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# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN OF WINCHENDON,

FROM THE

GRANT OF THE TOWNSHIP

BY

THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS

### IN 1735,

TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY EZRA HYDE.



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JOHN OF MASSACHUSETTS

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THE DISTRICT COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN 1849

IN THE YEAR 1849

OF THE YEAR 1849

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MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE YEAR 1849



## TO THE YOUTH OF WINCHENDON.

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Having a desire of rescuing from oblivion a series of facts, many of which will be interesting to the inhabitants of Winchendon, when the present generation shall be gone, it is believed, is a sufficient apology for publishing the following history.

The editor would rejoice with you, that our happy lot is cast in such a land as this, in which is the knowledge of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, a land of liberty both religious and civil.

Let us, for a moment, take a retrospective view of the time when our forefathers fled from persecution in England, their native country, and sought an asylum in this then barren wilderness. Here they patiently endured almost intolerable hardships. But they flourished and grew to a people and a nation.

At length, being oppressed by the mother country, they resisted her unjust encroachments and tyrannical usurpations, and would not submit to her unjust demands. And what was the consequence? Why, a long, a destructive, a terrible war ensued, in which many lives and much property were lost. Our fathers fought, they bled, they conquered; and obtained for their posterity that invaluable blessing, Independence.

Surely, these considerations cannot do less than excite in us the warmest emotions of gratitude towards the memories of those who, under God, obtained for us our Freedom and Independence.

Beloved youth, you are the hope of your country. But all depends on your improvement of early instruction.

The diligent study of the Bible ought, in the first place, to be most earnestly recommended to you. From that sacred fountain you will learn what you ought to believe, and what is your duty towards your Creator, your neighbor, and yourselves. In the Bible are made known the mind and will of God, and our duty, and the way of salvation by Jesus Christ.

The care of education is a work of the highest moment; as all the advantages, or miscarriages, of man's life are, in a great measure, dependent on it.

That man cannot be conceived to be absolutely complete, whose natural endowments are not assisted and cultivated by learning.

No stronger incentive to learning is needed, than to know what a figure a man will make in the world without this great accomplishment; and how by the labor of a few years' erudition, he stands possessed of advantages, that will stick by him to his latest hour.

By laying in a store of useful knowledge, adorning your minds with elegant literature, improving and establishing your conduct by virtuous principles, you will be a comfort to those friends who have supported you, happy within yourselves, and well received of mankind.

Beloved youth, to you especially is the following history cordially inscribed by

THE AUTHOR.

## P R E F A C E .

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The writer has been induced to undertake the present work by the solicitation of many of his friends, and by a desire to save from oblivion, to which they were hastening, some of the events connected with the history of this town. After collecting materials to a considerable extent, he felt ready to abandon the project, wishing that it might be prosecuted by some abler hand. But he has at length come to the decision to prepare the work for the press without further delay. The knowledge of some events treasured up in the memories of a few aged people, must, in the course of nature, soon be inevitably lost, if not preserved in a connected and tangible form. Though the number of these relics of other days is now small, much information has been derived from them; and much more might have been obtained, had the enquiries commenced a few years earlier.

The difficulty of preparing a work of this nature, can only be conceived of by one who has attempted it. The mere collecting of the scattered materials is some labor. It is a greater toil to arrange them in proper order when once they are collected. The settling of doubtful and contradictory statements is sometimes a perplexing business. And then comes the writing, which the author must accomplish as he can.

The writer has had free access to the Records of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, and to the Town Records of Winchendon. Oral and written information has been furnished with the utmost cheerfulness, by all those possessed of facts worthy of note.

It has not been thought necessary to descend into the particulars of the unhappy difficulties, which this town has experienced in its ecclesiastical affairs. The recital of

them at the present time, would prove to be rather painful than interesting, and perhaps an impartial account would give satisfaction to neither party. When it is recollected that these divisions commenced about the year 1798, during the ministry of Rev. Mr. Brown, and continued, with more or less excitement, though with some intervals, till the ordinations of Rev. Messrs. Marvin and Bullard, during which period difficulty after difficulty arose, and council after council was called, it will be seen that a strictly impartial account of them would be a task of no small difficulty, and would extend the limits of this work much too far. It will be enough to state, generally, that angry feelings were sometimes indulged to an inexcusable extent. If this excited state of feeling has now passed away, the writer would not incur the hazard of disturbing the calm by galling a tender wound.

To Mr. Webster Whitney, the Town Clerk of Winchendon, Windsor N. White, Esq., Mr. Ezra Porter, Mr. M. S. Morse, Chairman of the Assessors the present year, Mr. Elisha Murdock, Rev. A. P. Marvin, Rev. Malachi Bullard, and Rev. J. M. Whiton, D. D., of Antrim, N. H. (who is a native of this town—the son of the late lamented Israel Whiton, Esq.—who was our physician, beloved and highly respected for his piety, talents, and usefulness,) this public expression of the thanks of the writer is due for the readiness with which they have afforded him every facility in their power, in the compilation of this work. To other persons, to whom he is more or less indebted for information, he tenders his grateful acknowledgements.

If the following pages afford satisfaction to the inhabitants of the place, and furnish the writers of general history with any facts before unknown, the writer is rewarded for his labor.

E. H.

WINCHENDON, Sept. 28, 1848.

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# HISTORY OF WINCHENDON.

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## Grant of the Territory of Ipswich Canada.

On the 10th of June, 1735, a grant of land to be equal to six miles square, was made by the Legislature of Massachusetts, to Abraham Tilton and others. Preference was to be given to those who petitioned for the grant, and the descendants of the officers and soldiers, who served in the expedition to Canada, in the year 1690. This tract was to be laid out into 63 equal shares; one for the first minister, one for the use of the ministry, and one for a school; the others for 60 proprietors.<sup>1</sup>

## Meetings of the Proprietors, and their Transactions.

March 27, 1736. Thomas Berry, Esq., of Ipswich, was authorized to assemble the Proprietors and Grantees.<sup>2</sup>

April 13, 1736. The Committee appointed to lay out the Township met at Ipswich, and admitted a certain number of persons as Grantees of the Township.<sup>3</sup>

As all the Proprietors of the Township, excepting eight, belonged to Ipswich, in the county of Essex in

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<sup>1</sup> See Note A.

<sup>2</sup> See Note B.

<sup>3</sup> See Note C.

Massachusetts, it was called Ipswich Canada, until its incorporation.<sup>1</sup>

A meeting of the Proprietors and Grantees of the new Township, was notified May 20, 1736, by Thomas Berry, Esq., "to choose a Proprietors' Clerk, and to pass such votes and orders as may be thought most proper for bringing forward the said Township, agreeable to the General Court's order:"<sup>2</sup> which meeting was held in Ipswich, May 31, 1736. Thomas Norton, Jun., was chosen Proprietors' Clerk; and a Committee "was empowered to employ two men to burn the woods, if, according to their discretion, they shall think it best."<sup>3</sup>

Another meeting of the Proprietors was held at Ipswich, on the 28th of June following, when a Committee of five was chosen "to go and view the land."<sup>4</sup>

The next meeting of the Proprietors was held at Ipswich, on the 4th of November following; at which time a Committee was chosen to lot and lay out the first division. Jonathan Wade, Esq. was chosen Treasurer, and a method was agreed upon for raising money for defraying charges.<sup>5</sup>

The Proprietors' next meeting was held at Ipswich, May 6, 1737, when Assessors and Collectors were chosen.<sup>6</sup>

The next meeting of the Proprietors was held in Ipswich, October 27, 1737, at which time many im-

<sup>1</sup> See Note D.

<sup>2</sup> See Note E.

<sup>3</sup> See Note F.

<sup>4</sup> See Note G.

<sup>5</sup> See Note H.

<sup>6</sup> See Note I.



portant votes were passed ; among others, that reserving land for building a meeting house on ; likewise for a burying place, and for a training field ; also that giving encouragement to those who first shall build three houses in the Township, agreeable to the General Court's act, and who shall have a family settled in each house.<sup>1</sup>

The next meeting of the Proprietors was held at Ipswich, February 13, 1737,<sup>2</sup> when it was "voted that there be a cart way cut from Dorchester Canada<sup>3</sup> meeting house lot, on the nearest and most convenient way that can be found from Dorchester Canada road, to the center of the lots as laid out in the Township of the said Ipswich Canada, and to make such bridges and causeys as are absolutely necessary for making the way passable." It was also "voted, That four acres be cleared in the meeting house lot, in the most convenient place for erecting a meeting house, and to be sowed with herds grass ;" and a Committee of five was chosen to agree where to clear, in order for the location of a meeting house.<sup>4</sup>

At a meeting of the Proprietors, February 8, 1738, it was voted, That twenty shillings on each original Right be raised, for the encouragement of such persons, as shall build a Saw Mill ; and a vote was passed concerning clearing a road from Payqueage.<sup>5</sup>

Several meetings of the Proprietors were held in

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<sup>1</sup> See Note J.   <sup>2</sup> See Note K.   <sup>3</sup> Now Ashburnham.   <sup>4</sup> See Note L.  
<sup>5</sup> Now Athol.   See Note M.

Ipswich in 1741 and 1742, for the purpose of adopting measures for erecting a Saw mill, building a meeting house and laying out and clearing roads, and to encourage the settlement of the Township.

#### The First Saw Mill.

In 1742 a Saw mill was erected at the place where Mr. John Poor's Saw mill now stands.

At a meeting of the Proprietors, March 14, 1742, a Committee was chosen to lay out a second division of lots. A Committee was also appointed to build a Corn mill in the most convenient place. A Committee was likewise directed and empowered, to agree with some one to do the Proprietors' blacksmiths' work in the Township.<sup>1</sup>

After the last named date, there is no record of any meeting of the Proprietors, for more than eight years.

The next meeting of the Proprietors was held at Ipswich, March 29, 1751 ; and was adjourned to meet on the 11th of next April, when a Committee was appointed to run the lines, and renew the bounds between the Township of Ipswich Canada, and the contiguous Townships ;<sup>2</sup> which Committee made a return, and reported their doings at the next Proprietors' meeting. And at the latter meeting, Francis Goodhue was chosen Treasurer, and a Committee was appointed to assist the Clerk in making a report to the General Court.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Note N.

<sup>2</sup> See Note O.

<sup>3</sup> See Note P.

It appears from the records of the Proprietors and from tradition, that in or about the year 1752, there was a small frame raised for a meeting house, about 100 rods easterly of the present meeting house common, near the burying ground ; but it was never occupied, or even prepared for the purpose.

#### The First Settlers.

No evidence appears of there being any permanent settlement in the Township, previous to the year 1752. At length the Proprietors offered greater encouragement to settlers, and in that year, ten families had fixed down here.<sup>1</sup>

But the settlement of the place was immediately retarded, by what is commonly called the last French War. Most of the settlers left the place. Those who remained were obliged to keep in garrisons.<sup>2</sup>

#### Measures regarding the Preaching of the Gospel in the Township.

The Proprietors, at a meeting in Ipswich, July 3, 1753, took measures to have the gospel preached in Ipswich Canada, and voted they would be at the charge of four days' preaching. And at this and subsequent meetings, they agreed to dispose of the meeting house frame that was before erected, and to make preparations for, and to build a new one. They also passed votes concerning managing and improving the saw mill, and making and mending roads.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Note Q.

<sup>2</sup> See Note R.

<sup>3</sup> See Note S.

### The First Meeting of the Proprietors in the Township.

The first meeting of the Proprietors, held in the Township, was at the dwelling house<sup>1</sup> of Richard Day, 24th Oct. 1753, and was adjourned to the next day, when it was voted that the road to the saw mill be repaired, and that the first frame erected for a meeting house be granted to Col. Thomas Berry, to enable him to build a suitable and convenient room to meet in for public worship.<sup>2</sup>

### Fortifying the Township.

It appears that previously to the year 1754, something had been done with regard to fortifying the Township, against the incursions of the French and Indians. On the 31st October in that year, further measures were adopted for the purpose, a new Clerk was chosen, and money was granted to pay for preaching.<sup>3</sup>

It may be here stated that the Proprietors sustained the preaching of the gospel for from four Sabbaths to half the Sabbaths annually, for eight or ten years previously to the settlement of the first minister.<sup>4</sup>

### The First Grist Mill.

The first Corn Mill was built on Miller's river, in what is now the North Village, about 1759, by Mr. Bartholomew Parsons.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Note T.    <sup>2</sup> See Note U.    <sup>3</sup> See Note V.    <sup>4</sup> See Note W.

<sup>5</sup> See Note X.

Soon after this, a bridge and a long causeway were built over Miller's river and the meadow, on the county road, near where Mr. Phineas Ball now lives.<sup>1</sup>

In 1762, a bridge was built over Miller's river, in the North Village, against where the wool factory dye house now stands.<sup>2</sup>

#### The First Meeting House.

The Proprietors erected a meeting house in 1762. The Building Committee were Benjamin Goodridge, Abijah Smith and Philip Goodridge. It was located on the south part of the meeting house common. It had side and front galleries. It had pews and many free seats below and above. The outside of the house was clapboarded, but never painted; the inside was unfinished, never having been either ceiled or plastered.

A Cemetery, or burying place is located about 100 rods easterly from the meeting house.<sup>3</sup>

#### Incorporation of the Town.

In 1763 the Proprietors, together with the inhabitants, made arrangements relative to applying to the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation.<sup>4</sup>

On the 14th of June, 1764, Ipswich Canada was incorporated by an act of the General Court, when it was made a town and called Winchendon.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Note Y.    <sup>2</sup> See Note Z.    <sup>3</sup> See Note AA.    <sup>4</sup> See Note BB.

<sup>5</sup> See Note CC.

### Annexation of Royalston Leg.

When the township was first located, it was supposed to extend northerly to New Hampshire ; but upon running the line afterwards between the States, it was found that there was a mile in width, the whole length of the town, left to Massachusetts. Upon the granting of Royalston some years afterward, this strip of land was annexed to that town, and called Royalston Leg. When a number of families had got seated thereon, at their request, it was, in 1780, set to Winchendon. It contained 3840 acres.

### Land Set off to Gardner.

In June 1785, a piece of land of 3680 acres was taken from the the southeasterly part of this town to help form the town of Gardner. Winchendon, however, still remains more than six miles square.

### Distance from Boston and Worcester.

This town is 60 miles N. W. by W. from Boston, and 35 N. by N. W. from Worcester.

### Wood and Timber.

The general growth of wood on the high lands is red oak, beech, rock maple, interspersed with white pine and hemlock. On the low lands, white pine, hemlock, hacmatac, ash of all kinds, yellow and white birch, interspersed with red oak and beech. On some of the low lands there is little or nothing but pine, hemlock and hacmatac. In some parts of the town there is

chestnut, and in other parts pitch pine, but neither of them in plenty.

#### Face of the Country.

There is somewhat of a diversity in the face of the country in this region. A large proportion of the town is level, consisting of pretty extensive plains; other parts are diversified by hills and valleys. Some of the most notable elevations are Meeting House hill, N. W. from the meeting house common, inclosed in the farms formerly owned by Rev. Joseph Brown and Mr. Levi Nichols; Prentiss hill, on the south side of Miller's river, formerly owned by Dea. Samuel Prentiss; Hyde hill, on the north side of Miller's River, formerly owned by Mr. Ezra Hyde, sen.; Lovejoy hill, now owned by Mr. Oliver Lovejoy; Poland hill, formerly owned by Mr. William Poland; Tallow hill, formerly owned by Mr. Peter Joyslin, sen.; Goodridge hill, formerly owned by Mr. David Goodridge; Boynton hill, formerly owned by Lieut. Joseph Boynton; Payson hill, formerly owned by Col. John Boynton; Barren hills, south of Monomonac pond; Hale hill, formerly owned by Dea. Moses Hale; Nineteenth hill, formerly owned by Mr. Dudley Perley and Mr. James Raymond; Raymond hill, formerly owned by Col. Paul Raymond; and Birch hill, near where Otter river empties into Miller's river.

#### Soil and Productions.

The soil of Winchendon, with some exceptions, has been accounted good. It produces grass, wheat, rye,

indian corn, barley, oats, potatoes, and many other kinds of vegetables.

#### Ponds, Springs, Rivers and Brooks.

There is but one pond, which is wholly within the limits of this town ; this was called Denison's<sup>1</sup> pond, and is sometimes called New Boston pond. It covers, perhaps, as much as 70 acres. It has an inlet from the north and an outlet towards the south into Miller's river, which runs within 100 rods of the pond. It abounds in fish of various kinds.

There is a spring of the mineral kind, in the north-easterly part of the town. For many years after its discovery, it was called *The Yellow Spring*. It is of a medicinal nature, and rather seems of a chalybeate quality. It is not so much visited by invalids, as formerly.

There is one river known by the name of Miller's river, so called by the English, from a man by the name of Miller, who was drowned therein, about 200 years ago, in attempting to pass the river somewhere towards its mouth, in his way to Northfield. But the natives called it Payqueage. From Little Naukheag, which is near the centre of Ashburnham, a rivulet empties into Great Naukheag, whence a stream issues to the west which makes a part of Miller's river. Another source of Miller's river is a large pond, lying chiefly in Rindge, N. H., a small part only, (where

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<sup>1</sup> See Note DD.



the outlet is,) falling within the bounds of Winchendon. This pond is known by the name of Monome-noc pond. These two branches, together with some other small streams, uniting easterly of Winchendon North Village, form Miller's river, which runs westerly, southwesterly, northwesterly, and southerly, nearly half round the town; in no place nearer than one mile of the centre meeting house, and in some places three miles and more from it.

Otter river originates in a small pond in the south part of Templeton; one of its sources, and, perhaps, the main one, is found in the swamps of Westminster. The Templeton branch flows first in a southeasterly direction into Hubbardston, where it changes its course to the northeast and passes into Gardner, where several streams join it, and runs into Templeton again. It takes a northwesterly course in Templeton, and is joined by Trout brook. It just touches on Winchendon in the southerly part thereof, and runs nigh the bounds of the town about a mile and a half, and unites itself with the waters of Miller's or Payqueage river, just before it leaves Winchendon. Miller's river leaves the town near the southwest angle thereof.

There are two considerable streams in the westerly part of the town, which take their rise in Fitzwilliam, N. H. One of them joins Miller's River at the Upper Intervales, towards the northwest part of the town; this is sometimes called *Stuart's Brook*, on account of its running through the farm formerly owned by Jere-

miah Stuart. The other comes from Fitzwilliam into Royalston, and runs a considerable way in the easterly part thereof, then turns and enters Winchendon, and after running several miles, joins Miller's river just above Denison's pond. This stream might have been denominated a river from its largeness, had it not early received the appellation of Priest's brook. This name was given it from the circumstance of its running through a tract of land, now lying in Royalston, formerly granted by the General Court of Massachusetts to a Joseph Priest, to induce him to set up a house of entertainment, for the benefit of travellers from this State to the Ashuelots, (Keene and Swanzey,) and to No. 4, (Charlestown,) in the State of New Hampshire. The house of this Priest was called The Halfway House. Trout, pickerel and perch, and various other kinds of fish, are found in the two latter streams, as also in many parts of Miller's river.

Besides the above mentioned streams, there are many other brooks and rivulets running in every part of the town, whereby it is exceedingly well watered.

