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, |
| 86, 87, 89, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, | 21, 22, 26. |
| 1800, 01, 02, 03. | Moses Hall, 1808, 09, 10, 14, 26. |
| John Cunningham, Jun. 1777, 81. | Silas Bemis, 1809, 13, 14. |
| James Sprague, 1778, 88, 91. | Elijah Howe, 1810, 11. |
| John Parker, 1779. | Nathan N. Harding, 1811, 12. |
| William Frink, 1779. | Rufus Adams, 1812, 15, 17, 18, 26. |
| Elijah Howe, 1779. | David Draper, 1814, 15, 18, 19. |
| John Worster, 1780, 82. | John Boyden, 1819, 20, 21, 23, 24, |
| Thomas Sprague, 1781, 82, 83, 84, | 25. |
| 86, 97, 98, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03, | Jacob Wilson, 1820, 23, 24, 25, 30, |
| 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 16. | 32, 37. |
| John Sumner, 1785, 87, 88, 89, 90, | Walter Sibley, 1827, 28, 29, 31, 33, |
| 94. | 34, 35, 39, 40. |
| Benjamin Bemis, 1785. | Wm. Baldwin, 1828, 36, 37, 38, 41. |
| John Muzzy, Jun. 1785. | Walton Livermore, 1829. |
| Robert Luther, 1787, 88, 89, 90, 91. | Jonas Guilford, 1830. |
| 92, 93, 94. | Jeremiah Grout, 1833, 34, 35. |
| Isaac Jenks, 1792. | Pliny Allen, 1836, 38, 39, 40. |
| Jonas Bemis, 1793, 1815. | Daniel Capen, 1837. |
| Zorobabel Baldwin, 1795, 96, 1815, | Dennis Ward, 1838. |
| 22. | Lory Grout, 1839, 40. |
| William Bemis, 1801, 03, 04, 05, | David Bemis, 1841. |

TOWN CLERKS.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Benjamin Johnson, 1753. | Ebenezer Mason, 1779, 80, 83, 84, |
| John Muzzy, 1754, 55, 56, 61, 62, | 85. |
| 71, 72, 73, 74. | Benjamin Bemis, 1781, 82, 86. |
| Samuel Bemis, Jun., 1757, 58, 59, | Benjamin Drury, 1787, 88, 89, 90, |
| 60. | 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, |
| James Draper, 1763, 64, 65, 67, 68, | 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, |
| 69, 70. | 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, |
| John Elliot, 1766. | 16, 17, 18, 19. |
| John Bisco, 1775, 76, 77. | James Draper, 1813. |
| William White, 1778. | David Draper, 1820, 21. |

William Pope, 1822, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. Lewis Bemis, 1830, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.

TOWN TREASURERS.

Benjamin Johnson, 1753, 54, 55, 56,	William White, 1808, 09.
Oliver Watson, 1757, 58, 59, 60, 61,	Elliot Mason, 1810.
62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68.	Nathan Crage, 1811, 12, 13.
John White, Jun. 1769, 70, 71, 75.	James Draper, 1814, 15, 35, 36, 37,
David Lamb, 1772, 73, 74.	38, 39, 40, 41.
John Muzzy, Jun. 1776, 77, 78, 79,	Joseph Mason, 1816, 17, 18, 19, 20,
80, 81, 82, 86, 87.	21.
John Bisco, 1783, 84, 85, 90, 91, 92,	Walton Livermore, 1822, 23, 24, 25.
93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800,	Lewis Bemis, 1826, 27, 28, 29.
01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07.	William Pope, 1830.
John Sumner, 1788, 89.	Eli Jones, 1831, 32, 33, 34.

REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 1775.

