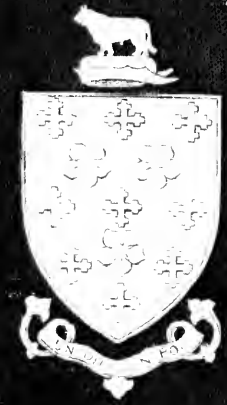

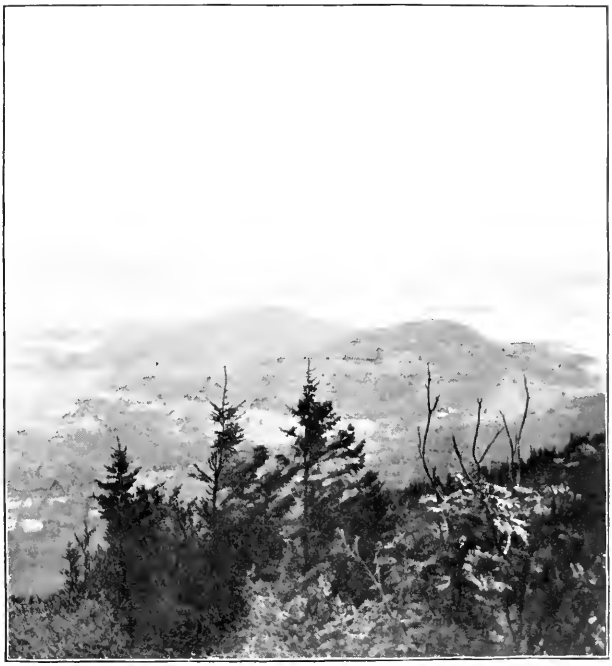

SQUAM LAKE, LOOKING SOUTH

HOLDERNESS

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN

BY

GEORGE HODGES

BOSTON AND NEW YORK
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1907

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TO

MY NEIGHBOR

The Reverend Frederick Baylies Allen

TO WHOM I OWE MY FIRST ACQUAINTANCE
WITH HOLDERNESS

"I trust
That some, who sigh, while wandering in thought,
Pilgrims of Romance o'er the olden world,
That our broad land, — our sea-like lakes and mountains
Piled to the clouds, our rivers overhung
By forests which have known no other change
For ages than the budding and the fall
Of leaves, our valleys lovelier than those
Which the old poets sang of, — should but figure
On the apocryphal chart of speculation
As pastures, wood-lots, mill-sites, with the privileges,
Rights, and appurtenances, which make up
A Yankee Paradise, unsung, unknown,
To beautiful tradition, . . . will look kindly
Upon this effort to call up the ghost
Of the dim Past."

WHITTIER: *The Bridal of Pennacook.*

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INTRODUCTION

I

THE Minutes of the meetings of the Proprietors of Holderness, from 1762 to 1826, and the Minutes of the Town Meetings, from 1771 to 1815, are contained in two manuscript volumes called the Rawhide Books. They are in the keeping of the town clerk.

The original charter of 1761, under which the town was settled, is in the possession of Mr. Lucien Thompson, of Durham, N. H. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Thompson for his courtesy in allowing me to have the charter photographed, and also for many curious and interesting notes concerning various persons who were among the grantees.

The original maps showing the division of a part of the township into intervale lots and town lots belong to Mr. John M. Whiton, of Plainfield, N. J., whose father purchased a part of the Livermore estate,

and received these maps along with the deed. Mr. Whiton has kindly permitted me to have them copied.

The map which showed the two assignments of hundred-acre lots was destroyed by fire a good many years ago. It is redrawn for this book by my neighbor, the Rev. Frederick Baylies Allen, of Boston, from the descriptions of the boundaries of the lots given in the proprietors' records. Mr. Allen has also drawn a map of the vicinity of Holderness, showing the chief points of interest and the best roads by which to reach them; and Frederick Lewis Allen, his son, has contributed a careful description of these interesting places, with ample directions for walkers and climbers, and explanations of views. These accounts are the result of actual experience, and will be found to be an accurate guide to the exploration of the neighborhood.

With the late Mr. Arthur Livermore, of Manchester, England, I carried on a correspondence for several years. He was a grandson of Judge Samuel Livermore, and his memory went back to the early days of Holderness. The endeavor to make that

old life visible and audible to-day would have been almost impossible without his kindly interest, and his contributions of details. The original of the portrait of Judge Livermore is owned by the Rev. Arthur Browne Livermore, of Key West, Fla. The artist Trumbull had planned and begun a great painting of the first American Congress at the time of the Inauguration of Washington. When he abandoned the undertaking he cut the finished portraits out of the canvas; and this one he gave to the judge's son Arthur, from whom it came to Mr. Livermore, his grandson, by whose courtesy I was able to have it copied. The portrait of Mrs. Livermore was painted by Copley. It is owned by Mr. James Livermore Ford, of New York City, who very kindly had it photographed for this book.

The silhouette of Priest Fowle is taken from a photograph which hung for many years in the old church near the Holderness School. It was loaned me for reproduction by Mrs. Lorin Webster, of Holderness.

Dr. Samuel A. Green, secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, gave me

permission to reproduce from a book of his the map of New England which shows the northern boundary of Massachusetts as measured from the Endicott Rock.

I have found valuable information in the State Papers of New Hampshire (ii, 124) and in the Town Papers (ix, 394–396, and xii, 226–230). I have consulted with profit the collections of maps in the Boston Public Library and in the State Library at Concord, and have read whatever histories have been published of the neighboring towns. Belknap's "History of New Hampshire," Sweetser's "White Mountains," and Sanborn's "New Hampshire" have been of use to me.

I am further indebted for various courtesies to Mr. Laurence J. Webster, Mr. Robert P. Curry, and Mr. Carlton C. Shepard, of Holderness; Colonel Thomas P. Cheney and Mr. Frank M. Hughes, of Ashland; Mrs. G. N. P. Mead of Winchester, Mass., Mrs. Charles B. Washburn of Worcester, Mass., Miss Gertrude Graves of Boston, Dr. James M. Whiton of New York, and Dr. Louis W. Flanders of Dover, N. H.

II

The township of Holderness is in the middle of New Hampshire. It is midway between Canada and Massachusetts, and between Maine and Vermont. Also the date of the Holderness Charter is at the middle point of New Hampshire history.

The first period of New Hampshire history, the Era of Dependence, began with the first settlements, in 1623, and included the French and Indian War. During this time the colony of New Hampshire was dependent on the colony of Massachusetts. The chief events grew out of the relations of our settlers on the one hand with the Puritans of Massachusetts, and on the other hand with the savages of the wilderness. The second period, the Era of Independence, began with the treaty of Paris, in 1763, and includes the War of the Revolution and all the subsequent progress. During this time the colony first achieved and has since enjoyed its liberties as a free commonwealth in this republic.

During the Era of Dependence, Holderness was hidden in the Great Waste. But

it touched the life of the time at two points: it was in the near neighborhood of the Endicott Rock, by which the Puritans calculated their claims to New Hampshire; and it was beside the Indian Trail, between New France, as Canada was then called, and New England. Our first business, therefore, in the study of the beginnings of Holderness, is with the Endicott Rock and with the Indian Trail.

HOLDERNESS

I

THE ENDICOTT ROCK

THE colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay differed widely in politics and in religion from the colonies of Maine and New Hampshire. The settlers on the south of the Merrimac represented one side and the settlers on the north the other in that great struggle between the Puritans and the Cavaliers which occupied the larger part of the seventeenth century in England.

Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the founder of Maine, and Captain John Mason, who called his lands New Hampshire from the English Hampshire where he lived, proposed to set up in these parts a pleasant aristocracy, with vast estates, in loyal allegiance to the House of Stuart and to the Church of England. As for Bradford and Endicott, everybody knows what different plans they had.

There was, accordingly, a disposition

on the part of Charles and of Laud to put down the two colonies of Puritans and exalt the two colonies of Cavaliers. They determined, for the good of king and church, to take away the charters under which the Puritans were conducting themselves with such inconvenient independence, and to put all the settlements under Gorges as Governor-General and Mason as Vice-Admiral. Gorges and Mason, therefore, prepared to visit Boston, and built a ship to transport armed maintainers of their unwelcome dignities. The Boston people made ready to receive them, and erected on one of their hills a beacon, which from that time gave the hill a name which it still bears, in order that they might thus give warning to all the neighbors when the ship appeared. But the ship broke at the launching, and Charles and Laud had their hands full at home, and in the place of an invasion of Massachusetts by New Hampshire, there followed a much more effective invasion of New Hampshire by Massachusetts.

Of this invasion, the Endicott Rock at the Weirs is an enduring memorial.

The northern boundary of Massachusetts, as established by charter, was an east and west line from any point three miles north of the Merrimac; as the southern boundary was an east and west line from any point three miles south of the Charles; each of these lines running to the Pacific Ocean. Mason's commission as Vice-Admiral gave him command of the coasts not only of Maine but of California. The continent was thought to be about as wide as the Isthmus of Panama. But the banks of the Merrimac, it was presently discovered, turned about, some thirty miles from the sea, and started north. In this bend of the river the Massachusetts authorities deemed themselves providentially pointed to that great bag of gold which is said to be waiting at the end of the rainbow. For as far as the water went, so far the borders of the Massachusetts colony extended. How far north, then, did the Merrimac begin?

In 1639, by order of the General Court of Massachusetts, Goodman Woodman and Mr. John Stretton, with an Indian guide, went in search of this northernmost

point and found it at Franklin, where the Pemigewasset and the Winnepesaukee meet. Three miles above this fork they set the boundary at a great pine. This was known as the Endicott tree, and was so marked on the map in Mather's "Magnalia" as late as 1702.[1]

In 1652, the General Court appointed a commission to make a further survey. Captain Edward Johnson and Captain Simon Willard, being selected for this duty, employed John Sherman of Watertown as surveyor, and Jonathan Ince of Cambridge as interpreter. Ince, who had graduated at Harvard in 1650, was President Dunster's private secretary and at the same time the butler of the college. John Eliot described him as "a godly young man, who hath a singular felicity to learn and pronounce the Indian tongue." Johnson wrote the history of New England, 1628–52, having as sub-title the "Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour." Willard, who was then living in Cambridge,

[1] *Boundary Line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts*, by Samuel Abbott Green, Lowell, 1894.

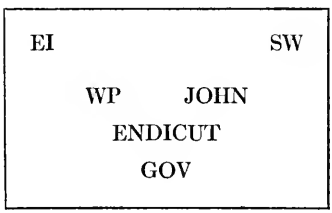
Report of Commission for the Preservation, Protection and Appropriate Designation of the Endicott Rock, Concord, 1893.

moved afterwards to Groton, and his was the first house burned in that town at the beginning of King Philip's War.

As for Sherman, Mr. Hubbard, minister at Ipswich, published in 1677 "A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England," and at the beginning of the book addressed some lines of verse to "J. S." And in an early copy a marginal note explained that J. S. was John Sherman, the surveyor. This book contained the first map of New England engraved in this country. It showed the White Mountains, named the Wine (*i. e.* "beautiful") Hills, and it carried a bold straight line across from Winnepesaukee to the sea, marking the northern boundary of Massachusetts.

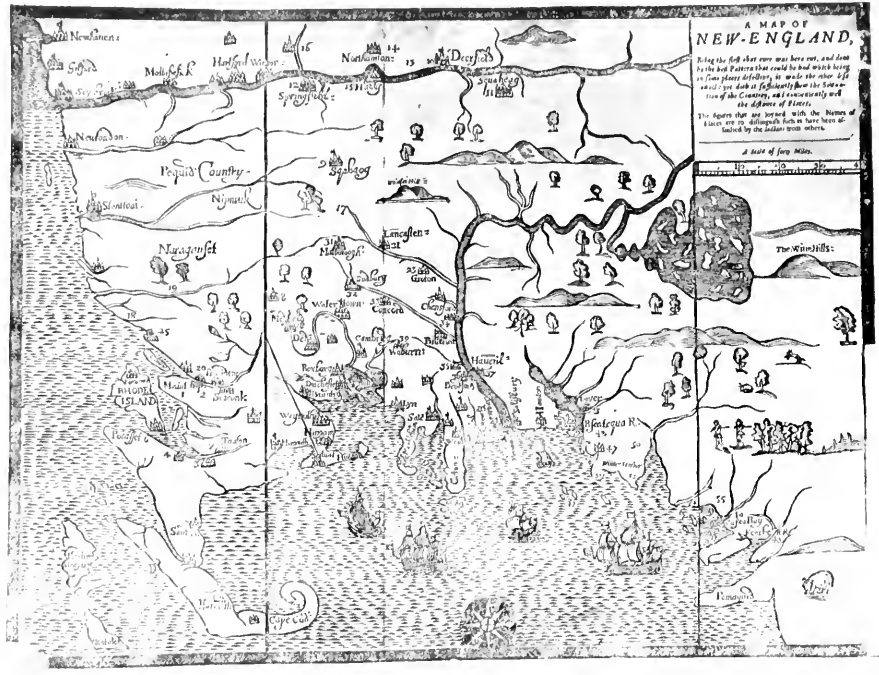
For these explorers were not content to find the source of the Merrimac at the junction of the Winnepesaukee and the Pemigewasset. They followed the Winnepesaukee to the lake. At the outlet of the lake, the Indians had constructed weirs. That is, they had placed a line of rocks across the water, with nets stretched between to catch shad. The salmon and the

shad then came up the Merrimac, and at the forks of the river divided into two companies, the salmon seeking the cold waters of the Pemigewasset and the shad the clear expanses of the lake, for breeding places. At these weirs, the Indians told them, the river had its source. There, accordingly, on a big boulder, which lies in the lake near the present railway station of Weirs, they cut the name of the governor, the Worshipful John Endicut, and the initials of the commissioners.



The rock was found thus inscribed in 1833, and there are the letters to this day, under a protecting canopy of stone, — the oldest English inscription on this continent.

Then they made a calculation of the degree of latitude three miles north of that point, being well up into Meredith Bay, and there they located the northern bound-



MAP SHOWING THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1677

ary of Massachusetts. They returned to Boston with this report, and the degree of latitude was given to two competent mariners, with instructions to discover where it fell on the Atlantic seaboard. This place the mariners found on the upper side of Little Clapboard Island, in Casco Bay. The commissioners then drew a straight line on the map between the ocean and the lake, — let us say, between Portland and Meredith, — and reported this highly satisfactory delimitation to the General Court. It thus appeared that the terms of the Massachusetts grant — three miles north of the Merrimac — took in a good part of New Hampshire and a fair section of Maine into the bargain.

The Massachusetts people afterwards withdrew so much of this claim as was carried by the straight line to Casco Bay, but they maintained for many years that they owned the land for at least three miles along the whole course of the Merrimac. This included Concord and the other river towns, and bisected the New Hampshire province.

It did not greatly matter, for New Hamp-

shire was actually merged in Massachusetts until 1679, and after that, though a separate province, was ruled by governors who were at the same time governors of Massachusetts, and lived in Boston. Benning Wentworth, beginning in 1741, was the first of the royal governors to reside in this province, and the year in which he was appointed saw the Privy Council definitely settle the boundary line between the two communities as it is at present. Three miles north of the river runs the line till the great bend, and then straight on into the west.

