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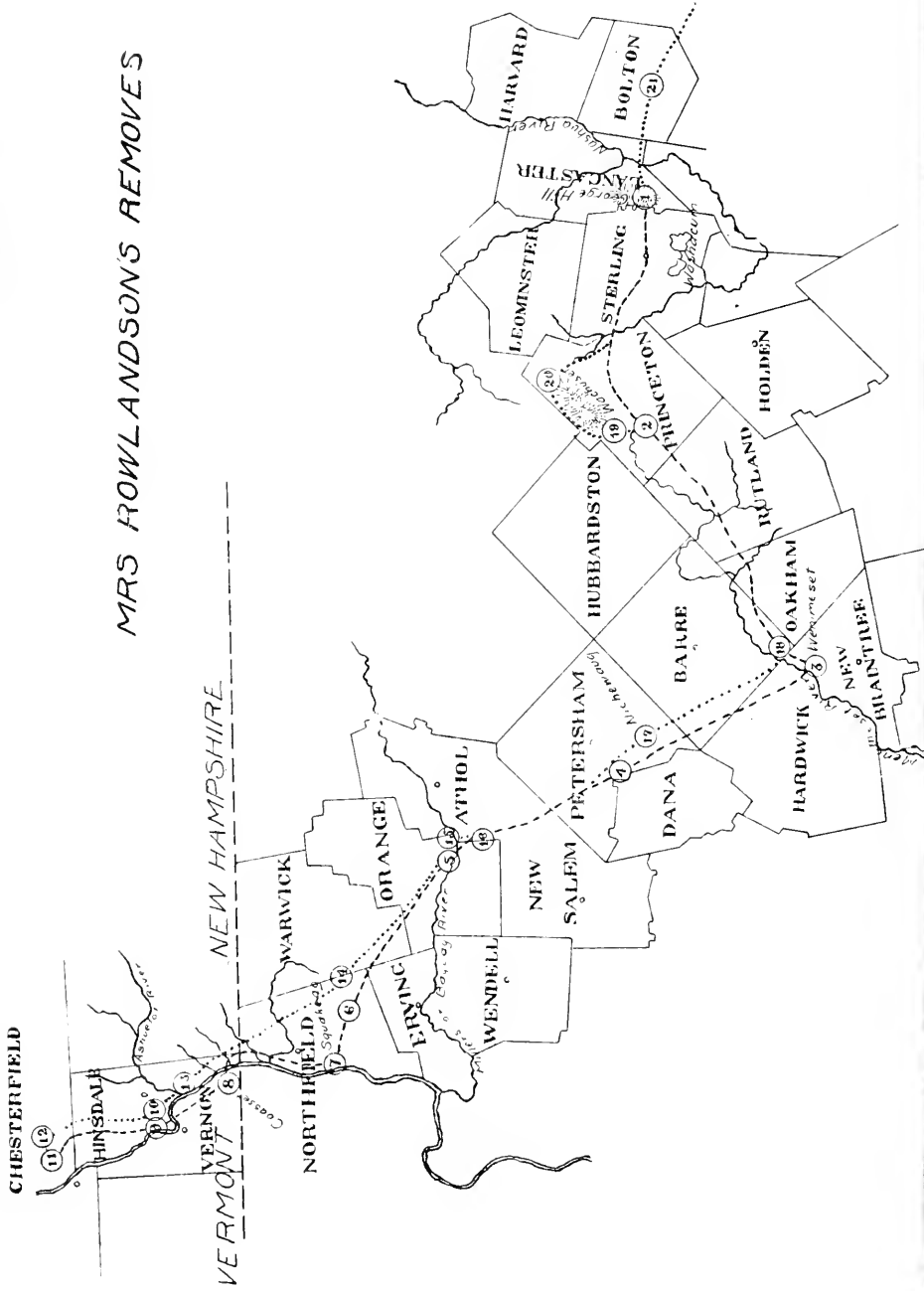








# MRS ROWLANDSON'S REMOVES





# LANCASTRIANA.

I.

A SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

EARLY RECORDS AND MILITARY ANNALS

OF

LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY

HENRY S. NOURSE.



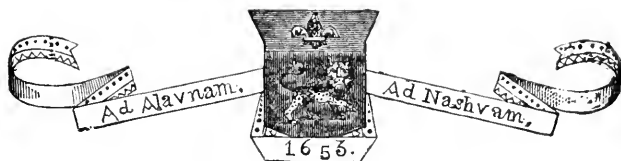
LANCASTER.

1900

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## PREFACE.

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SUCH original records as long and earnest search had brought to light, which could serve to illustrate, at any point, the story of Lancaster and her people during the period ending A. D. 1725, were collected into a volume printed in 1884. Since then a few items of interest relating to the same history have been found and are gathered in the following pages, together with other subsidiary matter, to serve as a supplement to *The Early Records of Lancaster*. A few historical notes are added supplementary to, or correcting, statements in *The Military Annals of Lancaster*, printed in 1889. Each item bears a reference to some page in those works.





# EARLY RECORDS

OF

## LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

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### THE LOST RECORDS.

**PAGES 6 and 152,** It has been surmised, and even asserted, that the missing records of Lancaster (1671-1717) were burned during the assault upon the town, July 31, 1704, by Chevalier Beaucourt's army of French and Indians. This might seem plausible, for the meeting-house was then destroyed, and also the neighboring dwelling of the third John Houghton, a leading citizen who held various town offices. Weighing heavily against the surmise, however, are the facts that no mention of such loss is made in the contemporary lists of property destroyed, and that the gap in town-meeting records extends twelve years later. The cause of the lamentable hiatus of forty-six years in the town-clerks' annals continues wrapt in mystery.

### REV. NATHANIEL NORCROSS.

**12, 340.** In a letter from Mrs. Lucy Downing to her brother, John Winthrop, Jr., dated December 17, 1648, she gives this information respecting the first minister of the Nashaway Plantation:—

Mr Norcross is flowen to Agamenticus, and there he sayth for his short experience he likes very well.

[Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., Series V, Vol. 1, p. 37.]

In 1649-50, Rev. Nathaniel Norcross returned to England and there died, August, 1662, being then called "late of St. Dunstons in the East-minster." He was born in England, about 1618, the son of Jeremiah.

#### DESCRIPTION OF NASHAWAY.

17. In a "Briefe Discription of New England," attributed to Samuel Maverick, occurs mention of the Nashaway Plantation. This manuscript was discovered in the British Museum in 1884, and was printed in full in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for January, 1885. It is not dated, but was written not far from 1653, when the name Lancaster was given to the settlement.

About ten or twelve miles about these Two Townes [Concord and Sudbury] is a Countrey Towne called Nashoway, first begun for Love of the Indians' Trade, but since the fertility of y<sup>e</sup> Soyle and pleasantness of the Riuer hath invited many more. There is excellent Salmon and Trout.

A letter written by John Eliot in 1650, found in the Hunterian Museum of the Glasgow University, among descriptions of other New England localities, says:—

West from Sudbury 16 myles lyeth Nashaway, inland, who want a Minister.

#### WATANANOCK.

33. The Nashaway River had another title among the Indians. Most long rivers were given by the aborigines different names in different portions of their courses, just as the white men at a later period called the stream now known as the Nashua, "Lancaster River," "Groton River," or "Harvard River," according to their own residence. In Colonial Records IV, part II, p. 569, it is called "Nashaway or *Watananock* River."

#### NASHAWAY SACHEMS.

38, 98, 117 133. The earliest known sachem of the Nashaways appears in New England history under the names: Showanon, Sholan, Shaumauw, Shoniow, Nashowanon, Nashacowan and Nashoonon; the number of his

aliases being indicative of his high renown. His home was upon a slight elevation between the two Washacum lakes. His immediate successor—November, 1654—was his nephew, Matthew, whose Indian name does not appear. Both Sholan and Matthew were firm friends of their white neighbors and of John Eliot. Upon the death of Matthew, at some unknown date before 1675, Shoshanim was elected sachem. He was known by the English as Sagamore Sam, and also bore the aliases Uskattuhgun and Upchattuck. Rivaling him in savage arts, tribal influence and hatred of the white man, was the Nashaway warrior One-eyed John, *alias* Monoco, *alias* Apequinash. Shoshanim and Monoco were hung at Boston, September 22, 1676. In one of his diaries, Increase Mather records this fact as follows:

Sep. 22. This day Sagamore Sam was hanged at Boston. And the sick Englishman that should have been executed the last Week (whose name was Goble) was hanged with him. It seems a mad woman got away the rope which should have hanged the English Man, wherefore he was hanged with the very same rope w<sup>h</sup> had hanged the Indian just before. The same day 3 other Indians hanged, viz the Sagamore of Quaboag, one eyed John and Jethro. They were betrayed into the hands of the English by Indians.

[Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings for January, 1900.]

The chief of the small remnant of the Nashaway tribe that survived King Philip's war was probably the noted Christian Indian, Quanapaug, whose aliases were: Quana-pohit, Quenepenet, James Wiser and James Rumneymarsh. In 1670, he deeded lands at Washacum to John Prescott, calling himself "of Weshakim," but later was resident at Natick. The last sagamore whose name appears in local story was George Tahanto, who, in 1701, deeded the remnant of the Nashaway lands to the Lancaster proprietors. He is called Sholan's nephew.

### WATAQUADOCK.

42. A hill, a pond and a brook in Brimfield also bear the name *Wataquaddock*, by which the great ridge which bounds the Nashaway valley on the east has ever been known.

## IRON WORKS.

49. Iron ore was known to exist in the Nashaway valley prior to the purchase of the township from Sholan. John Winthrop, Jr., in "Considerations about Iron Works," 1644, speaking of the Braintree ore, says:

There is of the same sort at severall places—neere Greeneharbour [*Marshfield*], at Nashaway, at Cohasset, at Woburne, and many other places.

[Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc., 2d s., VIII, 14.]

The earliest mention of the Prescott bloomary found is in deeds of the third John Prescott to his son in 1748:

.....land on which said Prescott's *forge* stands and bounded south-east on y<sup>e</sup> highway lately laid out as it is now marked.

.....land lying on a Brook called Prescott's Meadow Brook near where it runs into the Intervale ner y<sup>e</sup> *Iron Mine*.

[Worcester Registry, Vol. 28. 295-299.]

## HIGHWAYS.

61. The proprietors claimed and exercised ownership of the highways throughout the territory originally granted for the Nashaway Plantation until half a dozen towns had been carved from it, and troublesome questions often arose because of the divided jurisdiction. The following from the records of the Proprietary dates the surrender to the corporations of the title to the thoroughfares then existing:

1791. February 7,.....Voted that the proprietors relinquish to the several Towns within the Bound of old Lancaster all their Right to the Rodes in the Respective towns and that each Town have a Right to dispose of and alter said Roades within their limits, not to injure the publick.