Oliver Watson, 1775, 76, 77, 80.*	James Draper, 1813, 14, 15, 16, 17,
John Bisco, 1777, 80, 81.	18, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37.
Not represented, 1778.	Not represented, 1819.
John Muzzy, 1779.	William Bemis, 1820.
Isaac Jenks, 1782, 83, 84, 85.	Not represented, 1821.
Not represented, 1786.	“ “ 1822.
James Hathaway, 1787, 88, 89, 90,	Rufus Adams, 1823, 29, 32.
91, 92, 93.	Not represented, 1824.
Benjamin Drury, 1794, 95, 96, 97,	“ “ 1825.
98, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05,	“ “ 1826.
06, 07, 08, 09, 10.	William Pope, 1827.
Jonas Muzzy, 1811, 12.	Walton Livermore, 1831.†
Phinehas Jones, 1812.	David Prouty, 1833, 34.

* The constitution went into operation between the summer and winter sessions of 1780. John Muzzy, was chosen in May 1780, and his office became extinct when the constitution commenced, and in October John Bisco was chosen until May 1781, when he was again re-elected to serve until the next annual election.

† 1831, the constitution was so altered, that the political year commenced on the first Wednesday in January, instead of the last Wednesday in May, as formerly. Consequently, the offices of those representa-

Lewis Bemis, 1834, 35.
 Amos Brown, 1835.
 Dennis Ward, 1836, 37, 39.

Walter Sibley, 1838.
 Eleazer B. Draper, 1839, 40, 41.

VOTES FOR GOVERNOR SINCE 1780.

The first column indicates the year, the second, the successful candidate, third, the number of votes he received, fourth, the opposition, or unsuccessful candidate, fifth, the number of votes he received. In some of the years, there were a few scattered votes, but not of sufficient importance to be noticed in this table.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>
1780	J. Hancock	69	No opposition	
1781	Hancock	20	T. Cushing	9
1782	Hancock	23	Cushing	38
1783	Hancock	85	No opposition	
1784	Hancock	48	No opposition	
1785	J. Bowdoin		N. Gorham	34
1786	Bowdoin		Gorham	41
1787	Hancock	87	Bowdoin	7
1788	Hancock	76	E. Gerry	7
1789	Hancock	72	J. Bowdoin	1
1790	Hancock	67	No opposition	
1791	Hancock	71	No opposition	
1792	Hancock	78	S. Phillips	2
1793	Hancock	64	No opposition	
1794	S. Adams	61	No opposition	
1795	S. Adams	61	No opposition	
1796	S. Adams	75	J. Sumner	7
1797	J. Sumner	20	M. Gill	} 22
			J. Sullivan	
1798	Sumner	30	J. Sullivan	3
1799	Sumner	43	Wm. Heath	23
1800	C. Strong	8	E. Gerry	81

tives chosen in May of that year, became vacated after the summer session of the legislature, and others were chosen on the second Monday in November following, whose term of service commenced the next January. It will be observed, therefore, that those representatives, in the table, designated for the years 1832, 1833, &c. were chosen November, the preceding year.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>
1801	Strong	64	Gerry	43
1802	Strong	100	Gerry	22
1803	Strong	85	Gerry	8
1804	Strong	106	Sullivan	20
1805	Strong	109	Sullivan	62
1806	Strong	88	Sullivan	59
1807	Sullivan	91	Strong	101
1808	Sullivan	87	C. Gore	90
1809	C. Gore	108	L. Lincoln	107
1810	E. Gerry	125	C. Gore	110
1811	E. Gerry	131	C. Gore	96
1812	C. Strong	115	E. Gerry	130
1813	Strong	124	J. B. Varnum	118
1814	Strong	132	S. Dexter	131
1815	Strong	124	Dexter	124
1816	J. Brooks	115	Dexter	106
1817	Brooks	113	H. Dearborn	95
1818	Brooks	98	B. Crowningshield	78
1819	Brooks	102	Crowningshield	82
1820	Brooks	85	Wm. Eustis	76
1821	Brooks	97	Eustis	83
1822	Brooks	101	Eustis	72
1823	Eustis	105	H. G. Otis	101
1824	Eustis	117	S. Lathrop	133
1825	L. Lincoln	73	M. Morton	80
1826	Lincoln	31	J. Loyd	78
1827	Lincoln	72	W. C. Jarvis	24
1828	Lincoln	73	M. Morton	2
1829	Lincoln	49	Morton	18
1830	Lincoln	90	Morton	58
1831	Lincoln	90	Morton	37
1832	Lincoln*	80	Morton	19
1833	L. Lincoln	140	Morton	29
1834	J. Davis	162	Morton	22
1835	J. Davis	189	Morton	20
1836	E. Everett	94	Morton	23