II

THE INDIAN TRAIL

THE Indians whom the commissioners met at the Weirs bring us to the second point of contact between Holderness and the earlier part of New Hampshire history. Beside the Endicott Rock lay the Indian Trail.

It was for fear of the Indians that the middle part of New Hampshire remained unoccupied till so late a date as 1761. Until the French and Indian War was ended with the capture of Quebec, it was not safe to venture so far into the Great Waste. The savages held it in complete possession. These men belonged to the Stone Age. They were further removed from civilization than any people with whom the settlers of Europe have had to deal within historic times. They were of the Algonquin race, which held almost all of this continent east of the Mississippi and north of the lower boundary of Virginia and Kentucky, ex-

cept New York and Pennsylvania, which were held by their enemies, the Iroquois.

Within the limits of the present state of New Hampshire, the Algonquins were divided by the mountains and the rivers into a dozen tribes. There were six, from south to north, along the line of railway which now traverses the centre of the state.

1. The Nashuas, in the Nashua valley, taking their name from the pebbly bottom of their river.

2. The Souhegans, a little off the line, to the west, in the Souhegan valley: *sou* meaning "worn-out," and *hegan* "land."

3. The Amoskeags, about Manchester; a "fishing place."

4. The Pennacooks, about Concord; a "crooked place;" *keag*, *cook*, *auke*, *scot*, and perhaps *set*, being variants of a single term of locality.

5. The Winnepesaukes, around the lake: from *winne* "beautiful," *ipe* "water," and *auke*.

6. The Pemigewassets, at Holderness. The name (from *pemi* or *peni* "crooked," *coös* "thick woods," and *set* "place") seems to have come from the great S in

the river between Holderness and Plymouth, which was afterwards straightened out by a sturdy freshet.

East of these tribes, from south to north, were seven others.

1. The Squamscots, about Exeter: *squam* meaning "water."

2. The Pascataquakes, about Portsmouth and Dover: *pas* meaning "great," *attuck* "deer," and *auke* "place."

3. The Newichawannocks, in the valley of the Salmon Falls: from *ne* "my," *week* "wigwam," and *owannock* "come."

4. The Ossipees, about the pond and mountains of that name: from *coös* "woods," and *ipe* "water."

5. The Pequakets, in the valley of the Saco.

6. The Amariscoggins, in the valley of the Androscoggin.

7. The Coösucks, in the Coös intervales.[1]

As for the White Mountains, it is said that some of the Indians revered them as the abode of the spirits, and expected to go to Mt. Washington when they died.

[1] For these definitions see Potter's *History of Manchester*, and Edward Ballard's paper on *Indian Names connected with the Valley of the Merrimack*, in Coll. N. H. Hist. Soc. viii, 451.

The Indian Trail lay between the St. Lawrence and the sea; between the French and Indian town of St. Francis, now Pierreville, near Montreal, and the English towns of Portsmouth and Dover, of Exeter and Hampton. It came down by land and water, along the St. Francis River, across Lake Memphremagog, through the thick forests to the Connecticut, down this highway to Baker's River, to the Pemigewasset, by the Squam lakes, along Winnepesaukee to Alton Bay, and thence across the country to the coast. Thus Cotton Mather, in 1702, describes the carrying away of Sarah Gerrish after a foray upon Dover. It was "a terrible March," he says, "through the thick Woods and a Thousand other Miseries, till they came to the Norway-Plains [*i. e.* to Rochester]. From thence they made her go to the end of Winnopisseag Lake, and from thence to the Eastward, through horrid Swamps, where sometimes they must Scramble over huge trees fallen by Storm or Age for a vast way together, and sometimes they must Climb up Long, Steep, Tiresome and almost Inaccessible Mountains. . . . a long and sad journey

she had of it, thro' the midst of a hideous Desart, in the midst of a dreadful Winter . . . At last they arrived at Canada." The eastward turn may have been from Alton Bay towards Wolfeborough.

A map made in 1756, showing the way John Stark was carried captive, assists the theory that the trail ran between Winnepesaukee and Squam, following substantially the present course of the College Road, and striking the Pemigewasset at Plymouth. Along this trail the savages retreated after their forays on the coast towns, with their plunder and their captives. These captives were probably the first white persons who passed through this region. Women made up the greater part of these miserable companies, who had seen their homes burned, their husbands and fathers and brothers tortured, and their little children dashed against the trees. And after them, along this way, came the avenging settlers. Thus in the winter of 1703, Captain Tyng led a party of rangers on snowshoes up the valley of the Pemigewasset, and took five Indian scalps. And other avengers followed in his steps.

The French and Indian War included six campaigns: —

1. King Philip's War: three years, 1675–78.

2. King William's War: ten years, 1689–99.

3. Queen Anne's War: ten years, 1703–13.

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4. Captain Lovewell's War: three years, 1722–25.

5. The War beginning at Louisburg: five years, 1744–49.

6. The War ending at Quebec: five years, 1754–59.

The contest was concluded by the treaty of Paris, at our central date, 1763.

King Philip's War did not touch this region. It served, however, to prove the fidelity of the chiefs whose names are commemorated in our neighboring mountains. Passaconaway, who was at the head of the Pennacooks, and perhaps of a wide federation of tribes, had been from the beginning a friend of the white men. He was held in great awe by his Indian subjects, who said that he could make the water burn, the

rocks move, the trees dance, and could change himself into a flaming man.[1] He declared that a policy of peace had been taught him by the Great Spirit. His son, Wonnalancet, who succeeded him as chief, followed in his steps. He restrained his people from attacking the whites, and even protected the settlers from his savage brethren. After the war, he asked the minister of Chelmsford if he and his neighbors had suffered. "No," said the minister, "thank God." "Me next," said Wonnalancet.

During Queen Anne's War, in March, 1712, Captain Thomas Baker, of Northampton, with a company of rangers, attacked the Indians at Plymouth. Of this engagement several picturesque accounts are given. Mrs. Bean, the captain's daughter, says that her father encountered a great body of French and Indians coming down from Canada. He took them by surprise and killed so many that the others retreated. Baker took the blanket of the chief Waternomee, covered with silver brooches, which is "still among his descendants."

[1] Wood's *New England's Prospect*, Boston, 1764, p. 100.

Either the slaughter was not so great as Mrs. Bean supposed, or the repulse was not so complete, for on June 5, 1712, Baker was paid £20 by the General Court; half of that amount for a scalp actually in hand, and the other half "for one Enemy Indian besides that which they Scalped, which seems very probable to be slain." Baker is said to have fought with Waternomee, who when mortally wounded leaped four or five feet into the air. He is also said to have deceived the Indians who pursued him, by directing each of his men to use five sticks in roasting meat for supper: the Indians, coming upon the ashes of the fires, counted the sticks, and concluded that there were too many white men to be attacked with prudence.[1]

Baker's River, near which the encounter took place, bears the name of this hero. It was formerly called Asquamchumauke; from *asquam* "water," *wadchu* "mountain," and *auke*. Baker had been captured by the Indians and taken to Canada, whence he had escaped or been ransomed.

[1] Little's *History of Warren*, 80–86; Stearns's *History of Plymouth;* Penhallow's *Indian Wars*, Coll. N. H. Hist. Soc. i, 60, 128.

He had afterwards served as a guide. Thus he had learned the trail. He died in 1753, "of lethargy!"

Captain Lovewell, in the process of the campaign which bears his name, came up here and marched around Squam Lake. Near the scene of Baker's adventure, he killed an Indian. Afterwards, coming again, he scalped ten Indians who were sleeping by a fire beside a frozen pond. At last, in 1725, near Fryeburg, he encountered Paugus, a chief of the Pequakets. In the fierce fight which ensued both Lovewell and Paugus lost their lives.

After that, the Pequakets abandoned their lands and retired to St. Francis, whither the Pemigewassets had already gone. Chocorua, however, one of their warriors, stayed behind and made friends with the whites. One time, while he was on a visit to St. Francis, his son, whom he had left in charge of a settler named Campbell, tasted some poison which was meant for foxes, and died. Chocorua, on his return, finding his son dead, killed all of Campbell's family. Campbell pursued him, so the story goes, to the rocky peak of the

mountain which now bears his name, and there killed him as he stood on that great eminence with arms outstretched, calling down curses on the settlers.

The next chapter of the war, which includes the capture of Louisburg, furnishes no material for our local history; though I cannot forbear to quote the comment on that extraordinary victory, which Dr. Belknap cites from an old writer. "This siege," he says, "was carried on in a tumultuary random manner, resembling a Cambridge commencement."

Finally, in the last days of the century-long struggle, in 1759, Major Robert Rogers the Ranger [1] led over two hundred men from Crown Point, over Lake Champlain, to St. Francis. After a hard march, he saw the place afar off from the top of a tall tree. That night he and two others went in disguise to the village, and looked on at a great dance in which the Indians were celebrating their forays upon the settlements. The place was appropriately decorated

[1] Rogers wrote an account of his adventures, published in London, 1765, reprinted in Concord, 1831. See also Little's *History of Warren*, 141 ff.

with poles set along the streets, from which hung the scalps of several hundred victims. Before dawn, while the savages were still asleep, Rogers and his rangers fell upon them. They killed many, and sacked their houses, which they found filled with New England spoils. There was a French church in the midst of the village, from which they took a silver image of the Virgin Mary, and a pair of golden candlesticks. Then they set fire to the village and retreated, keeping together till they passed Lake Memphremagog, and then dividing into parties. They lost their way. Some perished in the woods by hunger and weariness; some were led by deceptive Indian guides into impenetrable wastes; all suffered great hardships before they reached the settlements. Some of them must have come down this way by the old trail. The golden candlesticks were found, in 1816, near Memphremagog, but the silver image still lies hidden under the leaves of the forest.

The Indians left no lasting traces of their existence in these parts. In the fertile intervales by Livermore Falls and at the

junction of Baker's River and the Pemigewasset, the early settlers found the ridges of old cornfields and the ashes of old fires, with arrowheads and pestles. Priest Fowle found traces of the ancient inhabitants on his glebe by Squam Lake. There they lived, "drawn to the spot," he says, "from the convenience of water and fishing." A French sword was once dug up in the village, a relic of the long war. The Indians came no more to attack the settlements, but their descendants still make visits to these parts, bringing gayly colored baskets of sweet-scented grass to sell to summer visitors.

With Robert Rogers the Ranger we come at once to the settlement of Holderness, for Mrs. Robert Rogers was a daughter of the Rev. Arthur Browne of Portsmouth, who married Martha Hilton to Governor Benning Wentworth, as we read in "The Tales of a Wayside Inn;" and Mrs. Robert Rogers's sister was the wife of Samuel Livermore, who presently became the squire of this parish.

III

THE CHARTER

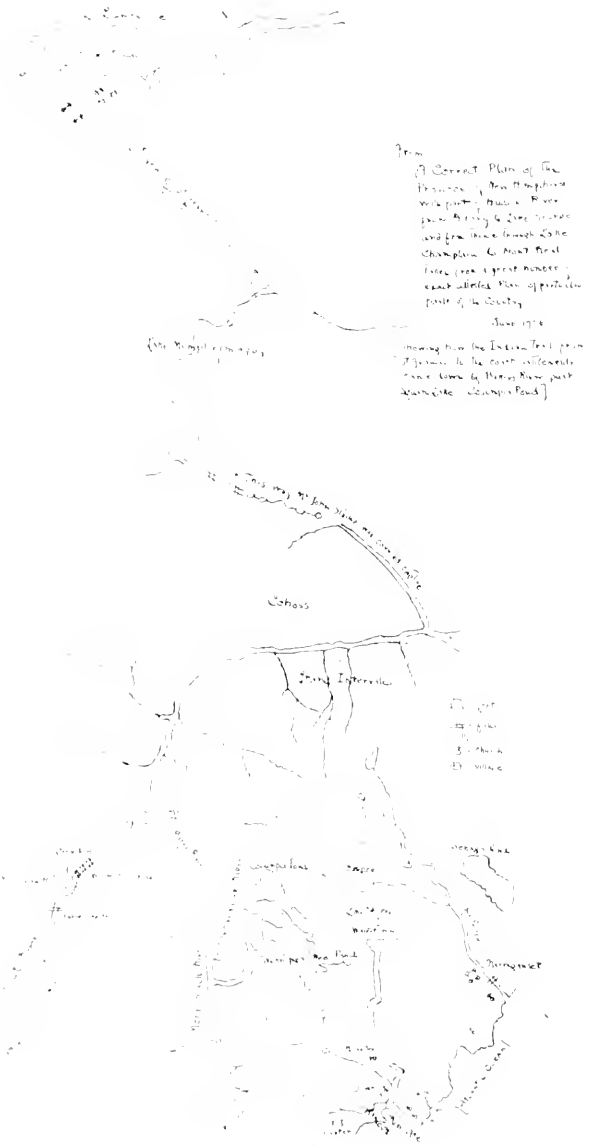
IN the course of the long fight with the savages, men had noted the fertile lands, the great forests, the lakes and hills and streams of central New Hampshire, and were waiting for an opportunity to take possession. Captain Willard, Captain Fairbanks, Captain Goffe had brought up companies of Indian fighters. About 1746, the New Hampshire soldiers who were enlisted for Shirley's expedition against Canada were encamped for some time by Winnepesaukee, where they whiled away their season of waiting by exploration of the region, and hunting and fishing.

Already, in 1751, the township of Holderness had been asked for and granted. On October 15 in that year, His Excellency, Benning Wentworth, laid before the council a "petition of Thomas Shepard and others, inhabitants of the Province, praying for a grant of His Majesty's lands of the

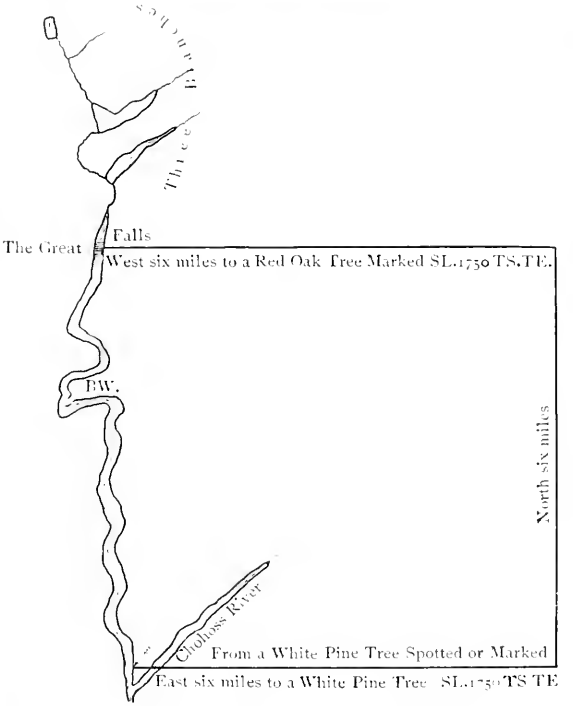
contents of six miles square on Pemidgwasset river, on the east side thereof, as surveyed and planned by Samuel Lane, surveyor. . . . to which the Council did advise and consent."

