

F 74

M32 P6



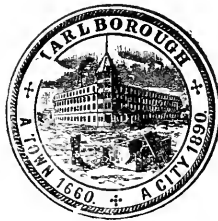
NOTES

ON THE

HISTORY OF MARLBOROUGH

Compiled by J. A. Pitman
ii

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



MARLBOROUGH, MASS. :
TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1905.

These notes on local history are based on Hudson's History of Marlborough, but all other available authorities have been freely consulted. A considerable part of the work of selecting and condensing this matter has been performed by Miss Orissa W. Gleason. Valuable contributions to this work have also been received from Mrs. J. V. Jackman.

MARLBOROUGH, MASS., JAN. 1, 1905.

⁷¹⁸
E. A. Gillogg
NO. 131307

Local History.

GRADE V.

The town of Sudbury, of which Marlborough was once a part, was incorporated as a town in 1639. In 1645, Sudbury being one of the exposed frontier towns, the General Court ordered that no person should remove from the town without permission from the selectmen. On account of this order, portions of land were continually added to Sudbury.

In May, 1656, several of the leading inhabitants of Sudbury sent a petition to the General Court asking that they and their families be allowed to remove to a place eight miles west of Sudbury for the purpose of forming a new plantation. The granting of this petition was the beginning of the City of Marlborough. Following is a

COPY OF THE PETITION.

“To the Hon. Governor, Dep. Governor, Magistrates and Deputies of the General Court now assembled in Boston.

“The Humble Petition of several of the inhabitants of Sudbury, whose names are here underwritten showeth :—That whereas your Petitioners have lived divers years in Sudbury, and God hath been pleased to increase our children, which are now divers of them grown to man’s estate : and wee, many of us grown into years, so that wee should bee glad to see them settled before the Lord take us away from hence, as also God having given us some considerable quantity of cattle so that wee are so straightened that wee cannot so comfortably subsist as could be desired ; and some of us having taken some pains to view the

country: wee have found a place which lyeth westward about eight miles from Sudbury, which wee conceive might be comfortable for our subsistence.

“It is therefore the humble request of your Petitioners to this Hon’d Court, that you would be pleased to grant unto us eight miles square for to make a plantation.

“If it shall please this Hon’d Court to grant our Petition, it is further then the request of your Petitioners to this Hon’d Court, that you will be pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Banforth, or Liestenu Fisher to lay out the bounds of the Plantation, and we shall satisfy those whom this Hon’d Court shall please to employ in it.

“So apprehending this weighty occasion, we shall no further trouble this Hon’d Court but shall ever pray for your happiness

Edmund Rice.	Thomas Goodnow.	John Bent Sen’r.
William Ward.	John Ruddocke.	John Maynard.
Thomas King.	Henry Rice.	Richard Newton.
John Woods.	John Howe.	Peter Bent.
		Edward Rice.

A portion of the land asked for by the Sudbury people had already been granted to the Indians, upon the petition of the Apostle Eliot in their behalf, and the General Court granted permission to the Sudbury men to form a plantation on such a part of the land asked for as was not already in possession of the Indians, provided that twenty or more families should be settled there within three years. These conditions were accepted by the Sudbury men, and the plantation was laid out by Edward Jackson, Thomas Danforth, Ephraim Child and Capt. Lusher.

The plantation laid out for the Indians was known by the name of Ochoocangansett and was situated in the northeasterly section of the present city and included the hill back of the High School Common and, in fact, the Common itself. The Indian Planting Field consisted of some one hundred and fifty acres located on the hill back of the Common. The plantation extended north and east about three miles and contained about six thousand acres in a wild and uncultivated state.

The English plantation was situated to the south and west of the Indian plantation and included the present towns of Northboro, Southboro and Westboro.

Having obtained the grant of the township which they called Whipsuffrage or Whipsupernicke, they held their first town-meeting on the 25th of September, 1656. The number of inhabitants increased rapidly during the next four years, and, on June 12, 1660, the plantation was incorporated as a town and named Marlborough. It was first spelled Marlboro. The name is supposed to have been taken from Marlborough in England, formerly written Marlberg or Marlbridge from the chalk hills which surround it.

At this first town-meeting Edward Rice, William Ward, John Ruddlecke, John Howe, Thomas King, Solomon Johnson, and Thomas Goodnow were elected selectmen, and John Ruddlecke was made town clerk.