#### Town Meetings.

On the 5th day of November, 1764, the first meeting, which the town ever held in its corporate capacity, was called, according to the act of incorporation, by virtue of a warrant issued by Edward Hartwell, Esq. of Lunenburg, directed to Richard Day of the town of Winchendon. It was held at the dwelling house of Richard Day. Richard Day was Moderator

of this meeting, and Abel Wilder was chosen Town Clerk.<sup>1</sup>

The next town meeting, which was the first annual March meeting, was called by warrant of the Selectmen, directed to the Constable, who "warned all the inhabitants of the town, by themselves, or by leaving word at their usual places of abode, to assemble at the time and place therein mentioned;" which meeting was held at the meeting house, March 11, 1765.<sup>2</sup>

#### Affairs Connected with the American Revolution.

It is well known, that for some years following 1760, the disputes between Great Britain and her Colonies were fast approaching a crisis. Soon after the French power in Canada had been crushed in 1759, the British Ministry began to turn their thoughts towards raising a revenue in America. Their first step in this proceeding was to direct the collector for the port of Boston to apply to the civil authority for "*Writs of Assistance*," to command the aid of all sheriffs and constables in breaking open houses, stores, ships and packages of all sorts, to search for articles prohibited by the "*Acts of Trade*"—a series of acts which had been passed to favor the West India merchants, and which had nearly annihilated the commerce of the Colonies. These acts had been mostly evaded by non-importation and smuggling.

The legality of the "Writs" was doubted, and the

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<sup>1</sup> See Note EE.

<sup>2</sup> See Note FF.

question came before the Superior Court for decision in February 1761. By the powerful assistance of James Otis, the Writs were defeated. His masterly speech on this occasion, first awakened the Colonists to the real danger of the threatened course of the ministry. They saw, in the pretended right of Parliament of taxing them to an unlimited extent, the germ of tyranny which would destroy their liberties ; and they wisely resolved to destroy the monster in its shell, before it should acquire sufficient strength to crush them in its folds. They knew that their charter gave them the right to tax themselves, and that every exercise of this right on the part of the parliament, was an infringement upon their chartered privileges. They were not actuated by the sordid love of money, but by the nobler love of liberty. They had freely poured forth their treasure and their blood in the preceding wars, and now they claimed the privilege of taxing themselves. They contended that Taxation and Representation were inseparable ; while Parliament claimed the right to "bind the Colonies in all cases whatever." This was the point on which the dispute turned.

In the years 1763, 4 and 5, the commerce of the Colonies was nearly at a stand, in consequence of the "Sugar Act," and the "Stamp Act." Their operation was defeated by non-importation and smuggling. To the great joy of the Colonists, the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, and the importation of goods was

greater than ever. A cloud was soon thrown over the prosperity which everywhere began to be visible. The "Revenue Act" was passed in 1763. Again the people of Massachusetts took the lead in asserting the liberties of the Colonies, and they acted promptly and effectually.

By means of associations, speeches, circulars and pamphlets, the rights of the Colonies, and the dangers with which they were threatened, were fully discussed and laid before the people.

In September, 1768, the Selectmen of Winchendon received a letter from the Selectmen of Boston, requesting them to call a town meeting, and then to take into consideration the critical condition of government affairs, and to choose an agent to come to Boston to express there the views, wishes and determination of the people of Winchendon, on this important subject. A town meeting was accordingly called to consider of the Votes lately passed by the town of Boston, and act in regard to them ; and "to choose a suitable person to join the Convention to be held at Boston." The town held their meeting on the 19th of the same month, and readily and cordially "consented to the several Votes passed by the town of Boston, at their meeting on the 12th of September instant." "But," in the language of the vote then passed, "being a small people, we think it not necessary to send a Committee ; but oblige ourselves to consent to those methods, that the Convention shall come into for the pre-

servation of our invaluable rights and privileges." On reviewing these transactions, and their subsequent proceedings, no doubt is left but that thus early, the people were resolved upon maintaining their rights.

The firm resistance with which the projects of the British government were received, served to strengthen the determination of the Ministry to carry their point at all hazards. Troops were stationed at Boston to overawe the inhabitants. Acts of increased severity were passed. The colonists saw that they must yield, or maintain their rights at the point of the bayonet. They did hesitate between the alternatives. They did not prepare for the encounter under the impulse of the moment, but calmly deliberated upon the propriety of every measure. The pens of Otis, Adams and their associates, were ever busy. The acts of the government were severely scrutinized, and the rights of the Colonies most ably vindicated and maintained. But one sentiment pervaded the community, and that was a fixed determination to preserve inviolate their freedom.

The people of Boston took the lead in these measures of resistance, and were nobly seconded by the inhabitants of the other towns. They sought an expression of opinion from every town on the all engrossing subject of dispute, in order that they might know what they could rely upon, if it should be necessary to meet the obstinacy of Great Britain with open rebellion.

In January, 1773, another letter was received from the town of Boston, containing their statement of the rights of the Colonies, and the infringement made upon them, and requesting the inhabitants of Winchendon to pass suitable resolves, as free members of society, and to send them in the form of a report to the Committee of Correspondence in Boston. The town was not unmindful of this invitation. A town meeting was speedily called, by Abel Wilder and John Boynton, a majority of the Selectmen, agreeable to a request signed by ten freeholders,—To see if the town will take into consideration the distressing circumstances of the present affairs of the province; and so far as concerns particular towns and individual persons, to act thereon by choosing Committees, or otherwise, as they shall see fit. The meeting was held on the 15th of February following. A copy of the records of this meeting will convey a good idea of the views and feelings of the inhabitants, on these important subjects. The record is transcribed in the notes.<sup>1</sup>

We hence learn what the sentiments of this town were concerning the course which Great Britain was pursuing towards her colonies. They believed that it was oppressive and unjust, and that they, as freemen, ought by no means to submit to it. Though living far back in the interior, they heartily responded to the noble and patriotic sentiments, which animated the bosoms of the people of Boston, and acquired for

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<sup>1</sup> See Note GG.

their favorite place of meeting, (Faneuil Hall,) the name of the "Cradle of Liberty."

A warrant was issued by the Selectmen, for a town meeting to be held on the 4th of August, 1774. The substance of one article, as stated in the warrant, is, that "Whereas the Committee of Correspondence of the town of Winchendon, have received a letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Worcester, together with the Committee of Winchendon, requesting the town of Winchendon to appoint one or more of the Committee of the town of Winchendon, to meet the other Committees of the several towns in this county, at Worcester on the 9th of August next, to consult together, and come into some regular method to oppose the late Acts of Parliament, the intent of which is to bereave us of our rights and privileges" —to see if the town will choose one or more of the Committee for the above said purpose. A town meeting was accordingly held, and a delegate chosen. And they accepted and adopted a number of loyal as well as spirited Resolutions.<sup>1</sup> The town meeting was adjourned to the 15th of September following, when the town again met, and voted to send a Delegate to the Provincial Congress, which was to meet at Concord, the second Tuesday of the next October. They then voted that every [male] person, from the age of sixteen years to sixty, should appear at the meeting

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<sup>1</sup> For a particular recital of the transactions of this town meeting, see Note HH.



house in Winchendon, on the 20th of September current. They also passed a vote, indemnifying the Constable in not returning a list of the persons qualified to serve as Jurors, agreeable to a late Act of Parliament, and directing him never to make such return.<sup>1</sup>

The Provincial Congress had recommended to the several towns, to withhold the amount of their annual taxes from Harrison Gray, Esq., who was the State Treasurer under the royal government, before the commencement of difficulties in the colonies, and was still Treasurer; and that they should pay them over to Henry Gardner, Esq. of Stow, as the Treasurer for the province. With this recommendation the town complied, and ordered the Constables to pay the money to Henry Gardner, Esq., and engaged to indemnify the Constables.<sup>2</sup> These were, certainly, very bold measures, and well calculated to bring on the struggle of war.

The town, at their meeting January 10, 1775, chose a Committee to see that the agreement, and association of the Continental Congress, be put in execution.

It will be seen that the town was prepared for the important crisis, which was now at hand—the opening scene of the Revolution.

On the 19th of April, the troops of Great Britain and her Colonies first came in hostile collision. The alarm of Lexington was spread in Winchendon, by

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<sup>1</sup> See Note II.      <sup>2</sup> Mr Gardner was, afterwards, the first State Treasurer under the Constitution of 1780. See Note JJ.

firing guns. Here was one small company of militia, of which the Hon. Abel Wilder was Captain. He and his company marched immediately. When the time of action came, the people of this town did not fail to make their deeds correspond with their professions.

There was, in this town, as well as other towns in the country, a certain number of men enrolled by themselves, and denominated "minute men,"<sup>1</sup> whose duty it was to be ready to meet any emergency, at a moment's warning.

As there was no immediate need for their services, Capt. Wilder and his men soon returned home. Capt. Wilder was afterward in the battle of Bunker Hill, in which one of his company, Samuel Bradish, was wounded in a remarkable manner; a musket ball, accidentally discharged by another of the company, entered the back of his neck, and came out at one of his eyes; he of course lost one eye. He got well, and lived many years.

After this period, several of the inhabitants joined the army at different periods, and for different lengths of time. This people were ever prompt, during the whole time of the revolution, in furnishing their quota of men, and whatever was necessary, to the utmost of their ability.

The warrant for the annual meeting in March, 1776,

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<sup>1</sup> Minute men, men ready at a minute's notice; a term used in the American Revolution. Webster's Dictionary.

and previous warrants, had ever commenced in this form—"In his Majesty's name, you are required to warn," etc. This was the last occasion on which the people of Winchendon acknowledged the authority of "his Majesty's name."

The warrant for the town meeting which was held on the fourth day of July, 1776, and subsequent warrants, ran thus—"You are required, in the name of the Government and People of the Massachusetts Bay, to notify," etc.

This town meeting shows what was the disposition of the inhabitants, when the important question of National Independence was submitted to them. The General Court, then in session, had assured the Continental Congress, that if they, in their wisdom, should deem it expedient to declare the colonies free and independent, the people of this colony would, undoubtedly, support them in the measure. The State Legislature, however, to make the thing certain, passed a resolve that each town should act individually, on this important question. By virtue of this resolve, this town assembled on the 4th day of July.

The town "unanimously resolved, that if the Honorable Continental Congress should think it best, for the safety of these Colonies, to declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, that we will, with our lives and fortunes, support them in the measure."<sup>1</sup> On the very day, on which the question

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<sup>1</sup> See Note KK.

was decided, and the Declaration adopted by Congress, the people of Winchendon declared themselves ready to peril their lives and fortunes in the cause of freedom.

The declaration having been adopted, copies were sent, by the order of the Council, to the several towns of the State, where they were read from the pulpit, and then copied into the town Book of Records—"there to remain as a perpetual memorial thereof."

It must strike every one with some surprise, that during the suspension of all judicial and executive authority in the State, the great mass of people should have been kept quiet and orderly. The wisdom, and power, and goodness of the Supreme Ruler of the universe—who has the hearts of all in His hand, and turns them whithersoever He will—were herein remarkably obvious. It was truly a moral spectacle. It was a nation bursting the bands in which they had been bound, and ruling and governing themselves in an orderly and peaceable manner. The force of public opinion, at any time great, was then irresistible. The recommendations of Congress were law, and the Committee of Safety saw that the laws were executed, against whom no one durst rebel. In this, they were fully countenanced by the people, who in their frequent meetings and discussions of national affairs, became convinced that union and order were necessary to their existence as a people, and they had virtue enough to guard these most sacredly.

The town, at a meeting, September 30, 1776, "voted and consented that the present House of Representatives, together with the Council, in one body, form a system of laws, for the regulation of this State; that the same be made public for the inspection and perusal of the inhabitants before it be established." And the General Court having given liberty to every town that was not, at that time, represented in the General Court, to send at this time; this town being not now, nor ever before represented, at this meeting "voted to send a Representative, and chose Mr. Robert Bradish, to represent this town in the Great and General Court, the remaining part of the year." In May, 1777, Mr. Bradish was again chosen Representative.<sup>1</sup>

Though the burthen of the war was now pressing heavily upon the town, which was not highly favored in the possession of worldly goods, the people did not despair of the cause of Independence. They continued to labor steadily to the utmost of their ability. It is impossible for us to realize, at the present day, how completely that struggle called into exercise every resource, and the whole energy of every individual throughout the community. How low soever might be his condition, and however scanty might be his means of supporting himself and his family, every man was called upon to act—to do to the utmost of his ability, or to rest under the imputation of being a tory.

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<sup>1</sup> See Note LL.

Let it be remembered also, that at this time, when all kinds of business had been brought nearly to a stand by the operation of the war, when specie was almost unknown throughout the country, and the paper currency was of but little value,<sup>1</sup> the ordinary expenses of the town—such as the support of the minister, of schools, of the highway and bridges, &c. &c.—bore with extreme rigor upon the inhabitants.

In May, 1779, the town voted in favor of a new State Constitution. In August, Abel Wilder, Esq. was chosen a delegate to attend a convention, which was to meet at Cambridge, on the first of September, for the purpose of forming a State Constitution.

#### State Constitution.

In May, 1780, the present Constitution of the State was submitted to the people for their consideration. The inhabitants of Winchendon voted in favor of adopting it.

#### Peace with Great Britain.

Most welcome was the news of the peace with Great Britain in 1782. The days of the Revolution had been trying times. In common with others, this town had been heavily burdened with the expenses of the war. Many of the citizens had engaged at different periods, in the service of their country. Our fathers experienced trials, and hardships, and sufferings,

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<sup>1</sup> See Note MM.

of which it is impossible for their descendants, at the present day, to have an adequate conception.

In May, 1781, Abel Wilder, Esq. was chosen to represent the town in the General Court, under the new Constitution. He represented the town ever afterward, except one year, until 1786, when he was elected a member of the Senate of this State, by the suffrages of this Senatorial district.<sup>1</sup>

#### Winchendon Lottery.

The war, as is well known, left the country in an impoverished condition. Poverty was everywhere. A sound circulating medium was wanting.

In this state of things the town chose a committee to petition for a lottery, to enable the town to build and repair the bridges it was obliged to support.

Permission for a lottery was accordingly obtained in 1783. There were, afterwards, three classes drawn, and some money was obtained. In 1785, the bridge which is now in the North Village, was erected. It is now considered, that no scheme of taxation could have been devised more injurious and extravagant. It was paying under a fascinating prospect of gain, a much larger sum than the citizens would have been obliged to contribute by regular rates. Nor was this all. Some will now recollect the time consumed in drawing the several classes of this lottery, the idle-

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<sup>1</sup> The Hon. Abel Wilder was, afterward, annually elected a Senator, until his decease. He died Nov. 1, 1792, universally lamented.

ness and consequent dissipation it induced, to say nothing of its natural tendency to beget a love of gaming.

After the declaration of peace in 1783, a general stagnation of all kinds of business ensued. The United Colonies were burdened with a debt of forty millions of dollars, without any means of paying it. Congress, under the Confederation, had power only to advise the several States to adopt certain measures to meet the wants of the times.

But the States, actuated by a spirit of commercial rivalry and jealousy, would agree upon no uniform system. So far, then, from any measures being adopted to pay the public debt, even the interest of it remained unpaid.

The whole body of the people became alarmed, and all confidence was destroyed. Certificates of public debt lost their credit, and many officers and soldiers of the late army, who were poor, were compelled to sell these certificates at excessive reductions. They had fondly hoped that if they could establish their independence, and a government of their own choosing, public and private prosperity would everywhere abound, and that things would go on delightfully. Bitter, now, was their disappointment. Of money there was next to none. The introduction of the precious metals had been prevented by the war and its attendant evils, and the paper money in circulation, was of small value. Creditors became alarmed, and used every means in



their power to collect their debts. Business was at a stand—men failed—lawyers were overwhelmed with employment, and Courts of justice filled with business. Massachusetts, for the purpose of maintaining her credit, loaded the people with excessive taxes. It was impossible for them to meet the demands made upon them. They knew not the origin of the evils, but supposed that there was some defect in the laws—that there were either too many, or not enough. Petitions were poured in upon the Legislature from all quarters, but the Legislature, like all deliberative bodies, moved slow. The patience of the people was entirely exhausted, in seeing their property seized on ‘executions,’ issuing from the authoritative Courts; and as petitions, remonstrances, and mild measures had failed to work out a remedy for their grievances, they were determined to seek a remedy by force of arms. Thus much it has been necessary to premise, to account for the origin of “Shays’ Insurrection” in 1786.

**Facts Connected with the Insurrection in Massachusetts.**

A majority of the people of this, as well as the neighboring towns, were ‘Shaysites.’ In extenuation, though not in justification of their conduct, it may be remarked that their straight forward way of thinking, did not lead them to comprehend the actual state of public affairs, and the necessity of sacrificing present convenience to future good. After a war of eight years’ duration, to avoid the evils of excessive and illegal taxation, they could not see what they had gain-

ed, if they were now to be subjected to severer taxation than ever.

They did not break out into open rebellion here, though many stood ready. However, they put no restraint upon their tongues, and their language savored strongly of rebellion. Several persons were involved in that unhappy insurrection, whose names are suppressed from charity to their memories. Their efforts here were always thwarted by the firmness of the "government men," who were unwearied in their efforts to quell the spirit of rebellion.

A few persons, taking advantage of the popular excitement, during the time of the insurrection, were chosen to offices of profit and trust, from the Insurgent party; but they generally became satisfied of their error, as soon as, by their intercourse with intelligent patriots, they saw the dangerous tendency of their measures. We cannot, at this day, realize the horrors of the civil war that then threatened, and, in many places, actually distracted the State. A house was literally divided against itself. Neither sex nor age were exempt from the angry passions that prompted the warlike preparations.

Open rebellion having broken out in several places, and threats and demonstrations of warlike movements beginning to appear in others, the State authorities were compelled to take notice of them, and resolved to put them down by an armed force. They had under their control the militia of the Commonwealth, and

on their side all those, who preferred good order and an observance of the laws—though somewhat objectionable—to open rebellion and civil war.

The insurrection of 1786 being rather a matter of State history, than that of any particular town, this sketch of it will be brought to a close in a few words.

The force headed by Shays himself having been dispersed, the agitation on this subject principally subsided in the following year.

It was customary for the friends of government, to wear a fillet of white paper in their hats, while the adherents of the opposite party adopted, as a badge of distinction, a sprig of evergreen. But, fortunately for the country, the evergreen, in the language of one in that day, soon withered; the arm of power scattered the insurgent forces, and the miserable and misguided adherents of Day, and Shays, and Wheeler, and Parsons, were glad to sue for mercy to that power, which they had so lately risen up to crush. And their suit was not in vain; policy, as well as a predisposition to clemency, spared their lives, and they were suffered to return to their homes in peace. Those, whose reason returned as their passions subsided, became convinced of their follies and their criminality, and many of them became firm supporters of the government. Happily, quiet and order were restored. It seems now to be as generally admitted, that there were causes of complaint, as it is that the course pursued to remove them was unjustifiable.

## MEETING HOUSES.

## Congregational Meeting House in the First Parish.

The first house of public worship being too small for the inhabitants, the town erected a new one in 1792.<sup>1</sup> It was raised on the 25th and 26th of May. The dimensions of the house are 50 by 60 feet—posts 28 feet—a porch at each end of the house. It has front and side galleries—with square pews, and some free seats above and below.<sup>2</sup> Several years after the building of the house, a tower, and steeple, and bell were added.<sup>3</sup> The first meeting in this house was on the 1st of June, 1793, when it was solemnly dedicated to the service of God.

## Baptist Meeting Houses.

There is a Baptist meeting house in the south west part of the town. It was erected about thirty years ago.

There is now (1848) being erected, in the Village near the railroad depot, a meeting house, by a Baptist society recently formed.

## Methodist Meeting Houses.

The first Methodist meeting house was located near the northwest corner of the town; that house was afterward sold.

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<sup>1</sup> See Note NN.

<sup>2</sup> See Note OO.

<sup>3</sup> See Note PP.

The Methodist society erected a handsome and commodious chapel in 1833, in the North Village.

Winchendon North Congregational Meeting House.

In the early part of the year 1843, a voluntary association was formed for the purpose of building a house of worship in Winchendon Village. The association consisted of thirty two gentlemen, and was termed the North Winchendon Congregational Meeting House Company. They accomplished their design in the course of the year by erecting a beautiful house, spacious enough to seat comfortably 400 persons, including old and young.