Thomas Shepard's petition was signed by sixty-four persons, to whom accordingly the grant was made. Lane's plan of the township accompanied the charter. The most interesting detail of it to us is the name given to what we call the Squam River. It is there called the Cohoss River; that is, the river of the woods. Colonel Cheney of Ashland writes me in this connection: "From my earliest boyhood a point on Squam River in this village, the junction of Ames Brook and Squam River, has always been known as 'the Old Cohoss.' It was where all the boys were allowed to go in bathing, and where we all learned to swim. We used to say, 'Let's go down to the Old Cohoss, and go in swimming.'" According to the tradition of the place, Cohoss was the name of the last of the Pemigewasset Indians, but it was really the old name of the river.

The river was called Squam as early as



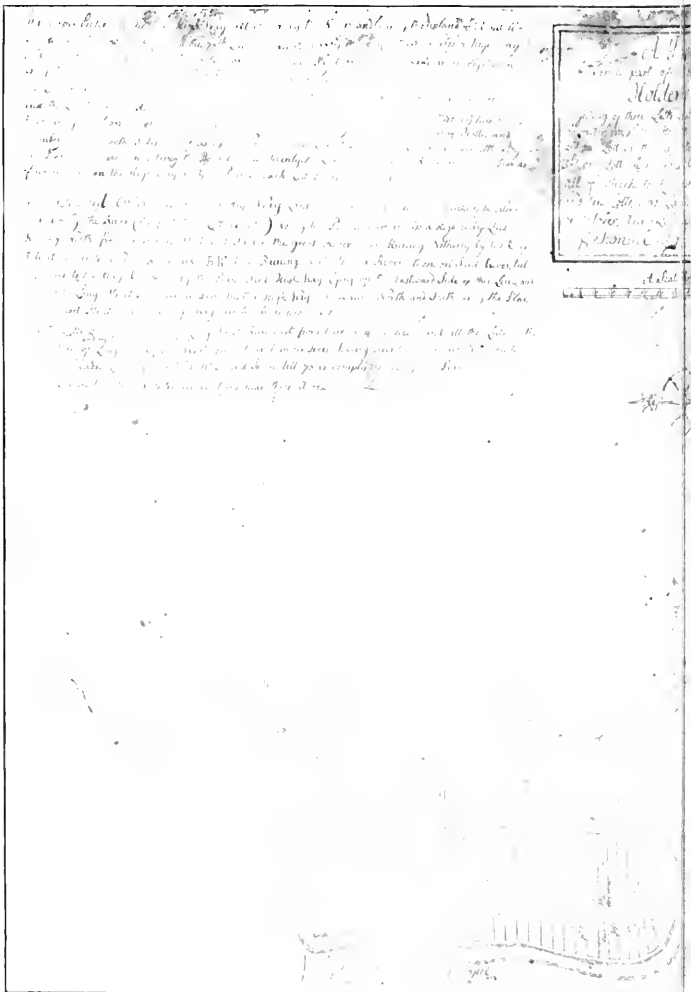
THE INDIAN TRAIL



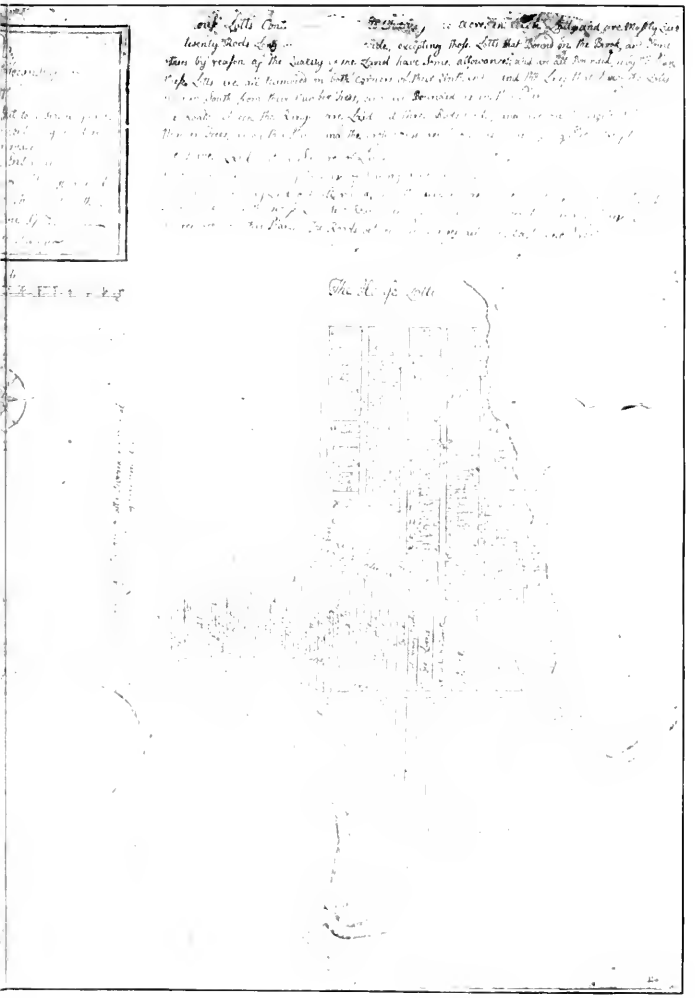
THE PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP
MADE BY
SAMUEL LANE
TO ACCOMPANY
THE CHARTER OF 1751

1765, when the hundred-acre lot, No. 51, was described in the proprietors' records as bordering "Squam river at the mouth of the Pond." But the lake bore the name of Cusumpy as late as 1784. The earliest map which shows the Holderness region is dated 1756, and the lake is named Cosumpia Pond; on a map of the next year, it is Cusumpe Pond; on the map which Robert Fletcher made in 1768, the name is Cusumpy; so in 1781, with a little difference in the spelling, Kusumpe. But in 1784, in Samuel Holland's map,—"Surveyor General of Lands for the Northern District of North America,"—we read Squam or Cusumpy Pond.[1] In 1813, when President Dwight, of Yale, passed by this way on one of his tours of observation, he disliked the name of Squam. "We shall take the liberty," he says, "to call [Squam] by the name of Sullivan, from Major General Sullivan, formerly President of the State." And so it appears, as Lake Sullivan, on the map in his second volume. Happily, the Indian name continued; but how the change was

[1] Boston Public Library, Collection of Maps, 119, 7: 5; 17, 4: 24; 17, 4: 45.



PLAN OF INTE



RALE LOTS, 1752

ment, for nobody settled in the place, and the charter lapsed; probably for fear of the savages.

The decisive defeat of the French at Quebec, in 1759, removed that terror from this region. The land was open for safe occupation. In 1761, Governor Benning Wentworth issued grants for eighteen townships. It was under one of these grants that Holderness was finally settled.

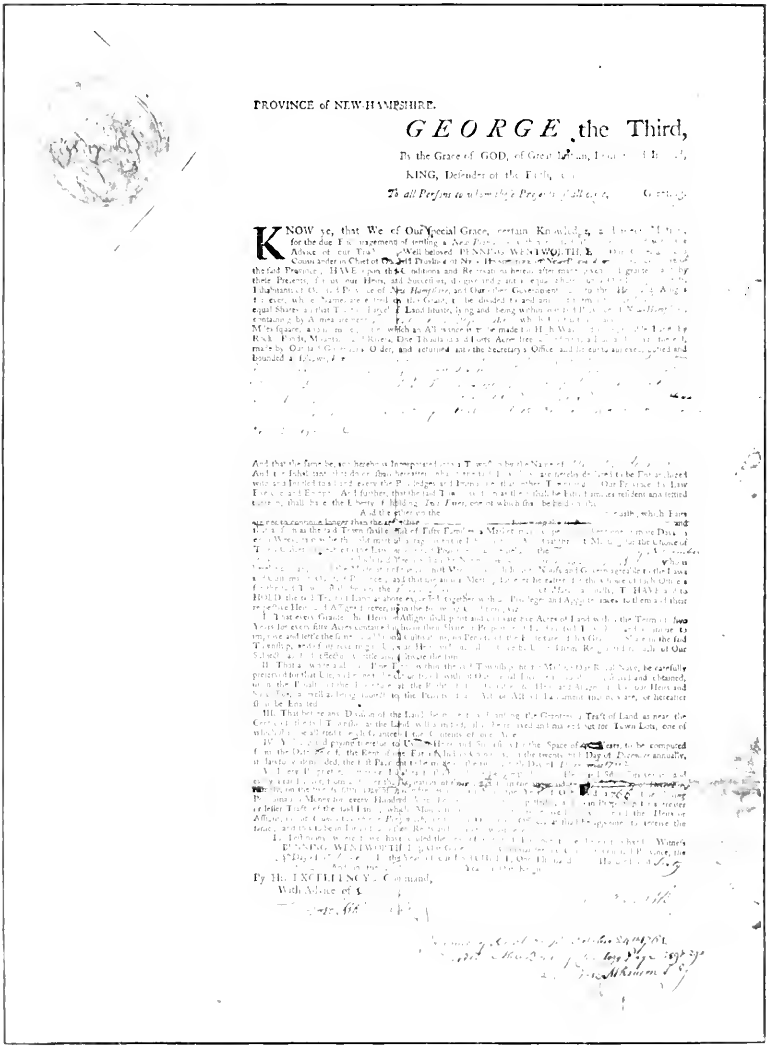
The charter, as it appears to-day, is a much creased and thumb-marked document, patched with strips of paper. It is printed in the conventional form, with blank spaces appropriately filled in. The name of George the Third stands at the top in bold letters, with the title, "By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c." It incorporates into a township a piece of land of six miles square, "butted and bounded as follows, *Viz.* Beginning at a red oak tree at the foot of the great Falls of the Pemidgwasset river, thence running East six miles, Then turning off at right angles and running South six miles, Then turning off again and run-

ning Westerly six miles to a White Pine Tree marked, standing on the bank of the river aforesaid, then running up said river northerly as that runs to the Bound first above mentioned as Bound begun at."[1] As soon as there are fifty families actually settled they may have two fairs, on dates left blank in the charter. These dates were stated in 1751 as the first Wednesday in June and in October, not to continue longer than the following Friday. Also a market may be kept open one or more days of each week. Lieutenant Thomas Shepard is to call the first town meeting and act as moderator of the same.

Five conditions accompany these privileges: 1st, that every grantee shall cultivate five acres out of every fifty, within two years; 2d, that all white and other pine trees, suitable for making masts for the royal navy, be reserved for that purpose;[2] 3d, that a tract of the township be marked

[1] These limits continued to enclose the township of Holderness until 1868, when the southwest corner was set off as Ashland.

[2] A New Hampshire law of 1708 had reserved for the broad arrow all white pines which were 24 inches in diameter at 12 nches from the ground. Belknap's *Hist. N. H.* i, 188.


PROVINCE of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

GEORGE the Third,

By the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, [illegible]

KING, Defender of the Faith, [illegible]

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

KNOW ye, that We of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, [illegible] for the due Encouragement of settling a *New Plantation* [illegible] Advice of our Trusty and Well beloved BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq; [illegible] Commander in Chief of Our said Province of New-Hampshire [illegible] the said Province, HAVE upon the Conditions and Reservations hereinafter made, given and granted [illegible] by these Presents, for us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant in equal Shares [illegible] Inhabitants of Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, and Our other Governments [illegible] forever, whose Names are entred on this Grant, to be divided to and amongst them into [illegible] equal Shares, all that Tract or Parcel of Land situate, lying and being within our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, containing by Admeasurement, [illegible] Miles square, and no more; out of which an Allowance is to be made for High Ways and unimprovable Lands by Rocks, Ponds, Mountains and Rivers, One Thousand and Forty Acres free [illegible] made by Our said Governor's Order, and returned into the Secretary's Office, and hereunto annexed, butted and bounded as follows, viz. [illegible]

And that the same be, and hereby is Incorporated into a Township by the Name of [illegible] And the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township, are hereby declared to be Enfranchized with and Intitled to all and every the Privileges and Immunities that other Towns within Our Province by Law Exercise and Enjoy: And further, that the said Town as soon as there shall be Fifty Families resident and settled thereon, shall have the Liberty of holding *Two Fairs*, one of which shall be held on the [illegible]

[illegible]

TO HAVE and to HOLD the said Tract of Land as above expressed, together with all Privileges and Appurtenances, to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns forever, upon the following Conditions, viz.

I. That every Grantee, his Heirs or Assigns shall plant and cultivate five Acres of Land within the Term of *five* Years for every fifty Acres contained in his or their Share or Proportion of Land in said Township, [illegible] on Penalty of the Forfeiture of his Grant or Share in the said Township, [illegible]

II. That all white and other Pine Trees within the said Township, fit for Masting Our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that Use, [illegible] and obtained, upon the Penalty of the Forfeiture of the Right of such Grantee, his Heirs and Assigns, to Us, our Heirs and Successors, as well as being subject to the Penalty of any Act or Acts of Parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be Enacted.

III. That before any Division of the Land be made to and among the Grantees, a Tract of Land as near the Center of the said Township as the Land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for Town Lots, one of which shall be allotted to each Grantee of the Contents of one Acre.

IV. Yielding and paying therefor to Us, our Heirs and Successors for the Space of ten Years, to be computed from the Date hereof, the Rent of one Ear of Indian Corn only, on the twenty-fifth Day of *December* annually, [illegible]

[illegible]

In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq; Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province, the [illegible] Day of [illegible] In the Year of our LORD CHRIST, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty [illegible]

By His EXCELLENCY's Command,
With Advice of Council,

[illegible]

THE HOLDERNESS CHARTER

out for town lots, each of one acre: 4th, that for four years, the tax on the township shall be one ear of Indian corn, to be paid on Christmas Day; and 5th, that after that time, every proprietor, settler or inhabitant shall pay annually on Christmas Day one shilling Proclamation Money for every hundred acres which he owns, settles or possesses.

The charter was signed by Governor Wentworth and by Theodore Atkinson, secretary of the colony, on the 24th of October, 1761.

On the back of this document were inscribed the names of the grantees, sixty-one in number; but two of them held one share between them. The seven shares, which completed the sixty-seven stated on the face of the charter, consisted of one for the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, one for the School, one for the First Settled Minister in communion with the Church of England, one for a glebe for the Church of England as by Law Established,[1] and three for His

[1] March 3, 1762, Rev. Arthur Browne calls attention of S. P. G. to grants of land made by Governor B. Wentworth

Excellency the Governor. This provision of land for the governor appears in most of the charters of this period. In Holderness it amounted to eight hundred acres. The endorsement of the charter carefully stipulated that this should include "The Neck," that is, the great bend of the river, in the midst of the fertile intervale; and in the accompanying plan this was marked "B. W."

The charter gave the township thus erected the name of New Holderness.

in one hundred towns; to this, in another letter, he adds twenty. "The Governour," he says, "has not only made this generous Provision [*i. e.* for the S. P. G.] but has set apart glebes in each of the Towns for the support of the ministry of the Church of England; and has also granted an equal portion or right to the first settled Minister of the Church of England, and his heirs, with the rest of the Proprietors of every town for ever." Batchelder's *History of Eastern Diocese*, i, 153. In 1773, the Society appointed Rev. Ranna Cossitt of Claremont, with Governor J. Wentworth and Chief Justice Livius, attorneys for this land, mentioning, among other places, their shares in Holderness. But the Revolution interfered.