Having assigned house lots to all proprietors, it was voted on February 10th, 1662, that all unoccupied lands, except eighty acres of upland, should remain a perpetual cow common for the use of the town. Under this arrangement it was found necessary to brand the cattle so that they could be identified. Each person had a mark of his own, but the town officials thought it wise to have a town mark, so that when cattle wandered to a distance it might be known in what town they belonged. The General Court, therefore, authorized the following mark, "M." In November, 1709, a petition was sent to the General Court asking permission to divide this land, and it was granted.

Every Puritan settlement desired at once to have a spiritual adviser and preacher, and consequently the Rev. William Brimsmead was selected as the first minister. In April, 1661, a house was built for him, Obadiah Ward, Christopher Banister and Richard Barnes being employed by the town to build it. They were paid in corn, wheat, and rye, fifteen pounds of each to be paid at stated intervals as the work progressed. The house was given to Mr. Brimsmead "to be his and his heirs and assigns forever." Mr. Brimsmead was greatly respected by his people, and was paid the liberal salary of forty pounds a year. Some trouble caused him to remove to Plymouth for a time, but he

afterward returned to Marlborough and remained for thirty-five years. He died July 3, 1701, aged 76 years. He was buried in the old cemetery back of the High School Common, and an unlettered stone marks his resting place.

Having provided a house for the minister, they next built a meeting-house on the spot where the present High School Building stands. This was within the limits of the Indian Planting Field, and was one of the sources of hostile feeling on the part of the Indians. A tax of twelve pence per acre on each house lot was imposed to meet the expense.

John Howe is supposed to have been the first white man who settled in Marlborough. He built a little cabin east of the Indian Planting Field, about one-third of a mile northeast of the Union Church, on the spot known as the Edward Rice farm. This was probably in 1657 or 1658.

Edmund Rice had his home where the City Hall now stands.

William Ward lived on what is now known as the Hayden Farm, off West Main street.

John Woods, Senior, lived on the Southboro road.

John Maynard lived on the Israel Howe farm, west of John Woods' place.

Jonathan Johnson's house lot was directly opposite the High School Common, and was given him on condition that he should reside in town a specified time, and do the smith-work for the people.

John Ruddocke's home was where the Joseph Howe house now stands on the west side of Mechanic street. He was one of the wealthiest and best educated men in town. His was the first frame house built in town. The original frame now forms a part of the house occupied by Mrs. William Waugh, Mechanic street.

Christopher Bannister's house lot was north of John Ruddocke's.

John Barrett lived north of, and on the land adjoining, Christopher Bannister's, directly opposite the W. F. Gleason place on Hudson street.

Abraham Howe lived on the spot where the Pleasant-street schoolhouse now stands. (Hon. S. H. Howe is a direct descendant of his.)

Edward Rice lived a little east of the place now known as the Otis Russell place.

Thomas Rice lived north of Lake Williams not far from the Moses Howe place.

William Kerly lived at the lower end of what is now known as South street.

Richard Ward lived near the present residence of Chandler Fay.

Samuel Brigham lived where Mr. Francis C. Curtis now resides, on East Main Street.

Thomas Brigham lived in the westerly part of the town on the Northboro road on the place now occupied by Charles H. Landry, the baker. The old part of the house occupied by Mr. Landry is said to be the oldest house now standing in town.

John Bent and Peter Bent lived where the William Stevens house now stands.

Richard Barnes lived where Charles Jones now resides.

Abraham Williams lived where the Williams Tavern (Gates House) now stands.

Thomas Goodnow resided on the spot where E. E. Allen now lives on Ash street.

The first settlers of Marlborough were very severe in their punishments and were very rigid regarding religious observances. Some of their punishments were as follows :—Men were publicly whipped for shooting birds on Sunday ; also for idleness and intemperance. They were fined for lying and for disorderly living. The tongue was put into a cleft stick as a punishment for cursing and swearing. For being intoxicated, a man was made to stand in the public highway with a paper pinned to his back bearing the words, "A Drunkard." In one case a man had his ears cut off for speaking against the church and the government.

They were very simple in their dress, and both men and

women were forbidden to wear anything but the plainest of clothing.

The use of the stocks was one method of punishment. They were made of planks joined together by a sort of hinge at one end and so arranged that they could be opened and closed at will. The edges of the plank where they came together were cut or rounded out so as to admit the wrists, ankles, and sometimes the necks of the offenders. When a prisoner was put into the stocks, he was held securely until they were unlocked. These stocks were often placed under the stairs of the meeting-house, where the people who were to be punished were set on Sunday so they could be seen by those who came to church. The records of the General Court show many instances where towns were fined for not providing stocks in which to set disorderly persons.