*The political year having been altered in 1831, the votes indicated to have been given in 1832, and the years afterward, were in fact given in November, in the years previous.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Votes.</i>
1837	Everett	147	Morton	38
1838	Everett	164	Morton	41
1839	Everett	152	Morton	102
1840	Morton	127	Everett	160
1841	J. Davis	196	Morton	115

LAWYERS.

A spirit of litigation has never been one of the prominent characteristics of the good people of Spencer; consequently, lawyers have found but a slender support, but few of the profession have been induced to open an office here, and those staying but a short time.

Bradford Sumner, came into the town in the winter of 1813, but receiving proposals from N. P. Denny, Esq., of Leicester, he staid here but a few weeks, and went into partnership with Mr. Denny. After continuing a few years in Leicester, he removed to the city of Boston, and still continues there, in successful practice.

John Davis, was born in Northborough, graduated at Yale College, 1812, studied law with Hon. Francis Blake, of Worcester, and established himself in this town in the latter part of 1815. While here, his business was considerable, and his amiable deportment and unassuming manners, won the confidence of the people. Mr. Blake, having been appointed clerk of the courts at Worcester, in the month of May, 1816, Mr. Davis removed to Worcester, and took Mr. Blake's office, where he soon became an eminent practitioner and successful advocate at the bar. In 1824, he was chosen representative to Congress, for Worcester South District, and continued to represent that district for ten years. In 1834, he was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and was again re-elected in 1835. The same year was elected Senator to Congress, which he continued to hold for six years. In 1841, he was again re-elected Governor of Massachusetts. He still resides in Worcester.

William S. Andrews, was born in Boston, and graduated at Harvard University, 1812. He studied at the Law School in

Litchfield, Conn. and with Hon. Francis Blake. He opened an office in Spencer, 1816, soon after the removal of Mr. Davis. He continued here until the summer of 1817, when he went to the state of Maine, and afterwards practised in Worcester. He now resides in Boston.

Daniel Knight, was born in Worcester, and graduated at Brown University, 1813. He studied law with Governor Lincoln in Worcester, and commenced the practice of law in Spencer, 1817. He continued here until 1820, when he took a journey to South Carolina, for the restoration of his health, but with partial success. He removed to Leicester, and opened an office there. After lingering for five or six years, part of which time he was able to attend to business, he died at Leicester, August 16, 1826.

REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS.

The following are the names of some of the soldiers in the Revolutionary War, originally from this town, who have since received pensions from government, either personally or by their widows.

Jesse Bemis	Levi Baldwin
Amasa Bemis	Timothy Capen
Jonas Bemis *	Abijah Capen
John Bigelow	James Capen
James Bigelow	Gershom Comins
Samuel Baldwin	Simeon Draper
Samuel Garfield	Johnson Prouty
Joseph Garfield	Joshua Prouty
Samuel Guilford	Eli Prouty
Jesse Graham	Elijah Prouty
Benjamin Hager	Shadrach Peirce
Levi Hathaway	Caleb Segar
Joel Howe	Benjamin Sumner

* Jonas Bemis, Esq., now more than eighty years of age, was a sergeant in the revolution, and served during the war, and receives a pension of one hundred and twenty dollars per annum.

Nathaniel Lamb	James Watson
Andrew Morgan	Thomas White
Amos Munroe	Thaddeus White
Thomas Moor	Sylvanus Gates

Joseph Wheat.

The following are the names of those revolutionary soldiers who went into the service from other towns, and being since residents here, have received their pensions, either personally, or by their widows.

Elias Adams	Alvan Howe
Israel Allen	Phinehas Jones
Rufus Bacon	Henry Rixford
John Clark	James Snow
Nathan Crage	Paul Wheelock
Elisha Harrington	Asa Humphrey.

London 1809
Allan 109 1/2