IV

THE NAME

THE name of Holderness was well known in England, where it belongs to that considerable peninsula in the East Riding of Yorkshire which juts out into the German Ocean above the Humber. Kingston is one of its chief cities. Beverley, with its famous minister, is on the western border.

The initial syllable is like that in the name of Holland, and means "hollow," *i. e.* low-lying. *Ness* means "peninsula." *Der* perhaps survives from the ancient name of the district in the days of the Angles, — Deira.[1] In this low-lying peninsula of Deira those Angles had their home, whose fair faces and yellow hair attracted the attention of Gregory as he walked through the slave market of Rome, one day late in the sixth century. "Who are you?" he asked; and the Holderness men an-

[1] Poulson's *Seigniory of Holderness.*

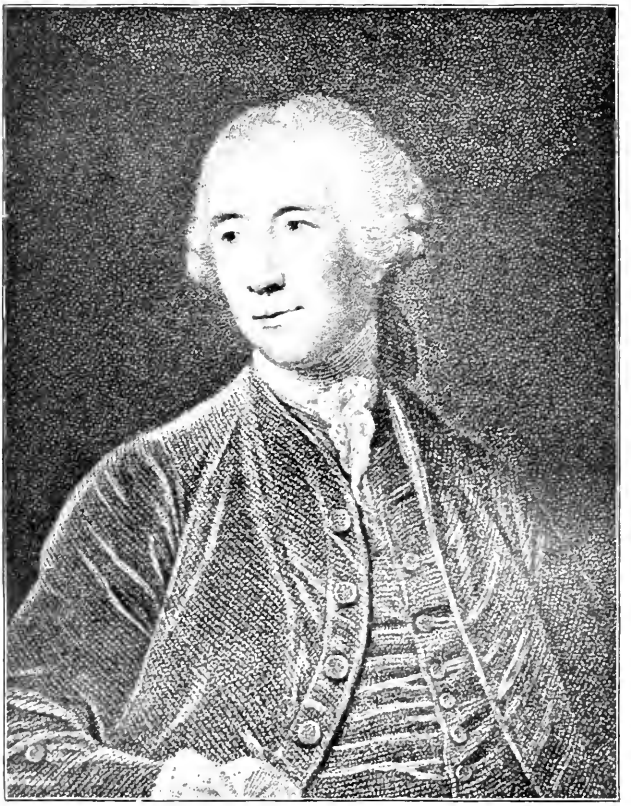
swered, "We are Angles." "God grant you to be angels," he replied, punning and praying in the same breath. "Whence do you come?" "From Deira." "May you be delivered from the ire of God." And presently he sent Augustine to preach the gospel to the English people.

Domesday Book contains a list of the landholders of this old Holderness. The district was called a wapentake; the hundred-acre lots were carucates; and the names of Alestan and Ravenchill and Aldene and Siward had the places which in New Holderness were taken by the Livermores, the Shepards, the Coxes and the Pipers.

When Little John in the ballad took service with the Sheriff of Nottingham, and the sheriff asked him where he belonged, he said that his name was Greenleaf and that he lived in Holderness.

> "In Holdernesse, sir, I was borne
> I-wys al of my dame;
> Men cal me Reynolde Grenëlef
> Whan I am at home."

There Chaucer laid the scene of the Sompnour's Tale.



THE EARL OF HOLDERNESS

" Lordings, there is in Yorkshire, as I gesse
A marsh contree ycalled Holdernesse."

Scott brought from this district one of the minor characters of "The Monastery," where Sir Percie Shafton turns out to be the son of Overstitch the tailor of Holderness.

The adjective "new," however, in the Charter of 1761, has no reference to the country by the Humber. It signifies only that a charter for Holderness had been given already, ten years before: now the town then granted begins anew. The name is derived from the Earl of Holderness, who in 1751, just at the time of the first grant, became a Secretary of State in the English Government, and was made responsible for the good conduct and welfare of the colonies. Benning Wentworth named the town in compliment to the new secretary, to whom, in common with other colonial governors, he made his official reports.

Robert D'Arcy,[1] fourth and last Earl of Holderness, was at that time thirty-three years of age. His mother's father was the Duke of Schomberg, whereby he had for-

[1] See under the name, *Dictionary of National Biography.*

eign relations of influence. Thus in 1744, he was made ambassador to the Republic of Venice, and, in 1749, became minister plenipotentiary to The Hague. His principal house was Hornby Castle, near Leeds, now owned by a descendant, the Duke of Leeds. He was very fond of plays and music, and used to direct masquerades and private theatricals. One season, he and Lord Middlesex managed the London opera.

Horace Walpole called the earl "a formal piece of dulness." But the Duke of Newcastle, while confessing that he might be thought trifling in his manner and carriage, maintained that he had a solid understanding. He was a somewhat silent person, the duke added, but very good-natured, enduring to be told his faults, and, though he was a D'Arcy, had no pride about him. In 1755, he had his portrait painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds; this, therefore, represents him as he was in the days of the beginnings of Holderness.

Parkman quotes from Walpole a page about the Holdernesses.[1] It was on the

[1] *Montcalm and Wolfe*, ii, 358.

night when news came that the French had failed to retake Quebec. "Last night," he says, "I went to see the Holdernesses. I met my Lady in a triumphal car . . . with Lady Emily. . . . They were going to see the bonfire at the alehouse at the corner. The whole procession returned with me, and from the Countess's dressing-room we saw a battery fired before the house, the mob crying 'God bless the good news!'" Then they amused themselves — this was in May — by eating peaches from a hot-house, then a new invention and called a "Dutch stove."

The most substantial contribution which Lord Holderness made to colonial affairs was in 1754, at the beginning of the last stage of the French and Indian War. He wrote to the governors of the colonies advising them to form a union for mutual protection and defense. A meeting was held at Albany to consider this suggestion, and was attended by delegates from seven colonies. Theodore Atkinson, who signed the Holderness Charter, represented New Hampshire. Benjamin Franklin came from Pennsylvania. This was the precursor

of that final union of the colonies which constituted the United States of America. The delegates did not agree, and nothing came of it; but the attempt is to be set down to the credit of the good judgment of the Earl of Holderness.

Robert D'Arcy's sons died before him, and the title thus became extinct. His daughter Amelia married the Marquess of Carmarthen, and their son was Duke of Leeds. Afterwards, she married Mr. John Byron, who, after her death, married Miss Gordon, who became the mother of Lord Byron.

V

THE SETTLEMENT

THE allotment of Holderness, under the Charter of 1761, was made in three sections.

The first land to be divided was the intervale. This was surveyed and planned by Abraham Bachelder in the October of 1762. The new plan departed from the previous division, — into lots of three acres, two such lots to each man, — and provided for sixty-seven pieces of ground, each of eight acres. The arrangement of the town stood as in the previous map, the one-acre lots being set about Church Hill. In the end of October, the proprietors met at Durham, at the inn of Winborn Adams, and drew for these parcels of land, which were called "lots" from that common custom. Afterwards, in 1765, they drew for places in the first division of hundred-acre lots, between Little Squam and the river. Finally, in 1774, they drew for the hundred-

acre lots of the second division, around Big Squam, north and south. Winborn Adams's tavern is still standing, beside the Oyster River, in the village of Durham, across the road from the monument erected by the State in memory of General Sullivan.

Some of the original proprietors were friends and relatives of the governor. There was his brother, Mark Hunking Wentworth, who made a comfortable fortune by providing the royal navy with masts from the New Hampshire woods; with several other Wentworths, Major John, and two Samuels, one "of Boston;" and Theodore Atkinson, his brother-in-law, secretary of the colony, who left money to St. John's Church in Portsmouth, the income to be used in providing for a distribution of bread among the poor, on Sundays. There were persons of distinction and influence in the province: John Downing, member of the Council, Richard Wibird, judge of probate, whose father was King's Poulterer; the Rev. Arthur Browne, rector of the Portsmouth parish; and Samuel Livermore, his son-in-law, judge advocate of the admiralty court.

Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted
future date.

Most of these names appear in the proprietors' lists of other townships of the time.[1] Few of them had any intention of becoming citizens of Holderness. Some of the land thus granted was forfeited by failure to clear it according to the requirements of the charter; some of it was sold for taxes.

The governor's three shares came presently into the possession of Samuel Livermore. When Benning Wentworth died, in 1770, having been deprived of his office for reasons among which this quiet appropriation of township lands had a conspicuous place, it was found that he had left all his estates to his widow, Martha Hilton, whose marriage is described in the "Tales of a Wayside Inn." This so displeased his relatives that his nephew and successor, John Wentworth, declared the title to all the Governor's Farms, as they were called, to be null and void. Thus these lands were restored to the king, and John Wentworth regranted them in the king's name. The Governor's Farm in Holderness came in

[1] January 7, 1797, tracts of land being part of the real estate of the late M. H. Wentworth, deceased, were advertised for sale. They were in twenty-four townships.

this way into Samuel Livermore's hands, on payment of £50 for the eight hundred fertile acres.

Among the other grantees, one notices several family groups: three Ellisons, three Bamfords, four Simpsons, six Shepards, seven Coxes. A further study of the list discloses the fact that these families and others were neighbors at Durham, and that they there belonged to the parish of the Rev. Hugh Adams, the first settled minister of that place, and grandfather of Winborn Adams, the innholder. The parish records show that Parson Adams baptized children of Robert Bamford, of Joseph Ellison, of Samuel Shepherd, of John Shepherd; he married William Williams and Sarah Bamford, and Samuel Shepherd and Margaret Creighton, in 1726, and Samuel Shepherd, their son, and Elizabeth Hill, in 1761, and William Kelsey and Margaret Hay; he baptized Thomas Willey and Derry Pitman. The Lanes were Durham people. Hercules Mooney was the schoolmaster. A more extended examination would probably find still others among the first proprietors who

THE WINBORN ADAMS HOUSE

lived on the banks of the Oyster River in the village of Durham. These, however, are enough to show not only that Holderness was a colony from Durham, but that the colonists were mostly of Puritan training in religion. Adams was a Puritan parson.

The provision of shares of land for the Church of England was not infrequent in New Hampshire, where both the Wentworths, Benning and John, were members of that communion, together with other official and eminent persons of Portsmouth. Of the actual settlers, however, very few were churchmen, even in Holderness. And Holderness was almost alone in the colony in having a town minister in communion with the English Church. Starr King, in his "White Hills," refers to an expectation of the first settlers that Holderness would sometime be the chief city of New England. Boston, they admitted, had certain commercial advantages, and would probably continue to be an important, though somewhat vulgar, Puritan town; but Holderness would be the social centre, the aristocratic metropolis. This prophecy has

lingered in the neighborhood as a dim tradition since a time beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and has been treated by some with an over-serious derision. It probably began with the vivacious Mrs. Livermore, — the daughter of the Rev. Arthur Browne, — who had a merry disrespect for Puritans, which she was at no pains to conceal. She first uttered that impossible forecast in order to dismay some solemn person who had no sense of humor. It was also Mrs. Livermore, in all likelihood, who made over Parson Adams's flock in Holderness into a parish of the Episcopal Church. She had already brought her husband into the church, and she showed the same zeal in bringing her neighbors.

The proprietors were called to order at their first meeting by Thomas Shepard, who was named as moderator in the charter. They chose three selectmen to administer the affairs of the new township, of whom Thomas Shepard was one, and Samuel Shepard, 3d, another. The family name is perpetuated in Shepard Hill.

Thomas Shepard, with Thomas Ellison,

his brother-in-law, and Samuel Lane, the surveyor, visited Holderness in 1750. They cut their initials on a white oak by the falls in the Pemigewasset, and on a white pine six miles south, near the junction of the Pemigewasset and the Squam, and thus established the boundaries of the township. They are the first men whose names are definitely connected with the place. Thomas presented the petition to the governor, in reply to which the first charter was granted.

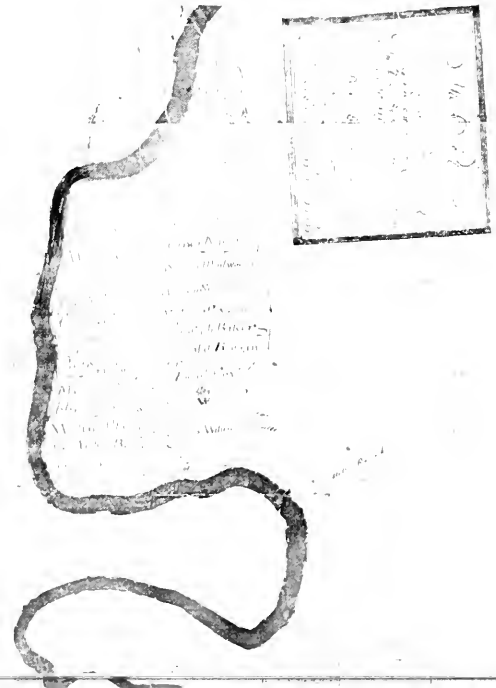
Samuel Shepard presently became clerk of the proprietors; and when the town meetings began, he was elected clerk of the town, in which office he continued for forty-one years. When Holderness was settled, he established himself on the west side of Owl Brook, where three roads meet, one to the mill at Ashland, one to Plymouth, one to Squam Bridge. There, in a house still standing, he kept an inn. After 1785, the town meetings were regularly held at his house. The inn was the social and political and commercial centre of the colonial town. There were made their bargains; there all public notices were posted; there all

strangers stopped, with the news of the great world. Shepard was a person of independent mind, which he showed by a hearty disapproval of the American Revolution. To his last day he maintained his allegiance to the English crown. He detested Napoleon Bonaparte; and the walls of his parlor were covered with caricatures of that eminent disturber of the peace of Europe. It may have been by reason of Shepard's English sympathies that in 1812, when hatred of England was particularly bitter in these parts, a proposition was made by some to change the place of holding the town meetings; [1] but the motion did not prevail, and the meetings continued at his house until his death in 1817. Some political differences may have occasioned a petition and a counter petition in 1789, one asking that Samuel Shepard be appointed a justice of the peace, and the other protesting that there were already two such officials in the town.

Shepard was eminently fitted for the post of clerk by his habits of accuracy, his knowledge of surveying, and his uncommonly

[1] *N. H. Town Papers*, xvi, 230.

THE SAMUEL SHEPARD HOUSE



PLAN OF INTERVALE LOTS, 1762

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[1] *N. H. Town Papers*, xvi, 230.

THE SAMUEL SHEPARD HOUSE

legible writing. He is still dimly remembered as a picturesque figure, especially on Sundays, when he wore his wedding coat, light blue with buff facings, with long tails and flapped pockets, surmounting a waistcoat of red plush. In his vast pockets he carried a store of apples for the solace of small boys.

The first care of the proprietors, after the division of the land and the choice of officers, was to make a way of getting from Durham to their new possessions. There was already a road from Durham to Canterbury, Canterbury having been settled in 1727 by Durham men. They therefore empowered Hercules Mooney "to imploy a Pilot to find out a good and convenient place for a Road to be cleared from Canterbury to New Holderness." In 1766 the making of such a road was said to be agreeable to an act of the General Court of the Province, and it is thenceforth called the Province Road. They were still at work upon it in 1769, when it was voted to pay each laborer four shillings a day, and the same amount for his time in journeying from Durham and back again. This is the

road which still comes up from Canterbury through Northfield, across the Winnepesaukee River, through Sanbornton and Meredith Centre, across a corner of the township of Centre Harbor, through New Hampton, along Long Pond, between Long and Hawkins Ponds and Beech and Fogg Mountains to Ashland, thence to Plymouth along the east bank of the river. It was for the most part a valley road, along the Merrimac and the Pemigewasset.