## JURORS.

68. Lancaster was required to furnish two jurors for the county courts annually. The grand juror was paid three shillings per day, and the juror for special courts four shillings. They were chosen by the voters until 1774, when a special act of Parliament empowered the sheriffs to select them. An example of a warrant and sundry returns follow:

To the Constable of Lancaster. You are required to call your free-men together to choose one able and meet person to serve on the Jury



for Trials at the next County Court to be holden at Cambridge the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the next mo. also you are to warn your grand jury man to attend the said Court, and hereof you are to make a true return under your hands, not to faile.

Dat. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 1659.

THOMAS DANFORTH *Recorder*

Goodman John Moore is chosen and warned to attend the Court accordinge to direction by y<sup>e</sup> warrant by

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

JACOB FFARER *Constable*

1663. April 2. . . . Henry Kerly is fined five shill. for not appearing on the jury.

17. 7. 1672. . . . Laurence Waters is chosen by the freemen to serve on the jurie of tryalls and Richard Wheeler to attend the Court on the grand jurie as witnesseth:

JO. MORE, *Constable of Lancaster.*

20. 7. 1673. . . . Jacob ffarer Sen<sup>r</sup>. is chosen to serve on the jurie of tryalls and John More grand jurie man warned according to this summons as witnesseth:

JONATHAN PRESCOTT *Constable*

28. 1. 1673/4. . . . John Prescott Sen. is chose grand jurie man, and Sariant Henry Kerly for the jurie of tryalls. . . . by

JONATHAN PRESCOTT, *Constable of Lancaster*

20. 1. 1674/5. . . . John Prescott Sen. is chosen grand Juryman and Benjamin Allen for the jury of tryalls this 1<sup>st</sup> 2mo. 1675, as witnesseth.

ROGER SUMNER *Constable*

1684. . . . In answer to this warant the former grand juror was warned John Prescott is chose for the yere insuing to sarve in the grand jury. Jamse Houghton is chosen for the jury of tryalls. John More Sen. chose to answare for not having a pound.

30 dy. March 1684/5

THOMAS SAYER *Constable*

[Middlesex Court Files.]

### CHESQUONOPOG.

**70.** Chesquonopog Pond, mentioned as early as 1660 in town records, is proved by a deed of Samuel Bennett to his son Joseph, May 1, 1724—conveying lands “near to a place called Chesquonapoage Hill” and “Asiatic” or “Assoatetick Hill”—to be probably what is known as White’s Pond.

HENRY KERLEY.

**80.** Henry Karley of Lankester beinge a howse houlder and about 24 years of age and of good estate and in full comunion, desierrs the libertie of freedome by this Court. This I afirme

SIMON WILLARD.

Admitted to freedom 14 May '68. E. R. *Sec.*

[Massachusettes Archives.]

## GEORGE HILL.

82-3. George Hill was so called by the first planters in the Nashaway valley, appearing in proprietors' records as early as 1664 in an assignment of land—"ten acors lying on the top of George Hill"—to Daniel Gains the tailor. It is often asserted that the name was derived from that of an Indian who had a wigwam there, and Joseph Willard, Esq., (1826) mentions this, in a note to page 6 of his History of Lancaster, as traditionary. Rev. Abijah P. Marvin (1879), in his History of Lancaster, pages 38 and 65, definitely locates an "Indian Camp" on the southern slope of the hill, and even publishes a view of the place, alleging that it is the site of the first trucking-house. But the Middlesex Registry of Deeds gives abundant proof that the trucking-house was a quarter of a mile north of the position pictured, and on the eastern slope of the hill. To George Tahanto, the last known sachem of the Nashaway tribe, the honor of giving name to the hill is often attributed; but as Tahanto does not appear in history until 1701, and was, if not unborn, probably a minor in 1664, the title of Lancaster's chief elevation may have its origin from a much less romantic source. In fact, the name was presumably given to the locality because George Adams, a glover and trader of Watertown—in the earliest assignment of lands here made to the pioneers by Stephen Day, as early as 1645—received twenty acres for his home lot on the eastern slope of the hill, bounded north by the trucking-house lot which John Prescott bought of John Cowdall in 1647. Adams soon got into serious trouble by illicit trade with the Indians, as told in the court order given below, and his unimproved home lot was reconveyed by the proprietors to Jonas Fairbank. In 1670, however, Adams laid claim to the land and the town appeased him by a grant of sixty acres near "Washacome." There he built and lived, apparently a genial neighbor to the Indians.

In ans<sup>r</sup>. to the petition of George Addams, the Courte finding that he was found guilty of selling two gunnes and strong waters [to the Indians] having nothing to satisfy the lawe, determined that he shall be severely whipt the next lecture day at Boston, and then discharged the prison. May 13, 1653. [Mass. Records, IV, part I, 133.]

In ans<sup>r</sup>. to the petition of George and Francis Addams, humbly desiring the favour of this Court to confirm vnto them a certain parcell of vpland and meadow seuerall yeares since given to them by Shoniow Sachem of Nashaway, deceased, called by the name of Washaame Hill, being about the quantity of two hundred acres, which land hath, since the death of the sajd Shoniow, binn confirmed to them by Matthew, his nephew, so called by the English, before the honoured Capt. Gookin, and since the sajd Matthews decease agam confirmed by Samuel now Sagamore of the place, and alike acknowledged the seventh of this instant May 1675, the Court judgeth it meet to grant the petitioners request.

[Mass. Records, Vol. V, 39.]

### WILLARD GARRISON.

**95-6.** In the report of a committee upon the compensation petitioned for by the heirs of Major Simon Willard for losses during King Philip's war, one item among the claims allowed was:

Expenses out of purse in repairing the house *blown up* at Lancaster 8*£* 5<sup>s</sup>. 6<sup>d</sup>.

At the abandonment of Lancaster in March, 1676, all buildings that could serve as shelter for the savages were burned, or as in the case of this substantial garrison house of Cyprian Stevens, were destroyed by gunpowder.

### MOHAWK RAID.

**97.** The "Maquas Wars" which, according to Daniel Gookin, broke the power of the Nashaway tribe, raged from 1663 to 1669. The Mohawks, a warlike race and the hereditary foes of the Massachusetts Indians, in 1663/4 made a fierce raid eastward, overwhelmed the Connecticut River tribes and carried fire and slaughter even to the neighborhood of the Wachusett and Washacum strongholds:

At a Council Called by the Gouvernor and Dept. Gouvernor and Assembled together the 24th of November 1663. Whereas this Councill is Informed by Major Willard that the Mohawks are lately come downe and slaine seuerall of the Confederate Indians who are in confederacy with vs. It is Ordered that Major Willard be and hereby is betrustrd with furnishing of y<sup>e</sup> said Confederate Indians with powder and shott proportionable not exceeding three barrells.

E. R. s.

So far as appears, this was all the assistance given by the

white men to their copper-colored "Confederates." In the summer of 1669, an army of over six hundred warriors organized from the Massachusetts tribes, under the leadership of Chickatawbut, sought revenge upon the Mohawks, assailing them in their own fastnesses. They found their foes not unprepared, but were at first victorious. Finally, through lack of ammunition and food they were forced to retreat, and were ambushed and routed with great slaughter, losing their chief sachem and many of their ablest warriors. From this time the "Confederate Indians" seem to have lost confidence in the neighborliness of their English allies, growing rapidly more and more dissatisfied, until at last they became the willing agents, and the victims, of Philip's wily schemes.

#### LANCASTER MEN AT QUABAUG.

**98.** Major Willard marched from Lancaster to the relief of Brookfield August 4, 1675, with Captain Parker of Groton and forty-six men, his original destination being "to look after some Indians to the westward of Lancaster and Groton," doubtless the Nashaways. With him were these Lancaster men in September at Quabaug:

Jonathan Prescott.	Daniel Gains.	Thomas Beaman.
John Divoll.	Ephraim Sawyer.	William Kerley.
Josiah White.	Daniel Adams.	

#### MONOCO'S RAID.

**99.** August 22 [1675] being the Lord's Day, the *Indians* about *Lancaster* Killed a Man and his Wife and two Children in the afternoon exercise. [Increase Mather's *A Brief History of the War with the Indians*, 1676.]

#### QUANAPAUG'S RELATION.

**100.** James Quanapaug's Information—January 24, 1676—was taken down by two scribes, and their versions while agreeing in all essential particulars, differ greatly in phraseology. The "Relation" preserved in the Connecticut archives is the more complete report, and gives the passages quoted in *The Early Records of Lancaster*, as follows:

.....but James [at the second towne] he came too met with John with one eye of Weshakum [a stout Captaine among them.] this man

Knew James and said thou hast been with mee in the warr with the Mauhaks and I know thou art a valiant man and therefore none shall wrong thee nor kill thee here but they shall first kill me. Therefore abide at my wigwam and I will protect thee. So this man entertained him kindly, & protected him. Job his companion stayd at Pumham's wigwam wher his 3 children were kept; hee and Job aboad with these indians severall daies & sometimes went forth to hunt deere not farr of & returned againe, hee labored to gaine what information hee could of their affayres, & was informed by Capt John [with one eye] his host & others said things, vizt. that Philip was quartered this winter within halfe a dayes iorny [north of?] fort Albany, . . . . . that they had got and caried away all the corne at Pakuahooage & in the Nipmuck country vnto their quarters, vpon wch they had lived this winter & vpon beefe & porke they had kild about Quaboage, & venison of wch there is great store in those parts & by reason of y<sup>e</sup> deep snow y<sup>r</sup> being [mid thigh deep] it is easy to kill deere without gunns, hee saith that ere long, when y<sup>r</sup> beefe & porke & deere is spent & gon, that they will be in want of corne, but they intend then to com downe vpon the English townes, of Lancaster Marlborow Groton, & particulely they intend first to cut off Lancaster bridge and then say they there can no releef com to you from Boston nor the people cannot escape & their they hope to have corne enough. . . . .

#### THE MASSACRE OF 1676.

**102.** Rev. Increase Mather's A Brief History of the War with the Indians in New England, 1676, was written before William Hubbard's Narrative appeared, and gives some information respecting the destruction of Lancaster not found in the latter:

. . . . .also the *Indian* spies declared, that there was a designe, within such a time to burn *Lancaster*, which came to pass both as to time and manner accordingly.