An ecclesiastical society was then formed, denominated the North Winchendon Congregational Society, to which the Company transferred the meeting house, and by which the preaching of the gospel has since been sustained.

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

### The First Church.

This church was formed December 15, 1762, consisting of twelve members, including the minister, Mr. Daniel Stimpson, who was ordained pastor of the church at the same time. Some of the original members were from other churches—some of them made a profession at the time.

Rev. Mr. Stimpson was educated at Harvard College—was settled on a salary of £60—£60 was given him as a settlement, besides a lot of land of 100 acres, which was reserved for the first settled minister.<sup>1</sup>

At the first meeting of the church, of which there is any record found, which was held March 24, 1763, Mr. Richard Day was chosen Deacon. It was also voted at the same time to have the sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered on the first Sabbath in May, 1763. Mr. Day appears to have been the only deacon of the church till November 12, 1767, when Mr. Abel Wilder was chosen Deacon.<sup>2</sup>

Rev. Mr. Stimpson died of a violent fever July 20, 1768, having performed a ministry of less than six years; during which time, according to Mr. Stimpson's

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<sup>1</sup> See Note QQ.  
Stimpson.

<sup>2</sup> See Church Records, written by Rev. Daniel

record, not more than fifteen were added to the church in full communion, though many more "owned the covenant."<sup>1</sup>

The remains of Rev. Mr. Stimpson were deposited in the cemetery near the centre of the town. Not even a rude stone marks the spot, where lie the remains of the first minister who ever statedly proclaimed the gospel in this town. A little mound of earth, only, tells the stranger some one lies there, where tradition says the first minister was buried.

After the death of Mr. Stimpson, the church and town were in a destitute state only about ten months. Then Rev. Joseph Brown, educated at Harvard College, was ordained pastor of the church, May 24, 1769. There was no extensive revival of religion during his ministry; yet there were considerable numbers received into the church by profession, and by letters from other churches. Mr. Brown held his office about thirty years.

About the close of his ministry, there was much difficulty between him and his people. After much altercation, trouble, and expense, he was dismissed December, 1799.<sup>2</sup> As the records of the church during the period of his ministry are lost,<sup>3</sup> it will, perhaps, be better to forbear a recital of the origin and progress of the unhappy state of affairs, which led to the dissolution of the connection between pastor and people.

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. E. L. Clark's centennial Sermon, preached in Winchendon Dec 22, 1820. See Note RR.      <sup>2</sup> See Note SS.      <sup>3</sup> See Note TT.

The pastor and most of those to whom he ministered, have, ere this, gone to give up their account to Him who is the Judge of all the earth.

After a space of about one year and six months, Rev. Levi Pilsbury, educated at Dartmouth College, took the pastoral charge of the church. He was ordained June 24, 1801. He continued his labors till the period of his death, which occurred April 5, 1819, in the 48th year of his age, and 18th year of his ministry.

Mr. Pilsbury's labors were greatly blessed to this people; and there are many now, who hold his name in affectionate remembrance. During his ministry the church and people enjoyed a good degree of prosperity. There were one or two powerful (though they cannot, perhaps, be considered extensive, or general) revivals of religion, which are now remembered with lively interest by the elder members of the church. During the second year of his ministry, 20 or more were added to the church by recommendation and original profession.

In June, 1810, the number of church members was 130—55 males and 75 females. In May, 1815, it was only 107—30 males and 67 females.<sup>1</sup>

After the death of Mr. Pilsbury, the church was

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Mr. Clark in his centennial Sermons, 1820 (in M.S.) says, "It does not appear that there has been a general revival of religion in this place since the gathering of the church; yet the church has been continued and blessed, the subject of church discipline has been regarded, several members, from time to time, have been admonished, and several for their disorderly conduct, have been excommunicated."



destitute of a settled minister about eighteen months ; and after making several unsuccessful attempts to settle another,<sup>1</sup> the people were united in the choice of Rev. Eber L. Clark, to be their pastor. He had previously been settled in Chatham, Conn., and Granby, Conn.

Mr. Clark was installed pastor of this church, Oct. 13, 1820. He was dismissed at his request by vote of the church, Jan. 2, 1835. The doings of the church, in granting his request, were afterward confirmed by a mutual council.<sup>2</sup>

During Mr. Clark's ministry, the church was greatly increased. According to the records, over eighty were added in the year 1822 ; and but three years passed, during his labors here, in which there was not some addition to the church by profession.

After the close of Mr. Clark's ministry, the church was destitute of a pastor until March 2, 1836, when Rev. Daniel O. Morton, who had before been settled at Shoreham, Vt. and at Springfield, Vt. was installed. Mr. Morton continued pastor of the church till June 29, 1841, when Mr. Morton having resigned his office, and the church having accepted the same, his connection with this church was dissolved by a mutual council.<sup>3</sup>

While Mr. Morton was pastor of this church, there were received into its communion, by profession and

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<sup>1</sup> See Note UU.

<sup>2</sup> See Note VV.

<sup>3</sup> See Note WW.

recommendation from other churches, about 130 members.

For several years the church and society now remained without a settled pastor, the pulpit being supplied by various individuals. Meanwhile, a portion of the church and society united in forming a new society in the north part of the town, and consequently separated from the first Congregational church and society. The formation of this new church and the evidence of novelties of other denominations, have much reduced this in numbers and in wealth, although the society is still abundantly able to support the institutions of religion. After the division of this church and the separation of a portion of its members, which occurred in 1843, the church remained without a pastor for about three years. Rev. Benjamin Rice, however, was the stated supply for about two years.

On the last Sabbath in June, 1846, Mr. Malachi Bullard, Jr. the present pastor, commenced his labors among this people. Having received and accepted a call from the church and society to settle with them as their pastor, he was ordained, Nov. 19, 1846.<sup>1</sup>

The following have held the office of Deacons of the first church. Richard Day, Abel Wilder, Moses Hale, Samuel Prentice, Levi Moor, Amos Heywood, Israel Whiton, Desire Tolman, George Coffin, Paul Raymond, Reuben Hyde, John Cutter and Levi Prentiss.

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<sup>1</sup> See Note XX.

The society at present, labor under the embarrassment of a house of worship which very much needs rebuilding or repairing. The present place of worship, erected in 1792, is, probably, the oldest house of worship which has not been remodelled in this region: and although it might be desirable for antiquity's sake to preserve the original as it is, yet more important reasons seem to demand some alteration and improvements, which, it is now expected, will soon be made.

#### Baptist Church and Society.

About 50 years ago a Baptist church and society, in the southwest part of Winchendon, were organized, which likewise included some members living in the southeast part of Royalston. Rev. Mr. Symonds was settled and continued their pastor many years. After Mr. Symonds' dismissal, they had successively, Rev. Messrs. Cooper, Brown and Dunn. They have now no pastor.

#### Methodists.

About the year 1800 was the beginning of the Methodist operations in this town. Being Episcopal in their church government, their desk is supplied by such preachers as the Conference from time to time may place upon the circuit. They have had many worthy itinerant and local preachers. The present preacher is Rev. Mr. Gordon.

**Universalists and Unitarians.**

There are a few Universalists and some Unitarians in this town, who, respectively, have meetings and preaching occasionally among themselves.

**North Congregational Church.**

The Winchendon North Congregational Church was organized on the 7th day of December, 1843, by an ecclesiastical Council.<sup>1</sup> The church consisted of sixty-six members regularly dismissed from the first Congregational church in Winchendon, and one member from the Congregational church in Rindge, N. H. An invitation to settle with them in the gospel ministry, was then extended to Mr. A. P. Marvin, a licentiate of the New London (Ct.) Association, and a graduate of the Seminary connected with Yale College. This invitation being acceded to, religious services were held in the new sanctuary, on the 10th day of January, 1844. In the morning the church was dedicated to the worship of the triune God; and in the afternoon, the ordination exercises were held.<sup>2</sup> Soon after, brethren Reuben Hyde and Ebenezer Butler were by the church, appointed Deacons. The number of this church at the present time, Sept. 25, 1848, is one hundred and seven.

**Early Settlers.**

The population of this town has, from the first settlement furnished emigrants to other towns and other States. Great indeed, has been the emigration from

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<sup>1</sup> See Note YY.

<sup>2</sup> See Note ZZ.

this town for the last sixty years. Yet the population of the town has gradually increased in numbers from its settlement to the present time ; but much more rapidly of late than at any former period, on account of the mechanical and manufacturing establishments, from which a large number find employment and support.

The following persons were among the early settlers as appears from the records. The first catalogue exhibits, at one view, those who were here at different times for 10 or 12 years prior to the incorporation of the town ; the other, in like manner, for 10 years subsequent to that event. The date against each name shews the time when he is ascertained to be here, although some of them may have arrived sometime previous. To fix the dates at which the different families came into the place, and the particular places where they settled, is no easy task. Some, and perhaps many of the first settlers, who had families, were in the place a part of one or two seasons before they removed their families. If all the particulars were known, it would be difficult to say when and where certain persons became permanent inhabitants ; and it is much more difficult now when most of the facts are lost. An asterisk is prefixed to the names of those persons in the following list, concerning whose permanent settlement there rests uncertainty.

|                 |      |                  |      |
|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Richard Day,    | 1753 | *Abijah Smith,   | 1753 |
| *Thomas Wilder, | 1753 | William Moffatt, | 1753 |

|                              |      |                     |      |
|------------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| *Thomas Berry, <sup>1</sup>  | 1754 | Jeremiah Stuart,    | 1762 |
| *Thomas Jewett, <sup>2</sup> | 1754 | Reuben Wyman,       | 1762 |
| John Darling,                | 1754 | Thomas Sweetland,   | 1763 |
| Benoni Boynton,              | 1754 | Daniel Bixby,       | 1763 |
| Thomas Brown,                | 1755 | Theoph's Mansfield, | 1764 |
| John Moffatt,                | 1755 | Seth Oak,           | 1764 |
| Jacob Gould,                 | 1755 | William Oak,        | 1764 |
| *Nathan'l Burnam,            | 1755 | Silas Whitney,      | 1764 |
| *Charles Tuttle,             | 1756 | Stephen Choate,     | 1764 |
| Henry Hodgkins,              | 1757 | Nathaniel Bixby,    | 1764 |
| Samuel Crag,                 | 1757 | Amos Spring,        | 1764 |
| John Brown,                  | 1757 | Jonathan Foster,    | 1764 |
| Gabriel Pouchey,             | 1758 | Joseph Boynton,     | 1765 |
| Nathan Pouchey,              | 1758 | Joseph Stimson,     | 1765 |
| William Hodgkins,            | 1758 | Reuben Burnam,      | 1765 |
| David Poor,                  | 1758 | Simeon Burnam,      | 1765 |
| Joseph Fuller,               | 1758 | Abner Hale,         | 1766 |
| Samuel Titus,                | 1761 | James Murdock,      | 1766 |
| Timothy Darling,             | 1761 | Levi Bixby,         | 1766 |
| Rev. Dan'l Stimson,          | 1762 | James Mansfield,    | 1766 |
| Jonathan Stimson,            | 1762 | Thomas Rugg,        | 1766 |
| Ephraim Stimson,             | 1762 | Richard Bailey,     | 1766 |
| Abel Wilder,                 | 1762 | Isaac Stimson,      | 1766 |
| Daniel Goodridge,            | 1762 | Dudley Perley,      | 1767 |
| David Goodridge,             | 1762 | John Cheney,        | 1767 |
| Barthol'ew Pearson,          | 1762 | William Porter,     | 1767 |

<sup>1</sup> It appears from the records of the Proprietors, that Col. T. Berry attended nearly all the meetings of the Proprietors up to Mar. 10, 1756, whether held at Ipswich, Lunenburg, or Ipswich Canada, and that he owned a house here, which was fortified.

<sup>2</sup> Thos. Jewett owned a house here, which was fortified.

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| John N. Parmenter, 1767        | Moses Foster, 1770     |
| Richard Pearson, 1767          | Jesse Fox, 1770        |
| Thomas Gary, 1767              | Samuel Noyes, 1771     |
| Jonathan Bixby, 1767           | James Noyes, 1771      |
| Amos Merriam, 1768             | Jonas Bradish, 1771    |
| Thornton Barret, 1768          | Gideon Fisher, 1771    |
| Micah Bowker, 1768             | Timothy Kneeland, 1771 |
| Rev. Joseph Brown, 1768        | Stephen Boynton, 1771  |
| John Boynton, 1769             | John Porter, 1771      |
| Thomas Sawyer, 1769            | Joseph Fay, 1771       |
| Peter Joslin, 1769             | Edward Payson, 1771    |
| Abijah Stimson, 1769           | John Homer, 1772       |
| Ebe'er Sherwin, sen. 1769      | Matthew Knight, 1772   |
| Solomon Bigelow, 1769          | Zebulon Conant, 1772   |
| Eli Smith, 1769                | Francis Bridge, 1772   |
| Phinehas Wheelock, 1769        | Samuel Mason, 1772     |
| William Joiner, 1769           | Ephraim Gale, 1772     |
| John Joiner, 1769              | Ephraim Sawyer, 1772   |
| Lemuel Sarjent, 1769           | Antipas Dodge, 1772    |
| Moses Hale, 1770               | Levi Nichols, 1773     |
| Jacob Hale, 1770               | Miles Putnam, 1773     |
| Amos Hale, 1770                | Amos Edmands, 1773     |
| Israel Green, 1770             | Joseph Wilder, 1773    |
| Gershom Fay, <sup>1</sup> 1770 | Thomas Beals, 1773     |
| Robert Bradish, 1770           | Daniel Joslin, 1773    |
| John Chamberlain, 1770         | Ebenezer Smith, 1773   |
| John Day, 1770                 | James McElwain, 1773   |
| Daniel Gould, 1770             | David Brown, 1773      |

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<sup>1</sup> Gershom Fay was carried as a pauper to Northborough in 1773.

|                  |      |                     |      |
|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Nathaniel Brown, | 1773 | William Whitney,    | 1774 |
| Roger Bates,     | 1773 | Jona. Broadstreet,  | 1774 |
| Jonathan Evans,  | 1773 | Eben'r Sherwin, 2d, | 1774 |
| Levi Carter,     | 1773 | David Stoddard,     | 1774 |
| Ebenezer How,    | 1773 | Daniel Balcom,      | 1774 |
| Samuel Steel,    | 1773 | Samuel Spring,      | 1774 |
| Josiah Baldwin,  | 1773 | Nathan Green,       | 1774 |
| Ezra Hyde, sen.  | 1774 |                     |      |

Richard Day lived where Rev. Malachi Bullard now lives. He came here from Lunenburg, and was one of the first who removed his family into the place. As early as 175— he opened a public house, which was the first opened in the township. He was an industrious, enterprising man, and was frequently employed in the public business of the place. In March, 1763, about three months after the church was organized, he was chosen a Deacon, which office he sustained till his decease in 1774.

John Darling lived where Jason Keith now lives, and was one of the first who removed his family into the place. He afterward lived where Calvin Goodridge now lives.

Charles Tuttle lived where Simon Tuttle, sen. now lives.

Gabriel Pouchey, of French descent, was taken prisoner at Cape Breton in the French war—afterward came here—lived in a small house which stood where Lyman Raymond's house now stands. He died 1775.



David Poor lived where Simon Poland now lives.

Timothy Darling lived near where James Murdock afterward lived—near where Henry Keith now lives.

Jonathan Stimson lived where John Esty, sen. now lives. He afterward lived on the place now owned by Elisha Beaman, where he was killed by the fall of a tree blown down by the wind.

Abel Wilder, whose father was Thomas Wilder, removed from Leominster—lived where Josiah Brown lately lived. He was an active and enterprising man, and was one of the most distinguished and influential citizens of the town. Called early to public life, he became acquainted with public business, and for about 30 years anterior to his decease, he sustained some of the most important offices in the gift of his fellow citizens. He was chosen a Deacon in Nov. 1767. He was Captain of a Company of Militia. During several years he filled the office of Town Clerk, and served in the capacity of Selectman, and was for years a magistrate in the place, a Representative to the General Court, and a Senator from 1786 to the close of his life. He died in Jaffrey, N. H. of the small pox, Nov. 1, 1792.

Daniel Goodridge removed from Lunenburg, and lived where the poor-house now is.

David Goodridge's house stood near where his grandson Jonas Nutting now lives.

Bartholomew Pearson lived in a small house which stood where Geo. S. Coffin's store house now stands. He died March 20, 1766.

Jeremiah Stuart first settled where Dea. Samuel Prentiss afterward lived. He removed to the place where Phineas Parks, sen. now lives.

Theophilus Mansfield was the first Town Clerk.

Seth Oak lived in a house which stood where Eber Arnold afterward lived, west of the bridge and long causey. He was a Capt. in the army of the Revolution. He afterwards removed out of town.

William Oak lived east of the bridge and long causey, in a house which stood where Phineas Ball now lives.

Amos Spring and Samuel Spring lived in a small house which stood where Ephraim Murdock, Esq. now lives. They removed out of town.

Jonathan Foster lived where Barzillai Martin now lives.

Joseph Boynton lived where his son Daniel Boynton afterward lived.

Abner Hale lived where Rev. Levi Pilsbury afterward lived—where the widow Pilsbury now lives.

James Murdock lived where Henry Keith now lives.

Levi Bixby lived in the north-westerly part of the town, about one-fourth of a mile east from where Samuel Brown now lives.

James Mansfield lived in a small house near the burying ground.

Thomas Rugg lived about 60 rods west of where Dea. Samuel Prentiss formerly lived. He removed out of town.

Dudley Perley removed from Boxford, and lived where Joseph Whitney, sen. now lives.

Amos Merriam lived in a house which stood on land which Newall Wyman now owns.

Rev. Joseph Brown lived in a house in which Rev. Malachi Bullard now lives.

Thornton Barret removed from Hopkinton—lived in a house which stood where Jacob Wales, Esq. more recently kept tavern.

John Boynton lived where James Payson afterward lived—where Cyrus Grout now lives. He was Capt. and afterward Colonel in the time of the revolution.

Peter Joslin, sen. lived in the northwest part of the town, in a small house which stood a few rods west of where the house of Samuel Brown, 2d, now stands.

Ebenezer Sherwin, sen. lived where the widow Bigelow now lives.

Eli Smith lived on what is now called the Thomas place.

Moses Hale removed from Boxford—lived in the house where Seth Maynard now lives. He was chosen Dea. after Dea. Day's decease.

Jacob Hale removed with his family from Londonderry, N. H. lived a few years in a block house, which had been occupied as a garrison, on land now owned by his son, Nathaniel Hale. He afterward built and lived in a house which stood where his grandson, Merit Hale now lives.

Amos Hale came to this town from Boxford, and lived where Capt. John Raymond now lives.

Robert Bradish removed to this town from Leicester.

John Chamberlin removed to this town from Templeton, lived in a small house which stood about 50 rods east of where Dea. Samuel Prentiss formerly lived. He afterward lived with his son, Benjamin Chamberlin in a small house which stood on land now owned by Oliver Lovejoy, where he was killed by the fall of a tree.

John Day, son of Dea. Richard Day, became of age in 1770, and lived in the house in which James Murdock, 2d, now lives.

Daniel Gould lived in a house which stood where Benjamin Brown, sen. afterward lived.

Samuel Noyes removed from Andover, and lived in a house which stood on the hill north of Capt. Geo. Alger's house.

James Noyes lived in a house which stood where Capt. Geo. Alger now lives.

Jonas Bradish came here from Templeton.

Edward Payson came from Rowley. He lived in a house which stood where Barzillai Martin now lives.

Matthew Knight lived at the tavern house which stood where Wm. B. Whitney's house now stands.

Francis Bridge lived where Asa Perley afterward lived.

Levi Nichols kept a public house where Capt. Oliver Adams' house now stands.

Miles Putnam lived in a small house which stood where Geo. S. Coffin's store-house now stands—and owned the gristmill and sawmill on that place.