Hercules Mooney,[1] who was thus engaged in the business of the Province Road, was one of the most interested and active of the early settlers. In a petition which he and others made to the governor to extend the time for clearing and planting the land, he says [2] we "have nothing more at heart than to complete the settlement of said town, and have already got twenty families there, and hope soon to see it in a flourishing condition." Mooney had been a volunteer in the French and Indian War and had taken with him his two young sons. He was at Fort William Henry when it was

[1] Lucien Thompson, in *Granite Monthly*, March, 1901.
[2] *N. H. Town Papers*, ix, 396.

captured by Montcalm, and was one of that unfortunate company who, as they marched out unarmed under the protection of a French safe-conduct, were furiously attacked by the Indians. After that he returned to his school-teaching until the beginning of the War of Independence, when he reëntered the military service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1777, at the evacuation of Ticonderoga, he lost his horse and most of his clothes and camp equipage, for which he was partially recompensed by the General Assembly.[1] After the war he resumed his place behind the teacher's desk. Tall and lank, and bronzed with exposure, the hero of two wars, he must have commanded the respect and prompt obedience of the boys. He continued to live at Durham till 1785, when he removed to Holderness. He died in 1800, and is buried in Ashland, east of the village about half a mile, between Squam River and Thompson Street, under an old willow by the water, on Mr. S. H. Baker's farm. The gravestone is an unhewn slab, bearing neither name nor date.

[1] *N. H. Town Papers*, xii, 227.

The Province Road having thus given access to Holderness by the way of the rivers, another thoroughfare was presently planned by the way of the lakes. John Wentworth, who succeeded his uncle Benning as governor of New Hampshire in 1768, had a country house at Wolfeborough. He was greatly interested in the founding of Dartmouth College, to which, by his influence, the province gave a great tract of land. In April, 1771, shortly before the first commencement of that institution, an act of the Governor, Council and Assembly set forth the great public utility of roads in general, and in particular the advantage to Dartmouth of the construction of a convenient highway to the college, and provided that a road be laid out three rods wide from Wolfeborough to Hanover. Joseph Senter, of Centre Harbor, Samuel Shepard, town clerk of Holderness, and David Copp were appointed to lay out that part of the road which lay between the governor's house and the Pemigewasset River near the mouth of Baker's River; that is, at Plymouth. It was to run through Wolfeborough, Tuftonborough, Moulton-

borough, New Holderness, and Plymouth; thence another committee was to carry it to Hanover. John House, Jonathan Freeman, and David Hobart were charged with the construction of the Hanover division. This was substantially the highway which is still called the College Road.[1]

The governor and sixty gentlemen attended the first commencement at the end of August in that year. But the College Road was not yet opened. The surveyors did not make their report until September. They then declared that they had marked it out and that it was "capable of being made a good road." From Senter's, they said, they went eight and a half miles to Shepard's; from Shepard's, a mile and a half to Judge Livermore's; thence two miles and a quarter to the river at the entrance of Mill Brook. In 1772, the road was so far cleared that it was passable for horsemen, and the governor and his staff, who had previously gone from Wolfeborough to Haverhill, and so to Hanover, now went by the way of Plymouth. "I purpose," writes Governor Wentworth to

[1] Parker's *History of Wolfeborough*, pp. 65, 66.

President Wheelock,[1] "to set out from this place [Wolfeborough] the first fair day after the 20th inst. [that is, of August]. At Plymouth we shall make due inquiry and if tolerably practicable prefer the College Road lately laid out by authority." He sent at the same time the following names of gentlemen who would accompany him: "the Honorable Mark Hunking Wentworth, Esq., George Jaffrey, Esq., Daniel Rogers, Esq., Peter Gilman, Esq., the Honorable John Wentworth, Esq., Speaker of the Assembly, Major Samuel Hobart, Esq., John Giddings, Esq., Col. John Phillips, Esq., John Sherburne, Esq., member of Assembly, John Fisher, Esq., Collector of Salem, Col. Nathaniel Folsom, Esq., Rev. Dr. Langdon of Portsmouth, Rev. Mr. Emerson of Hollis, Dr. Cutter, Dr. Brackett, Samuel Penhallow, Esq., William Parker, Esq., Benjamin Whiting, Esq., High Sheriff of Hillsboro County, Hon. Samuel Holland, Esq., of Canada, Thomas McDonogh, Esq., Secretary to the Governor." "There may possibly be ten more," he said.

[1] Chase's *History of Hanover*, pp. 176, 235.

These were the gentlemen, then, who rode with the governor, in the August of 1772, along the forest path beside the Holderness lakes. The first named was the governor's father, who appears in the list of the original proprietors. Dr. Cutter was the governor's best friend, to whom, when they were lads together, Wentworth wrote amusing descriptions of his undergraduate life at Harvard.[1] "The College," he said, "is now filled up (allmost) of Boys from 11 to 14 years old and them [they?] seem to be quite void of the Spirit and life which is a general concomitant of youth, so you may judge what kind of life I now live, who was wont to live in the gayest and most jovial manner. . . . Should you go into a Company of Schollars now, you'd hear disputes of Original Sin, actual Transgression and such like instead of the sprightly turns of Wit and Gay repartees which the former Companys used to have." This was in February, 1754. In May of that year he wrote, "As to Cambridge it is as barren of news as Portsmouth for there is none stirring here except that Commence-

[1] Parker's *History of Wolfeborough*, pp. 56, 57.

ment is to be new stile this year, at which time shall be glad to see you here to Celebrate my entrance upon the last year of my Pilgrimage among the Heathen." The "new stile" is the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, whereby, in 1752, the almanac had been corrected by the omission of ten days. The Rev. Mr. Emerson was a collateral ancestor of the philosopher, and had a famous boys' school in his house. Mr. Holland made the first map on which Squam Lake is designated by that name.

The governor came again over the College Road in 1773, to the third commencement, where he heard an oration in Hebrew on the Sublimity of the Old Testament.

The reference which Hercules Mooney made to the twenty families who were already settled here while he was residing at Durham indicates a distinction between the proprietors and the inhabitants. Only a few of the proprietors actually took up their residence on the land. Thus the first settler was William Piper, whose name does not appear in the list of original grantees. William Piper lived in Stratham,

where he married John Shepard's daughter Susanna. John Shepard had been a ranger with Robert Rogers, and had further shown a courageous spirit by eloping with Susanna Smith. When the War of Independence came on, he purposed to remain neutral, but was arrested by overzealous patriots and put on parole at Exeter. This so altered his ideals of neutrality that on being released he promptly donned the uniform of the British service. He was killed in action on shipboard off the Grand Menan. His daughter Susanna, on her marriage to William Piper, had her father's lot for dowry. It lay between Squam Lake and White Oak Pond, on the west side of the connecting brook. There, in 1763, they built a cabin and set up housekeeping, and thus began the actual settlement of Holderness.

By 1771, there were so many settlers outside the number of original grantees that they felt the need of a local administration of their affairs. Accordingly, they addressed a petition to Samuel Livermore, one of the proprietors and one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, setting forth

that "the subscribers labor under great inconvenience for want of town officers and other regulations." Twelve names were signed to this petition, and when the first town meeting was held, a few months later, most of them were elected to office. Nathaniel Thompson was chosen moderator; Samuel Shepard, town clerk; Andrew Smythe, Joseph Hicks, and Charles Cox, selectmen; Samuel Curry, constable; Charles Cox, sealer of leather; Richard Shepard and Thomas Vokes, surveyors of highways; Thomas Shepard and John Heron, hogreeves; Charles Cox, Jr., tithing man; John Shaw, fence viewer; Samuel Gains, — at whose house the meeting was held, — pound keeper; and Bryan Sweeney, field driver.

Nathaniel Thompson,[1] the moderator, was the town miller. After the proprietors had provided for a road, their next thought was for a mill. An excellent site was afforded by the falls of the Squam River, in the heart of what is now the village of Ashland. In 1767, the proprietors appointed a committee to let out the mill privileges on

[1] Lucien Thompson, in *Granite Monthly*, March, 1901.

the Squam Stream, as they called it, and the committee offered a grant of land to whomsoever should "arect" a sawmill and a gristmill. Thompson, a Durham man, called in various conveyances of land, "trader," "shipwright," and "gentleman," accepted this offer, and built these mills and settled beside them. The Thompson House, at the corner of Thompson Street, marks the place. These industries were begun in 1770 or 1771. Before that, corn was taken to be ground at Canterbury, along a way which was marked by blazed trees.

Andrew Smythe, the selectman, and Samuel Shepard, the clerk, were the first wardens of the Holderness church. In this capacity they were appealed to in 1789 with reference to the election of the first bishop of what was then called the Eastern Diocese, including New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The clergy, it appeared, had got together and elected Mr. Bass to be the bishop without consulting the laity. The wardens of Newburyport very properly protested, and asked the wardens of parishes in the two states to join them in such action.

Smythe and Shepard replied for the congregation at Holderness.[1] They note that the letter which was sent from Boston on the 30th of August was received in Holderness on the 12th of September. They hope that the brethren of the clergy "have not in contemplation any system of ecclesiastical government subversive of the freedom and true interest of our Church." And they express themselves as well pleased with the protest and glad to be of any farther service. Happily, the clergy came to a better mind, invited the laity to join with them, and together they elected Mr. Bass in a manner acceptable to all concerned. Andrew Smythe's daughter, Martha, taught the school, and afterwards married the minister, and is buried beside him in the graveyard by Squam Bridge.

Bryan Sweeney, the field driver, with twenty-seven others, petitioned, in due course of time, that Holderness be permitted to send a representative to the General Court, affirming that "it is likely to become the most considerable town in that part of the country." Sweeney's name indi-

[1] Addison's *Life of Bishop Bass*, p. 282.

cates that he was one of that body of emigrants from the north of Ireland who came over to this colony in 1720, and introduced Irish potatoes into New Hampshire. Smythe, too, was an Irishman, having been born "in the Kingdom of Ireland, in the Province of Canaught:" so wrote the town clerk on the occasion of his death in 1812.

Samuel Curry, in 1776, went on an errand to the General Court to procure "musquet-balls." [1] "We inhabitants of the town of New Holderness," so ran the petition which he bore, "having gained intelligence that a considerable part of our army in Canada have lately been forced by our unnatural ennemies (the British troops in s'd Canada) to retreat and relinquish their Ground, and apprehending ourselves in the greatest danger from the s'd Troops and scouting Parties of Indians that may be sent down to annoy and destroy us: and being in no Capacity for Defence, do in behalf of the s'd Town pray your Honours to send us by the Bearer hereof, Mr. Samuel Curry, the necessary powder, Musquet Balls and Flints for 33 able and effective

[1] *N. H. Town Papers*, xii, 227.

men (belonging to the s'd Town) who are ready with their Lives and Fortunes to assert and maintain the American Cause: and we your humble petitioners as soon as may be will pay to your Honours, or the Committee of Safety for the time being, an Equivalent for the same." The General Court gave Curry twenty-five dollars and twenty-five pounds of powder.

Thus the echoes of that great storm rolled along these distant hills. The town meetings proceeded in their quiet way, and their minute book is almost as remote as an abbey chronicle from the events of the world without. In 1775, the call for the town meeting was headed as usual, "Province of New Hampshire;" in 1776, it was dated simply, "New Hampshire;" in 1777, it was "State of New Hampshire." Thus the great change was noted in the book.

The settlers were busy with their farms. The plan set forth in the charter to have a central town, in which the settlers should live in one community, and out of which they should go to work on the ploughed land and in the woods, was never carried

into effect. If it could have been accomplished in our settlements it would have made a great difference in the social life of our New England farmers. It would have saved the country people from the ills of isolation. As it was, they lived apart. Even the small intervale lots by the river seem not to have been much built upon. The settlement began, as we have seen, in the very midst of the township, and the settlers established themselves on the hundred-acre holdings.

The town was so poor that the only action which was taken at the first town meeting, after the election of officers, was to vote to raise no money for that year. And such a resolution appears on the minutes several times. The first motion to build a school was defeated; so was the first motion to open a new road. They did vote £30 to build a church, but they did not build it; and the next year they reconsidered their action, and for money substituted labor, boards, and shingles. Even then, the church was not begun. In 1773, the wages of a laborer were two shillings and three pence a day; in 1782, they had

advanced to three shillings; in 1791, to five. In 1788, it was voted to employ a teacher at a salary of $170 a year, and a minister at a salary of $200; each to be paid in produce. This was a fair remuneration according to the standards of the time. In 1792, Ebenezer Allen, town minister of Wolfeborough, was promised a salary of forty-five pounds; one third in cash, one third in grass-fed beef at twenty shillings a hundred, and one third in corn at three shillings, or in rye at four shillings a bushel; with twenty-five cords of wood. The minister in Holderness, as elsewhere, had his lot of land. In 1781, the town of Holderness was supporting a poor woman named Margaret Lyons at five shillings a week. This included all the necessaries and none of the luxuries, and probably represents the minimum cost of living at that time.

In 1784, the electors were summoned to vote for a president; that is, for a president of New Hampshire, for by that title the governor was at first distinguished from his predecessors, the appointees of the crown. In 1785, there were sixteen men at the

town meeting, and they all voted for the Hon. Samuel Livermore for president. In 1788, it was agreed that the Rev. Robert Fowle be made the minister of the town, provided that he receive Episcopal ordination; they voted to clear the minister's lot, and to build him a parsonage and a barn.

Thus appear the two men about whom the life of the little town centred thenceforth, Samuel Livermore, the squire, and Robert Fowle, the parson.

NOTE. — The following names of grantees are taken from the list on the back of the charter.

Majr John Wentworth	Saml Wentworth, Esq. of Boston	William Kelley
Thomas Harvey	Samuel Sheppard, 3d	Thomas Yokes
Robert Harvey	Edward Hall Bergin	James Kielley
Joseph Sheppard	William Curry	Wm. Cox
Joseph Baker	William Kennedy	Charles Cox
Nicholas Gookin	Thomas Willie	John Cox
John Muckleroy	John Sheppard, senr	Edward Cox
William Simpson, senr	Thomas Sheppard	Joseph Cox,
David Simpson	Samuel Sheppard, senr	William Cox, junr
William Simpson, junr	Charles Bamford	John Birgin
Joseph Simpson	Joseph Ellison	Hercules Mooney
Saml Wentworth, Esq.	Richard Ellison	William Williams
Murry Hambleton	William Ellison	Samuel Lamb
Theodore Atkinson, Esq.	Robert Bamford	Charles Cox, junr
Richd Wibird, Esq.	William Smith	Derry Pitman
John Downing, Esq.	William Campbell	Samuel Livermore
Mrs. Sarah Mitchell	William Garrow	Charles Bamford, junr
John Kavenah & John Innis	Henry Wallis	Mk Hg Wentworth, Esq.
Henry Lane	Revd Arthur Brown	Richard Salter, and
	Henry Hill	Joseph Bartlett of
	John Sheppard, junr	Newtown.