When Marlborough was first settled, the "Connecticut Way," or road, ran through the town. Over this road, called by the people the "great road," the first line of mail coaches was run by Capt. Pease, and it was over this road that General Washington passed in 1789, when he stopped and dined at the old Williams tavern. At the head of the procession rode a gentleman who acted as guide. He was dressed in uniform and rode a dapple-gray horse. Behind him rode two aids, also in uniform, and mounted on gray horses. Next came two negro boys riding bay horses attached to a carriage in which sat Washington. Following the carriage was a baggage wagon drawn by a pair of gray horses. He was met at the Tavern by a committee for the purpose of making arrangements for his reception in Boston. The table from which he dined is now owned by Miss Lizzie Holyoke, who bought it at auction of the Gates family.

After the first church that stood on the High School Common was burned by the Indians in 1636, another was built on the same spot. This stood until 1688, when a larger one was built near the same place. This stood for more than a hundred years, or until about the year 1856, when a division occurred,

and two meeting-houses were built,—one at Spring Hill and the other in the West Part.

The oldest burying ground, or "church yard," as it was called, is in the rear of the High School Building. Many of the first settlers are buried here, and among them several soldiers of the Revolution. Capt. Hutchinson, the first person buried here, was shot by treacherous Indians August 2nd, 1675.

GRADE VI.

The Indians in Marlborough were a branch of the Natick or Wamesit tribes, who were located on the Merrimac, where the city of Lowell now stands. These Indians were generally peaceable, and were disposed to live on good terms with the English. The fact that they had planting grounds indicated that they were more advanced in civilization than most of the savage tribes. This was chiefly due to their belonging to the tribes of Indians who had been under the teachings of John Eliot.

Eliot was born in England in 1604, and came to America in 1631. He became much interested in the Indians, and in 1645 began preaching to them. To prepare himself for the work he learned their language, and translated the Bible into the Indian language. He visited most of the Indian settlements, gaining the confidence of the tribes, and established churches among them. Their worship was conducted after the manner of the Puritans, "the menkind sitting by themselves, and the women-kind by themselves, according to their age, quality, and degree." They also established a form of local government, and elected their overseers, constables, and other officers after the manner of English people.

They were called "The Praying Indians," and they lived in what now are the towns of Natick, Stoughton, Marlborough, Lowell, Grafton, Littleton, and Hopkinton. The first Indian church was established in Natick in 1660. The Indians, as we have seen, were in possession of a great many acres of valuable land. The English naturally wished to get possession of this

land which adjoined theirs. The Indians were jealous of the white people, whose population and wealth were rapidly increasing, yet they lived together in comparative peace and friendship.

In 1675, Philip, the chief of the Wampanoags, planned to drive the white people away. He feared that if they were allowed to remain they would, in time, get possession of all the land. He went among all the different tribes of Indians, and induced them to engage in a war. The white people all over New England were attacked. There was safety nowhere. The Indians went from town to town, burning the dwellings of the white people, often attacking them in the dead of night and butchering them. They often shot down men while at work in the fields, and carried women and children into captivity.

Thinking that Marlborough would be attacked, the white people held a meeting in October, 1675, to prepare themselves. At this meeting they agreed to build garrisons or forts for safety in case the Indians should attack the town. Nine garrisons were established and maintained, as follows: At William Keely's there should be a garrison, and two soldiers allowed by the government should be stationed there: and, in case of danger, nine citizens should repair to the place. This garrison was at the southern end of what is now South street.

At Jonathan Johnson's house there should be nine soldiers and three of the citizens. (Opposite High School Common.)

At Deacon Ward's garrison there should be three soldiers and six citizens. (Residence of Chandler Fay.)

At Sergeant Wood's house there should be two soldiers and six citizens. (Road to Southboro.)

At Abraham Williams' house there should be three soldiers stationed. (Williams Tavern.)

At Joseph Rice's house there should be three citizens.

At Thomas Rice's house two soldiers and six citizens should be stationed. (Residence of Mr. Hinckley.)

At Peter Bent's house three soldiers should be stationed. (William Stevens's house.)

The government stationed the soldiers in the various garrisons of the town. They remained for a short time and guarded the town, when, for various reasons, thinking that the Indians would not attack Marlborough, the soldiers withdrew to their homes, much to the regret of the white people, who still feared an attack.

Within four days after the soldiers left, the Indians made their appearance. This was on Sunday morning, March 26, 1676. The people were assembled in the church, and Rev. Mr. Brimsmead had prayed for safety and protection, and a hymn had been sung. He had just begun his sermon, when he was startled by the cry, "The Indians are upon us." The meeting was at once broken up, and the people all ran to the nearest garrison, where they arrived just in time to escape the savage foe. Moses Newton, son of Richard Newton, one of the thirteen original proprietors of the town, seeing an old lady who could not run as rapidly as the others, went to her aid, and helped her into the garrison. In doing this he received a wound in the elbow, from the effects of which he never recovered.