Amos Edmands came from Framingham. His house stood a few rods westerly of where his son, Artemas Edmand's house now stands.

Joseph Wilder came from Leominster. He lived in a house which stood near the house where his son Capt. Luke Wilder now lives. He was Capt. of a Military Company.

Ebenezer Smith lived where Isaac Grout afterward lived.

James McElwain lived in a house which stood where his son James McElwain now lives.

David Brown lived where his grandson, Wm. Brown Esq. now lives.

Jonathan Evans lived in a house which stood where Benj. Wilder's house now stands.

Samuel Steel lived where John Crosby now lives. He removed out of town.

Ezra Hyde came from Newton. His house stood near the house of Elisha Hyde, his grandson.

William Whitney removed from Weston. The house in which he lived, where his grandson Joseph Whitney, 2d, now lives, stands near the line between this town and Gardner.

Jonathan Bradstreet lived in a small house which stood where Lyman Raymond now lives.

Ebenezer Sherwin, 2d, came of age about 1774—lived where the widow Sherwin now lives.

David Stoddard removed from Cohasset. His house was near where his grandson, Levi Stoddard, lives.

Daniel Balcom's house stood where his grandson, Lincoln Balcom, now lives.

#### Schools.

In the first settlement of this town, schools were very much neglected, as is generally the case in new townships. It is probable that something was done by private individuals at an earlier period, but during the first year of its incorporation, it does not appear that there was any school in the town. The first appropriation found on record was at a town meeting, Sept. 4, 1765, when the town voted to have a school in (the centre of) the town, and to have 8 dollars, paid out of the land tax, laid out in schooling.

In 1766 the town granted for schooling \$20—in 1767, \$13—in 1768, \$20, and then voted, that the extreme parts of the town have their proportion of schooling by themselves, they providing a place and a keeper.<sup>1</sup> In 1769, \$13,33—1770 to 1775, from \$24 to \$67 yearly, 1777–1780 from \$100 to \$92,00 yearly, to be paid in paper currency. From this view of the subject, we are enabled to judge of the opportunities which our fathers enjoyed for acquiring an education. The difficulties attendant upon the first settlement, and the burdens of the revolutionary war, prevented that attention to education which would otherwise have been given it.

After the close of the war, the cause of education received more attention, and from that period to this,

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<sup>1</sup>See Town Records.

our schools have been improving. At the present day we have eleven school districts, each of which has a good school house. The house in district No. 2, is calculated for two schools.

In 1781-5, the town granted \$120 yearly, which then was \$20 to each district, to be made equal money in 1784,—1786-8, \$167 yearly,—1789-1805, from \$200 to 450 yearly,—1806-22, \$500 yearly,—for several years up to 1844, \$1000 was annually appropriated,—1845, \$1100,—1846-47, \$1200,—1848, \$1500.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 1845-6 our schools were kept in the summer 31 months 14 days, by 12 female teachers, and in the winter 21 months 21 days, by 9 male and 3 female teachers; making the aggregate length of the schools 59 months and 7 days. The number of scholars of all ages that year was, in summer, 407, in winter, 510.<sup>2</sup> In 1848, the number of persons in the town between the ages of 4 and 16 years is 541.

#### Winchendon Academy.

This institution originated in the liberality of Ephraim Murdock, Esq.

The Academy building, which is a finely proportioned edifice, was erected in the summer of 1843, with the intent of having it used for a high school or Academy, for the benefit of the town and vicinity, as

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<sup>1</sup> See Town Records. Returns for 1845-6.

<sup>2</sup> See Abstract of the Massachusetts School

long as there shall be a suitable school sustained in the building—without any rent or other compensation than keeping the premises in repair.

The building is 30 by 40 feet, two stories high, with a projection in front, supported by 4 large fluted columns standing on stone pedestals; and inclosed in a yard with a substantial railing on stone posts, and ornamented with shady trees, and a gravel walk through the centre.

The donor has also erected a large and convenient boarding house, and a stable, for the benefit of the institution. The expense of the buildings, including the yard, is between three and four thousand dollars. Also about \$400 has been laid out by the proprietors, for furniture and apparatus for the Academy and boarding house.

The lower story of the Academy is to be used exclusively for a school-room,—the upper story or hall to be used for lyceums and such other purposes as the proprietors may think proper.

The institution is incorporated, the charter giving the power of holding property to the amount of \$10,000.

Its design is to furnish facilities for instruction in the higher branches of English education, and the ancient and modern languages usually taught in Academies.

The first academic term was held in the autumn of 1843, under the care of Mr. John G. Giles, a gradu-



ate of Dartmouth College. During succeeding years, the Principals have been as follows:—Mr. Levi O. Stevens of Burlington College, Mr. Stephen F. Kellogg and Mr. Charles L. Brace, both of Yale College. Since the month of August, 1847, the Academy has been under the superintendence of Mr. A. H. Merriam, a graduate of Dartmouth, and an experienced teacher.

The benefits of the institution are already manifest. Many hundreds, of both sexes, have already derived great advantage from it: and the desire for a higher and more thorough education has been excited in many a youthful breast. If it shall be sustained according to its praiseworthy design, it will be the source of manifold blessings to the community.

#### Collegiates.

Eight persons, inhabitants (and six of them natives) of this town have received a collegiate education: Otis Crosby, minister of the gospel in North Yarmouth, Me.; John M. Whiton, minister of the gospel in Antrim, N. H.; Sam'l H. Tolman, minister of the gospel in Weston, Vt.; Sewal Goodridge, minister of the gospel in Canada; Stephen Emory, Jun. attorney at law; Otis C. Whiton, minister of the gospel in Harrisville, (Nelson) N. H.; Gamaliel C. Beaman, minister of the gospel in Indiana; Barret Washburn, sometime preceptor of the Academy, Winchendon.

*Seasons of great Mortality, Sudden Deaths, &c.*

Few towns have been favored with more general health than this; yet there have been seasons of great mortality. The disorders which have prevailed to the greatest extent, have been the dysentery and the canker-rash. In 1775, the dysentery, then called 'fever and flux,' or 'camp distemper,' prevailed: some aged people, and many children died. In 1786, 28 persons died of the dysentery. In 1795, the canker-rash, formerly called the 'throat distemper,' prevailed in the west part of the town: many children died. In 1810, the canker-rash prevailed here: the whole number of deaths that year, was 54; 45 of which were of children.

There have been many sudden deaths, some of which were by violence, some by casualty.<sup>1</sup>

*Population and other Statistics.*

There are no exact data from which to estimate the population till 1790, when the first official census was taken.

The number of inhabitants in this town, was in 1790, 951; in 1840, 1679; in 1846, 2020. There are 18 persons in this town, who are of the age of 80 years or more.<sup>2</sup> There are in the town two physicians,<sup>3</sup> and one Attorney.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Note AAA. <sup>2</sup> The following gentlemen and ladies are 80 years old and upwards, namely: Seth Tucker 91 years of age, Daniel Day 86, Jonas Bradish 85, Simon Tuttle 85, John Esty 84, Isaac Taylor 84, Joel Butler 83, Jacob Parks 83, Barzillai Martin 83, James Murdock 83, Asa Hale 81, Jacob Scott 80, Daniel May 80, Mrs. Wm. Poland 90, Mrs. Rebecca Graton 85, Mrs. Abigail Edmunds 83, Mrs. James Murdock 80, Mrs. Mary Chubb 87. <sup>3</sup> Alva Godding, Ira Russel. <sup>4</sup> B. O. Tyler.

The ratable property of the town within the last ten years, has increased near one third. The standard valuation of the town for 1838, \$435,744 ; for 1848, \$642,727 ; number of taxable polls in 1848, 644.

There are within the limits of the town (besides such as those hereafter stated as being in the three principal villages,) 1 grist mill, 16 saw mills, 2 pail factories, 2 blacksmiths' shops, and a considerable number of carpenters', coopers', turners', and other mechanic shops, some of which are worked by water power.

#### Winchendon Village.

This is sometimes called the North Village. It lies on both side of Miller's river. Its extent from east to west, is about 1 mile. Some of the streets extend from south to north, from one-fourth to one-half of a mile. The Cheshire railroad has recently been completed through the village, on which, and within the limits of the village, is a stately and convenient depot.<sup>1</sup>

Within the present limits of the village, there were in 1784, but 4 dwelling houses, viz. one where Mr. Geo. S. Coffin's store-house stands, occupied by Capt. Edward Newton—one near where the depot is,

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<sup>1</sup> Regular Cars first came on the Cheshire railroad to Winchendon depot, Menday Oct. 1, 1847.

owned by Mr. Seth Tucker, sen.—one where Esq. Murdock now lives, occupied by Mr. Jeremiah Lord—and one where Dea. Reuben Hyde now lives, occupied by Mr. Thaddeus Bowman. In 1825, there were 10 dwelling houses in the place.

There are now (1848) within the limits of the village, 640 inhabitants, 92 dwelling houses, 3 meeting houses, 1 Academy, 1 school house, 1 large hotel, 9 stores, 1 woolen factory,<sup>1</sup> 1 iron foundry, 1 machine shop, 1 grist mill, 2 saw mills, 1 large bobbin manufactory, 1 tannery, 1 tub manufactory, 1 pail manufactory, 2 livery stables, with from 15 to 20 horses each, 4 blacksmiths' shops, and various other shops for manufacturing and mechanical purposes, occupied by carpenters, coopers, wheelwrights, turners, shoemakers, harness-makers, tailors, and other mechanics—and many other buildings.

#### Spring Village,

Was so called from its location around the mineral springs, which, together with the land in the vicinity, were, about the year 1800, owned and occupied by Mr. Jacob Whitney. By him the two first buildings, which were very small ones, were erected in the place. This Village is about 2 miles easterly from the North

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<sup>1</sup> Owned by the Winchendon Manufacturing Corporation, in which are three sets of Machinery. About 200,000 yards twilled flannels per year are manufactured, employing 15 male, and 13 female hands. Value of goods manufactured, about \$50,000 annually.

Village, and about 3 miles northeast from the centre of the town.

The north, or Monomenoc branch of Miller's river, runs through this village, on which river has been erected a cotton factory. The Spring Manufacturing Company has been incorporated, and owns the establishment. The factory, now owned by a corporation, known as the 'Nelson Mills Manufacturing Company,' contains about 6000 spindles, and gives employment to 175 individuals. The present number of inhabitants in the village is nearly 400. There is one school-house in the village. Two trading companies are doing business in the place. The water power 1-4 of a mile below the Nelson Mills, is improved with lumber apparatus to some extent, though not to its full capacity. Should the water power within the village be occupied to its full extent, it probably would support a population to the number of 1000; as it is, the number of inhabitants and dwelling houses are on the increase.

#### Waterville

Lies on both sides of Miller's river, about a mile westerly from the North Village. In 1810, there was no building in the place. 1817, there were only one dwelling house and one saw mill.

Waterville contains now (1848) 34 dwelling houses, 46 families and 225 inhabitants. It has 2 stores, 1 saw and stave mill, in which a large amount of work is done, 3 pail shops, in which about 300,000 pails,

tubs, churns, &c. are manufactured yearly, employing from 40 to 50 hands. It also contains a box and bobbin factory, in which are made annually 400,000 bobbins and 10,000 nests of boxes, and in which are employed 11 hands. It has also a machine shop and a shoe shop.

There is not a single mean or worthless dwelling house in either of the three above-named villages.

#### REMARKABLE EVENTS.

##### Memorable Winds.

There was a hurricane at Winchendon, Oct. 15, 1795, about 5 o'clock, P. M. Several houses and barns were partly unroofed or otherwise injured. One house (Mr. Thornton Barret's) was nearly ruined. Wool, blown from one chamber, was found adhering to apple trees, three or four miles distant.

A high wind, Sept. 1816, blew down many acres of wood and timber in the westerly part of the town.

##### The Hard Winter.

The winter of 1779-80, is memorable as the Hard Winter. An immense body of snow covered the ground; and so intense was the cold that for six weeks water did not drop from the eaves.

##### The Dark Day.

May 19, 1780, was remarkable throughout New England for its unusual darkness. It began about

10 o'clock, A. M.; at 11, the darkness was so great that the fowls retired to their roosts, and the cattle came to the barns as at night. Before 12 candles became necessary. The darkness increased through the evening.

**Total Eclipse of the Sun, June, 1806.**

In this vicinity, and probably throughout New England, this interesting phenomenon was observed under very favorable circumstances. The day was remarkably fine. Not a cloud obscured any part of the hemisphere. The air was dry and clear, and the heavens, before the obscuration, were in a robe of the brightest azure.

The wind was northwest in the morning, but shifted to the northeast after the eclipse commenced, and continued easterly until its completion. No dew fell. There was a sensible chillness, however, in the air. The duration of total darkness was upwards of four minutes.

The departing light of the sun was supportable to the naked eye. It was otherwise with the first return of light, which was extremely vivid and inexpressibly rapid in its access. The portion of the sun which first reappeared, was to the naked eye of a globular form and seemed like a ball of fire.

The exhibition was wonderfully magnificent, and inspired one universal sentiment of admiration and awe.

The breadth of the shadow was found to be about 120 miles, and enveloped the entire territory of Massachusetts, except Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.



# NOTES.



## A

At a Great and General Court, in and for His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, begun and held at Boston, on Wednesday, the twenty-eighth day of May, 1735, and continued by several adjournments to Wednesday, the nineteenth of November following.

In the House of Representatives, June 10, 1735, in answer to the petition of Lieut. Abraham Tilton and others,

Voted, That a Tract of Land of the contents of six miles square, be laid out in a suitable place in the western part of this Province, and that the whole of the Town be laid into sixty three shares; one of which to be for the first settled Minister, one for the use of the Ministry, and one for the School; and that on the other sixty shares there be sixty admitted; and in the admission thereof preference to be given to the Petitioners, and such as are the descendants of the officers and soldiers who served in the expedition to Canada in the year 1690, viz: a Tract of Land for a Township to the said Abraham Tilton and others. And inasmuch as the officers and soldiers [who served in] that expedition were very great sufferers, and underwent uncommon hardships,

Voted, That this Province be at the whole charge of laying said Township in a regular manner, and of admitting the settlers: that the settlers of Grantees hereby are obliged to bring forward the settlement of said Township in as regular and defensible a manner as the situation and circumstances of the place will admit of, and that in the following manner, viz: That they be on the granted premises, and have each of them a house of eighteen feet square and seven feet stud at the least, that each Right or Grant have six acres of land brought to, ploughed or brought to English grass, and fitted for mowing: that they settle in the plantation or township a learned and orthodox Minister, and build a convenient Meetinghouse for the public worship of God in the Township: the whole of these conditions to be duly complied with within five years from the confirmation of the Plat. And that Capt. John Hobson and Capt. John Choate, with such as the Honorable Board shall appoint, be a Committee for laying out the Township hereby granted to Abraham Tilton and others, and admitting the settlers as aforesaid, who shall take bond of each grantee to the value of twenty pounds to the Province Treasurer for the respective grantees' fulfillment of the conditions of their grant. Each lot as aforesaid to be entitled to, and draw future divisions in equal proportions in the township or plantation: and that the Committee return the Plat of the said township to the Court, within twelve months for confirmation, as also the list of the names of the grantees, and their place of residence, into the Secretary's office, that so the same may be examined and regulated by a Committee that may be hereafter appointed by this Court. And further, it is hereby ordered, that in case any of the grantees shall neglect or delay to fulfill the terms

of the grant, such person or persons shall forfeit to the Province all his or their right and interest in the land hereby granted.

Sent up for concurrence,  
J. Quincy, Speaker.

In Council, June 18th, 1735.

Read and Concurred and  
Ordered, that Thomas Berry, Esq., be joined to the Committee for laying out the Township.

J. Willard, Secretary.

Dec. 29. Consented to,

J. Belcher.

A true Copy,  
Examined, Thads. Mason, Dept. Sec'y.

A true Copy, Attest,  
Thos. Norton, Jun., Pro. Cler.

The above document is transcribed from the MS. Book of Records of the Original Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, commonly called The Proprietors' Book.

## B

In the House of Representatives, March 27, 1736,

Ordered, That Thomas Berry, Esq. be fully authorized and empowered to assemble and convene the Proprietors and Grantees in Canada Township, on the petition of Abraham Tilton and others of Ipswich &c. in some suitable place and convenient time, to choose a Proprietors' Clerk, and pass such Votes and Orders as they may think necessary for the regular carrying on the settlement of the said Township, agreeable to the conditions of their grant, and to agree how meetings shall be called for the future.

Sent up for concurrence,  
J. Quincy, Speaker.

In Council, March 27, 1736,

Read and concurred,

Simon Frost, Dep. Sec.

Consented to,

J. Belcher.

A true Copy, Examined, Simon Frost, Dep. Secr.

Attest, Thos. Norton, Jun., Pro. Cler.

*Proprietors' Book.*

C

Essex, ss. At a Meeting of the Committee appointed by the General Court for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, to lay out a Township of the contents of six miles square in answer to a petition of Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, Anno 1690, the following persons were admitted as Grantees of said Township, and gave Bonds to fulfill the Court's Order thereon.

Ipswich, April 13th, 1736.

| Right entered on.   | Persons' names.                                   | Place of abode. |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| Father,             | Thomas Berry, Esq.,                               | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Jonathan Wade, Esq.,                              | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | John Harris,                                      | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Thomas Hovey,                                     | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Abraham Perkins,                                  | Ipswich.        |
| Husband and Father, | Widow Rachel Rust,                                | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Abraham Tilton,                                   | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Benjamin White,                                   | Ipswich.        |
| Own,                | Samuel Poland,                                    | Ipswich.        |
| Brother John,       | Thomas Lufkin,                                    | Ipswich.        |
| Brother Jacob,      | { Thomas Lufkin is next<br>friend to Mary Lufkin, | Ipswich.        |
| Uncle Benedictus,   | Ebenezer Pulcepher,                               | Glocester.      |
| Father Moses,       | Jabez Sweet,                                      | Ipswich.        |

|                       |   |            |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| Father's,             | Solomon Giddinge,   | Ipswich.   |
| Brother William,      | Joseph Goodhue,   | Ipswich.   |
| Father's,             | William Haskell,  | Glocester. |
| Brother Thomas,       | John Ring,  | Glocester. |
| Uncle Joseph,         | Benjamin Chadwell,  | Ipswich.   |
| Brother John,         | Edward Nealand,   | Ipswich.   |
| Uncle D. Denison,     | { Nath. Rogers as Guard'n<br>to Jno. Denison,                             | Ipswich.   |
| Wife's Father Durgee, | John Martin,  | Ipswich.   |
| Father Servant,       | Isaac Knowlton,   | Ipswich.   |
| Father's,             | John Thompson,  | Ipswich.   |
| Uncle Joseph,         | { John Wood in the room<br>of and by the consent of<br>his Father,        | Ipswich.   |
| Father's,             | { John Downing by Ed. Eve-<br>leth his Attorney,                          | Boston.    |
| Own,                  | Thomas Berrin,  | Rowley.    |
| Own,                  | David Low,  | Ipswich.   |
| Uncle Moses Pierce,   | Moses Wells,  | Ipswich.   |
| Brother Thomas,       | George Hart,  | Ipswich.   |
| Father's,             | William Cogswell,   | Ipswich.   |
| Brother Elisha,       | Thomas Tredwell,  | Ipswich.   |
| Brother Benjamin,     | Jonathan Jewett, Jun.   | Rowley.    |
| Father's,             | Robert Cross,   | Ipswich.   |
| Own,                  | Adam Cogswell,  | Ipswich.   |
| Uncle,                | Benjamin Chadwell,  | Ipswich.   |
| Father Whipple,       | The Hon. Simonds Epes,  | Ipswich.   |
| Uncle Freeman,        | Nathaniel Clark,  | Ipswich.   |
| Brother George,       | Nathaniel Clark,  | Ipswich.   |
| Dil. Caldwell,        | { Capt. Edward Eveleth by<br>and at the request of<br>Dilingham Caldwell, | Ipswich.   |
| Brother William,      | Nathaniel Caldwell,   | Ipswich.   |

|                 |   |          |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Father,         | Henry Wise,   | Ipswich. |
| John Ayers,     | { Thomas Norton, Jun. at<br>the request of Samuel<br>Ayers, a Petitioner, | Ipswich. |
| Own,            | John Ross,  | Ipswich. |
| Father's,       | Isaac Giddinge,   | Ipswich. |
| Thomas Metcalf, | { Edward Eveleth at the<br>request of Jos. Metcalf<br>a Petitioner,       | Ipswich. |
| Father's,       | Moses Davis,  | Ipswich. |
| Grandfather,    | Ephraim Fitts,  | Ipswich. |
| Pearce,         | Thomas Boardman,  | Ipswich. |
|                 | Edward Chapman,   | Ipswich. |
|                 | John Goodhue,   | Ipswich. |
| Uncle Isaac,    | Abraham Foster, Jun.  | Ipswich. |
| Major Ward,     | Doct. Nicholas Noyes,   | Andover. |
| Father's,       | John Pindar,  | Ipswich. |
| Uncle Samuel,   | Nathaniel Lord,   | Ipswich. |
| Uncle Edmond,   | Samuel Ingalls,   | Ipswich. |
| Brother Aaron,  | Moses Kimball,  | Ipswich. |
| Uncle Cheney,   | John Leighton,  | Ipswich. |
| Rob't Nelson,   | Joseph Annable,   | Beverly. |
| Math. Hooker,   | Widow Mary Hooker,  | Ipswich. |
| Uncle Saund,    | { Thomas Lord, Jun. at<br>his Father Jno. Lord's<br>request,              | Ipswich. |

*Proprietors' Book.*

## D

See the History of the County of Worcester, compiled by Rev. Peter Whitney of Northborough, Article *Winchendon*.