VI

SAMUEL LIVERMORE, THE SQUIRE

SAMUEL LIVERMORE,[1] who presently became the largest owner and the man of most importance in the community, was one of the nine children of Deacon Samuel Livermore of Waltham, Mass. In 1751, being then of the age of nineteen years, he entered Nassau Hall, now Princeton University, having previously taught school for a year in Chelsea. One of his letters of recommendation said that he intended to study for the ministry.

His diary at that time gives several interesting glimpses of the manners of the middle of the eighteenth century. He left Boston on the sloop Lydia, having provided for his voyage five quarts of West India rum, a quarter of a pound of tea, a dozen fowls, two pounds of loaf sugar, twenty

[1] For Squire Livermore see *Bench and Bar of N. H.;* Bradley in *N. H. Hist. Soc. Coll.* iii, 221; the diary is quoted in *Putnam's Magazine*, June, 1857.

SQUIRE LIVERMORE

MRS. LIVERMORE

lemons, and three pounds of butter. In his chest, with two "close coats," a greatcoat, and other proper clothing, he carried a Bible, the New Testament in Latin and Greek, a Latin dictionary, Ward's "Introduction to Mathematics," Gordon's Geography, and copies of Virgil and Tully. Stopping at Newport, he purchased a penknife, a corkscrew, and a buckle-brush. In New York he bought two Duke of Cumberland handkerchiefs. On October 3, he added to his store a gallon of rum; and on the following day bought a "fountain pen," and afterwards a sand-box, — for sprinkling sand over a written page to dry the ink, — an almanac, and some ink-powder. His board cost him eighty cents a week; and hickory wood was $1.62 a cord. He received his degree in 1752, having been examined in Hebrew, Testament, Homer, Tully, Horace, Logic, Geography, Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Ontology, Rhetoric, and Ethics.

Thus equipped, Livermore made his way to Portsmouth, was admitted to the bar in 1756, and in 1759 married Jane Browne, the daughter of the rector. In 1764, he moved

to Londonderry, which place he represented in the General Assembly until 1772. In 1763, he was the King's Attorney-General; for which office his salary was £25, with an addition of £45 in fees. It was probably by reason of the complications of the time that he removed in 1774 from Londonderry and came to live upon his land in Holderness. For he took no part in either the debates or the battles which accompanied the change of government.

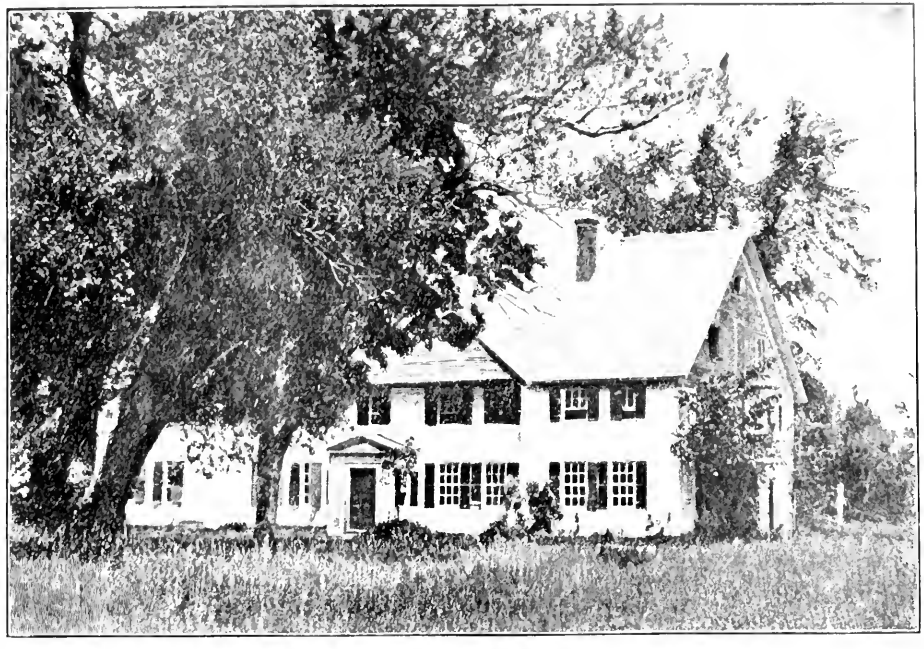
He had by this time added considerably to the single share allotted to him by the original grant. It was perhaps by reason of his friendship with the Wentworths that he came into possession of the Governor's Farm. That single acquisition made him possessor not only of the most extensive but of the most fertile estate in the township. As early as 1770, he is found petitioning Governor John Wentworth for the shares of William Campbell and William Garrow who have forfeited their claims by failure to clear and cultivate. Also, in an undated petition, he makes a like request for the lands of Murray Hamilton and Samuel Wentworth. James Kelley's share

he bought for $88.88. The lots of William Smith, of the Rev. Arthur Browne, and of Samuel Lamb, Livermore or his son purchased for the taxes. Derry Pitman's property came into their possession. Also, on the other side of the river, Judge Livermore bought fifteen hundred acres of Colonel John Fenton. This was the Fenton who owned thirty acres on Bunker's Hill, and whose hay Colonel Stark used for breastworks in the battle.

In the midst of the Governor's Farm, overlooking the fair valley of the Pemigewasset, Squire Livermore built his great house, which remained until a fire destroyed it in 1882. It was then used by the Holderness School, whose present buildings occupy the place. In 1780, the squire was busy in his gristmill by the Mill Brook, white with flour from head to foot, when the commissioners came to summon him to be one of the representatives of New Hampshire in the Continental Congress. In 1782, he was made chief justice of the state. In 1788, in the state convention assembled to consider the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, it was

Livermore who moved that the Constitution be adopted. Eight states had already assented: one more was needed to secure its adoption, and thus to make the independent states into a nation. With the affirmative action on Samuel Livermore's motion, this great step was taken. From 1789 to 1793 he was a representative, and from 1793 to 1801 a senator, in the national congress. Back and forth he drove, between Holderness and Philadelphia, in his own carriage, with Major Thomas Shepard on the box, a journey of eighteen days. Over the College Road, by Squam Bridge and Centre Harbor to Wolfeborough, or over the Province Road, by the mills at Ashland to Canterbury and Concord, the great man proceeded on these formidable journeys.

Squire Livermore was almost the only one of our Holderness people whose name ever got beyond the borders of the state. He was our chief citizen, and his memory is our best possession. At his mansion on the bluff he dispensed a generous hospitality, practicing the fine but difficult virtue set forth in the text which is inscribed



THE LIVERMORE HOUSE

on the tombstone of his son, beside the old church. "Give alms of thy goods, and never turn thy face from any poor man." On his kitchen table, there was always a great iron basket and a huge pottery pitcher, the basket filled with corn-and-rye bread, and the pitcher with cider, free to all passers-by.

The old squire's grandson gave me an account of an incident which illustrates his neighborly leadership. It was told to him one Sunday after church by Captain James Cox, then an aged man. At the end of a good harvest, the captain's barn had been struck by lightning and totally destroyed. The next day, as he stood among the ashes, up rode the squire on horseback, clapped him on the shoulder with a word of cheer, promptly called out all the neighbors,—the Pipers, the Coxes, the Thompsons, the Shepards,—sent them into the woods for timber, drove to the mill and brought down boards, got the barn raised and closed in, and then stocked it with hay and grain from his own lofts.

He was a commanding person, not only among his simple neighbors but in all com-

panies. He is remembered, as a judge, to have had a fine disdain of precedent even when it was of his own making, constructing the law to suit his sense of justice, as he went along. His sons maintained his position after him. Arthur became chief justice of New Hampshire. Edward St. Loe was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court; but the "Courier of New Hampshire," on April 8, 1802, notes that "The Hon. Ed. St. Loe Livermore is removed from the office of the Customs at Portsmouth by President Jefferson to make room for Nathaniel Folsom, Esq., a good democrat." Samuel Livermore died in 1803, and was buried in the graveyard of the little church, near his own house.

VII

ROBERT FOWLE, THE PARSON

THE Holderness charter of 1761 provided, as we have seen, for the support of a minister of the Church of England, but a good many years passed before the scattered farmers availed themselves of this privilege. The town meeting, it is true, entered at once upon a discussion of the matter. They considered it in 1772. They definitely resolved, in 1773, to build a church: "36 feet in Length and 30 in Breadth, with a 10 foot Post." They voted to raise thirty pounds in lawful money for the expense of erection. And they fixed upon a site, a piece of two acres, east of the Province Road, and in the southern part of Joseph Hicks's hundred-acre lot. There, at a previous meeting, they had agreed to establish a graveyard. The next year, however, the town meeting reconsidered this appropriation, and voted instead that "Each inhabitant shall pay his

equal share in labour, boards, shingles, and clapboards, rum and other things that shall be needed." The amount of rum required for the work of raising a meeting-house was stated as ten gallons.

Nothing came, even then, of these good intentions, for in 1781 the Rev. Edward Bass of Newburyport—the same for whom we found the clergy voting without the laity to be the first bishop of these parts—wrote thus in a letter to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts:[1] "I am just returned from a journey of about an hundred miles into the Province of New Hampshire. . . . Our Church increases much in credit and reputation among the generality of the People where I have been, tho' consisting of a variety of Sects, some of them very wild and enthusiastic. . . . I baptized about sixty children and Adult Persons, near half the number at Holderness, a town consisting of Church of England People, where in the course of a very few years, there will be a sufficient Living for a Minister. The People long for the time when they may be

[1] Addison's *Life of Bishop Bass*, p. 161.

supplied with one, and are disposed to do everything in their power for his support." As late as 1790, no church had been erected, for in that year the town meeting again appointed a committee to determine the site of a church building and supervise the construction. They voted to raise seventy-five pounds in boards at twenty-four shillings a thousand.

Indeed, it was not until 1797 that the church was built which still stands near the Holderness School. In 1803, a second church, afterwards burned, was erected near Squam Bridge, in a corner of the present graveyard.

The Rev. Mr. Bass, on his visit to Holderness in 1781, was no doubt the guest of Squire Livermore. Presently, when the squire desired a tutor for his son, to whom should he more naturally apply than to Mr. Bass? Thus it was, I suppose, that Robert Fowle, a young man in Mr. Bass's parish at Newburyport, came to be a member of the Livermore household, some time before 1789. That was the year in which the town voted to put him in charge of the spiritualities of the place, provided that he

obtain his ordination from a bishop. This he accordingly did, being ordained deacon by Bishop Seabury in St. James's Church, New London, December 13, 1789, and made priest by the same bishop in Boston, June 29, 1791. Thereafter, he was called Priest Fowle, that being the title which was given in parts of New Hampshire and Vermont even to ministers of the Congregational churches.

By-and-by, Priest Fowle married the schoolmistress, Andrew Smythe's daughter Martha; being put up to this good deed, according to tradition, by the ferry-woman, Mrs. Cockran. Mrs. Cockran was one day setting the young parson and his horse over the river, where there is now a bridge to Plymouth. "Mr. Fowle," she said, in mid-stream, "you ought to take to yourself a wife." "Humph!" said he. "Yes, Lady Livermore has too much on her hands to take care of yourself and the two other gentlemen, and you ought to be off, living on your glebe, with a family of your own." For at that time the parson and his horse were still living at the squire's, and the parson's clothes were made from

THE REV. ROBERT FOWLE

the fleece of the squire's sheep. "Humph!" said the young minister, but he followed the ferry-woman's counsel. He was then about twenty-five years old. He lived to be eighty-one, and his wife when she died was ninety.

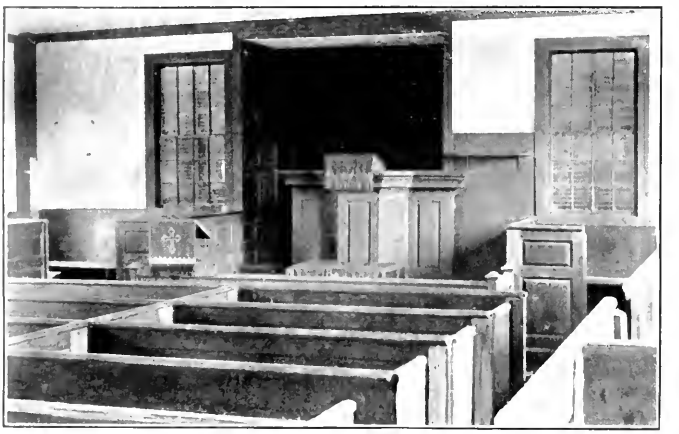
The minister's lot bordered Little Squam on the north, next to the bridge. To the west, on the lake, was the glebe land; and next to that was the ground assigned to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The next lot, into which Little Squam thrusts itself in a deep bay, belonged to William Curry. A spring of clear, cold water, between the road and the lake, is still called Curry's Spring. It was on the minister's lot that Mr. Fowle built his parsonage, on the site of the present Central House. It was probably on account of the distance between the parsonage and the church that the second church was built near by.

The first church was the property of the Livermores. The services had been held for some time in a large unfinished room of the big house. When the building was erected, the various worshipers made their

contributions, but "they were generally small and for specific articles and in their aggregate quite insufficient for the object." This was Mr. Arthur Livermore's remembrance of the original subscription paper. "The effect upon my mind," he says, "was to remit to me the tradition that the Livermores among them substantially built the church and allocated the pews. . . . The land on which the church was built . . . was never conveyed to Trinity Church. It remained in the ownership of the Livermores."

Robert Fowle was the pastor of Holderness for fifty-eight years. He was a grave and rather silent man. He wore a black coat and a white cravat on week days, and a black gown and bands on Sundays. He divided his time between the two churches, riding over the College Road from one to the other, in all kinds of weather. The congregation assembled in the churchyard, and waited respectfully till the minister appeared, with his wife upon his right arm and his prayer book under his left. A large dog marched behind, sober like his master, and with a habit of barking at late comers.

THE OLD CHURCH — EXTERIOR



THE OLD CHURCH — INTERIOR

One of the parson's four daughters played the bass viol in the choir. The ritual was of a very quiet order and the sermon was in entire accord with it. The Holy Communion was celebrated twice a year: at the church near the squire's house at Christmas, and at the church by the bridge at Easter.

The journals of the diocese[1] show that Mr. Fowle was a member of the first convention at Concord, in 1802. He was chosen in 1823 a deputy to the General Convention which met in Philadelphia. In 1829, he said of his church, "It is not flourishing, and I think it will not flourish." He had then been rector forty years. In 1831, the prospects were momentarily brighter: each of the two churches had a Sunday-school, and each school had forty scholars. But that year, Mr. Fowle was absent from the Convention, and he never came again. Indeed, since 1814, he had attended only six of these annual assemblies. In 1838, the Rev. Edward Livermore reported to the Convention: "The

[1] Batchelder's *Eastern Diocese*, i, 262–272, Claremont, N. H., 1876.

church has been long established in that town, — most of the early settlers being of her communion, and the present rector having officiated there more than fifty years. Most of the older inhabitants of the town retain their reverence and attachment for the doctrines and forms of our communion, but a large part of their descendants have apostasized from the Faith and the Church of their Fathers. The remote location of the parish from others of our churches, and the possession of two places of worship in which Divine Services were alternately performed, are among the causes of its present low condition." In 1841, Bishop Griswold said in his Convention Address, "Our venerable brother of Holderness has for many months been unable to officiate, and except some active missionary is sent thither, our church in that place will cease to be." Mr. Fowle died in 1847, and is buried in the graveyard by Squam Bridge.