For upon the 10th of *February* some hundreds of *Indians* fell upon *Lancaster*, burnt many of the Houses, kill'd and took Captive above forty persons. Mr *Rowlandson* (the faithful pastor of the Church there) had his House, Goods, Books all burned; his Wife, and all his Children led away Captive before the Enemy. Himself (as God would have it) was not at home, whence his own person was delivered, which otherwise (without a Miracle) would have been endangered. Eight men lost their lives, and were stripped naked by the *Indians*, because they ventured their lives to save Mrs *Rowlandson*. As this good Man returned home (having been at *Boston* to intercede with the Council that something might be done for the safety of that place) he saw his *Lancaster* in flames, and his own house burnt down, not having heard of it till his

eyes beheld it, and Knew not what was become of the Wife of his bosome, and Children of his Bowels.....

Rev. Cotton Mather in the seventh book of his *Magualia Christi Americana* gives a similar account, generally using Hubbard's words, and adding nothing of interest. Hubbard's Narrative agrees so entirely with the reports of the Indian spies, Job and Quanapohit, and with all other contemporary records, that it may be accepted as a complete confutation of the tradition that Philip led the assault upon Lancaster. This persistent myth probably had its origin in the unhistoric statement made by Rev. Timothy Harrington in his *Century Sermon*, 1753:

But Philip with the rest confessed by themselves after the peace to be 1500, marched for Lancaster, in which there were then above fifty families—And on the 10th of February, 1676, assaulted in five distinct bodies and places.....

The Lancaster historians, Joseph Willard and Rev. Abijah P. Marvin, accepted this dubious tradition without question, and Rev. Peter Whitney, John W. Barber, John Langdon Sibley, and more recently, even John Fiske—in his *Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America*, II, 60—have perpetuated it. But at the date of the destruction of Lancaster, Philip and his forces were either in their winter quarters "half a day's journey north of Fort Albany," as Quanapohit's Relation of January 24, 1675-6, tells us, or were retreating through the woods towards Squakeag after a disastrous fight with the Mohawks. Mrs. Rowlandson, in her Narrative, relates that Robert Pepper, a fellow prisoner who had been captured September 3, 1675, in Captain Beer's fight, told her on February 12, at Menamesset, that he had been taken "almost as far as Albany to see King Philip," and had "very lately" returned thence. She also records that she did not see Philip until March 8, when she reached Coasset, on the west bank of the Connecticut River, a little north of the boundary line between Vermont and Massachusetts. The following letter from Sir Edmund Andros, governor of New York, to the Connecticut government, gives similar information:

N. YORCK, y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1675[6].

Hon<sup>rd</sup> Sr. Thow I have nott yett had sutable returnes, if any at all, I cannott however obmit my part. This is to acquaint you that late last night I had inteligence that Philip & 4 or 500 North Indians, fighting men, were come 40 or 50 miles of Albany northerly, where they talke of continuing this winter; that Phi: is sick, and one Sahamoschuha, the Comander in Cheef. Whereupon I have despatched orders theither.

This accompt to yrseife, or if yu think fitt, to your Assistances; but I thinck is needles to be published to the whole comonalty. from

Your Humble Servant

E. ANDROSS.

[Connecticut Colonial Records, II, 397.]

Under date of February 8, 1676, a letter to London, printed by Samuel G. Drake in *The Old Indian Chronicle*, p. 99, confirms these statements as to Philip's winter quarters, and Mr Drake locates him at "Scatacook" on the east bank of the Hudson, about twenty miles above Albany. Philip was supposed to be seeking an alliance with the Mohawks against the Massachusetts Colony, and purchasing powder and arms of the Dutch. Much more explicit is the statement of Sir Edmund Andros, in "A Short Account of the Generall Concerns of New Yorke from October 1674 to November 1677," to be found printed in *Documents relative to the Colonial History of New York*, III, 255:

..... In November and December Phillip and other Indiyans about a thousand in two partys armed, went up into the country, and came within about forty miles of Albany, of wh<sup>ch</sup> notice by our Indiyans to y<sup>e</sup> comander att Albany and by him expresse to the Governm<sup>t</sup> att New Yorke, the rivers all frozen. The Governour imediately dispatched reiterated orders to y<sup>e</sup> comander for said Phillips &c to remove, if not effected afore y<sup>e</sup> receipt of said Orders, and sent an Expresse with Letters and Ample Instructions to Connecticutt, desiring Liberty for our forces, Christians or Indiyans, to pursue such y<sup>e</sup> Enemyes of said Connecticutt into their parts as occasion &c. and y<sup>e</sup> like after to Boston; but being denied, and the River opening unexpectedly the beginning of ffebruary 1675/6. he took y<sup>e</sup> first opportunity to goe up with an additional force and six sloops to Albany, and found att his arrivall about three hundred Maquaas Souldiers in town returned y<sup>e</sup> Evening afore from y<sup>e</sup> pursuit of Philip and a party of five hundred with him whom they had beaten, having some prisoners and the crowns, or hayre and skinne of the head, of others they had killed; Att their setting out the Commander had furnished the whole party with store of Ammuniçon, and all sorts of arms and necessarys they wanted, and received their old Sachems wives and children into the town; but now upon our neighbour's refusall the Gov-

ern<sup>r</sup> was put to a further greater charge, as well as authority to stop their prosecuting said Indyans into our Neighbour's Colony, which would else have proved of a farre worse consequence; . . . . .

Andros' letter to Connecticut referred to in this document was dated February 4, 1676, and the reply to it—printed in Connecticut Colonial Records, II, p. 406, was sent February 10, the very day of the destruction of Lancaster. The Indian forces assailing Lancaster probably numbered about four hundred warriors, led by five sachems: Sagamore Sam and Monoco of the Nashaways, Muttaump *alias* Maliompe of the Quabaugs, Matoonas of the Nipnets, and Quanopin of the Narragansetts. Samuel Sewall in his Diary, I, 22, calls Maliompe the "general at Lancaster." Hubbard's language, as well as that of Quanapohit, apparently proves that the historians who include the Nashaway tribe among the Nipnet Indians, are in error.

#### THE COUNCIL'S LETTER TO MAJOR WILLARD.

**104.** A letter of the Council dated February 11, 1675/6, addressed to Major Simon Willard, follows. Major Willard had shown marked ability in his conduct of military operations, so outranking his associate officers in this respect that the colonial government proposed to place him in supreme command of its forces:

Sir. The Council received your letter and are sorry for your excuse for not coming to the Council by reason of the state of Lancaster, which we desire you to endeavour to the utmost of your power to relieve and succour. We are using our best endeavours to prepare more forces to send to distress the enemy. You shall hear more from us speedily, and in the interim we desire you to be in readiness if you should have a full command over the forces to be sent forth from the Colony.

[Mass. Archives.]

E. R. *Secy.*

#### SISTER DREW.

**104, 114.** The singular translation of Mrs. Hannah (White) Divoll to "Sister Drew," which occurs in the London pamphlet, *News from New England*, is rivaled by Thomas Cobbett's version of the same name to Diuens. Both Joseph Willard, Esq., and Rev. Abijah P. Marvin, how-



ever, in their histories adopted the Drew family into Lancaster story without any qualms, and even evolved a Mr. Drew to join with the party which went to Boston for aid against the impending assault of the savages! [See Willard's History of Lancaster, p. 39, and Marvin's Lancaster, pp. 96, 98, 107, 108 and 112.]

#### THOMAS ROWLANDSON.

**104.** Thomas Rowlandson, says Joseph Willard on page 39 of his History of Lancaster, "was brother to the clergyman," and Mr. Marvin perpetuates the same error on pages 96 and 106 of his history of the town. Rev. Joseph Rowlandson had a brother, Thomas, who lived in Salisbury and died there in July, 1682. It was his son, Thomas junior, who perished at Lancaster. Even the careful John Langdon Sibley adopts Willard's error, on page 319, volume I, of his Harvard Graduates.

#### JOHN KETTEL.

**105.** Rev. Timothy Harrington, in a foot-note to his Century Sermon, includes in his list of the slain at the massacre of the Rowlandson garrison, "John Kettle and two sons." On a memorial erected in Stow, 1883, to mark the supposed site of a John Kettell's cabin—he being one of the first settlers of that town—it is recorded that "he was killed by the Indians Feb. 10, 1676." Mr. Harrington has been deemed worthy of credence in most of his statements regarding the destruction of Lancaster, for they were written only seventy-seven years after the event, and must have been based upon the recollections of survivors of that bloody episode living in his day. Notable among such survivors were: Caleb Sawyer, who was seventeen years of age when the savage followers of Sagamore Sam raged around his father's stockaded garrison, and Lieutenant Jabez Fairbank, then a child of five years, who lost his father on that eventful day. Moreover, in the congregation under Mr. Harrington's ministrations were scores of the children of those who suffered by savage tomahawk or torch during Philip's war. But Rev. George F. Clark, historian of Stow, in the New England His-

torical and Genealogical Register for October, 1896, has apparently proved by documentary evidence that John Kettell and his sons John and Joseph survived the massacre of 1676 several years.

Kettell owned no land in Lancaster, but leased a farm near Walnut Swamp belonging to Abraham Joslin. He has always been supposed to be that John of Sudbury, son of Richard of Charlestown, born in 1639, who married first Sarah Goodnow, and second, Elizabeth Ward. Another John Kettell, an older man, owned three hundred acres in Stow where the above named memorial with its questionable inscription stands. But this John died in Salem, 1685. Was Rev. Timothy Harrington misinformed as to the tragic fate of the Kettell family, or was there a third of the name? When Mrs. Elizabeth Kettell and two daughters were captured, how did the male members of the family escape?

Probably Henry Kerley, Jr., should be classed among those slain. The captive "child Kerley, name and age unknown," was undoubtedly Elizabeth, the oldest daughter. The birth of this daughter is not a matter of record, but she is mentioned in her father's will, and was that Elizabeth who in 1686 married Daniel How of Marlborough. Mary and Hannah Kerly and Joseph Joslin finally escaped from captivity or were ransomed.

### SOLDIERS IN MASSACRE ?

**106.** On September 8, 1675, the Council ordered fifty men to be detailed from Norfolk and Middlesex counties for assignment among the garrisons of Lancaster, Groton and Dunstable. At the Lancaster garrisons, January 25, 1676, there were fourteen soldiers on duty from other places, as shown by Treasurer Hull's accounts. (See Rev. George M. Bodge's *Soldiers in King Philip's War*, p. 301.) It is probable that some of these suffered in the massacre of February 10, adding to the number of anonymous casualties.

### RANSOM OF CAPTIVES

**112, 114.** 1676. May 3. Election Day. This day Mrs. Rowlandson was, by a wonderful hand of Providence, returned to her hus-

band after she had been absent eleven weeks in the hands of the Indians.