That History was published in 1793, to which the Edi-

tor is much indebted, and from which, copious extracts will be made in the present work.

## E

The Proprietors and Grantees of the new Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada anno 1690, are hereby notified and warned to assemble and meet at the Townhouse in Ipswich, on Monday the thirty-first day of instant May at four of the clock afternoon, then and there to choose a Proprietors' Clerk, and to pass such votes and orders as may be thought most proper for bringing forward the said Township agreeable to the General Court's order. And to agree how to call meetings of said Proprietors for the future.

Thomas Berry, pr. order.

Dated at Ipswich, May 20th, 1736.

*Proprietors' Book.*

## F

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors and Grantees of the new Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada Anno 1690, at the Town house in Ipswich on Monday the 31st day of May, Anno Domini 1736.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry be Moderator.

Voted, That Thomas Norton, Jun. be Clerk to the Proprietors: and he was sworn to the faithful discharge of his office, by Thomas Berry, Esq. at the same time.

Voted, That any two of the Committee, viz: Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. John Choate, and Capt. John Hob-

son, be empowered to employ two men to burn the woods, if, according to their discretion, they shall think it best.

Voted, That any five of the Proprietors or Grantees shall have power to call a Meeting, and five days from the date of the notification shall be a sufficient warning.

Voted, That this Meeting be dissolved: and the Moderator declared the Meeting dissolved accordingly.

Attest,

Thos. Norton, jun., Pro. Cler.

*Proprietors' Book.*

### G

To Mr. Thomas Norton, Jun., Clerk of the Proprietors of that Tract of Land granted to Abraham Tilton and others, These are to desire you to set up a Notification to warn said Proprietors to meet at the Town house in Ipswich, on Monday the 28th day of June instant, at 4 of the clock afternoon, in order to choose a certain number of the Proprietors to go and view said Tract of Land, and to make report how it is accommodated on all accounts, and to act and transact any other thing that may be proper and necessary to be done to forward the settlement thereof.

Jonathan Wade,  
Edward Eveleth,  
Henry Wise,  
Thos. Hovey,  
Benjamin Chadwell.

Dated Ipswich,  
June 19th, 1736.

Pursuant to the above written Warrant, to me directed, I notified the above named Proprietors to meet at the time and place above mentioned, by setting up a notification on the meetinghouse door, and by sending one to each of the parishes, viz: Chebacco and the Hamlet.

Dated Ipswich, Attest,

June 19, 1736.

Thos. Norton, Jun. Pro. Cler.



At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of that Tract of Land granted to Lieut. Abraham Tilton and others, at the Town house in Ipswich, on Monday the 28th day of June, Anno Domini, 1736.

Voted, That Capt. Edward Eveleth be Moderator.

Voted, That Capt. Edward Eveleth, Lieut. Solomon Giddinge, Mr. Wm. Cogswell, Mr. John Martin and Mr. Isaac Giddinge be a Committee to go and view the land, and see the qualifications thereof, and report to the Proprietors as soon as may be.

Voted, That the Committee, having performed the service aforesaid, shall have a reasonable satisfaction.

Voted, That the Meeting be dissolved. And the Moderator declared the Meeting dissolved accordingly.

Attest, Thos. Norton, jun., Pro. Cler.

*Proprietors' Book.*

## H

The meeting was called by five Proprietors, viz : Thomas Berry, Edward Eveleth, Henry Wise, George Hart, and Moses Kimball ; and notified by Thos. Norton, jun., Pro. Cler.

At a legal Meeting of the Proprietors of that Tract of Land granted to Lieut. Abraham Tilton and others at the Town house in Ipswich on Thursday the 4th day of November, Anno Domini 1736.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry be Moderator.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. Edward Eveleth, and Lieut. Abraham Tilton be the Committee to lot and lay out the first division, which is not to be under fifty acres, and not to exceed a hundred.

Voted, That Jonathan Wade, esq. be Treasurer.

Voted, That each Proprietor of every original Right shall pay into the treasury three pounds to defray the charges that have already arisen, or shall hereafter arise in lotting the Township or otherwise.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved : And it was accordingly dissolved by the Moderator.

Attest, Thos. Norton, jun., Pro. Cler.  
*Proprietors' Book.*

## I

Extracts from the records of the Meeting, 6th May, 1737.

Voted, for Assessors Col. Thomas Berry, Thomas Norton, jun. and Mr. Henry Wise.

Voted, That Capt. Edward Eveleth and Mr. William Cogswell be Collectors.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## J

Essex, ss. To Mr. Thomas Norton, jun., Clerk of the Proprietors of the Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada 1690.

You are hereby required to notify and warn the Grantees and Proprietors of the Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada Anno 1690, that they assemble and meet at the house of Mr. Nath'l Tredwell innholder in Ipswich on Thursday the 27th day of October current, at 4 of the clock afternoon, then and there to receive the return of the Committee appointed to lay out the first divis-

ion of lots, and subdivide the same or part of them, if the Proprietors shall think best.

2. To make proper and suitable provision for ways through said lots.

3. To agree upon some method for clearing to the center of the first division of lots, or where they shall agree upon to set the first Meetinghouse.

4. To fix upon the place to erect and build a Meetinghouse, and to reserve a sufficient quantity of land out of some of the lots for a training field and burying place.

5. To make proper allowance to the person who may draw the lot out of which the aforesaid reserves may be made.

6. To give liberty to such of the Proprietors as may draw a lot not accommodable for settling, to make a second draft out of the supernumerary lots that are laid out.

7. To make suitable provision for the erecting and building of a Sawmill.

8. To give such encouragement to the Grantee who shall build, agreeable to the General Court's order, the first dwellinghouse of 18 feet in length and 7 feet stud, as shall be judged necessary and convenient.

9. For each Grantee to draw his lot in the first division now laid out: and such of them as have not already paid the three pounds voted at the last Meeting to defray the charge of laying out the lots, pay the same before they be allowed to draw their lots.

10. To take some proper method to obtain leave of the General Court to dispose of lots that may be lost to any of the Grantees who shall neglect and refuse to pay the charge that hath already arisen in laying out the lots and otherways.

11. To settle and adjust accounts with such persons to whom the Grantees and Proprietors are indebted.

Thomas Berry,  
Edward Eveleth,  
Abraham Tilton,  
Henry Wise,  
Jonathan Wade.

Dated Ipswich,  
Oct. 22d, 1737.

Pursuant to the aforementioned warrant, to me directed, I have notified and warned the aforesaid Proprietors to meet at time and place aforesaid, by setting up a notification on the meetinghouse door in the first parish in Ipswich, and by sending one to each of the neighboring parishes, viz : Chebacco and the Hamlet.

Dated at Ipswich, Oct. 22d, 1737.

Attest, Thos. Norton, jun., Pro. Cler.

At a legal Meeting of the Proprietors of the Township lately granted by the General Court to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, Anno Domini 1690, at the house of Mr. Nath'l Tredwell in Ipswich, on Thursday the 27th of Oct., A. D. 1737.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry be Moderator.

Voted, That the return of the Committee appointed to lay out the first division of lots be accepted and recorded, being a hundred acres in each lot.

Voted, That the land left for ways be reserved for the Proprietors' use and service, as they shall order and direct.

Voted, That 5 acres be reserved out of No. 1 in the south division, for building a Meetinghouse on, a burying place and training field : And that an equivalent be allowed out of lot No. 30, in the south division, to the Proprietor drawing lot No. 1.

Voted, That there be a road cut from Earlington\* as near as may be to the meetinghouse lot, at the charge of the Proprietors.

Voted, That liberty may ye given to such of the Proprietors as may draw a lot not accommodable for settling, to make a second draft out of the supernumerary lots that are already laid out: if not in them, then in the undivided lands, at his own charge that desires it.

Voted, that the use of the streams running through the Township be reserved to the Proprietors, and they shall have liberty to set up such mills as they shall think necessary for the Proprietors for six years to come. The person, through whose land the stream shall pass, to erect a mill if he think proper: but on his refusal, the Proprietors may and shall dispose thereof as they shall think best, without making any other allowance to the Proprietor of said lot than for such damages as may be done on his land, but none for the stream. And that no mill be erected on said Township, but by the allowance of the Proprietors, for the aforesaid term of six years.

Voted, That the sum of twenty pounds be allowed and paid out of the Proprietors' treasury to each of the three Grantees who shall first build three houses in the Township, agreeable to the General Court's act, and have a family settled in them: provided the family be settled there on or before the last of October next.

Voted, That each Grantee pay the sum of three pounds before he be allowed to draw his lot.

Voted, That Mr. Abraham Tilton, the father of the Pe-

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\* The Editor has not yet discovered what place is here meant by Earlington.

tition, be allowed to choose his lot. (He chose the lot No. 30 in the north division.)

Voted, That the lots No. 14 and 15 in the south division be reserved for the Proprietors' order.

Voted, That the lot No. 1 in the north division be the Ministry or Parsonage lot.

Voted, That the lot No. 31 in the south division be the Minister's lot.

A list of the Proprietors, and of each Right drawn for each Proprietor.

| Names.                             | Rights.      |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lieut. Abraham Tilton,             | N. D. No. 30 |
| Thomas Lord, jun.,                 | S. D. No. 26 |
| Moses Davis,                       | S. D. No. 27 |
| Widow Mary Hooker,                 | N. D. No. 17 |
| Isaac Knowlton,                    | S. D. No. 16 |
| Edward Eveleth,                    | N. D. No. 35 |
| John Ring,                         | N. D. No. 25 |
| John Martin,                       | N. D. No. 12 |
| Rev. Nath'l Rogers for J. Denison, | N. D. No. 6  |
| George Hart,                       | N. D. No. 22 |
| John Leighton,                     | S. D. No. 9  |
| Edward Chapman,                    | N. D. No. 2  |
| John Pindar,                       | N. D. No. 23 |
| Benj. Chadwell,                    | N. D. No. 26 |
| David Low,                         | N. D. No. 8  |
| Benjamin Chadwell,                 | N. D. No. 15 |
| John Ross,                         | N. D. No. 18 |
| Edward Nealand,                    | S. D. No. *  |
| John Wood,                         | S. D. No. *  |
| Moses Welles,                      | N. D. No. 3  |

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Edward Eveleth,          | S. D. No. 7  |
| Widow Rachel Rust,       | S. D. No. 3  |
| Wm. Cogswell,            | S. D. No. 23 |
| Samuel Ingalls,          | N. D. No. 24 |
| Hon. Simonds Epes, esq., | S. D. No. 4  |
| Doct. Nicholas Noyes,    | S. D. No. 12 |
| Thos. Norton, jun.,      | S. D. No. 25 |
| Thomas Perrin,           | N. D. No. 14 |
| Robert Cross,            | N. D. No. 20 |
| Thos. Lufkin,            | S. D. No. 33 |
| Isaac Giddinge,          | N. D. No. 5  |
| Thos. Boardman,          | N. D. No. 32 |
| Thos. Tredwell,          | S. D. No. 34 |
| Nath'l Tredwell,         | N. D. No. 31 |
| Hon. Thomas Berry, esq., | S. D. No. 2  |
| Jonathan Jewett, jun.    | S. D. No. 35 |
| Joseph Annable,          | N. D. No. 28 |
| Henry Wise,              | N. D. No. 19 |
| Joseph Goodhue,          | S. D. No. 20 |
| John Goodhue,            | N. D. No. 29 |
| Moses Kimball,           | S. D. No. 5  |
| Adam Cogswell,           | S. D. No. 18 |
| Ephraim Fitts,           | S. D. No. 10 |
| John Downing,            | N. D. No. 4  |
| Thos. Hovey,             | N. D. No. 21 |
| School,                  | N. D. No. 10 |
| Nath'l Clark,            | N. D. No. 7  |
| Samuel Poland,           | N. D. No. 18 |
| Abraham Perkins,         | N. D. No. 33 |
| Jabez Sweet,             | S. D. No. 13 |
| Benj. White,             | S. D. No. 11 |
| John Thompson,           | S. D. No. 30 |

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jonathan Wade, esq.   | N. D. No. 4  |
| Thos. Lufkin,         | N. D. No. 16 |
| John Harris,          | N. D. No. 27 |
| Solomon Giddinge,     | S. D. No. 22 |
| Wm. Haskell,          | S. D. No. 29 |
| Ebenezer Pulcepher,   | S. D. No. 32 |
| Nath'l Clark,         | S. D. No. 36 |
| Abraham Foster, jun., | S. D. No. 6  |
| Nath'l Lord,          | N. D. No. 34 |

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday the third of Nov. next at four of the clock afternoon, to meet at this place.

At a legal Meeting of the Proprietors of the Township granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others &c., at the house of Mr. Nath'l Tredwell in Ipswich on Thursday, 27th Oct., A. D., 1737, and continued by an adjournment to Thursday 3d day of November following to meet at the said Tredwell's, and met accordingly.

Col. Thomas Berry, Moderator.

The Proprietors of the Township granted to Mr. Abraham

Tilton and others, &c., To Thomas Berry Dr.

1736, March. To a book of Records, £1-10-0

To a journey to Lancaster to secure the laying  
out of the Township, expense, horse, &c., 5-00-0

To 1 day's attendance on the Grantees and  
admitting, 0-15-0

To 1-2 day in said service, 0-07-6

To a copy of the Plan &c. from the Sec'y's  
office, 0-15-0

To a journey and service in laying out the  
lots, expenses &c. 5-00-0

Errors excepted.

pr. Thomas Berry.



The Proprietors &c., To John Hobson, esq. Dr.  
 To 1 day's attendance admitting Grantees, £0-15-0  
 Voted, That the acc'ts of Col. Thomas Berry, and John  
 Hobson, Esq., above written, be allowed and paid out of  
 the Proprietors' treasury to them in full discharge thereof.

| Ipswich Canada Grantees                                      | Dr.           |
|--|---------------|
| 1736. Paid to the Deputy Sec'y for Copies;                   | £0-10-0       |
| To 1 1-2 days' attendance in admitting<br>Grantees,          | 1-02-6        |
| To a journey up the country, horse and<br>expenses included, | 5-00-6        |
|  | <hr/>         |
| Errors excepted  | Total £6-13-0 |

John Choate.

Voted, That the aforesaid acco't be allowed, and that  
 the sum of six pounds and thirteen shillings be paid out of  
 the Proprietors' treasury to John Choate, Esq. in full dis-  
 charge of his account.

Voted, That the sum of sixty one pounds and six shil-  
 lings be paid out of the Proprietors' Treasury to Thomas  
 Berry esq. in discharge of the accounts of Messrs. Wheel-  
 er, Parker, Wetherbee, Richardson, Bellows, and the two  
 surveyors, for laying out the first division in the Township.

Oct. 27, 1737. The Community of Ipswich Canada Dr.  
 To Abraham Tilton for 17 days' work at  
 15s pr. day, £12-15-0

Voted, That the sum of twelve pounds and fifteen shil-  
 lings be paid out of the treasury to Lieut. Abraham Tilton  
 in full discharge of his account.

Voted, That 13 shillings per day be allowed, and paid  
 out of the treasury, to each of those that assisted in lot-  
 ting out the Township, being 17 days each, viz: John

Martin, Isaac Martin, Thomas Brown, Francis Goodhue, and John Martin jun. amounting to the sum of eleven pounds one shilling to each of them.

Voted, That six pounds be allowed and paid out of the treasury, to such Proprietor as shall cut a horse way from Earlington road to the Meetinghouse lot.

Voted, That the sum of £3-03-2, the expenses of the house, be allowed and paid out of the treasury to Mr. Nath'l Tredwell.

The Proprietors of Canada Township granted to Mr. Tilton and others, &c. Dr.

To the Committee that went to view the Township namely, Edward Eveleth, Abraham Tilton, Solomon Giddinge, John Martin and Isaac Giddinge, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1736, to 9 days each at 15s pr. day, £33-15-0

To paid John Bennett the pilot, 3-00-0

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Errors excepted, | Total £36-15-0  |
|                  | Edward Eveleth. |

Voted, That the sum of thirty six pounds and fifteen shillings be paid out of the treasury to the Committee aforesaid in discharge of their accounts.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to this day three weeks at 4 of the clock afternoon, to meet at this place: And met accordingly.

Col. Thos. Berry, Moderator.

Voted, That liberty be granted to draw John Downing's lot, but it is not to be recorded till he shall have paid his three pounds.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved: And it was accordingly dissolved by the Moderator.

Attest,

Thos Norton jun. Pro. Cler.  
*Proprietors' Book.*

The above cited extract, together with the following note adduced from Mr. Torrey's valuable History of the Town of Fitchburg, will show the value of labor and services about one century ago. The currency and common mode of reckoning then was *old tenor*.

'Old Tenor' and 'Lawful Money' explained.

"As many of my readers, at the present day, would probably find it difficult to determine the difference between 'Old Tenor' and 'Lawful Money,' I will here add that in the year 1702 recourse was had in the New England provinces to a paper currency to support the expenses of the government, and furnish a substitute for a circulating medium. The bills purported that they would be redeemed at a certain time, which was done at first, but it soon became customary to redeem them by new emissions. This being done pretty liberally, they began to depreciate in value. In Massachusetts, where their value was kept up better than in the other provinces, the depreciation was at the rate of *seven and a half* for *one* in specie. This currency acquired the name of *Old Tenor*—seven shillings and six pence being equal to only one shilling in silver, which was called 'Lawful money,' or ninepence sterling of Great Britain.

In the year 1750, the government of Great Britain made a grant of a sum of money to Massachusetts to remunerate the province for its exertions in the late war with France. Governor Hutchinson proposed that this sum, which was sent over in dollars and parts of dollars, should be appropriated to redeem the whole of the bills of credit of the province. This proposition, after much opposition, was carried into effect; and eventually it was productive

of much good. Accordingly the circulation of Old Tenor bills was finally stopped on the 31st of March, 1750. The last emission of the Old Tenor bills was made by Gov. Shirley in order to defray the expenses of the expedition against Cape Breton in 1745. This he did contrary to the express orders of the king to put a stop to them; but as the plan was successful, no notice was taken of this breach of orders."