The Free Will Baptists,[1] founded in 1780, at New Durham, by Benjamin Randall, came over to Holderness in the midst of a

[1] Parker's *History of Wolfeborough*, p. 269; Kelley's *History of New Hampton*, p. 33.

revival at New Hampton, and established a preaching station in 1800. They believed in the free payment of ministers as opposed to the collection of the minister's salary by taxation. There is no record of any such open contention at Holderness between their minister and the town minister as divided society in New Hampton and in Wolfeborough; but they quietly succeeded, and Mr. Fowle, ill and aged, as quietly failed. He preached against "enthusiasm," meaning the emotional presentation of religion, but the enthusiasts prevailed.

VIII

THE COUNTRY TOWN

WITH the death of Mr. Fowle, the portion of the history of Holderness which may fairly be described as the time of the beginnings is concluded.

Life went on very quietly in the country town as the seasons passed. The town meeting assembled regularly, as it does to this day, on the second Tuesday in March, and debated the condition of the roads and the levying of the taxes. In 1795, the postmaster general advertised for proposals for carrying the mails from Portsmouth by Dover, Rochester, and Moultonborough to Plymouth, returning by New Hampton, Meredith, Gilmanton, Nottingham, and Durham; and from Concord by Plymouth to Haverhill. The mail came once a week from May to November, and once in two weeks from November to May. The news of the busy world, the progress of the War of Independence, the annals of the estab-

lishment of the nation, with dim rumors of the lands beyond the ocean, came in the pages of the "New Hampshire Gazette," which began in 1756, and is still published at Portsmouth.

The "New Hampshire Gazette" in 1802 contained an advertisement of books, "for the amusement and instruction of Young People of both Sexes," just received from Philadelphia. Among the titles were "The Little Teacher," interspersed with cuts, "The Troubles of Life," "A Friendly Visit to the House of Mourning," "The Story of Joseph and his Brethren," "The Canary Bird, a Moral Story." A little gleam of light appears in a book on "Youthful Sports," but this is immediately dimmed by "Juvenile Trials, for robbing orchards, telling fibs, etc." This sombre aspect of life is reflected also in the commencement programme of that year at Dartmouth, when Arthur Livermore, the squire's son, was made an honorary master of arts. One of the topics was the question, "Does the World tend naturally to Dissolution?"

The boys found some excitement in hunting bears and wolves. Occasionally,

when the wolves made themselves more than usually obnoxious among the sheep-folds, all the farmers would be summoned to scour the woods, afterwards celebrating the victories of the day by a great feast at night.

There was land to be cleared, and fields to be ploughed and planted, and cattle to be cared for, and harvests to be gathered. The markets were at Newburyport and Boston, whither were carried the products of the place, — pork and butter, pease and beans, and flour. In the winter the driver prepared for the journey by putting in a store of "mitchin." This was bean porridge frozen into a solid lump. When he came to an inn, he chopped off a sufficient quantity for his dinner, and melted it before the fire. The country tavern provided shelter and drink, but most of the guests brought their own food. Tea and coffee were unknown in Holderness in the early part of the nineteenth century.

There was a good deal of drinking, but its effects were mitigated by the out-door life which the men lived. Samuel Shepard kept liquor at his inn on the College Road.

So did Levi Drew, as early as 1788, at his tavern near Long Pond, probably on the Province Road. This business was conducted under an annual license from the town. The innholder was permitted to sell "rum, wine, gin, brandy or other spirits by retail, that is, in less quantity than one gallon, and may sell mixed liquors, part of which are spirituous." This was the formula of 1808. Parson Fowle remarks, without comment, that much of the Holderness whiskey was made from potatoes.

Of serious offenses, there is no record or remembrance. There are frequent references to the building of a pound for strayed animals, but no mention of a jail for strayed men. A curious entry on the last leaf of the town-meeting book contains the confession of John Bayley and his wife Mehitable, that on the 29th of October, 1797, they did unlawfully take from the cellar of Mr. John Loud ten pounds of butter, and from his barn a bag of apples. John and Mehitable had been married the year before by Mr. Fowle, and were evidently finding it difficult to keep the family expenses within their legitimate income. But the

people in general were sturdy, thrifty, and self-respecting farmers.

There was little wealth in Holderness, but little poverty. In 1781, John Ennis was paid five shillings a week "for keeping and supporting Margaret Lyons in decent washing, lodging and victualing." The next year they reduced her to four shillings. Squire Livermore's account books show that the price of oats was two shillings a bushel; and of Indian corn, rye, and pease, four, five, and six shillings respectively. Men who worked on the farms in the summer got thirty shillings a month. Mrs. Samuel Shepard, when she drew up her will, made particular mention not only of "my red cloth cloke," but of "my silver spoon."

In 1791, they paid for doctoring Peggy Lyons one pound, two shillings and eleven pence. At that time, the doctor's usual fee was eight pence a visit. Dr. Lee's True Billious Pills were advertised in the "Dartmouth Centinel" of 1797 as especially good "after a debauch of eating or drinking." About the same time there was some discussion in the papers as to the virtues of

Dr. Perkins's Metallic Instruments for rheumatism.

Some of the old houses still stand strong and steadfast, simple and dignified structures, denoting the modest prosperity of their owners. Beside the doors the housewives of the present generation have planted splendid clumps of golden-glow. Every year, the dwellings of the summer residents increase in number, but they are for the most part quiet habitations, on good terms with the lakes and the wooded hills. The Livermores sold the Governor's Farm to Mr. Whiton, from whom it passed to Canon Balch of Montreal, and from him to the Holderness School. Canon Balch had a boys' camp on Chocorua Island, whose chapel is still a sanctuary; and his example made Squam Lake a favorite place for that wholesome form of summer life. In 1852, the interests of the great world touched these shores for a moment, when Harvard and Yale rowed in the first intercollegiate regatta at Centre Harbor,[1] and the captains dined with the Whitons.

[1] Dr. J. M. Whiton's *Commemoration of the First Intercollegiate Regatta*, 1903.

It is remembered that on the day preceding the race neither crew pulled an oar for fear of blistering their hands. The War of the Union carried young men from Holderness into far fields, from which some of them never returned. For several summers, John G. Whittier lived among these scenes, sometimes at the Sturtevant Farm, near Centre Harbor, where he slept in Priest Fowle's bed, and is remembered by the Whittier Pine,—the "Wood Giant" of his verse; sometimes at the Asquam House, where he wrote his "Storm on Lake Asquam." He glorified with his appreciative poetry our wooded shores, and green islands, and sunny fields, and horizon line of noble hills. He is the poet of the ever-increasing company of those who have Holderness in their hearts, for whom this book is written.

APPENDIX

WALKS AND DRIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF HOLDERNESS

BY

FREDERICK LEWIS ALLEN

APPENDIX

VIEW FROM THE SHEPARD HILL

(*From the roof of the Asquam House*)

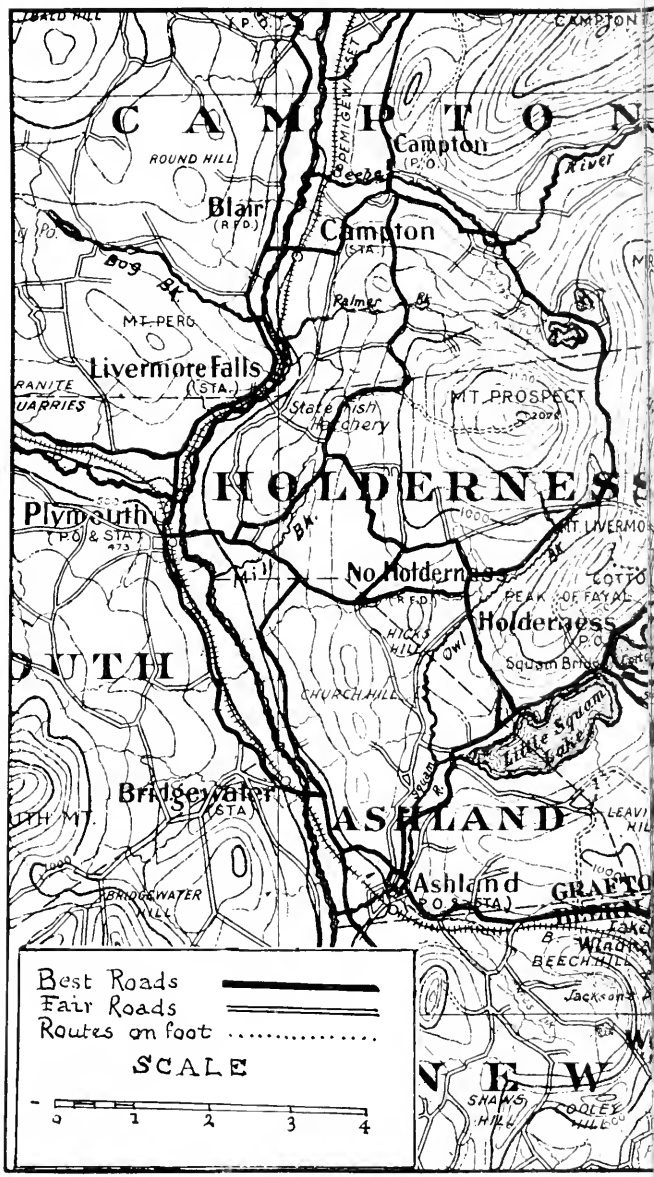
ABOUT west is Holderness village, to the right of which rise the Domes. Over these hills is the blue peak of Mt. Stinson, with a little of Mt. Carr over it. North of the "Domes" is Mt. Livermore, with Prospect's huge bulk farther away and to the right, and nearer at hand lies the broad southwest bay of the lake. From Mt. Livermore northward the long Squam Range extends, with the twin Rattlesnakes below its right portion, and with the lofty ridge of Sandwich Dome looming over it, nearly over the towers of the Mt. Livermore House, across the lake. To the right of Sandwich Dome are the ridges and double peak of Whiteface, while nearer and farther to the right is the dark notched dome of Israel. Paugus and Chocorua, the latter with its white peak, come next, over Mooney's Point. Just to the right of Chocorua a tiny bit of the Green Hills near Conway may be seen.

Red Hill is considerably to the right of these mountains, and only about six miles away. The

lake, dotted with islands, is spread out below. Over the right flank of Red Hill is the blue mass of Ossipee, while farther to the right and much nearer are the low dark ridges of Sunset Hill. The gaze next falls on White Oak Pond, with the delicate blue peak of the Copple Crown over its left end, and the Belknap Mountains over its central portion. Farther to the right is Beech Hill, sloping off sharply to the left, and then the view is shut out by the near-by mass of Leavitt Hill, about south. Little Squam Lake is about southwest, while over it are the Bridgewater Hills, the distant Mt. Cardigan, bulky Plymouth Mountain, and Church Hill, with Tenney Hill over it. Then the more distant outlook is shut out by the low hills over Holderness village.

THE DOMES

Of these three or four wooded peaks none are worth ascending except Peak of Fayal. Cotton Mountain, the highest, and Kesumpe, farthest to the northeast, have been frequently climbed, but there is no outlook from their wooded summits. Peak of Fayal is topped by an observatory which commands one of the most picturesque views about Squam Lake. It is ascended by a road starting in just opposite Smith Piper's Store, next to the Central House. Follow this road to the summit, being careful not to lose it where it bends sharply to the right in the highest fields, and you will be rewarded by a


BALD HILL
P.O.
CAMPTON
CAMPTON
ROUND HILL
Campton
(P.O.)
Pemigewasset River
Blair
(R.F.D.)
Campton
(STA.)
Bog Bk.
Palmer Bk.
MT. PERO
Livermore Falls
(STA.)
GRANITE QUARRIES
State Fish Hatchery
MT. PROSPECT
HOLDERNESS
Plymouth
(P.O. & STA.)
Bk.
No. Holderness
(R.F.D.)
PEAK OF FAYAL
Holderness
(P.O.)
Squam Brook
HICKS HILL
Owl
CHURCH HILL
Little Squam Lake
Squam R.
Bridgewater
(STA.)
ASHLAND
Ashland
(P.O. & STA.)
BRIDGEWATER HILL
BEECH HILL
Jackson
SHAWS HILL
COOLEY HILL
Best Roads
Fair Roads
Routes on foot
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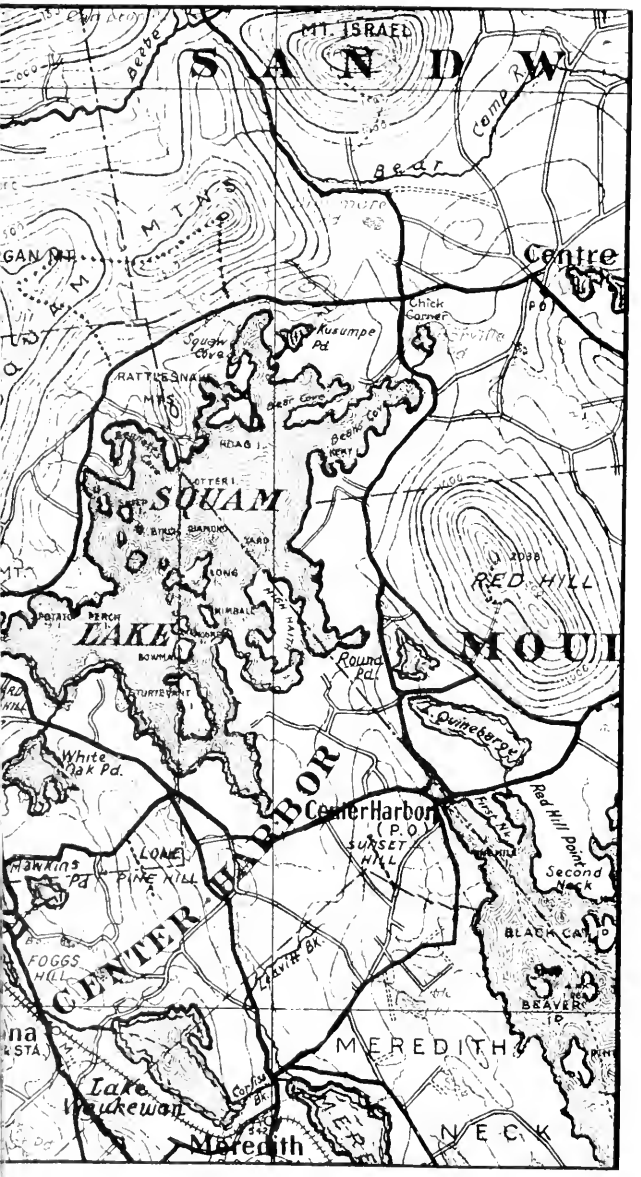

OF HOLDERNESS

rich prospect from the observatory. To the north and west are the wild, wooded, picturesque domes, between which are the great bulky form of Prospect and glimpses of the higher peaks beyond. To the west and south are Mts. Stinson and Carr, Mt. Cuba, Mt. Cardigan, Plymouth Mountain and the Bridgewater Hills and Leavitt Hill, over which is Beech Hill (in this order from right to left). To the northeast the Squam Range bends about the lake with Chocorua's blanched spire beyond, over the Rattlesnakes. But the most beautiful sight is the lakes. The bays of Great Squam reach up just below the peak, and the winding outlet may be followed till it flows into Little Squam. The rugged domes and the placid lake give a most vivid contrast, and it is this that lends charm to the view.