[Increase Mather's Diary.]

The Lord from Heaven smiled upon us at this time; for the day before this Thanksgiving, as also the day after, he gave us to hear more of our Captives returned; particularly Mr Rowlandson's Children are now brought in as answers of Prayer. It is not a small mercy that the mother and children (only one childe was killed when the others were taken) should all of them be saved alive.

[Increase Mather's Brief History.]

A petition of John Hoar to the General Court, May 24, 1682, discloses the fact that in 1665 he had been imprisoned, fined fifty pounds, put under bonds, and disbarred from pleading as a lawyer. After stating that during Philip's War, by order of Major Willard, Major Gookin, Mr. Eliot and the Concord selectmen, he had charge of about sixty Nashoby Indians, and built a fort for them costing forty pounds and endangered his life in their behalf, he adds:

I also made severall journeys to Lancaster and to the Counsell, and two journeys to the Indians to redeme Mrs Rowlinson and Goodwife Kettle, with two horses and provisions, and gave the Sagamores considerably of my owne estate above whatever I received of the Country, and by the favor of God obtained of them that they would fight no more but in their own defence. Seth Perry also had severall things of mee to give the Indians that he might escape with his life.

#### CAPTAIN HINCHMAN'S CAPTURES AT WASHACUM.

**116.** June 7, 1676. Our Forces now abroad came upon a party of Indians not far from Lancaster, and killed some of them, and took nine and twenty of them Captive.

[Increase Mather's Brief History.]

Ours by direction of Tom Dublet (a Natick Indian who was a little before employed in the redemption of the captives) following tracks of Indians, came upon a party of the enemy fishing in Weshacom ponds, towards Lancaster, of whom they killed seven and took twenty-nine mostly women and children; yet belonging to considerable persons it made the success the more to be valued.

[William Hubbard's Narrative.]

June 7. The army abroad took twenty-nine Indians and brought them to Boston. One was that squaw that domineered over Mrs. Rowlandson.

[Increase Mather's Diary.]

Among the captives thus taken by Captain Daniel Hinchman at Washacum were the wife and children of Shoshanim and the wife of Muttaump. They were sold into slavery in

the West Indies. Weetamoo, squaw of Quanopin and sister-in-law of Philip, referred to by Mather as "domineering over Mrs. Rowlandson," was not captured at Washacum, but was drowned in August at Mattapoissett. Mrs. Rowlandson was Weetamoo's maid, Quanopin having bought her from her captor, a warrior of his own tribe.

REV. JOSEPH ROWLANDSON.

**119, 301, 340.** At a town meeting April 7, 1677, the Committee formerly chosen to inquire after an able minister for the town having advised and directed the town to the Rev. Mr. Rowlandson, lately a minister of the church of Lancaster in the Bay Colony, and Mr. Rowlandson being by the invitation of the said Committee come to give them a visit, the town being very desirous of Mr. Rowlandson's settling amongst them in the work of the ministry, in order to his encouragement thereunto they voted and granted to allow him an hundred pounds per year and the free use of all the parsonage lands and houses during his continuance amongst them in the work of the ministry if he shall come and settle amongst them. And for his further encouragement (in order for his procuring of a settled habitation in the town) the town granted moreover to give him one hundred pounds, and to pay the same within five years after his coming and settling amongst us, after the rate of twenty pounds per year. [Wethersfield Records.]

From this record it appears that Mr. Rowlandson was not settled as colleague to the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, although all Lancaster's historians and John Langdon Sibley have so alleged. Mr. Bulkeley had asked and received dismission before Mr. Rowlandson's settlement in Wethersfield, and had removed to Glastonbury where he practiced as a physician.

Nov. 28, 1678. . . . it was agreed and voted that Mrs. Rowlandson shall have allowed for this present year, Mr. Rowlandson's whole year's rate, and what was formerly promised,—which in all will amount to six score pounds, and from henceforth the Town shall allow the said Mrs. Rowlandson thirty pounds per year so long as she shall remain a widow amongst us. [Wethersfield Records.]

TOWN-MEETING RECORD, 1686.

**124.** The following memorandum of the action of a town-meeting (proprietors') in the hand-writing of John Houghton, was found upon a scrap of paper in 1885:

## TOWN MEETING

Monday the 16 day of August 1686 the town met at the meeting house. 3ly. Seueral of the Inhabitance on the east side the Riuer propounded for a way to Goodman Prescotts Corne mill to ly ouer the Riuer at the Scar. Goodman Prescott told the town that if they would Grant him about twenty acres of Land upon the mill Brook Lying aboute his own Land for his conuaniancy of preserving water against a time of drought he was willing the town should haue a way to the mill throw his Land. John Prescott hath a piece of Land laid out to him by a Committee appoynted to that end to Lay out a highway from the Scar to the mill threw John Prescott's Land, and the Land allowed him in Lew of it Lyeth on the mill Brook near to the South Meadow bounded north and east by his own Land and South and Southeast by Common Land. A discription whareof was Red before the town the 6th of February 1687/8, and ordered to be Recorded.

Recorded this 9th of February 1687/8. pr me

JOHN HOUGHTON *Recorder*

[Also recorded in Middlesex Registry, XII, 117.]

The northern portion of High Street in Clinton occupies in part the location of this way to the Prescott mill, which remained in use until 1742, when it was abandoned and the bridge built at the South Lancaster mills, on the site now used.

## LANCASTER PROPRIETORS, 1688.

**127.** Among the papers of Jonathan Wilder, Joseph Willard found an ancient memorandum with the caption: "List of those who subscribed to the minister's house in 1688." This heading, and the quaint phrase in which the simple legal transfer of the new parsonage to Mr. Whiting by the town-meeting of January 3, 1690, was recorded, ("And the town the same time went out of the house and gave Mr John Whiting possession thereof"), seem to have strangely misled one of our historians. On page 160 of Rev. Abijah P. Marvin's *History of Lancaster* the episode is curiously expanded into:—a general subscription; the planting of many shade-trees; a "red letter" day with "a large gathering of parents and children;" "a feast of fat things and the voice of song and prayer," etc.; in short, into a combination of picnic, house-warming, prayer-meeting and donation party, neither substantiated by any evidence nor congruous

with the habitude of the times or with local conditions. There was no incentive to popular subscription, since colonial law compelled the town to provide a habitation for their minister or compound with him, "allowing him a competent and reasonable sum to provide for himself so long as he shall continue with them." The fact that this list includes the names of several who had at that date been long in their graves, and of others non-resident, proves that it is only the constable's rate-list, naming all estates liable for the support of the ministry in 1688. The list is here given, the names of persons deceased in 1688 being marked \*, and those of non-residents, so far as known, †:

John Moore Sen <sup>r</sup>	Zebediah Wheeler	Matthew Stone
Thos Sawyer Sen <sup>r</sup> .	John Wilder	Arthur Tooker
Thos Wilder	Gamaliel Beman	Samuel Wheeler
Sergt John Moore	John Beman	Simon Gates†
Ralph Houghton	James Snow	Barachiah Lewist
Josiah White	John Houghton	Nath <sup>l</sup> Wales†
John Sawyer	John Willard	Jona. Willard†
John Roper*	Benjamin Willard	Lawrence Waters*
John Warner	Jeremiah Wilson	Edmund Parker†
George Newby	John Prescott	Thos Swift†
George Hewes	Joseph Houghton	Jona Prescott†
Daniel Hudson	Jonas Houghton	John Rigby†
Richard West	Robt Houghton	Capt Henry Carley†
John Priest	John Hinds	Archelaus Courser*
James Atherton	Widow Houghton	Daniel Gaines*
Nath <sup>l</sup> Wilder	Thos Sawyer Jr.	John Bailey†
John Rugg Sen.	Caleb Sawyer	Dea. Roger Sumner†
John Rugg Jr.	Abraham Wheeler	Nath <sup>l</sup> Joslin†
Eph <sup>m</sup> Roper*	Isaac Wheeler	Mordecai McLoad*
Peter Joslin	John Hutson	Henry Joslin†
John Bush	Wm Hutson	Jerem <sup>h</sup> Rogers*
Josiah Whitcomb	Joseph Waters	John Divoll*
Nath <sup>l</sup> . Wilson	Cyprian Stevens	George Adams†
John Glazier	Samuel Sumner	Benj Allen*
James Houghton	Christopher Lewis	Mr. Geo. Robinson†
Henry Willard	Isaac Lewis	John Pope†
Joshua Atherton		

GARRISONS OF LANCASTER IN 1692.

*The Settltmt of the Garrison at Lancaster, 18th. 1. 1691-2.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>(1) Josiah White and<br/>Thomas Pope<br/>James Holton [Houghton]<br/>Joseph Holton<br/>John Hudson<br/>James Hudson<br/>James Atherton<br/>Matthew Stone<br/>and Two Souldiers. <i>10 men</i></p> <p>(2) Philip Goss and with him<br/>John More<br/>John Bemon<br/>Peter Joslin<br/>— Jonathan Whitcomb<br/>George Hues<br/>— Cyprian Stevens<br/>Jno. Prescott with<br/>their familys. <i>9 men.</i></p> <p>3. Thomas Sawyer and Sawyer's<br/>men.<br/>Abraham Wheeler<br/>Isaac Wheeler<br/>Caleb Sawyer Sen<sup>r</sup>.<br/>Thomas Sawyer<br/>Nathaniel Sawyer<br/>Jonathan Fairbanks<br/>James Frost<br/>John Darbyshire with<br/>their familys. <i>11 men.</i></p> | <p>(4) Nathaniel Wilder and<br/>John Sawyer<br/>Jabez Fairbanks<br/>Mr Samuel Carter<br/>Mr John Whiting<br/>with their familys. <i>8 men.</i></p> <p>(5) Ephraim Roper and<br/>Jno Rugg<br/>Jno Rugg Jun<sup>r</sup>.<br/>Joseph Rugg. <i>4 men</i><br/>Daniel Hudson and his two sons<br/><i>3. men</i> must repair to them in<br/>[time] of danger. At present<br/>they may continue in their own<br/>house it having a good Fort.</p> <p>(6) Lieut Thomas Wilder and<br/>John Hinds<br/>Robert Holton<br/>James Snow<br/>Jonas Holton<br/>Jeremiah Wilson<br/>Jno. Holton<br/>Jno. Wilder<br/>Ganaliel Bemon<br/>with their familys. <i>13 men.</i></p> <p>(7) Ensign John More<br/>Nathaniel Wilson<br/>Richard West<br/>Josiah Whitcomb<br/>and their familys. <i>8 men.</i></p> <p>(8) Henry Willard and<br/>Joshua Atherton<br/>John Priest<br/>John Warner and<br/>Two Souldiers, with their familys<br/><i>8 men.</i></p> |
|---|---|
- 74 men 8 men.