N. B.—5 shillings Old Tenor=8 pence Lawful Money of Massachusetts=about 11 cents Federal Money.—£5 O. T.=13s 4d L. M.=§2,22 F. M.—£100 O. T.=£13-6-8 L. M.=§44,45 F. M.

## K

## 'Old Style' and 'New Style' Explained.

The young reader may naturally inquire the reason of this month February being in the same year with the previous October. For information this note is inserted. The Old Style was in use and the year began on the 25th of March, until 1752; after which the year began on the 1st of January.

Extract from the Act of Parliament regulating the commencement of the year, and for correcting the calendar now in use.

Whereas the legal supputation of the year of our Lord in England according to which the year beginneth on the 25th day of March, hath been found by experience to be attended with divers inconveniences—therefore—Be it enacted, That the said supputation, according to which the year of our Lord beginneth on the 25th day of March, shall not be made use of from and after the last day of

December, 1751; and that the first day of January next following the said last day of December, shall be reckoned, taken, deemed and accounted to be the first day of the year of our Lord 1752. And that from and after the first day of January 1752, the several days of each month shall go on and be reckoned and numbered in the same order as they now are until the second day of September in the said year 1752 inclusive; and that the natural day next immediately following the said second day of September shall be called, reckoned and accounted to be the fourteenth day of September, omitting for that time only the eleven intermediate days of the common calendar. — *Vide Acts and Laws of Massachusetts Bay, fol. Boston Ed. 1759, pp. 351, 352.*

## L

Extracts from the records of the meeting of Feb. 13, 1737.

Voted, That there be a cartway cut from Dorchester Canada meeting house lot, on the nearest and most convenient way that can be found from Dorchester Canada road, to the center of the lots as laid out in the Township of the said Ipswich Canada, and make such bridges and causeys as are absolutely necessary for making the way passable.

Voted, That 4 acres be cleared in the meeting house lot, in the most convenient place for erecting the meeting house, and be sowed with herds grass; and that Col. Berry, Capt. Eveleth, Mr. Davis, Lieut. Giddinge, Mr. Martin, Mr. Lord, Thos. Brown, or any three of them, be desired to view the meeting house lot, and agree where to

clear in order to set the meeting house on, taking the advice of such Proprietors as shall be there.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## M

Extracts from the records of the meeting of Feb. 8, 1738.

Voted, That 20 shillings be raised and assessed on each original Right, to be paid into the treasury by the first day of May next, to lie there for the encouragement of such persons as shall build a Sawmill, to be paid out by the Proprietors' order to the persons with whom they shall hereafter agree.

Voted, That Col. Berry be empowered and directed to agree with some proper persons to clear a road that shall be marked out by the Proprietors of Payqueage, from the line of the township to the town road.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## N

Extracts from the records of the meeting of March 14, 1742.

Voted, That Col. Tho. Berry, Messrs. William Brown and Samuel Dodge be a Committee to lay out a second division of lots.

Voted, That Col. Tho. Berry, Messrs. Wm. Brown and Samuel Dodge be Committee to build a cornmill in the most convenient place, and for the best advantage of the Proprietors, taking the best advice therefor.

Voted, That Col. Tho. Berry, Messrs. Wm. Brown and Samuel Dodge be directed and empowered to treat and agree with Joseph Priest, or his son, or some other black-

smith, to do the Proprietors' blacksmiths' work in the Township in the best way and manner they can for the advantage of the Proprietors.

## O

Extracts from the records of the meeting of April 11, 1751.

Voted, That Messrs. Wm. Brown, Francis Goodhue and Moses Wells, or either two of them, be a Committee to run the line and renew the bounds between the Townships of Ipswich Canada and Dorchester Canada and any of the Townships that join on Ipswich Canada.

## P

Extracts from the records of the meeting.

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada at the dwelling house of Mr. Joseph Newhall, innholder in Ipswich, June 20, 1751.

Voted, That the return of the Committee be accepted and recorded, viz.

Ipswich May 25th 1751.

We the subscribers being a Committee appointed by the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada Township to run the line and renew the bounds between the Township of Ipswich Canada and Dorchester Canada, and any of the Townships that join on Ipswich Canada. We have accordingly proceeded on said business, and have run the lines and marked the trees between Ipswich Canada and Dorchester Canada: and Ipswich Canada and Narraganset

No. 2 : \* and Ipswich Canada and Narraganset No. 6 : † and have renewed the corner bounds, by adding stones and marking trees.

William Brown }  
Francis Goodhue } Committee.  
Moses Wells }

Voted, That Mr. Francis Goodhue be Treasurer and empowered to demand the book and acct. of the former Treasurer's administrator.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry, Col. Daniel Appleton, and William Brown, be a Committee to assist the Clerk in making a report to the General Court.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## Q

Extracts from the Proprietors' Book of Records.

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada January 29th 1752. Voted, That the sum of one hundred pounds, old tenor, be paid out of the treasury to each of the first families that shall build a dwelling house and settle a family in the aforesaid Township: provided, they shall build and settle by the first of November next: provided also, that they enter their names with the Clerk, at, or before the first of April next; and give to the Treasurer a good and sufficient bond, with surety, to perform the above conditions; and keep a family there for the space of three years from the said first of November: The number of said families entitled to said hundred pounds, not to exceed ten.

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\* Now Westminster.

† Now Templeton.



|  |             |       |
|--|-------------|-------|
| March 10, 1752. Thomas Brown sent his claim to be received for one of the first settlers   | -           | 1     |
| Edward Eveleth entered his claim for two of the first settling families                    | ' - - - - - | 2     |
| 16. Ezekiel Jewett enters his claim for one of the first settlers                          | - - - - -   | 1     |
| March 31, 1752. The Hon. Thomas Berry put in his claim for two settling families           | - -         | 2     |
| April 4. Thomas Brown desires the privilege of being admitted for two more settling Rights | -           | 2     |
| 18. Col. Tho. Berry claims a privilege for one more of the first settling families         | - - - -     | 1     |
| 23. Edward Eveleth desires the privilege for one more settling family                      | - - - -     | 1     |
|  |             | <hr/> |
|  |             | 10    |

*Proprietors' Book. See also Whitney's History of the County of Worcester, p. 255.*

## R

It appears from tradition as well as from the Proprietors' Book of Records, that there were several block houses or buildings made of hewn logs, erected and occupied for *garrisons*; viz. one on the plain near Bullard's mill; one,\* near the south end of the meeting house common, which Dea. Moses Hale occupied as a dwelling for some time before removing into his own dwelling house;

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\* Mary Holt, the first child born within the limits of what is now Winchendon, was born in this house, Nov. 15, 1753. It is said that then there were but six women in the Township. She was married to Mr. Jonathan Bosworth of Royalston. She was left a widow. She died Jan. 25, 1847, aged 93 yrs. 1 mo. 10 d.

one, near the east line of the farm of Mr. Jacob Hale, senior, which he occupied as a dwelling house within the memory of the writer; one near where Dea. Desire Tolman afterward lived, and one where Mr. Benjamin Kidder afterwards lived.

## S

Extracts from the records.

At a meeting in Ipswich July 3, 1753.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry and Mr. Thomas Wilder, or either of them, be a Committee fully authorized and empowered to petition the next Sessions of the Peace in the County of Worcester, in order to establish a way from Lunenburg meeting house through Dorchester Canada, Narragansett No. 2, to Ipswich Canada, and so far as Ipswich Canada extends: and if they cannot be accommodated there, to apply to the General Court for the ends aforesaid.

Voted, That the Proprietors will be at the charge of four days preaching in Ipswich Canada; one day in August next, and the other three days in October or November: and that Mr. Abijah Smith be desired to take care and procure a suitable person to preach.

Voted, That Messrs. Thomas Wilder and Abijah Smith be a committee to prepare stuff in order to build a meeting house the next spring.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## T

This house, built about 1752 by Mr. Richard Day, is the one which stands on high ground west of the meeting house common, and which afterwards was owned by Rev.

Mr. Brown, now owned by Rev. Mr. Bullard. There was a house built, probably about the same time, where Mr. Wm. B. Whitney's house is, which was occupied as a Tavern for many years, successively by Matthew Knight, Samuel Griggs, Francis Bridge, Bemsly Lord, Joshua Gale, Luther Stimson, James McElwain and Phinehas Whitney. And a house was built near the burying ground and occupied by James Mansfield. Also a house was built near the common, south west, and was occupied by Gabriel Pouchey.\* And a house was built by Col. Thomas Berry where Deacon Desire Tolman afterward lived.

## U

## Extracts from the records.

Voted, That the mill road where it is dangerous, and impossible to pass without, be mended and repaired, and Col. Thomas Berry have the oversight thereof.

Voted, That two shillings and eight pence a day be allowed for a yoke of good stout oxen or two horses.

Voted, That the meeting house frame be granted to Col. Thomas Berry, to enable him to build a suitable and convenient room, to be allowed as a house for the Proprietors to meet in, on the sabbath days, for public worship.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## V

## Extracts from the records.

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors at the house of Richard Day, 31st Oct. 1754.

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\* Nathan Pouchey was the first male child born in the Township. He was therefore entitled to a lot of land in the Township; which he received when he arrived at the age of 21 years. He died in the revolutionary army.

Voted, That something further shall be done in fortifying the Township.

Voted, That the sum of three hundred pounds, old tenor, be raised in order to fortify the Township : fifty pounds of which is to fortify Mr. Darling's house, and fifty pounds to fortify Mr. Boynton's house, and one hundred pounds toward defraying the acct. of fortifying Thomas Jewett's house.

Voted, That Col. Thomas Berry's house shall be fortified, and that one hundred pounds, old tenor, be allowed therefor, the said Berry to pay what farther sum shall be needed to complete the garrison, which he agreed to.

Voted, That Col. Berry, Capt. Goodridge and Mr. Smith be a Committee to see that the Garrisons are completed.

Voted, That Abijah Smith be Clerk. And he was sworn to his office before Edward Hartwell.

Voted, That one dollar be assessed on each and every original Right, to pay for preaching the winter coming.

Voted, That Mr. John Brown and Mr. Thomas Jewett be desired to provide a suitable person to preach for them.  
—*Proprietors' Book.*

## W

From the records of the numerous votes of the Proprietors, respecting the support of preaching in the Township antecedently to the settlement of a minister, one more extract will be here inserted.

At a meeting at Lunenburg, Sept. 22, 1761.

Voted, and chose Samuel Hunt, David Goodridge and Richard Day, a Committee to provide preaching in the Township of Ipswich Canada.

Voted, and raised two dollars on each original Right to pay for preaching in said Township. Also, that the Committee be ordered to provide a preacher half the sabbaths.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## X

Extracts from the records.

Nov. 30, 1758. The Proprietors

Voted, That the Proprietors will act on the affair to build a gristmill in said Township of Ipswich Canada.

Voted, That for encouragement, two dollars be granted on each original Right, to any person or persons, that shall undertake and build a gristmill in said Township, and keep said mill in repair, and grind for the inhabitants for lawful toll, for the term of ten years: and that the money shall be paid as soon as the mill is fit to grind. Also 100 acres of land, with the stream, be given by said Proprietors for further encouragement to the person or persons, that shall undertake and build said mill.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## Y

Extracts from the records.

Nov. 1, 1759. The Proprietors

Voted, That the Surveyors already chosen [namely, John Moffat, Jacob Gould and Richard Day,] are hereby ordered to build a bridge in said Township over Miller's river on the county road to Royalshire,\* out of the money

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\* Now Royalston.

already granted by the Propriety, according to their best skill and judgment.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## Z

Extracts from the records.

The Proprietors, June 30, 1762,

Voted, That sixty days highways' work shall be done in building a bridge over the River, by Mr. Parson's mill place.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## AA

Extracts from the records.

Sept. 22, 1761. Voted, That the Proprietors will build a meeting house in the Township of Ipswich Canada.

Voted, That the said meeting house shall be 35 feet wide, and 45 feet long, and the length of the posts to be 22 or 23 feet.

Voted and chose Benjamin Goodridge, Abijah Smith, and Philip Goodridge, a Committee to let out the meeting house.

Voted, That the Committee be empowered to see that the said meeting house be hewed, framed and raised, the outside boarded, shingled, and clapboarded, window sashes, and glass put up, door heads and doors be made, the lower floor be laid, and the frame be underpinned with convenient stones.

Voted, That the said meeting house shall be completed as aforesaid by the last day of September, 1762.

Voted, That the meetings be held in Ipswich Canada for the future.

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada at the house of Mr. Richard Day, innholder at Ipswich Canada, June 30, 1762.

Voted, and chose Messrs. Benjamin Goodridge, Richard Day and Bartholomew Parsons, to be a Committee to view and stake out a meeting house plat.

The following is the report of the Committee chosen by the last vote.

Laid out five acres of land for a meeting house, training field and burying yard, on the Northwest corner of the lot No. 1 in the South division, beginning at the Northwest corner bound, running south 48 rods, on line of said lot, then easterly 16 1-2 rods, then running northerly a parallel line with the west line 48 rods, and then to the place where we began.

Benjamin Goodridge,  
Bartholomew Parsons,  
Richard Day.

Voted, That the Proprietors will accept the land laid out by the Committee, on lot No. 1 South Division for the use of the meeting house, training field and burying yard\*—there being reference made on said lot for that purpose by the Propriety at their meeting on the 27th of Oct. A. D. 1737—notwithstanding a former vote passed by the Proprietors at their meeting held Nov. 1, 1759, to accept of the report of the Committee to set the meeting house on lot No. 30, finding that place not accommodable: And the Committee chosen to build said meeting house, to raise the house on the plat where they judge most convenient.—*Proprietors' Book.*

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\* Besides the cemetery near the middle of the town, there is another grave yard or burying place in the south westerly part of the town.

## BB

## Extracts from the records.

At a legal meeting at the house of Gabriel Pouchey in the Township, June 22, 1763.

Voted, That the Proprietors will join with the inhabitants in a petition to the General Court, that Ipswich Canada may be incorporated into a Town.

June 23, Voted, That a tax of one penny per acre be laid on all the lands that are already laid out in Ipswich Canada, for the term of three years.

Voted, That Benjamin Goodridge, esq. and Daniel Bixby be a Committee to draft a petition in order to send to the Great and General Court, that Ipswich Canada may be incorporated into a Town, and the lands taxed according to the above vote.—*Proprietors' Book.*

## CC

An Act for erecting the Plantation called Ipswich Canada into a Town by the name of Winchendon.

Whereas the inhabitants of the Plantation called Ipswich Canada in the County of Worcester, labor under many difficulties and inconveniences by means of their not being a Town: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives, That the Plantation commonly called and known by the name of Ipswich Canada, in the County of Worcester, bounded as follows, viz: South twelve degrees west, seven miles and two hundred rods on Dorchester Canada; west eighteen degrees south, two hundred and seventy rods on Westminster; north thirty-six degrees



west, four miles and two hundred and twenty rods on Templeton line; north seventy-eight degrees west, six hundred rods on Templeton line; north twelve degrees east, four miles and two hundred and sixty rods on Royalshire; south seventy-eight degrees west,\* six miles on Royalshire line; be and hereby is erected into a Town, by the name of Winchendon: and that the inhabitants thereof be, and hereby are invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities, which the inhabitants of the towns within the province do or may enjoy.

And be it further enacted, That there be laid on the lands already laid out in the said Town of Winchendon, a tax of one penny per acre for the term of three years.

And be it further enacted, That Edward Hartwell, esq. be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant in said Town, requiring him to warn the inhabitants of the said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at such time and place as shall be therein set forth, to choose all such officers as are or shall be required by law to manage the affairs of the said Town.—*Acts and Laws of Massachusetts Bay, fol. Boston Ed. 1759, p. 458.*

#### Origin of the Name.

It seems that Winchendon was so called after the name either of a manor or of a small town in England.

An English historian states that "In the month of December," 1706, "Her Majesty," Queen Anne, "conferred the following honors, viz: Thomas Lord Wharton"

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\* There is, evidently, a mistake in the statement of the course of this line; it should be east twelve degrees south.

was created “Viscount *Winchendon* and Earl of Whar-  
ton.”—*Etchard's History of England, vol. 4, p. 457.*

## DD

It has been handed down by tradition that sometime be-  
fore the township was settled, a hunter by the name of  
Denison got lost in the woods, which was tall and thick in  
that region. He climbed a tree with a view to look out,  
and descried the pond, which from this circumstance, was  
named Denison's pond.

## EE

## Proceedings of the First Town Meeting.

At a meeting legally warned, Nov. 5, 1764, of the free  
holders and other inhabitants of Winchendon to assemble  
and meet at the house of Richard Day: then and there  
being assembled proceeded in manner as follows, viz:

1st. Chose Richard Day, Moderator to govern said  
meeting.

2d. Proceeded to the choice of town officers.

Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

|                       |   |            |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| Theophilus Mansfield, | } | Selectmen. |
| Benoni Boynton,       |   |            |
| Ephraim Boynton,      |   |            |

Richard Day, Constable.

Nathaniel Bixby, Town Treasurer.

Daniel Goodridge, Collector of the land tax.

|                |   |                 |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| Silas Whitney, | } | Church Wardens. |
| Reuben Wyman,  |   |                 |

|                  |   |                        |
|------------------|---|------------------------|
| William Oak,     | } | Surveyors of Highways. |
| Timothy Darling, |   |                        |
| Amos Spring,     |   |                        |
| Abel Wilder,     |   |                        |

Daniel Bixby, Deer-reeve.

Aaron Hodskins, Fence-viewer.

Jonathan Foster, Sealer of weights and measures.

Silas Whitney, Surveyor of boards and shingles.

Reuben Wyman, Field driver.

Nathaniel Bixby, Sealer of leather.

Stephen Choate, Stave-culler.

Nathaniel Burnam, Fire-ward.

These officers were chosen and sworn as the law directs.

A true record, per Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

*See the Records of the Town of Winchendon, Book 1, pp. 2, 3.*

## FF

### Extracts from the records.

At a meeting legally warned of the free holders and other inhabitants of Winchendon to assemble at the public meeting house in said town on Monday the 11th day of March, 1765. Then and there, being assembled, proceeded in the following manner, viz.

1. Chose Theo's Mansfield Moderator for the government of said meeting.

2. Voted, That all freeholders shall be allowed to vote in said meeting.

3. Proceeded to the choice of town officers and chose  
Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Theo's Mansfield, | } | Selectmen. |
| Nathaniel Bixby,  |   |            |
| Benoni Boynton,   |   |            |

Ephraim Boynton, Constable.

Richard Day, Town Treasurer.

Jonathan Foster, }  
 Theo's Mansfield, } Wardens.

Daniel Bixby, }  
 Samuel Crage, } Tithingmen.

Reuben Wyman, }  
 Timothy Darling, } Deer-reeves .

John Darling, }  
 Samuel Titus, } Surveyors of Highways and Col-  
 Jonathan Stimson, } lectors of highway rates.  
 William Oaks, }

Abner Hale, }  
 Jonathan Foster, } Fence-viewers.

Silas Whitney, }  
 Samuel Titus, } Hog-reeves.

Daniel Bixby, Sealer of leather.

Richard day, Sealer of weights and measures.

Joseph Stimson, Field driver.

Bartholomew Pearson, Surveyor of boards and shingles.

Daniel Goodridge, Collector of the land tax.

The officers for the present year were chosen and sworn as the law directs.

Attest Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

*Town Records, Book 1, pp. 5, 6.*

GG

Record of a town meeting Feb. 15, 1773.

At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon qualified by law to vote in town affairs, on the fifteenth day of February, A. D. 1773.

Chose Moses Hale, Moderator for the government of said meeting.

Voted, and adjourned until one o'clock, P. M. And then met.