THE SQUAM RANGE

The Squam Range is a long ridge running from the southern end of Sandwich Notch a little south of west to Mt. Morgan, its highest point, thence about southwest to the "Hardscrabble" or "Mountain" road just north of Mt. Livermore. There are several points of nearly equal height on the range. The easternmost is a rounded summit called Sandwich Mountain on the maps (height about 2100 ft.), then come two wooded peaks known as Doublehead (2000 ft.), on whose slopes are fields reaching to within a quarter of a mile of the summit, and

finally the high knubbles of Morgan, the southernmost being 2162 ft. high. The long Hardscrabble ridge to the south is only about 1900 ft. high.

A very interesting and beautiful, though rather difficult, walk is enjoyed by leaving the main road at Etheridge's farmhouse, at the foot of Doublehead, and going at first through woods and pastures, then following the open fields to their upper edge, and ascending the left peak of Doublehead through the ravine between the peaks; walking thence along the ridge to Morgan, and from Morgan down to the open fields high above the Wallace farm. This walk may be taken the other way, but it is not advisable.

To ascend Mt. Morgan from the Wallace farm, back of the Rattlesnakes, inquire for a path going through the "sap-yard," to the site of an old farm. Beyond the old farm keep up to the upper left-hand corner of the fields, then go through the woods either by the ravine to the hollow between Morgan and East Morgan, or diagonally, due west, to the southern spurs of Morgan, and thence up.

The Views. From Doublehead, one of the most beautiful prospects of the lake is enjoyed, and in addition there is a fine vista between Sandwich Dome and Weetamoo, and a wild and picturesque view of these mountains.

Over the right flank of Squam Range are Stinson and Carr, then come Campton and Weetamoo, across the valley, over which are Kineo and the lofty Moosilauke ridge. To the right of Weetamoo

come, in turn, Kinsman, with Cannon's hump below, the rocky slopes of Welch, Tecumseh with its knob, and Osceola with its flattened top.

Between Welch and Tescumseh are Flume and Lincoln of the distant Franconia range. Sandwich Dome's vast bulk is just across the Beebe River valley, to the right of which are Whiteface, Passaconaway over its shoulder, Sandwich Mountain of the Squam Range, dark Israel, and the southern ridge of Chocorua.

The distant southern peaks are as follows:—

West Uncanoonuc — over Oak Hill, Meredith, and East Rattlesnake.

Joe English Hill — over Hodges Cove, Lake Asquam.

Pack Monadnock, Temple Mountain, and Kidder Mountain, grouped together — over White Oak Pond and Beech Hill.

Crotchet Mountain — just to the right of the latter peaks.

Monadnock Mountain — just to the left of Kearsarge in southern New Hampshire and over the Leavitt Hill.

From Morgan. Lincoln and Lafayette are just to the right of Weetamoo; then comes ledgy Welch Mountain, with Fisher over it and Tecumseh to the right; then, Osceola's two peaks; Hancock, beyond; and Kancamagus, with Carrigan over it, to the left of Sandwich Dome. The view of the lake is the best that can be gained.

The climb from Etheridge's to Doublehead, along the ridge to Mt. Morgan and thence down to the Wallace farm, may be done in from four to six hours.

MT. LIVERMORE

Mt. Livermore, which commands one of the most beautiful views about Lake Asquam, may be ascended very easily from the Mt. Livermore House. There are two routes, as follows: —

1. Go up the grassy "Lover's Lane" back of the hotel, then follow the "upper road" to the right, till you reach the first farmhouse on the left, whence there is a well-marked path to the summit.

2. After you reach the upper road keep along to the right till the "Hardscrabble" or "Mountain" road is reached. Follow this right up to the top of the ridge, whence a path leads to the left, a quarter of a mile, to the summit.

The first is recommended for those at the hotel and to the south, the second for those to the north.

The View is very beautiful. To the north Mt. Moosilauke, Mt. Kinsman, and Cannon Mountain are seen between Prospect's huge bulk and Campton Mountain; a little to the right Mts. Fisher and Tecumseh loom up over the shoulder of Campton Mountain; then come the Squam Range and the Sandwich Mountains. About east-northeast, to the left of Red Hill, the long blue ridge of Pleasant Mountain in western Maine is clearly seen on a fine

day. Over Red Hill, and beyond, is Ossipee's long ridge; again about southeast is Lake Winnepesaukee and over it the Belknap Mountains; while a little west of south is the lofty pyramid of Mt. Kearsarge near Lake Sunapee. Mt. Cuba is about west, near the Vermont line; to its right are Mts. Stinson and Carr. These are the most interesting and the most distant points seen from the peak. The view of Squam Lake being partly shut out by the low growth of oak near the top, the visitor would do well to descend to the upper end of the field just south, and view its bays and islands from that point.

MT. PROSPECT

Mt. Prospect is situated in the northern part of Holderness, 4–5 miles from Plymouth, and about 7 miles from Squam Bridge. The ascent is made from J. W. Pulsifer's Mt. Prospect Farm, on the road to Campton, west of the mountain. About 100 yards to the south of the farm the road, which formerly was used for carriages, but is now impracticable for them, starts in between granite posts. It is easily followed to the summit, and the climb of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles is not difficult, presenting glorious views all the way, which can best be enjoyed in the afternoon, when the visitor will be descending. There is a spring two thirds of the way up, on the right.

Low spruces are growing over the summit, and the best outlooks are obtained from the eastern

ledge, which is crowned by a signal beacon, and from a bare, rocky field considerably to the southwest. The panorama is supposed to rank among the first ten in the White Mountains.

The View to the North. A little north of west is Mt. Kineo's sharp knob, and at the right is the long high ridge of Moosilauke. Then comes the rounded peak of Kinsman; then, Cannon, falling off abruptly into Franconia Notch; then, the beautiful pyramid of Lafayette, at whose right is Mt. Flume, lower, but very sharp. Next follow Garfield, more distant, Scar Ridge, marked with a slide, a glimpse of Mt. Bond, Tecumseh's knob, with Fisher's gentle slope to the left and the ledges of Welch below, and Osceola, with its lesser peak, to the right. Below is the chain of the Campton Mountains. After Osceola comes a part of Mt. Hancock, flat Kancamagus, over which the lofty Carrigan looms up; and finally, farther to the right, is the distant Mt. Washington.

Farther to the right is the massive bulk of Sandwich Dome, to the east of which is Whiteface, and then Paugus, flattened on top. The Squam Range is near at hand. Over it are the peaks of Chocorua, the dark summit of Israel, and a glimpse of Mt. Pleasant in Maine. Beyond the monotonous ridge of the Squam Range are the Ossipee Mountains, and Red Hill; while over the low, bare top of Mt. Livermore are Squam Lake and, far beyond, Lake Winnepesaukee.

To the east, the foreground is the narrow valley of Owl Brook, to the west the broad and beautiful Pemigewasset Valley.

The following distant peaks are visible to the south:—

Twin Uncanoonucs, Manchester, N. H. Over Little Squam Lake.

Joe English Hill, and perhaps Wachusett in Massachusetts.

To the right of the New Hampton Hills, Crotchet Mountain in Francestown, then Pack Monadnock and Temple Mountain, together. Last is Mt. Kearsarge at Sunapee, over the Ragged Mountains.

MT. ISRAEL, SANDWICH

A pleasant day's excursion may be made from Holderness, by taking the morning boat to Sandwich, meeting a wagon, engaged by telephone of Brown, in Sandwich, driving to Mt. Israel, and having the wagon take you back in time for the afternoon boat.

There is no path up the peak, but there are two routes which can be taken by Holderness people. They both start from the farmhouse of Lewis Q. Smith. The first strikes straight up, by an old stone wall, to the top of the southern ridge, and follows the ridge to the summit. The second bears to the right across the fields to their extreme upper right-

hand corner, and then strikes for the summit. There is no path.

Each route takes from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours. The best view is from the East Peak, which is crowned by a beacon. The view is very fine, especially to the north.

The View. Sandwich Dome shuts out most of the northern view with its vast bulk, being only a few miles away. To the right is Tripyramid, marked with a great slide. A high ridge runs from Tripyramid to Whiteface; then come Passaconaway, Paugus, white Chocorua, and distant Mt. Pleasant in Maine, to whose right are the low peaks of Mts. Saddleback and Prospect in Maine. The long range of Ossipee is about southeast, on whose right is Lake Winnepesaukee, with the heights of Copple Crown and Tumble Down Dick over it. Nearer at hand is the low mass of Red Hill, over which are the two peaks of Mt. Belknap, clearly outlined, while to the right Lake Winnesquam can be seen. Lake Asquam fills out the southern foreground, laid out like a great map in the valley. Over the lake, and far away to the south, a great many distant peaks may be seen, including the Twin Uncanoonucs, the Temple Hills, and Mt. Monadnock, all of them over 50 miles away. Over the right of Little Squam Lake, which is to the right of Big Squam, is the clear blue point of Mt. Kearsarge, with the Ragged Mountains nearer and to the right. Nearer still are the low Bridgewater Hills. Over

these is Lovell's Mountain in Washington, while just to the right of Kearsarge is Mt. Sunapee, about the same distance away. In the southwest is the great mass of the Squam Range, with Mt. Morgan farthest to the right, over which is the comparatively level top of Mt. Prospect, almost as near.

Farther away rises Mt. Cardigan, on whose right, and extending some distance, are a number of distant Vermont peaks, including Mt. Ascutney. On the right of the Beebe River valley, nearer at hand, is Mt. Stinson, fairly sharp, and then comes the dark level ridge of Mt. Carr. Between these two, and only a few miles away, are the low Campton Mountains, separated from Sandwich Dome by the gorge of Sandwich Notch, over which are Mt. Kineo, sharply cut, and the high ridge of Moosilauke.

LEAVITT HILL

This little-known hill, about 1300 feet in height, covers the large area between Little Squam Lake and White Oak Pond. The western slope is largely cleared and from the top commands a fine panorama of distant mountains.

It is most easily reached by the road which ascends northeasterly from the outlet of Little Squam Lake, and, passing the clearing at the summit, then descends southerly by the Holmes Farm. This road is unsafe for a vehicle.

A charming walk to this hill follows the route of an obsolete road beginning in a lane, leaving the main road a little south of Bruce Piper's and H. S. Buzzel's on White Oak Pond. Follow this road through pastures, wood, and pastures again till you come out on an eminence, commanding a view of Little Squam Lake below. Descend to the left, cross the brook, and then ascend the pastures to the top of the clearing first mentioned.

The View. Beginning at the left is the flat ridge of Tenney Hill. Next Mt. Piermont, Church Hill near at hand, and then Mt. Stinson, with Mt. Carr directly behind. After Stinson comes Kineo, falling off sharply to the left, and over Kineo's right shoulder the conspicuous mass of Mt. Moosilauke. Mt. Prospect with its high fields comes next, and over a hollow on its right, distant Cannon Mountain. On a clear day the Franconia group stands out finely, with the two peaks of Lincoln and Lafayette, and the sharp pyramid of Flume to the right.

Then comes the long ridge of Campton and Weetamoo, with Mts. Fisher and Tecumseh and a bit of Osceola over its right end. Mt. Morgan, with Mt. Livermore first beneath it, shuts out the distant view. The Rattlesnakes appear below the Squam Range and the great mass of Sandwich Dome rises above. Last in turn appear Mts. Whiteface, Passaconaway, Israel, Paugus, and Chocorua.

SUNSET HILL

Sunset Hill is about seven miles east of Squam Bridge, not far from Center Harbor. It may be reached by following the Center Harbor road for about 5½ miles, and then taking a crossroad to the right, which finally reaches the old (upper) Meredith—Center Harbor road. The ascent may easiest be made from a farmhouse on this road, just north of the crossroads. The way to the summit is all through fields, except for one narrow strip of woods. The view of Lake Winnepesaukee on the east and Squam Lake on the west is very pretty, though not very extensive. The Belknap Range is to the right of Winnepesaukee; farther to the right Mt. Kearsarge at Sunapee is seen among the Sanbornton Hills; and more to the west is Cardigan's rocky dome.

The broad southern slope, which is the best viewpoint, makes a good picnic ground. The woods, unfortunately, shut out the northern outlook.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Rattlesnake Mountain. Lies on the west shore of Squam Lake, and is double-peaked. Ascend the east peak.

Red Hill. Northeast of the lake. Go by carriage to the foot, and climb by road and good path about

an hour. One of the best views in the mountains is gained from the observatory on the summit.

Lone Pine Hill. About one mile south of East Holderness. Leave the road at the site of the old Squam Mountain House, and climb through the fields to the great pine. The view is good.

McCrillis Hill. South of Lone Pine Hill. A carriage road leads to the top, where a beautiful view of the higher peaks is gained.

Oak Hill, Meredith. About two miles southeast of Winona Station. Ascend from a carriage shed on the road about a quarter of a mile to the open summit. The view includes Moosilauke, Lafayette (just to the left of Morgan), Tecumseh, and Osceola.

Diamond Ledge, Sandwich. To the north of the lake. Road passes near the top. Commands a striking view of the Sandwich Mountains, and an outlook over the lake.

Squaw Cove, Lake Asquam. In the northwest part of the lake, just north of the Rattlesnakes.

High Haight. A peninsula on the east shore of the lake. From the high rocky pasture there is an exquisite view. Good picnic ground.

LONGER DRIVES

Around the lake. A beautiful all-day excursion. Picnic at Diamond Ledge.

Peavey Hill. Commands a fine view. Situated southwest of Little Squam Lake.

Ossipee Park. On the slopes of Ossipee Mountain. Picturesque brook and falls, glorious view to the south. Long all-day excursion.

The Pinnacle. A bare eminence on Meredith Neck, near Meredith. Overlooks Lake Winnepesaukee.

Peaked Hill, Bridgewater. One of the best viewpoints in Grafton County. All-day carriage trip, with very short climb at the end. Such peaks as Moosilauke, Kinsman, Lafayette, Guyot, Bond, Cardigan, and Washington are visible, while the foreground is equally beautiful.

OTHER EXCURSIONS

The following are suggested: —

Mt. Belknap. Early train to Laconia, carriage to foot, fairly easy climb, and reverse. One day.

Mt. Moosilauke. Noon train to Warren, carriage to the Moosilauke, walk to Tip-Top House. Reverse next day, or else descend to North Woodstock.

Mt. Chocorua. Launch and carriage (Brown, of Sandwich — order by telephone) to foot. Walk to Peak House. Reverse next day.

Also steamboat trip on Lake Asquam; steamboat trip on Lake Winnepesaukee; Locke's Hill on Winnepesaukee (by train and carriage); Mt. Washington (going via Lake Winnepesaukee and Crawford Notch, returning by western route, three days), etc.

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