The above list is from a manuscript found by John Farmer, Esq. It was printed in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for October, 1889. Garrison No. 1 was upon the east side of the Neck, probably where Nathaniel C. Hawkins now lives. No. 2 was near the Sprague

bridge; Philip Goss lived on the site of the Rowlandson garrison of 1676, opposite the Middle Cemetery, and Cyprian Stevens on the site of the Major Simon Willard garrison in the grounds occupied by the late Caleb T. Symmes, Esq. No. 3 was in South Lancaster, Thomas Sawyer owning the lands on the west side of the main street, between the Narrow Lane and Flagg Street. His house probably stood near the site of the dwelling on the south corner of Prescott and Main Streets. No. 4 was upon George Hill, near the site of the Symonds and King trucking-house, the first home of John Prescott, now occupied by the Maplehurst stables. Rev. John Whiting's residence was in the grounds now occupied by Eugene V. R. Thayer. No 5 was upon the hill just above and west from the George Hill school-house, perhaps on the site of the house now standing there. Daniel Hudson lived where the Thayer farm-house, now occupied by William A. Kilbourn, stands. Hudson was a brickmaker, and dug clay for his bricks beside the highway a few rods east of the bridge over Roper's Brook. Both Roper's and Hudson's houses were burned by the Indians in the surprise of September 11, 1797. Some graves in the field, a few rods north from the school-house, visible in the early part of this century, were supposed to be those of victims in the Roper garrison massacre. No. 6 was upon the Old Common in the grounds now owned by the state. No. 7 was in what is now Bolton, on the east slope of Wataquadock, but its exact location is not known. No. 8 was at Still River village, and included the house now standing owned by William B. Haskell.

#### MRS. DOCTRESS WHITCOMB AND JONAS FAIRBANKS.

133. Mrs. Mary (Hayward) Fairbank married David Whitcomb May 31, 1700. She claimed the acquisition during her captivity of valuable knowledge about Indian remedies and the medicinal virtues of plants, and became well known around Lancaster as "Mrs. Doctress Whitcomb."

The author of the Fairbanks Family in America denies that Jonathan had two children slain in the massacre of



September 11, 1697, or that he had a son Jonas. Rev. Timothy Harrington explicitly states that among those killed that day were "Jonathan Fairbank and two children." A prominent parishioner of Mr. Harrington's, living in 1753, when his Century Sermon was delivered, was Colonel Oliver Wilder, who married Mary, the youngest daughter of Jonathan Fairbank. He would hardly have permitted an important error concerning his wife's family to go uncorrected. A gravestone records that Jonathan and his daughter Grace "deceased September the 11, 1697;" beside this stands a stone inscribed "Jonas Fairbanks who deceased September the 13th, 1697." This Jonas, the genealogist alleges, was probably a brother of Jonathan, a resident of Watertown, aged twenty-four, but no proof of this supposition is found. The births of Jonathan's children are nowhere recorded.

#### REV. JOHN JONES.

**137, 340.** Rev. John Jones must have served several months in the Lancaster pulpit, for the province treasurer's accounts, 1697/8, contain this entry;

Paid Mr John Jones whom y<sup>e</sup> Town of Lancaster have procured to be their minister (upon consideration of the damage lately done by the Indians unto sd. Town, their minister being slain, for their encouragem<sup>t</sup> and enabling sd Town to gett another) allowed by y<sup>e</sup> General Assembly.  
20£

[Province Laws, VII.]

#### BEAUCOURT'S ASSAULT.

BOSTON ult. July 1704.

**146.** Sr. This morning before day a considerable number of the enemy set upon Lancaster in the county of Middlesex, where besides the inhabitants I have a company of musqueteers, and presuming upon the notice given by the French deserter at Deerfield that the enemy would give mee the go-by there, I had ordered two hundred men more to sd Lancaster on Saturday evening, who I hope will be there this evening, and God can give us success if he pleases. That I pray of you now is immediatly to direct your forces upon the frontiers to march into the woods upon their track and lay wayte for them in their return; they cannot be above 200 men so that the force at Hadly must needs be enough to meet them. I have no notice but of an half hour of their assault of the first garrison next the woods [Nathaniel Wilder's]; what impression they may make I know not, but have within the line the great towns of Concord and Sudbury all ready to march and gone before this time; but

doubt not they may be intercepted weary in their march homeward, and it is impossible to miss their track if you cross to the northward. I have no opportunity to Hadly; if you please to express this letter to C<sup>ll</sup> Partridge, let him march of company in the country what he can possibly in this conjuncture. & this is his order for the same.

I am Sr, your humble ser't.

J. DUDLEY

[Letter of Governor Joseph Dudley to Governor Fitz John Winthrop, printed in Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 6th series, III, 248.]

BOSTON, August 4th, 1704.

**146.** Hono<sup>ble</sup> Sir:—His Excellency our Governour being absent in business has commanded me to acquaint your Honour that on Monday the 31st of July past, early in the morning, the enemy in a numerous body of them or four hundred (being the same that came from Mont Real) insulted Lancaster, one of our frontiers in Middlesex, furiously assaulting six or seven garrisons at once; but finding the inhabitants on their duty and well provided to receive them, and auxiliaries from the neighbouring towns comeing in speedily to their assistance, they were obliged in a few hours time to draw off, having made no further impression on the town than the burning of some few deserted houses, killing four of our men; three whereof were slain in a skirmish they had with them on the open field, in which it is concluded the enemy suffered a great loss, besides what they suffered from the garrisons. They also killed some cattle of which they got onely one meal, tooke no booty at all; In the pursuit our souldiers found several plots of blood in their stands. They continue still hovering in those woods and keep the posts alarmed.....

ISA. ADDINGTON.

[Letter of Secretary Addington to Fitz John Winthrop, printed in Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 6th series, III, 252.]

### JOHN DAVIS.

**149.** The Groton man slain and scalped by the Indians October 24, 1704, was not Samuel Davis, but his son John.

### INQUEST AT DEATH OF REV. ANDREW GARDNER.

**150.** LANCASTER, October y<sup>e</sup> 28, 1704.

We y<sup>e</sup> subscribers being summoned by John Warner Constable of said Lancaster to appeare (before Capt Jonathan Prescott one of the Coroners of said County of Middlesex) at the house of Mr Andrew Gardner in said Lancaster, on Saterday ye 28 day of October, betwixt y<sup>e</sup> hours of 12 & one a clock after noone of a Jury of enquest, to make enquiry upon y<sup>e</sup> Veiw of ye body of y<sup>e</sup> said Mr Andrew Gardner theire Lying Dead, how & in what maner he came to his death, have accordingly veived y<sup>e</sup> said dead body of Mr Andrew Gardner & examined y<sup>e</sup> evidences appearing namely: Tho Sawyer Jur, Jabez Fairbank, Jonathan Pidge & Mrs Mary Bayley, we find the said dead body shot through the breast, & out at the back, which shot we apprehend the sole cause of his death; & as to the

maner of it, we find upon examination of Samuell Prescott of said Lancaster, that y<sup>e</sup> said Sam<sup>l</sup> Prescott being upon ye watch at y<sup>e</sup> said house of Mr Andrew Gardner, on y<sup>e</sup> 25 of ye Instant in y<sup>e</sup> night, and not knowing of any person being abroad but suposing all ye family in their beds, the said Sam<sup>l</sup> Prescott walking within y<sup>e</sup> fort, sudenly espied y<sup>e</sup> said Mr Andrew Gardner coming downe out of y<sup>e</sup> uper flanker & he, said Prescott, being surprised taking him for an Indian Enemy, the said Prescott declared he sudenly made a shot at sd Mr Gardner which we apprehend y<sup>e</sup> sole cause of his death as above said, [but ye said Mr Andrew Gardner coming to ye door of his house called to.]\* therefore by what we find we apprehend y<sup>e</sup> said Samuel Prescott not guilty.

JONATHAN PRESCOTT *Coroner.* L.S.

JOHN HOUGHTON Sr. <i>Foreman</i>	THOMAS WILDER
JOSIAH WHITE	CALEB SAWYER
JOSIAH WHETCOMB	JOHN PRIEST
JONATHAN MOORE	JOHN WILDER
ROBERT HOUGHTON	JAMES WILDER
JOHN WILDER	JEREMIAH WILSON
JONAS HOUGHTON	JOHN HOUGHTON JUNR.

\* The words in brackets are crossed in original.

[Suffolk Court Files, No. 6246.]

### REV. JOHN PRENTICE.

**165.** Rev. John Prentice lived in the parsonage which had been the home of his two unfortunate predecessors. This stood facing the south, at least one hundred feet from the highway, on what is now the lawn of Eugene V. R. Thayer's residence. His first wife, Mary (Gardner), dying March 9, 1718, on November 11 of the same year he married at Charlestown the widow Prudence (Foster) Swan. The second Mrs. Prentice proved a very efficient helpmate, adding to her husband's meagre salary the profits of a little shop by the roadside near and south of the house, where for many years she retailed such merchandise as the neighborhood required.

### FRONTIER SCOUTS.

**172.** The "Dangerous Circumstances" of the frontiers at this time are illustrated by the following records:

A Muster Roll of a scout consisting of six men in her Majesty's Service within the Town of Lancaster containing an Accompt of Wages for this Service from the 25th of August to the 20th of November 1710, amounting to Twenty Pounds and Ten Shillings, examined by Mr Com.

missary General. Presented and Advised and Consented, That a Warrant be made out thereupon to the Treasurer to pay the above sum of Twenty Pounds and Ten Shillings to Capt. Thomas Wilder, Captain of Lancaster for and in behalfe of the six Centinels therein named. They being under his Command.

[Minutes of Council Mass. Archives, LXXXI.]

June 12, 1712. Resolved that the sum of Forty Shillings be allowed and paid out of the Publick Treasury to Nath<sup>l</sup>. Wilder towards Paying for cure of a Wound received of the Enemy.

[Court Records, IX, 202.]