Being in the garrison the people could defend themselves, but could not protect their property. Thirteen houses and eleven barns were burned, fences were torn down, fruit trees were hacked and peeled, and the cattle were killed. The church and the house of the Rev. Mr. Brimsmead were among the buildings burned. Many of the inhabitants left Marlborough and went to Watertown, Concord, and other towns that were less exposed.

After the attack upon Marlborough, the Indians, numbering about three hundred, retired to the woods and encamped for the night. Lieut. Jacobs, of the garrison of Marlborough, determined to surprise them in camp. Accordingly on the night of the twenty-seventh, with a party of his men and a portion of the citizens of the town, he attacked them when they were wrapped in sleep, and killed and wounded about forty, sustaining no loss himself. The Indians, it seems, determined to punish the white people for thus attacking them; for, on the 17th of April, the largest number of Indians which had appeared in this neighbor-

hood attacked Sudbury. The portion of Sudbury which was attacked is now the town of Wayland. Although the white people fought desperately, the Indians, by setting fire to the woods, drove them into such a position that they were able to kill or capture most of them. Capt. Brocklebank and Capt. Wadsworth were among the killed. The loss of these brave men and so many of their gallant followers spread grief and consternation through Marlborough and the neighboring towns. So great was the dismay that the settlement was substantially broken up, most of the families removing to the older towns for safety.

After the victory of the Indians at Sudbury, the tide of war seemed to turn against them. Finally, Philip, who had fled to Mt. Hope in Rhode Island, was killed in a swamp by a friendly Indian who was with Capt. Church. With the death of Philip the hope of the Indians fled, and the war was practically over. This war lasted fourteen months, and during this time the towns of Brookfield, Lancaster, Marlborough, Medfield, Sudbury, Springfield, Weymouth, Chelmsford, Groton, Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, Northfield, Andover, Scituate, Bridgewater, Plymouth, and many other places were wholly or partially destroyed. It is estimated that about six hundred white soldiers and citizens were killed in the war and six hundred dwellings burned. This war is considered the most terrible and bloody of any of the Indian wars in our history.

The white people who had left Marlborough during the war returned at its close, and in 1677 a town-meeting was called and they again elected officers and attended to the town business.

Among the first things to receive attention after the choice of officers was the providing of another place of worship. They accordingly erected a new meeting-house, which, like the former one, was thatched with straw. This house was located on the old spot, and being left in an unfinished condition, it lasted but a few years. In 1688 a new church was built which was considered very grand for those days. This church stood for one hundred and twenty years.

It was not until 1647 that any very active measures concerning education were taken. It was then ordered by the General Court that every township numbering fifty householders should appoint a school master to teach their children to read and write and "cast accounts." A school master was employed in Marlborough as early as 1696, and in 1698 a school house was built and Jonathan Johnson was employed as teacher. A little later there appears to have been some neglect on the part of the town, for in 1701 the inhabitants were fined for not complying with the law in this respect, and from that time the children were provided with teachers.

In 1702 John Holman was paid seven pounds for teaching the children four months.

For several years there were but two school houses, and many of the children attended schools in private houses.

In 1790 there were seven school districts or "squadrons," and each district had a school for fifteen weeks each year.

In 1834 Marlborough appropriated the sum of \$900 for schools.

In 1826 some enterprising citizens, wishing for greater advantages for their children than the district school afforded, obtained a charter and established an academy. In 1827 a building was erected on the site of the old first meeting-house where now stands the High School. Silas Gates and his son, Abraham, gave \$1000 each by will, the interest of which was applied to the salary of the preceptor. This money is the present "Gates Fund," the income of which is used to purchase supplies for the science department of the High School. On account of these legacies the school was called the "Gates Academy."

It flourished but a few years as a private academy and in 1851, by consent of the heirs, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Phelps, it became a public High School, and Mr. O. W. Albee who had taught for a short time in the academy, was retained as the principal, which position he continued to fill acceptably for a quarter of a century.

GRADE VII.

Although Marlborough was not the scene of any battles during the French and Indian Wars, the savages in many instances stole through the township and carried several persons into captivity. In many cases the people were compelled to desert their farms, leaving their lands untilled while they flocked to their garrisons as their only means of safety.