Voted, and adjourned further until three o'clock. And then met.

Voted to take into consideration the distressing and dangerous circumstances of our public affairs.

Voted to chose a Committee consisting of five persons to prepare a draft to lay before the town, of such measures as may be thought proper for the town to come into, in order to defend their rights and liberties.

|                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Chose Messrs. Moses Hale | } | Committee for<br>the purposes<br>aforementioned. |
| Levi Nichols             |   |  |
| John Boynton             |   |  |
| John Homer               |   |  |
| Dudley Perley            |   |  |

Voted, and consented to the proceedings of the town of Boston in their stating the rights of the Colonists, as they are set forth in a pamphlet sent by a Committee of Correspondence in Boston to the Selectmen of Winchendon.

Voted, and adjourned this meeting to Monday the first day of March next, two of the clock in the afternoon, at the meeting house in Winchendon.

At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other [inhabitants] of Winchendon, upon adjournment from the fifteenth day of February last, the Committee appointed the fifteenth day of February last, by the town of Winchendon legally assembled to consider the letter from the town of Boston, with their statement of rights of the Colonies, and the infringements made upon them, which was publicly read at the said meeting, beg leave to report, That from a full conviction of the propriety and expediency of the measure, they do recommend to the inhabitants of this town to pass the following Resolves, namely :

1. Resolved, that having taken into serious consideration the state of the rights of the Colonies, and of the

Province in particular, as men, as christians, and as subjects, and a list of infringements and violation of rights, as specified and set forth by the Committee of the town of Boston. We are of opinion that the rights of this Province are well and truly stated in said list, as they are well supported and warranted by the laws of God, of nature, of the realm of Great Britain and the charter of this Province; that a list of infringements and violations of those rights and privileges inherent to the inhabitants of this Province are well stated, vindicated and supported by a great variety of uncontestable facts, whereby it appears to us, by a list of the violations and infractions of our liberties and privileges as British subjects, transmitted to us as aforesaid, that the time is speedily hastening when we shall be reduced to the most abject slavery.

2. Resolved, that having consulted our charter, we find that, by the aforesaid infringements and violations, our rights and liberties, thereby derived, are sapped to the very foundation.

3. Resolved, that it is of the utmost importance [that] the Colonies in general, and the inhabitants of this Province in particular, stand firm as one man to support and maintain all their just rights and privileges.

4. Resolved, that this town will, at all times, heartily join with our brethren of this Province, and with every true friend to liberty in all lawful measures which may be proper, salutary and effectual for the redress of our grievances and the establishment of our charter rights, privileges and liberties.

5. Resolved, that this town choose a Committee to correspond with the Boston Committee and the Committees of other towns, to receive and communicate to the town all

salutary measures that shall be proposed or offered by any other towns for removing the common grievances of this Province, and to communicate the sentiments of this town to the correspondent Committee of the other towns of this Province.

6. Resolved, that the united thanks of this town and of every true son of liberty and friend to the constitution of the Province is due to the town of Boston for their early and indefatigable zeal in endeavoring to preserve the constitutional rights and liberties of this Province.

7. Resolved, that the town of Boston be served with an attested copy of our proceedings.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Moses Hale,    | } Committee to<br>consider of<br>Grievances. |
| Levi Nichols,  |  |
| John Boynton,  |  |
| John Homer,    |  |
| Dudley Perley. |  |

Winchendon, February 22, 1773.

The above Resolves being publicly read, it was put to vote.

Accepted by unanimous vote.

Voted, and chose Messrs. Moses Hale, Levi Nichols, John Boynton, John Homer, and Dudley Perley, a Committee of Correspondence.

Voted, That the Town Clerk be directed to record the foregoing Resolves in the town book of records, and to return an attested copy of the same to the Committee of Correspondence above chosen.

Moses Hale, Moderator.

A true copy, Attest,

Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

*Town Records, B. 1, pp. 138—142.*

## III

At a meeting of the town of Winchendon, August 4, 1774, Chose Mr. Eli Smith, Moderator for the government of said meeting. Chose Mr. Amos Merriam to join the Committee of Correspondence in the town in the room of John Homer, deceased.

Chose Mr. Moses Hale to meet the Committees that may be appointed by the several towns in this county at the widow Mary Stearns', at Worcester on the 9th day of August instant at 10 of the clock in the morning. Adjourned.

August 25, 1774. Then met according to adjournment.

Voted, That Dea. Moses Hale go to Worcester upon the adjournment of the County Convention.

Voted, and accepted of the following Resolves, namely :

1. Resolved that we acknowledge ourselves true and liege subjects to His Majesty, King George 3d, and that we will, to the utmost of our power, defend his crown and dignity.

2. Resolved, that the charter of this Province is the basis of allegiance to His Majesty, the sacred obligation he is under to protect us his American subjects, and that all Acts of the British Parliament which tend to vacate our charter without our consent, have a tendency to destroy our allegiance to the king, and also the obligation he is under to protect us, his most loyal subjects, which, consequently reduce us to a state of nature.

3. Resolved, that those unconstitutional Acts lately passed in the British Parliament, wherein they claim a right to tax the Americans without their consent, and to



alter our free Constitutions at their pleasure, has a direct tendency to break off the affections of His Majesty's true and loyal subjects in America, from the king, and therefore most certainly weaken the British nation, and will, if persisted in, unavoidably endanger, if not actually be a means of the destruction of the king, at the whole British realm.

4. Resolved, that we will, to the utmost of our power, oppose all such unconstitutional acts, which in our opinion are directly against the dignity of the king and the constitution of this Province, and are ready to risk our lives and fortunes in defence of our rightful sovereign, and to maintain our free constitution, in order to save ourselves and posterity from ruin and slavery, which seem, like a torrent, rushing in upon us.

5. Resolved, that we will do all that lies in our power to maintain peace and good order amongst us according to the laws of this Province; and that we will break off all dealings, as far as possible, with all officers who hold their commissions under unconstitutional laws.

6. Resolved, that those men who are appointed Counsellors by a mandamus from England, directly contrary to the charter of this Province, and have taken the oaths required to serve in that office, are destitute of any regard for the good of their country, and ought to be treated as open enemies to the once free constitution of this Province.

Voted and adjourned this present meeting to the third Thursday of September next at two of the o'clock, P. M.  
—*Town Records, B. 1, pp. 184—187.*

## II

Sept. 15, 1774. Then met according to adjournment.

Voted to send a person to the Provincial Congress to meet at Concord the second Tuesday of October next.

Chose Mr. Moses Hale to go to Concord.

Voted, That every person from the age of 16 to 60 years old appear at the meeting house in Winchendon on Tuesday the 20th day of this instant September, at one of the clock in the afternoon.

Voted, That the town will indemnify Mr. Jer. Stuart, Constable, in his not returning a list of the persons qualified to serve as Jurors agreeable to a late Act of Parliament; and he is hereby directed never to make such returns.

A true record, per Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.  
*Town Records, B. 1, p. 187.*

## JJ

Extracts from the records of a town-meeting held Jan. 10, 1775.

Voted, That the province taxes granted and levied upon the town of Winchendon, for the years 1772, 1773, and 1774, committed and soon to be committed to Thomas Sawyer, and Jeremiah Stuart, Constables of Winchendon, be paid to Henry Gardner, Esq. of Stow, as soon as conveniently may be: and the Constables are hereby ordered to pay the above said money as above voted; and the town will hereby indemnify the above said Thomas Sawyer and Jeremiah Stuart in so doing, upon their pro-

ducing receipts from the above mentioned Henry Gardner, Esq.

|                  |  |   |  |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| Voted, and chose | Levi Nichols<br>Thomas Sawyer<br>Moses Hale<br>Abel Wilder<br>John Boynton<br>Eli Smith and<br>David Poor. | } | A Committee<br>to see that the<br>Association<br>of the<br>Continental<br>Congress be put<br>in execution. |
|------------------|--|---|--|

Voted, That the town will assist the above Committee in carrying the above mentioned Association into execution, provided they proceed agreeably to the directions of the Provincial Congress.

Levi Nichols, Moderator.

A true Copy,            per Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.  
*Town Records, B. 1, pp. 193, 194.*

## KK

At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, qualified by law to vote in the choice of a Representative, on the 4th day of July, 1776.

Chose Thos. Sawyer Moderator, for the government of said meeting.

Whereas this town has been called upon by the Honorable House of Representatives of this Colony to signify their minds in regard of American independency; being duly sensible of the cruel and oppressive measures which are pursued by the King and Parliament of Great Britain in order to enslave the Colonies, and consequently the difficulty that will attend our being ever again united with Great Britian, therefore,

Unanimously Resolved, That if the Honorable Conti-

mental Congress should think best for the safety of these Colonies to declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, that we will with our lives and fortunes support them in the measure.—*Town Records, B. 1, p 206.*

## LL

It was common, in those days, for towns to instruct their representatives at the General Court, upon the subject of grievances under which they were suffering, and which they wished to have redressed. This direct interference of the people with the State legislation, by means of instructions to their representatives, having been long discontinued, a recital of it now is rather a subject of curiosity.

At a meeting for choosing a Representative, May 27, 1777, the town chose a Committee of seven persons to draft instructions for the representative. The Committee were Ebenezer Sherwin, Thornton Barrett, Moses Hale, Daniel Goodridge, Richard Pearson, Abel Wilder, and Benjamin Brown.

The Report of the above Committee being read, voted and accepted of the said report, which is as follows, namely,

To Mr. Robert Bradish,

Sir, You being legally appointed to represent the town of Winchendon in the Great and General Court the ensuing year, the town think proper to give you the following instructions, viz. That you use your influence to the utmost, to obtain a repeal of an Act, passed by the General Court in the close of their session in the year 1776, entitled an Act for a more equal represen-

tation. And upon the repeal of said Act, to issue writs for the choice of a new House and then dissolve. And in case the said Act should not be repealed, not to proceed to any business, but return home. *Town Records, B. 1, page 249.*

## MM

## Continental Money.

It may be interesting at this time, to give a slight sketch of the rate of the depreciation of the paper Continental currency. The bills began to depreciate in 1777. On the first of January 1777, it was at par. First of Jan. 1778, \$1.00 specie was worth \$4.50 Continental; first of Jan. 1779, \$1.00 specie was worth \$8.38 Continental; first of Jan. 1780, \$1.00 specie was worth \$32.50 Continental. In March, 1780, the town "voted and granted £5200, for repairing roads," and "voted that a man have £9. per day for labor on the roads." In July "£5000 was granted for the purpose of hiring men for the war, and to defray other town charges;" also granted \$85 per day for 34 days service of the Delegates at the Convention for forming the State Constitution, making £867." In Nov. following "£13,598" more was "granted to defray town charges." Jan. 1, 1781, the town "voted and granted £10,000 to procure *beef* that is now called for, and to help procure continental soldiers." March, "voted and granted £8000 for making and mending roads," and voted that a man be allowed £15 per day for work on the roads." April 23, "voted that what money is due" to a certain individual "be paid *ninety for one.*" March 14, 1782, the town voted, "That the Constable and Collectors be direc-

ted to receive no more paper money for town rates." *Town Records B. 2.*

## NN

The building Committee chosen by the town were Abel Wilder, Esq. Capt. Thomas Graton, and Mr. Benjamin Hall.

## OO

As the locating of this meeting house was, at the time, attended with much uneasiness, altercation and trouble, a more extended view of the transactions of the town may appear desirable, therefore such will be here transcribed from the records.

At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, Sept. 10, 1790,

Voted, and chose Dea. Moses Hale Moderator.

Voted, to build a new Meeting House in this town.

Voted, to set the new meeting house on the meeting house common.

Voted, That said house be 60 feet in length, 50 feet in width, 27 feet posts, and a porch at each end of the house 10 feet on the house, 14 feet deep.

Voted, 54 pews on the lower floor, and 24 in the galleries, and 3 seats on each side below, and 3 in the galleries.

Voted, That there be 20 windows, 40 squares in each window, below, and 21, 35 squares in each, in the galleries; the pulpit and gable end windows excepted.

Voted, That the pews be sold at public vendue to the inhabitants, to procure materials and workmen for build-

ing the house : That the purchasers of pews give security for the same to the acceptance of the Committee.

Voted, That the materials be divided into small lots, and let out to those persons who will procure the same the cheapest.

Voted, That the frame be raised in the forepart of the season in the year 1792.

Voted, That the materials for building be delivered at such time and place, as the Committee for building the meeting house shall direct.

Voted, To choose a Committee to see to the building of said house.

Voted, The Committee to consist of three persons.

Voted, and chose Abel Wilder esq. Mr. Thomas Graton and Benjamin Hall esq. for the above Committee.

Nov. 1, Voted to reserve one pew in said house for a ministerial pew.

Voted, Pew west of the pulpit, next to it, for the ministerial pew.

Voted, to choose a Committee of three persons to pitch upon a spot to set the new meeting house upon.

Voted and chose Mr. James Steel, Dea. Moses Hale, and Doct. Ziba Hall for the above Committee.

Voted, to set the south sill of the new meeting house 30 feet north of the north sill of the old meeting house.

Voted, to accept of the plan of said house that the Committee has drafted and laid before the town.

Voted and accepted of the conditions of the sale of the pews the Committee has proposed.

Nov. 29, Voted and accepted the conditions of sale the Committee has draughted for the materials.

Voted, to appoint a person as Vendue-master to vendue the materials.

Voted and appointed Dea. Moses Hale for the above Vendue-master.

Voted, That the posts of said meeting house be 28 feet in length; and that there be 40 squares of glass in each gallery window.

Dec. 20, Voted to have banisters in the pews.

Voted, That the Committee shall procure the glass.

Winchendon Nov. 1, 1790. At a public vendue held for the sale of the pews in the meeting house voted to be built at a meeting held on the 10th day of Sept. 1790, at the meeting house in Winchendon aforesaid, the pews were sold as follows, viz. No. 1 struck off to Capt. Daniel Hubbard for \$40. No. 2 to Abner Curtice for \$71. No. 3 to Moses Hale for \$40. No. 31 to William Whitney for \$62. No. 32 to Joseph Sweetser for \$51. No. 33 to Dea. Moses Hale for \$47. No. 44 to Doct. Israel Whiton for \$49. No. 45 to Lieut. Joseph Boynton for \$50. No. 50 to Abel Wilder for \$50. No. 47 to Desire Tolman for \$40, &c. Gallery pews. No. 1 struck off to Dea. Moses Hale for \$24. No. 2 to Abel Wilder jun. for \$17, &c. &c.

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Abel Wilder,   | } | Committee. |
| Thomas Graton, |   |            |
| Benjamin Hall, |   |            |

Voted to establish and confirm the pews, mentioned in the foregoing report, to the purchasers whose names are thereunto annexed and to their heirs and assigns forever.

Nov. 7, 1791, Voted to agree with some person or persons to make provision for the raisers to raise the meeting house.

Voted, and granted £30 to make provision for the raising of the new meeting house. *Town Records, B. 3 pp. 75—80.*



Nov. 21, Voted to reconsider a vote passed in a former meeting in Nov. 1, 1790, which was to set the south sill of the new meeting house 30 feet north of the north sill of the old meeting house. Yeas 47, Nays 25.

Voted, to choose a Committee of seven persons to pitch upon a spot to set the meeting house on, and report at the adjournment of this meeting.

Voted, and chose Abel Wilder Esq. Dea. Samuel Prentice, Doct. Ziba Hall, Lieut. John Burr, Mr. Thomas Graton, Mr. James Steel and Samuel Crosby Esq. for the above Committee.

Dea. Hale resigned being Moderator, and Dea. Samuel Prentice was chosen Moderator in his room.

Nov. 24, Voted, and accepted of the Report of the Committee, which is as follows, viz.

Winchendon Nov. 24, 1791.

The Committee appointed on the 21 of this instant to view and report the most convenient spot to build a meeting house upon, have attended that service, and a majority of that Committee agree that the meeting house be set 120 feet south of Luther Stimson's house, and 59 feet east of the stone wall by Mr. Brown's garden.

By order of the Committee, Abel Wilder, Chairman.

Dec. 26, voted to chose a Committee of six persons to review and pitch upon a spot to set the new meeting house and report at the adjournment of this meeting.

Voted, and chose Abel Wilder Esq. Dea. Moses Hale, Samuel Crosby Esq., Mr. William Whitney, Benjamin Hall Esq., and Dea. Samuel Prentice, for the above Committee.

*Town Records, B. 3, pp. 81, 82.*

May 3, 1792. The town met according to adjournment, and voted to adjourn the meeting for half a hour,

for the, purpose of viewing the northerly part of the common, in order to see if the town can agree, unanimously, upon a spot of ground to set the new meeting house upon. After taking a view, the town met again: and after some debate, it was tried by a vote to see if the town will reconsider the vote passed at a late meeting respecting placing the meeting house in the northerly part of the common. Passed in the negative.

Then voted, that the Selectmen purchase a barrel of West India rum and a quantity of sugar sufficient to make it into toddy, and that it be expended partly upon the men that assist the day preceding the day set for raising the meeting house, in laying the timber in order for raising. And that the Selectmen see that it is properly dealt out!!

Then voted to allow Ensign David Rice a sum of money over and above what he was heretofore agreed with to provide for those persons who raise the meeting house; the sum to be determined by the rise of West India articles, since said Rice agreed to make provision for the raising.

May 7. Met according to adjournment, and, after some debate it was put to vote, to see if the town will agree to set the meeting house three rods southerly from the place lately agreed upon to build said house; and the town voted to reconsider their vote for placing said house 120 feet from the north side of the common; and to set the north said house 170 feet from the north line of the common; and that the east end of said house should stand nearly on a ridge that was made by the east side of the field.

May 31. The town met and voted to choose a Committee of three persons to use their endeavors to settle matters of difficulty respecting the meeting house. Messrs. Thomas Graton, Amos Heywood and James Steel were chosen

for said purpose. The Committee reported, verbally, that proposals were made for accommodation.

June 15. Met, and after some debate, voted, that the Committee for building the meeting house, purchase such articles as are necessary to finish said house in the best way and manner they can, and go on with the work as soon as may be with convenience.

Voted, that Ensign David Rice be allowed for entertaining 11 more on the day the meeting house was raised over and above the 100 men he agreed to provide for, and that he be allowed in the same proportion for the 11 men as for the 100: and also that he be allowed 16 s. 8 d. for what he found for those persons who belonged out of town, and assisted the second day in raising the roof of the meeting house.

Sept. 5. The meeting house meeting, (so called) was opened according to adjournment. The town granted the sum of £150, in addition to the money raised by the sale of pew ground, to defray the charge of building the meeting house in said town.

Dec. 3. The town met, and made choice of Lieut. John Burr a Committee man in the room of the Hon. Abel Wilder, deceased.

Dec. 17. Voted, that the first day of Jan. 1793, be the day to dedicate the new meeting house.

Then voted, that the three Deacons, Hale, Prentice, and Moor, be a Committee to inform the Rev. Joseph Brown of the [vote of the] town respecting dismissing the old meeting house and dedicating the new one.

Dec. 31. The town met, according to adjournment, on the spot of ground where the old meeting house stood, and adjourned the meeting into Mr. McElwain's east room,

and then met there and adjourned for half an hour, for the purpose of viewing the new meeting house; then met again, and voted to accept of the new meeting house.

A true Record, Attest, Samuel Crosby, Town Clerk.

Then votes were passed transferring divers pews to different persons, the transfers made at the request of the parties.

Then voted, that two pews in the gallery that were struck off to Dea. Moses Hale, viz. No. 16 and No. 8, be transferred to Lieut. John Burr, and that thereupon all matters of difficulty heretofore subsisting between the town and said Hale and any individuals in the town concerning the new meeting house, shall subside, upon condition that the persons, who have purchased pews in said house, pay for the same in a reasonable time.

Samuel Prentice, Moderator.

A true Record

Samuel Crosby, Town Clerk.