### PROPRIETORS OF ADDITIONAL GRANT.

**174.** The original records of the proprietors of the "Additional Grant" are preserved with the archives of Leominster. The contract therein engrossed has slight verbal differences from the copy in the Lancaster records. The names of the signers, ninety-nine in number, are as follows:

John Prentice	Jonathan Moor	Jabez Fairbank
David Whetcomb	Samuell Carter	John White
Jonas Houghton Ju <sup>r</sup>	Thomas Carter	Samuel Warner
John Houghton Sen <sup>r</sup>	Nathaniel Wilder	Hooker Osgood Sen <sup>r</sup>
John Harress	Benjamin Bellows	Daniell Priest
Jonathan Wheeler	John Whetcomb	Jonathan Houghton
Joseph Houghton	Samuel Willard	Hezekiah Willard
Edward Hartwell	Jonathan Sawyer	John Beaman Sen <sup>r</sup>
Bezaleel Sawyer	Josiah Willard	Robert Houghton Sen <sup>r</sup>
Thomas Wilder Sen <sup>r</sup>	John Moore	George Glazier
Joshua Atherton	John Beaman Jun <sup>r</sup>	John Prescott Ju <sup>r</sup>
Matthew Stone	Gamaliel Beaman	Thomas Wilder Ju <sup>r</sup>
Henry Willard	Ebenezer Wilder	John Keyes
Josiah White Jun <sup>r</sup>	Jonas Houghton Sen <sup>r</sup>	John Johnson
James Snow	John Goss	Ebenezer Prescott
John Willard	Jacob Houghton	William Divoll
Gabriel Priest	Joseph Wheelock	Simon Steevens
Ephraim Wilder	John Warner Sen <sup>r</sup>	Hezakiah Whetcomb
Ebenezer Beaman	John Warner Jun <sup>r</sup>	Caleb Sawyer
James Atherton Jun <sup>r</sup>	Henry Houghton	Samuell Gibbs
Joseph Hutchins	William Blodgett	Samuel Bennitt Sen <sup>r</sup>
James Houghton	Joseph Brabrook	John Wilder Jun <sup>r</sup> .
Benjamin Houghton	Josiah Sautell	John Bowers
Peter Joslin	Josiah Whetcomb Jur	Robert Houghton Ju <sup>r</sup>
Jonathan Willard	John Kendall	Josiah Wheeler
Joseph Fairbank	Benjamin Harress	Oliver Wilder
William Sawyer	Joseph Willard	John Priest
William Houghton	Elias Sawyer	Joseph Sawyer

Josiah White Sen <sup>r</sup>	John Wilder Sen <sup>r</sup>	Jonathan Whetcomb
Mary Wilder Widow	Thomas Sawyer	Richard Wilder
Jonathan Wilder	Nathaniell Sawyer	Edward Phelps
James Wilder	Joseph Wilder	Jeremiãh Willson Sen <sup>r</sup>
Thomas Ross	Thomas Tooker	John Houghton Jun <sup>r</sup> .

## TOWN-MEETING RECORDS, 1714.

175. The following memoranda of town-meeting action are upon scraps of paper in the second John Houghton's handwriting, found among Joseph Willard's papers:

Monday ye first of feb'y. 1713/14. Y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of Lancaster met at ye Meeting House being y<sup>e</sup> Publique Towne Meeting according to former order & custome of y<sup>e</sup> Towne to Consider & Determine of Matters reffering to Land & other Concerns Proper for said Meeting: *first* chose John Beaman y<sup>e</sup> moderator. Sam Benitt desires ye Towne to Give him some Land neer adjoining to his own Land where he is about to build a Sawmill. *2 proposition.* Benj. Bellows Desires the Towne to grant him y<sup>e</sup> Liberty of Improving y<sup>e</sup> Towne Land & highway through Swan Swamp for some considerable time; that may Respond his Labour in Cleering said Land which he is willing to be obliged to do; & in Case he may have ye Improvement of y<sup>e</sup> Land & Libertie to set & keep up Gates at ye entry of ye swamp on each side—this was voted in ye Negative. *3<sup>d</sup>.* John Houghton Sen<sup>r</sup>. Desires y<sup>e</sup> Towne to Let him have ye entervale formerly granted to Daniel Gains above y<sup>e</sup> red spring; or some other Land that may be equivalent in Lieu of said Gains second Division of Intervale; also desires the Towne would signify their Minds whether or no they will let him have the 85 acres of upland which he formerly laid out adjoining to said Intervale *4.* George Crocker desires y<sup>e</sup> Towne to give him 50 acres of Land upon Reasonable termes to be laid out to him in ye undivided Land where he may find it most convenient. *5.* Jonathan Moore Desires y<sup>e</sup> Towne to Consider his Circumstances Reffering to y<sup>e</sup> Lott which upon Ensigne Moores Request, was Granted for Joseph Moor & after his Death, it was Desired it might be for Jonathan Moor & he hath paid ye Charge of ever since, as Long as any Persons paid for Lotts; which Lott is probable to be in Controversie whether he shall hold it or no. The towne voted not to concern themselves with it. *6.* he Desires the Towne to give him Libertie to make a dam upon Wataquadock brook above y<sup>e</sup> bridge on Marlborough road & in order to build a corne mill; and to Let ye highway ly below or over ye Dam & Round Mordicas medow & he will make y<sup>e</sup> way good at the head of y<sup>e</sup> medow and over y<sup>e</sup> brook upon his own charge. this proposition was granted by a vote of y<sup>e</sup> Towne. *7.* A proposition was made for a highway cross from y<sup>e</sup> highway to y<sup>e</sup> medows that Lyeth up Nashaway River by ye pond to ye New Sawmill; which was then granted by a vote of ye Towne. *8.* Jonathan Sawyer desired

ye Towne to grant him ten acres of Land at the northerly side of the Land of his Honor<sup>d</sup> father Caleb Sawyer, but it was negative. As to Sam<sup>l</sup>. benitts proposition one Reason he gave was because his Interval Lot at ponakin wanted measure & then the Towne appointed Capt. Joslin & John Houghton Jr to go & view it & make Report to the Towne.

The "new saw mill" above mentioned was probably that of Joseph Sawyer, situate in what is now Boylston; and this record seems to be proof that the site of "Sawyer's Mills" was utilized as early as 1713. The proprietors of Lancaster confirmed to Sawyer, in 1720, lands upon both sides of the river "where there is falls upon the River below a Great Scar," and in January, 1728, laid out lands to Joseph and Thomas Sawyer "on a pine plain mostly adjoining and mostly above where Joseph Sawyer has built a Sawmill." Aaron Sawyer, the son of Joseph, has been wrongly credited by local annalists with the building of the first mill here.

Monday ye first of March 1713/14. Ye Inhabitants of Lancaster met at the Meetinghouse according to appointment & first chose Capt Tho. Wilder moderator for sd meeting & then a warrant was Read for choice of a Grand juror & the Constable accordingly warned y<sup>e</sup> Towne to choose one. 2. The Towne then proceeded to a Choice & Chose Joseph Hutchins to sarve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury for y<sup>e</sup> yeare Insuing & then chose Selectmen 3. namely Capt Tho Wilder John Houghton Sen<sup>r</sup> Capt Peter Joslin Robert Houghton Sen<sup>r</sup> & Hooker Osgood Sen<sup>r</sup> Select Men to serve for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing. 4. The Towne voted to Choose 3 Constables to serve for ye yeare ensuing, vizt one upon y<sup>e</sup> west side of y<sup>e</sup> River & two on ye east side, & first Chose Samuel Carter, 2dly John Wilder Jr & Joseph Wilder Constables for ye yeare Insuing. John Houghton Jr Towne Clerk; Capt Thomas Wilder Towne Treasurer but he not accepting the Towne Proceeded to a new choice & then chose Capt. Peter Joslin Town Treasurer; Edward Hartwell Joseph Houghton & Ebenzer Wilder surveiors for highways; John Wilder Sen. & Jabez ffairbank Tything men; Hezekiah Townsend Sealer of Leather; John Keyes Jonas Houghton Jur & Jonathan Houghton Assessors; Jonathan Sawyer Samuel Willard John Buss Josiah Judd field Drivers & then a Letter was Read from ye Selectmen of Watertown about theire bridge; & then severall of y<sup>e</sup> Towne officers had y<sup>e</sup> oath Administered to them, namely John Wilder Jur. Joseph Wilder, Samuel Carter Constables, John Houghton Jr. Town Clerk.

#### INDIANS AT WASHACUM, 1714.

**175.** A memorial was presented by Capt<sup>n</sup> Tho How of Marlboro of the Disorders Committed by a small number of y<sup>e</sup> Indians living at Wa-

shacum a place abt. five or six miles above Lancaster, frequently coming into their Cornfields gathering and carrying away their corn in Considerable Quantities and also killing their Horses in the Woods being a Terror to ye women & children for fear of some Design, supposed to be Albany Indians.

Advised that his Excell<sup>y</sup>. be Desired to Acquaint Gov. Hunter therewith and to take care effectually to restrain sd Disorders. And that Capt<sup>n</sup>. Tho. How Mr John Houghton and Lt Ephraim Wilder of Lancaster be Directed to find out and Speake with the sd Indians and make it certain who they are, treat them civilly and to forbid their committing any further Disorders.

[Minutes of Council, LXXXI, 858. Sept. 9, 1714.]

### TRAINING FIELDS.

**186.** To the six-acre training field "below Thomas Sawyers door" is due the unusual breadth of South Lancaster Street. February 1, 1747/8, the proprietors voted to sell this common "which was left for a training field, excepting *six rods wide* for a private way a cross ye same," and it was sold that year. The training field upon the Old Common was never surrendered to the proprietors in fee and was partly fenced in by Burrill Carnes when he purchased the Wilder farm—now occupied by the state school—about 1795. A part of it remained common until the State Industrial School was here established.

### TAHANTO'S LAND GRANT.

**193.** Sam<sup>l</sup> Bennet of Lancaster Testifies that he was with the Indian, vizt. John Aquiticus when he showed the bounds of the land sold to the Lancaster People by George Tahanto and other Indians, that the said Aquiticus then told them they might go to Mashapaug Pond, and that they should goe three miles wide at that end.

SAML X BENNET'S mark

Lancaster, May 29th, 1720.

[Suffolk Court Files, No. 1434.]

### INDIANS AT LANCASTER, 1722-3.

**204.** On Monday last a Woman at Lancaster, as she was at work alone in the Field, was taken by Two Indians, one of which cou'd speak English, and examin'd her about the Indians lately taken and imprison'd at Boston. After she had inform'd them that 8 of the Number were dismiss'd they cut off the Hair on one side of her Head, and order'd her to lay it down in the Place where she had been at work, and come to them again. The same Day some People who were searching for the Woman, found her Hair lying in the Field and concluding she had been carried

away by the Indians, immediately raised some Men to go after them, who came so near to them as to be within their Hearing; whereupon the Indians stript the Woman and dismis'd her, who when she arriv'd at the Garrison fainted away with over much Joy at her deliverance. The men miss'd of the Indians by reason of the Thickness of the Woods.

[The New England Courant, Aug. 27, 1722.]

The "Indians imprisoned at Boston" had been apprehended near Lancaster. Proving to be men of a western tribe on a hunting excursion, Lieutenant Jabez Fairbank of Lancaster was detailed to conduct them to the Connecticut River and dismiss them.

On Sunday the 22<sup>d</sup> past, a lad of about fifteen years of Age, being out with his Gun at Nashaway discover'd an Indian wading over a River, and fired on him. The Indian made his Escape, but 'tis since discover'd that he was very much wounded, having been tracked by his Blood for a considerable Distance from the River.

[The New England Courant, Oct. 7, 1723.]

#### RATE LISTS, 1723.

**207.** Among papers of Jonathan Wilder were found two lists of names, one hundred and two in all, being the Lancaster rate payers in 1723 living east of the river, as invoiced by Samuel Warner and Benjamin Bailey, two of the three constables. The list of inhabitants west of the river assigned to constable Edward Hartwell was unfortunately not found. The first list, Warner's, embraces all who then lived in what is now Harvard and the northerly part of Bolton. The other, Bailey's list, includes those dwelling on the Old Common and in the Wataquadock region.

i.	Jona. Sawyer	Samuel Gibbs
Samuel Willard	Joseph Fairbank	Jona. Houghton
Hezek. Willard	Benja. Atherton Sen <sup>r</sup> .	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Wildes
Jos <sup>h</sup> . Willard	John Nichols	Jabez Fairbanks
Joseph Atherton	David Whitcomb	W <sup>m</sup> . Sawyer
John Warner	Jona. Whitcomb	Hez <sup>h</sup> . Townsend
Jona. Willard	Nath <sup>l</sup> . Hapgood	Gershom Houghton
Mary Atherton	Josiah Whitcomb	Jona. Moore
John Atherton	John Wilder	Thos. Tooker
Jacob Houghton	Josiah Wilder	James Snow
Caleb Sawyer	Jonas Wilder	Thos. Houghton
Jacob Houghton Jr.	Shatuck Brooks	Hez <sup>h</sup> . Snow
Elias Sawyer Jr.	Seth Walker	Benj. Wilson



Jonas Houghton Jr.	Sam <sup>l</sup> . Rogers	Jno. Beaman
James Houghton	Sam <sup>l</sup> . Rogers Jr.	Sam <sup>l</sup> . Rugg
Josiah Houghton	Henry Willard	Joshua Wheeler
Jonas Houghton	Abra <sup>m</sup> . Willard	Thos. Whitney
—Hezek. Whitcomb	Henry Willard	Jerem <sup>h</sup> . Holman
Henry Houghton	James Willard	Jeremiah Holman
Benj. Atherton	Edw <sup>d</sup> . Houghton	Jas. Keyes
Daniel Houghton	Ephr <sup>m</sup> . Houghton	Benj. Wheeler
Joseph Hutchins	John Willard	Jerm <sup>h</sup> Wilson
Thomas Houghton	Joseph Willard	Josiah Wheeler
Benj. Bellows	John Priest	James Butler
John Houghton	Samuel Chamberlain	Eb <sup>t</sup> . Polley
Jerem <sup>h</sup> . Wilson	John Sawyer	John Wallis
Sam <sup>l</sup> . Wilson	2.	Josiah Houghton
James Atherton	James Wilder	Eliezar Houghton
— Whitney	Bezaleel Sawyer	Nathan Hawood
John Whitney	Thomas Wilder	Ebr. Wilder
Isaiah Whitney	Benj. Bailey	Joseph Wilder
Jona. Crouch	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Houghton	W <sup>m</sup> . Houghton
Sam <sup>l</sup> . Warner	Jno. Moore	Benj. Clark
Gabriel Priest	Jno. Houghton Esq	
Joseph Priest	Joseph Sawyer	

JUDGE JOSEPH WILDER.

**214.** LANCASTER, March 29. Died here greatly lamented in the 74th. Year of his Age, and was decently interr'd on the 31st, the Honourable JOSEPH WILDER Esq;—He was a Gentleman of fine Genius; and acted with Integrity and Honour in Church, on the Bench, and at the Council Board;—He was a Father to the Poor; a Lover of good Men; a Friend to his Country, to Truth and Virtue—He was pleasant and entertaining in Conversation; And in domestic Life kind, instructive & exemplary.

[The Boston Weekly News-Letter, Thursday, April 14, 1757.]

CAPTAIN JOHN WHITE.

**228.** We are informed of the death of Captain John White of Lancaster a man of religion, probity, courage, and conduct, and hearty in the service of his Country against the Indian enemy.

[The Boston News-Letter, Sept. 9, 1725.]

RALPH HOUGHTON.

**251.** Ralph Holton a member of y<sup>e</sup> Church of Lancaster in full communion; a settled Inhabitant and householder above 24 years of age, desires to be a freeman of this Collony.

May 18, 1668 Attested By SIMON WILLARD

Admitted to freedome 18. . 3 mo. . 68, per Curriam. E R Secy.

[Mass. Archives, CVI, 486.]

Ralph Houghton died in Milton, April 15, 1705, aet. 82. He is thought to have been a son of Sir Richard Houghton of Houghton Tower, Lancashire. The above record proves that although he had served the town as clerk for twelve years, he was not qualified under colonial law to vote for magistrate or legislator.

#### THE CALF PASTURE.

**278.** About one acre of Prescott's intervale was given a name which clung to it until quite modern days. It was described in 1686 thus:

.....near the meeting of the rivers, the sd land lying on the west side of the river (sd river) almost running round the said land, which is known by the name of the Calf Pasture. [Middlesex Registry, XXIV, 38.]

In 1730 another transfer of this lot occurred, when it was described as:—

.....one acre which formerly lay on the west side of the river in a nook of it, and it was called the Calf pasture, but said nook being dug across, the river now runneth there. [Middlesex Registry, XXX, 345.]

The old bed of the river surrounding the acre remains distinctly visible near, and north of, the Atherton bridge.

#### OFFICIALS.

**337.** William Stedman was *not* elected an Executive Councillor.

**338.** Ralph Houghton was again made Clerk of the Writs.

April 6, 1686. Ralph Houghton is appointed by this Court to be Clarke of the Writts for Lancaster and Cyprian Steevens is dismissed from that office. [Middlesex Records. C.C.P., IV, 221.]

Cyprian Stevens was reappointed under Dudley, October 19, 1686, to take account of births and deaths and "to act in said office according to the order of the President and Council."

**339.** John Houghton's long service as clerk proves not to have been continuous as stated. John Houghton, Jr., was elected in 1714, as the memoranda of town-meeting action discovered since 1884, and printed on a previous page, prove. The absence of any records makes it impossible to say whether he served for one or several years.



# MILITARY ANNALS

OF

## LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

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### 11, 12. COLONEL JOHN PRESCOTT.

JOHN PRESCOTT is styled "Colonel" in Council Records, July 7, 1740, and elsewhere, but Daniel Goffe held the senior commission as captain. Five of the ten companies raised in Massachusetts were sent in the West Indian expedition of 1740. John Winslow, the fifth captain, received Governor Belcher's certificate for want of the king's commission.

#### SIEGE OF LOUISBURG.

**22.** [May] 18. [1745] *Saturday*. . . . . Capt. Peirce kill'd this Day by a Cannon Ball Thr<sup>o</sup>. his Bowels. he Livd a Qu<sup>r</sup>. of an hour and then Died — his Death is Greately Lamented.

\* \* \* \* \*

[September] 6<sup>th</sup>. [1745.] *Fryday* about 8 in y<sup>e</sup> morning Died Capt. Warner The Lord Sanctify his holy hand att 5 O' the Clock we Buryed him with a Great Deal of honour & Respect a Part of all or Cheif of y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>s</sup>. in y<sup>e</sup> Regiment attended y<sup>e</sup> funer<sup>l</sup>. Under arms the Souldiers warlk foremost with their arin[s] in funeral Posture next y<sup>e</sup>. Drummers next y<sup>e</sup>. Cap<sup>ns</sup> next y<sup>e</sup> Corp[se] Behind walkt y<sup>e</sup>. General Colo Willard at his Left hand next all the Col<sup>os</sup>.

[Diary of Lieut. Dudley Bradstreet.]

Captain Peirce was that Joshua Peirce, housewright, who at the age of twenty-two years enlisted for the Carthagena

expedition of 1740, from Lancaster, with Captain John Prescott. Lieutenant Dudley Bradstreet was of Groton, and served in Captain John Warner's company. He incidentally mentions in his diary the names of forty enlisted men. Of these, the following were probably Lancaster soldiers:

John Croofoot — *Creford* in Lancaster records — died November 28, 1745.

John Dakin, died August 19, 1745.

Sergeant — Goodfrey.

Benjamin Stearns.

Sergeant — Woods [Joseph?], died August 21, 1745.

Sergeant John Wright, died December 12, 1745.

Matthew Wyman.

#### FITCH'S GARRISON.

24. The story of the Indian raid upon the Fitch garrison is told in Torrey's History of Fitchburg, in Marvin's History of Lancaster, and in the Boston News Letter for July 18, 1748. The first named author gives a wrong date to the tragedy, the second copies one error and adds another of his own, while Fitch's petition to the General Court corrects some mistakes in the News Letter's account. This petition has been printed in a sketch of Ashby in the History of Middlesex County, 1890, I, 309. Like most traditions, "Surdody's Vengeance" rests upon very dubious foundations.

#### CAPTAIN GERSHOM FLAGG.

32. Captain Gershom Flagg was in the service as early as 1746, this fact being attested by an elaborately carved powder-horn preserved in the Memorial Hall of Lancaster, upon which is inscribed his name. He was then at Amoskeag.

#### CAPTIVES, 1757.

59. Among captives at Fort William Henry in 1757 who survived and returned to Lancaster were: "Joseph Church son of Joshua," and "Lynn Jock negro of Nathaniel Whittemore."

[Minutes of Council, IV, 304 and 320.]

## SAWYER'S BAY.

**82.** A batteau under command of Lieutenant Ephraim Sawyer was wrecked upon Grand Isle, Lake Champlain, in a gale, August 14, 1760, when Joseph Stewart was drowned. Sawyer attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Revolution, and when the war was over he removed from Lancaster to Grand Isle, where he died in 1813, aged ninety-four years. His place of residence gave name to Sawyer's Bay.

## BUNKER HILL.

**123.** Captain Abner Cranson's company was also in the action at Bunker Hill, and his ensign, Benjamin West, was killed.

[Mass. Archives, CLXXXII, 201.]

There is a tradition among the descendants of Major Ephraim Sawyer that he was sent in command of the companies of Col. Asa Whitcomb's regiment that were ordered to reinforce Prescott.