*Town Records, B. 3, pp. 83—85.*

The town at a special meeting held, Sept. 5, 1792, voted to build a wall and wharf round the new meeting house by a tax. Then the town granted the sum of £100 to defray the charge thereof. [The wall and wharf were completed in October 1792.]

At a special meeting Oct. 29, 1792, the town voted to sell the old meeting house in lots, at public vendue.

Dec. 17, the old meeting house was sold. *Town Records, B. 3, pp. 104, 105.*

Nov. 21, 1794. The town met, then voted and dissolved the meeting house meeting.

Samuel Prentice, Moderator.

A true Record, Attest, Moses Hale, Town Clerk.

*Town Records, B. 3, p. 120.*

At another meeting of the town, Nov. 21, 1794, Voted, and accepted of the meeting house Committee account, which is as follows.

Cost of the meeting house £889 10s. 9d.

Committee service £57 14s. 6d. £947 5s. 3d.

Recd. of pew money, £766 4s. 0d. Old

meeting house, £28 2s. 1d. Refuse stuff,

£4 10s. 7d. Tax, £150 0s. 0d. £948 16s. 8d.

The above account is the Report of the Committee appointed to build the meeting house.

Samuel Prentice, Moderator.

Thos. Graton, } Committee for  
Benj. Hall, } building said house.

A true record, Moses Hale, Town Clerk.

*Town Records, B. 3, p. 133.*

## PP

In the warrant for town meeting of 11th Sept. 1815, was an article, To see if the town will make the ground where the body seats are in the meeting house, on any other ground into pews for the purpose of building a tower and cupola, or act on the matter as they think proper.

Accordingly the town assembled and under this article

Voted, That the ground in the meeting house mentioned [in the article] be cut for the purpose mentioned under the same article.

Meeting adjourned to 23d. Then voted, That the tower and cupola or steeple be built on condition it can be done free from any expense to the town, other than the ground for 6 pews on the lower floor and 10 pews in the gallery and the old porch and seats. *Town Records, B. 3, pp. 388, 389, 392.*

In the mean time there was a subscription by sundry individuals, inhabitants of the town, for a Bell.

The belfry or steeple was completed, and, at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town, Nov. 4, 1816, was accepted.

At the same meeting a Presentment of the Church Bell to the town of Winchendon, (in behalf of the Proprietors,) by a Committee chosen by the subscribers, was made on the following conditions—That the town shall keep it in good and sufficient repair, cause it to be rung and tolled at the customary times, and a suitable and decent manner—and cause, by their vote, this representation of the said subscribers by their Committee, together with the names of the subscribers who have purchased by their liberality the said Church Bell, with the sum that each individual has given therefor, to be entered and enrolled on the records of the town.

Then the town voted, and accepted of the Bell as offered by the Proprietors' Committee.

Then voted, and tendered their thanks to the Proprietors of the Bell for their great generosity and benevolence. *Town Records, B. 3, pp. 413—415.*

## QQ

### Extracts from the Records.

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada assembled and met at the house of Mr. Richard Day, innholder at Ipswich Canada June 30, 1762.

Voted, That the Proprietors will settle a minister provided the inhabitants can find a man that will settle with them.

Voted, That the Proprietors will give to Mr. Daniel Stimpson the minister's Right [of Land] granted by the Court and £60 of money as a settlement, provided he will settle and perform the office of a gospel minister in the township: and also to give him £60 salary, so long as he shall carry on the work of the ministry, in said township.

At a meeting Nov. 17, 1762, It was put to vote to see if the Proprietors would make any alteration in their former [vote] respecting Mr. Daniel Stimpson's salary.

Voted, That instead of giving the said Daniel Stimpson sixty pounds salary so long as he shall carry on the ministry—to give him sixty pounds yearly so long as he shall continue our minister in said township. *Proprietors' Book.*

At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, so called, that assembled and met at the house of Mr. Richard Day, innholder in said township, on Nov. 17, 1762.

Voted, That Mr. Daniel Stimpson be ordained the 15th day of December next: and that the church in Weston, the church in Harvard, the church in Lunenburg, and the church in Dorchester Canada, be sent to, to assist in his ordination.

Voted, That Bartholemew Parsons, Richard and Samuel Titus, be a Committee to send letters missive to the above named churches to assist in the ordination of Mr. Daniel Stimpson, in the name of the Proprietors.

Voted, to allow Richard Day £4 in order to enable him to entertain the Council, and Mr. Stimpson's relations, at his ordination. *Proprietors' Book.*

## RR

There were many during Mr. Stimpson's and Mr. Brown's ministry, who joined the church in this way,

which was sometimes called the *Half way covenant*.\* The origin of the practice is found at large in Mather's *Magnalia*, and in Hubbard's *General History of New England*.

Mr. Hubbard says, The affairs of the church in New England were hitherto ordered according to the platform of discipline set forth in 1648, but in the beginning of this lustre [i. e. the 5 years from 1656 to 1661] some difficulties began to arise about enlarging the subject of baptism, which unto this time had been administered unto those children only, whose immediate parents were admitted into full communion in the churches where they lived. But now the country came to be increased, and sundry families were found that had many children born in them, whose immediate parents had never attempted to join to any of the churches, to which they belonged, and yet were very much dissatisfied that they could not obtain baptism for their children, although themselves made no way to be admitted to the Lord's supper. The case was generally apprehended to be difficultly circumstanced, as things had hitherto been carried on amongst those churches, and did occasion many debates between the ministers of the country, many of which were willing to have baptism enlarged to those in that capacity, but knew not well how to bring the matter about, with the peace of their churches, where many of their people were very scrupulous about any innovation.

Questions of this nature were first started in the colony of Connecticut; the magistrates of which did, about 1656,

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\* This way or practice was discontinued and done away in this church in 1801—about the time Mr. Pilsbury was settled.



send down several of them about this subject to the magistrates of the Massachusetts, and they mutually called together sundry of the ablest ministers of each colony—and they met and held their disputation at Boston in New England, June 4, 1757. One question debated was this, Whether the child, admitted by his father's covenant, be also a deputy for his seed, without or before personal covenanting; or without or before like personal qualifications in kind, as his father was to enjoy when he became a deputy? Reply. It is the duty of infants who confederate in their parents, when grown up to years of discretion, though not yet fit for the Lord's supper, to own the covenant they made with their parents, by entering thereinto in their own persons: and it is the duty of the church to call upon them for the performance thereof; and if being called upon they shall refuse the performance of this great duty, or otherwise continue scandalous, they are liable to be censured for the same by the church. And in case they understand the grounds of religion, are not scandalous, and solemnly own the covenant in their own persons, wherein they give up themselves and their children unto the Lord, and desire baptism for them, we (with due reverence to any godly, learned, that may dissent,) see not sufficient cause to deny baptism unto their children. This proposition was consented unto by a synod, called to meet at Boston, not long after, viz. 1662.—*See Hubbard's General Hist. of N. E. Chap. 64. See also Mather's Magnalia.*

Mr. Hubbard further says, In the beginning of this lustre [i. e. from 1661 to 1666] some questions were raised amongst the churches and people of the Massachusetts; one was about the extent of baptism, viz. Whether

the children of some parents might not be admitted to baptism, though they themselves were never admitted to full communion with the church, at the Lord's table; about which case, the country was strangely divided.

An answer of the ministers and other messengers of the churches assembled in Synod at Boston in the year 1662.

From their answer to the 1st question propounded to them by order of the general court, which question is, Who are the subjects of baptism? several propositions are here quoted, viz. Answer. The answer may be given in the following propositions. 1. They that, according to scripture, are members of the visible church, are the subjects of baptism. 2. The members of the visible church, according to scripture, are confederate visible believers in particular churches, and their infant seed, i. e. children in minority, whose next parents are one or both in covenant. 3. The infant seed of confederate visible believers are members of the same church with their parents; and, when grown up, are personally under the watch, discipline and government of the church. 4. Those adult persons are not therefore to be admitted to full communion, merely because they are and continue members, without such further qualifications as the word of God requireth thereunto. 5. Such church members, who are admitted in minority, understanding the doctrine of faith, and publicly professing their assent thereunto, not scandalous in life, and solemnly owning the covenant before the church, wherein they give up themselves and their children to the Lord, and subject themselves to the government of Christ in the church, their children are to be baptized.—*Hubbard's General Hist. of N. E. Ch. 67. Mather's Magnalia.*

## SS

Mr. Brown afterward supplied the pulpit at Springfield, Vermont.

## TT

Mr. Brown never delivered up the church records to his successor, nor to the church, owing to which circumstance, there is a great chasm in the ecclesiastical history of this town.

## UU

Mr. Elam Clark preached here as a candidate under peculiar circumstances.

In the latter part of the year 1819, the church and town being completely united in him, unanimously gave him a call, with an offer of \$650 annual salary, and \$200 settlement. Jan. 20, 1820, he gave an answer in the negative. Mar. 6, 1820, the church and town renewed their call with the same offer in all respects as before. March 13, 1820, Mr. Clark gave his answer to the second call in the negative.

After Mr. Elam Clark left Winchenden, it was said he preached in several places. In Tiverton, R. I. he preached as a candidate, with nearly the same remarkable circumstances, of two calls and refusals, as at Winchendon. He was afterwards settled as pastor of a congregational church in Providence, R. I.—continued there about one year, and was dismissed at his own request. He previously married the daughter of a wealthy farmer from Suffield, Ct. and retired to that place for a time after leaving

Providence. He afterward kept school, and finally died of a cancer about the year 1834.

## VV

Mr. E. L. Clark was afterwards settled at Berlin, and again, more recently, at Richmond, Mass.

## WW

Mr. Morton was afterward settled in Bristol, N. H.

## XX

The following notice was published in the Boston Recorder of Dec. 10, 1846.

Ordination. Ordained—on Thursday, Nov. 19, Mr. Malachi Bullard, Jr. Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Winchendon. Invocation and reading of the Scriptures by Rev. A. P. Marvin of Winchendon North; sermon by Rev. L. Sabin of Templeton; ordaining prayer by Rev. J. M. Whiton of Antrim, N. H.; charge to the pastor by Rev. S. S. Smith of Westminster; right hand of fellowship by A. C. Perkins of Phillipston; address to the people by W. R. Stone of Gardner; concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Burnham of Rindge, N. H.

## YY

The churches sent to, and that were represented in this Council, were the First Congregational church in Royalston, the Congregational church in Rindge, N. H. the Congregational church in Templeton, and the First Con-

gregational church in Winchendon: Rev. Mr. Rice of Winchendon was also invited. At the time of the organization of the church, the public services and exercises were held and transacted in the Methodist Chapel, and were as follows. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Rice; the confession of Faith and the Covenant were read by Rev. Mr. Sabin, the Scribe, and was assented to by the church; recognition and consecrating prayer by Rev. Mr. Perkins; fellowship of the churches by Rev. Mr. Burnham; concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Sabin.

## ZZ

The following notice was published in the Boston Recorder of Jan. 25, 1844.

Dedication. The new meeting house recently erected by the North Winchendon Congregational Society, was solemnly dedicated to the worship of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Introductory prayer and reading of the scriptures by Rev. Mr. Chipman of Athol; sermon by Rev. Mr. Marvin of North Winchendon; dedicatory prayer by Rev. Mr. Peckham of South Royalston.

Ordination. On the same day, Mr. Abijah P. Marvin was ordained Pastor of the North Winchendon Congregational Church and Society. The services were as follows:—introductory prayer and reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Rice of Winchendon; sermon by Rev. E. R. Tyler, of New Haven, Conn.; ordaining prayer by Rev. Mr. Jennison of Ashburnham; charge to the pastor by Rev. Mr. Burnham of Rindge, N. H.; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. Sabin of Templeton; address to the church and people by Rev. Mr. Chipman of Athol;

concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Stone of Gardner ; benediction by the Pastor.

The day was beautiful for a wintry day—the house crowded to overflowing, the services solemn and appropriate, the music excellent, and the appearance of the audience furnished ample evidence that a good impression was produced. This new church, having but just been organized, with their new meeting house located in a flourishing village, and their young pastor in the freshness of ministerial life, commences its career by the brightest prospects of usefulness and success.

### AAA

Some account of casualties and sudden deaths which have occurred in Winchendon.

About A. D. 1752, as appears from tradition, a man by the name of Priest, was found frozen to death on or near the Prentiss Hill, in a snow storm. It was supposed that returning to his home, which was on land now known by the name of the Thomas Place, with a hand-sled laden with hay, he fell into the water and wet his clothes. He was buried south of the present burying ground.

1771, April. William Oaks, aged 17 years, and Robert Moffatt, aged 16 years, were drowned in Miller's river, near where Mr. Phineas Ball now lives. They went in a boat—the boat was upset. They managed to get to a large low stub. Mrs. Oaks, Robert's mother, saw them, but was unable to render them any assistance. No neighbors were near. Nothing could be done to rescue them from their perilous situation. They clung to the stub for a while ; but chilled and exhausted, they were obliged to relinquish their hold, and they sunk.

1774, May 3. Deacon Richard Day was instantly killed by the falling of a tree.

1778. A stranger, traveller, was choked to death by eating a piece of meat at Nichols' tavern, which stood where Capt. Oliver Adams now lives.

1781, July. A child of Samuel Stimson, was drowned in a well nearly opposite the house where Capt. Oliver Adams now lives.

1784, May 19. John Chamberlin was killed by the fall of a tree, which he and his son had been cutting.

1786, May 10. Uriah Crooks was mortally wounded by the falling of a stub, at a chopping *bee*, on the east side of Dennison's pond. He survived but a few hours.

Mrs. Jonathan Smith had a child die in her arms, while riding out in a sleigh; it was supposed to be smothered.

William Brown was found dead in a well, on the place now owned by William Brown, Esq.

1791, May. Jonathan Stimson was killed when plowing, by the fall of a tree, blown down by the wind.

1797, March 12. A boy by the name of Jonathan Moor hung himself on a sleigh tongue, in a barn of Lieut. B. Hubbard.

1800; Sept. 8. Stephen Bixby was killed with an axe, by Daniel Robbins, who was insane, in or near a log house on land lately owned by Capt. Joseph Robbins.

1804, Nov. Israel Whitcomb, of this town, was killed in Fitzwilliam by the kick of a horse.

1809. Bartholomew Stearns jun. was found dead in the road, above and near the house of Capt. John Raymond. He had been reaping on the hill upon the farm, went to the well, drank water, and died on his return.

1811. Joseph Story of Fitchburg, was killed near Mr.

Bartholomew Stearns senior's, by pitching out of a chaise, and the chaise running over him.

1814, March 26. Aaron Winch died suddenly in his bed.

Nov. Luke Knight was killed in a wagon by the kick of a horse, on the road near where Mr. H. Hastings now lives.

1816, Oct. 14. Thomas Wyman jun. was killed by being thrown from his horse, as was supposed, in the road south of where Mr. Daniel Day now lives. Some supposed that his foot for a while hung in the stirrup, and that he was dragged by the horse.

Dec. 16. Thomas Wyman sen. was killed in Worcester by a stage running over him in the dark. He was a deaf man.

1818, June 6. Silas Brown, a boy aged 11 years, was run over by a cart of gravel, which was the cause of his death.

July. Cyrus Partridge was drowned in Ashuelot river at Hinsdale, N. H. was brought, the same day, to his father's house in this town.

Nov. Enoch Stuart went to bed well, but died the same night.

1819, July 1. David Goodridge 2d. died suddenly in bed.

1823. Peter Parmenter was found dead in his bed.

1824, Sept. 17. Abzina Cummings died suddenly.

Dec. 30. A boy by the name of Elisha Fry, was killed by a cart body falling on him at Mr. Elias Whitney's.

The widow Elizabeth Baldwin, was found burnt to death on a sabbath day. The rest of the family were gone to meeting. Nearly all her flesh was consumed when they returned.



1825. Hervey Holden was drowned in New Boston pond. He was returning from meeting on a sabbath upon the ice, which broke. He fell in, and sunk.

1828. A child of Mr. Lathrop came to its death by falling into a pot of hot fat.

1829, Jan. 27. Paul Stuart fell down dead in or near his barn yard.

1830. Maria, daughter of Mr. Lewis Robbins, fell on to a waterwheel of a mill while it was going, and was instantly killed.

1831, Dec. 16. Capt. Samuel Baldwin was found dead in his bed in the morning.

1832, June 15. Andrew Benjamin was, by his daughter, found dead in the road near where Capt. O. Adams, now lives.

John R. Golding, fell down dead in his house.

An infant child of Lydia Golding died suddenly.

Nov. 22. Isaac Grout jun. was found dead in Mr. Luke Rice's mowing land, the morning after he was missing.

1833, Jan. 14. Samuel Brown jun. was killed by the fall of a tree.

Oct. 17. Samuel Hartwell was found dead near a bridge in the southwest part of the town. He went out the evening before, which was very dark, and in returning home, as was supposed, he fell from the bridge.

1834, Feb. 25. A young man by the name of Adams, while working at the factory in the Spring Village, had his hand caught in a belt as it was running, which wounded him so as to cause his death.

July 13, Elizabeth Goodspeed was killed. As she, with others, was returning from meeting, they overtook a large loaded wagon, and in attempting to pass by, the wagon,

in which they were, turned over toward the large wagon ; one hind wheel of which, came partly on her head and neck, and thus deprived her of life.

Aug. 7. A child of Mr. Capron was drowned at the Spring Village.

Simon Wilder was found dead in his bed at the poor-house.

Susan Day, daughter of Mr. Daniel Day sen. was killed by the fall of a tree.

Mary Goddard died in a fit while on a visit.

1835, Sept. 18. Joel Robbins of Rindge N. H. was killed by a wagon, he was driving, near Mr. John Woodbury's saw mill.

1836, Sept. 2. Joseph Adams was killed by a log, which he was drawing to a heap of wood, striking against a stump and flying round and hitting him on the head. He expired a few hours after receiving the blow.

1837. A boy 11 years old was drowned at the Spring Village.

Mrs. Tisdale Howard died very suddenly.

Oct. 22. Mrs. John Arba Brooks died in a fit.

A child of Mr. Joel Hunt was scalded, so that it died.

1840. A girl died on the road near the Spring Village.

1840, Oct. 15. William, son of Mr. Edward Loud, was killed by being caught in a belt and thrown round a shaft.

1841, July 26. Mrs. Phinehas Parks was found dead on or near the stone. She had stepped out to get some fuel, was first discovered by a young man in the neighborhood.

1842, Jan. 7. A child of Mr Peter Thomas, in the North Village, was found dead in bed, when its mother awoke in the night.

March 21. Deacon Luther Richardson died very sud-

denly in Mr. John Poor's mill yard, as he was looking over a stock of boards.

Mrs. Samuel Brown, wife of the eldest Mr. Samuel Brown, was found dead in her bed.

Widow Carter, mother of Mrs. David Beaman, found dead in bed.

Jewett B. Darling found dead in his bed in the day-time.

1843, May 14. Phinehas Elwin Parks died suddenly in bed.

1843, May 14. Col. Benjamin Adams died suddenly.

June 19. Capt. Joshua Stoddard died very suddenly.

July 1. A son of Mr. Harry Pitkins was drowned in Miller's river when bathing.

1846, March 25. A young man by the name of Weeks, from New Salem, was killed by falling on to a water wheel.

April 2. A girl by the name of Taggart, aged 16 yrs. from Sharon N. H. had been working at the cotton factory in Spring Village, was missing and lost in November previous, and was found dead, having been frozen, at a little distance from the road which leads from the Village to N. H.

Aug. 11. Mr. Enoch Wyman's wife died suddenly while about her work.

17. Mr. Moses Foskett's child, aged 2 years, was drowned.

1847, Jan. 13. Mr. Humphrey Harris, was killed by the falling of a tree.

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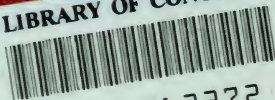








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