## SIEGE OF BOSTON.

**136.** Sunday March 10. [Dorchester, 1776.]....Four men, some say five, were killed by the enemy's cannon, and by one ball; They were sitting round a fire on the hill.

[Diary of Ezekiel Price, Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc., 1863, p. 242.]

**137.** Wednesday, Aug. 7, [Boston.] Colonel Sergeant's and Whitcomb's regiments set off on their march for Crown Point. [Idem.]

An interesting itinerary of Colonel Whitcomb's three weeks' march to Ticonderoga is given in the Journal of Ebenezer Wild, printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, second series, VI, 79-83.

## CAPTAIN EAGER'S COMPANY.

**164.** The following rosters of militia companies led from Lancaster in 1777 by Captain Fortunatus Eager fill a noticeable gap in the printed records of the town's contributions to the continental service in that year:

LANCASTER, April 3, 1777.

*Militia Regiment of Foot Commanded by Coll. Josiah Whitney, a company whereof Capt. Fortunatus Eager Commanded who Marched to Reenforce the army in the Jerseys under the Command of his Excellency General Washington and Continued in the Service Three months and Twenty-six Days in addition to Fourteen Days allowed to Return Home.*

Capt. Fortunatus Eager	Nath <sup>l</sup> . Haskell	Aaron Willard
Lieuts: Timo. Heywood	Noah Crossman	Titus Colburn
Sam <sup>l</sup> . Joslin	Joshua Whitney	Sam <sup>l</sup> Woods
Sergts: John Wheelock	Israel Cook	Peter Swears
Abel Phelps	Nathan Wilder	Abner Haskell
Tho Clealand	John Dole	Nathan Parmeter
Matthias Larkin	Elihu Goss	Joshua Kendal
Corprils: Samuel Adams	John Stuart	John Bennett
Eph <sup>m</sup> . Goss	Thomas Wright	John Fletcher
Lemuel Fairbank	Caleb Whetney	Abijah Haskell
Jona. White	Enoch Roper	William Fairbank
Drummer John Wheelock	Nathan Burpee	Zebede Simon
Fifer John Wheelock Jr.	Seth Ross	Amos Brown
Aaron Rugg	Benjamin Wilder de-	Sam <sup>l</sup> Churchell
Thos Kendall	ceased in the service	John Hale
Joseph Nowell	Joel Chase	Isaac Tower
Reuben Rice	John Robbins	

*A Pay Roll of Capt. Fortunatus Eager's Company in Lt. Eph<sup>m</sup>. Sawyer's Regmt of Massachusetts Bay Militia Who Marched as a Reinforcement for the Northern Army in October the 2<sup>d</sup> 1777: [Service 25 days, including 8 for returning.]*

Fortunatus Eager, Capt.	Isaac Rayner	Joshua Kendal
Elisha Sawyer, 1 <sup>st</sup> . Lt.	Aaron Phelps	Oliver Moor
Nath <sup>l</sup> . Sawyer, 2 <sup>d</sup> Lt.	Simon Butler	Jonathan Thompson
William Wilder, 1. Sert.	Silas Thurston	Stephen Goss
Ebenezer Pike, 2 Sert	Jacob Swears	Thomas Blodgett
William Kendal, 3 Do.	Benj <sup>n</sup> . Farmer	Enoch Roper
Timothy Kilburn, 4 Do	Sam <sup>l</sup> Jewet	John Roper
Jonathan Wilder 1 Corp <sup>l</sup>	Hen <sup>r</sup> . W. Farmer	Andrew Putnam
Aaron Sawyer 2 Do	Manasor Knight	Josiah Cutting
Phineas Fletcher 3 Do	Elihu Wilder	Peter Prescott
Ebenezer Ross 4 Do	John Spafford	John Willard
Eph <sup>m</sup> . Kendall, Drum.	John Robbins	Joshua Piper
William Kendall, Fife	Seth Fairbanks	Tilly Richardson
Abell. Allen Private	David Gary	Silas Rice
Josiah Bennet "	Elijah Dressor	Elisha Rugg
Jacob Allen "	Oliver Bowker	John May

Paul Sawyer	“	Eph <sup>m</sup> Powers	Abel Richardson
Amos Sawyer	“	Nathan Nelson	Nath. Houton
James Pratt	“	Josiah Person	Jonathan Nelson
John Thurston	“	Joseph Palmer	Nath <sup>l</sup> White

[Mass. Archives, Revolutionary Rolls, Vol. XIX, pp. 9 and 10.]

#### JOHN AND JAMES BATTEL.

**180.** [Providence, 1778.] 17 Oct. This afternoon at 2 O'clk. the brigade was turned out, in order to attend the execution of John and James Battel, soldiers in Colo. Shepard's regt. The criminals were brought from the Provost under a strong guard. Their coffins were borne just before them. The Dead March was played behind them. In this manner they were brought to the place where they were to be executed. When the brigade was paraded, the Criminals were brought in front for every one to see them; after which their sentence was read, which was to be shot. Their coffins were set down by the edge of their graves. The men that were to be their executioners had their guns loaded for that purpose and marched up within about a rod of the coffins. The criminals were made to kneel down by the side of their coffins in order to receive the fatal blow, but at the moment they were to be shot their reprieves were read. The brigade marched back to our camp and was dismissed.

[Ebenezer Wild's Diary, Mass. Hist. Soc, Proc., 1890.]

#### EPHRAIM SAWYER AND SONS.

**181.** Lieutenant John Sawyer was quartermaster of the Eighth Massachusetts regiment. Ensign James Sawyer served in the Seventh, and February 10, 1781, was transferred to the Tenth. They were sons of Lieutenal-colonel Ephraim Sawyer, the major of the Lancaster regiment at Bunker Hill, and three other sons of his—Captain Ephraim, Josiah and Peter—also served in the patriot army.

#### WILLIAM DEPUTRON.

**189.** William Deputron's petition, found in Massachusetts Archives, CLXXXVII, 329, gives some facts of interest regarding one of Lancaster's continental soldiers:

*To the Honbl. Senate and House of Representatives.*

W<sup>m</sup> De Putron of Lancaster humbly shows that in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-six in Coll Hitchcock's Regiment then in the Continental service, and on the 27th. Day of August in the same year he was taken by the British troops under the Command of General Sir William Howe in Long Island; he was then confined in a close pri<sup>g</sup>n

about a year, which was so loathsome and unhealthy and the prisoners usage was so cruel that the greatest part of them died in a few months. Your Petitioner suffered with firmness and patience untill his health and strength were so exhausted that a longer confinement must have proved certain death. He then consented to do duty in their service as the only means of saving his life, and furnishing an opportunity of Returning to his country. Your Petitioner being taken out of prison was sent into Canada by the way of Halifax and up St Lawrence's River where he was obliged to do duty about four years, having in that time no chance of escape, untill he was marched to Mohawk River with design to attack the American frontiers in that quarter: Your Petitioner on his coming near the Inhabitants escaped from the british troops with the utmost danger, came in and gave notice of the enemy's approach on the 4th of November last. Your Petitioner when taken lost his arms and clothing as mentioned hereafter, and also while with the british he was severely treated and compelled to the hardest duty. he has received neither money nor clothing for now three years past, whereof your Petitioner most humble prays the Honble Court to take his case and misfortunes into their wise and indulgent consideration, and be pleased to grant him such pay and allowance as shall be a reasonable satisfaction for the injuries he has sustained merely in consequence of his enlisting into the Continental service.

WILLIAM DE PUTRON.

Lancaster Jany. 10th 1782.

The petitioner was allowed 24£, full pay for his term of service. Among unindexed files in the state archives there were found in 1892 the receipts for 60£ bounty paid each of five of the seven three years soldiers enlisted for Lancaster under the final call of March 1, 1782. Their names were: Levi White, John Hannah, Archippus Wheelock, Moses Dickerson and William Deputron.

#### LOYALISTS.

**205.** Captain Thomas Beaman and Dr. Nahum Willard should not be omitted from the list of Lancaster's Loyalists. Three companies of "his Majesty's loyal American subjects residing in Boston," 1775, were organized under command of Colonel Timothy Ruggles, and styled the Loyal American Associates. Abijah Willard and Thomas Beaman were appointed by Governor Gage the captain and lieutenant of the first company. Dr. Nahum Willard was an elder brother of Abijah, born 1722, May 28, in Lancaster. He was a physician of high repute, in Worcester. John Adams boarded



with him while a teacher in that city. He was one of the "52 protestors," was listed among the dangerous tories, lost practice and prosperity, and died at Uxbridge, April 26, 1792.

SALTPETRE MANUFACTURE

211.

LANCASTER Decem. 8th. 1775.

These will certify that the Fifty pounds of salt-peter, herewith to be exhibited to the General Court's Committee empowered to receive the same was manufactured within this Town by Mr Levy Wilder one of the inhabitants thereof, in Works by him prepared and well scituated for carying on the said manufacture; that the said Salt peter has been there vew'd by a majority of us the subscribers.

W <sup>M</sup> DUNSMOOR	}	<i>Selectmen of Lancaster</i>
EBENEZER ALLEN		
SAMLL. THURSTON		
CYRUS FAIRBANK		

LANCASTER, June 7, 1776.

Messiers Ephraim Bowker and John Farrer of this Town upon Oath before me declare that they have upon hand in their Possession eighty-three Pounds of Salt Peter which was manufactured by them before the first Day of June instant.

JOSIAH WILDER, *Just. Peace*

LANCASTER, June 10, 1776.

William Kendal of this Town, maketh oath that he has now in his Possession six Pounds of Salt Peter which was manufactured by him before the first day of this Instant. before me

JOSIAH WILDER, *Just Peace*

[Massachusetts Archives.]

228. Another notable refugee from Boston or vicinity, who gained a permanent home in Lancaster, was Ebenezer Bradish, Esq., a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1769. He had practiced law for a time in Cambridge, but abandoned the profession and became a "merchant." He was an outspoken tory in the early days of revolution, but made humble submission soon enough to save his goods from confiscation by the patriots. He held a retailer's license for a time in the Chocksett precinct, now Sterling, became a victim to his love for strong drink, and died by his own hand in the village now known as South Lancaster, April 30, 1818, at the age of seventy-three years.

## SOLDIERS.

**271.** Charles Jones, son of Moses, died in the United States hospital at Avon, New York, April 18, 1815, in the United States army.

**317.** Charles Fred Warren, native of Lancaster, served in 132 Indiana Vols., Co. A, from May 8, 1864, 100 days.

**322.** Joshua Ward Childs, native of Lancaster, served in 53 Mass. Inft., Co. B, Oct. 17, 1862-Sept. 2, 1863.



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