King William's War began in 1690. William was the King of England. Louis XIV was King of France. Louis declared war against William. The people who had settled in that part of America now called the "United States" were subjects of King William. The people in Canada had come from France and were subjects of King Louis. When Louis had declared war against William, he sent word to his people in Canada to make war upon the English people who had settled in Massachusetts, Connecticut and the other colonies. This war lasted seven years, and many Indians fought with the French against the English. They frequently came down from Canada and surprised towns in the dead of night, killed the inhabitants and burned their houses. In Lancaster on the 18th of July, 1692, a party of Indians assaulted the house of Peter Joslin, who was working in the field, killed his wife, three children, and a widow residing with the family. Elizabeth Howe of Marlborough, the granddaughter of John Howe, the first white settler of Marlborough, was at the house visiting Mrs. Joslin, who was a sister of hers.

She, with one of the Joslin children, was carried into captivity. The child was murdered in the wilderness, but Mrs. Howe was kept as a captive four years, when she was redeemed by the government. After she returned to her friends, she was married to Thomas Keyes to whom she was engaged before her capture. She never fully recovered from the shock of terror she experienced at the time she was made a prisoner, although she lived to the age of eighty-seven years. King William's War lasted until 1697. Peace lasted only five years. In 1702

Queen Anne ascended the throne of England, and the French in Canada and the English colonists in America were once more engaged in fighting against each other. The Indians in Canada assisted the French, and often came down with them upon the English, as they had done during King William's War. On the 31st of July, 1704, Capt. Thomas Howe of Marlborough, hearing that the town had been suddenly attacked by a body of six or seven hundred French and Indians, gathered what men he could and marched to Lancaster. After a severe fight in which the English displayed great gallantry, owing to the large number of the enemy, they were compelled to seek refuge in the garrison. In the engagement Capt. Howe had two men killed—Abraham Howe and Benjamin Hutchins—and others wounded.

August 8th, 1704, a party of Indians, eight or ten in number, rushed suddenly from the woods, and fell upon a number of inhabitants who were working in the field. The place where they made the attack is now called Westborough. They killed Nahor, son of Mr. Edmund Rice, and carried into captivity his two sons, Silas and Timothy. They also made captives of Ashur and Adonijah, the two sons of Thomas Rice. Ashur was redeemed by his father and returned in about four years. He afterwards settled in Spencer. Adonijah remained in Canada and cultivated a farm in Montreal. The two sons of Edmund Rice lived with the Indians, married Indian wives, acquired their habits, and lost all knowledge of the English language. Timothy became a chief. Years after his captivity he visited his relations in Westborough and retained, it is said, a distinct recollection of the circumstances of his capture. He also remembered many of the old people of the town.

On the 5th of October, 1705, Mr. John Bigelow of Marlborough was in Lancaster at the garrison house of Thomas Sawyer. He, with Mr. Sawyer, was taken captive by the Indians and carried to Canada. Sawyer was a blacksmith and Bigelow was a carpenter, There being no saw-mill in Canada, they told the French governor that they would build one if he would procure

their ransom. The offer was accepted, the mill was built, and after some delay, the men were allowed to return home. To show his gratitude at being restored to his family he named two daughters, born after his return, Comfort and Freedom.

On the 18th of August, 1707, a tragical event occurred in that part of the township called Northborough. Among the garrison houses at that time was one known as Samuel Goodnow's garrison, situated on the great road near the stream known as Stirrip Brook. As Mary Goodnow, daughter of Samuel Goodnow, and Mrs. Mary Fay, wife of Gershon Fay, were gathering herbs in an adjoining meadow, a party of twenty or more Indians were seen issuing from the woods and making towards them. They immediately ran for the fort which Mrs. Fay succeeded in reaching and in closing the gate just in time to escape her pursuers. Fortunately there happened to be one man in the garrison, the rest being at work in the field. The Indians attempted to break into the garrison, but were not successful. Mrs. Fay loading the muskets belonging to the place and handing them to her companion, he was able to keep up a constant fire upon the Indians until a party of their friends, hearing a report of their muskets, came to their relief, when the enemy fled. Miss Goodnow, being lame, was unable to escape from the Indians. They seized her and dragged her across the brook to a wood on the hillside where she was killed and scalped. Her mangled body was afterwards found and buried. On the next day Capt. Thomas Howe of Marlborough, with about twenty men, marched in pursuit of the Indians, and being joined by about the same number from Lancaster they overtook the enemy in what is now Sterling, where a severe fight ensued. The white people captured twenty-four packs belonging to the Indians and drove them off the ground. In one of the packs was found the scalp of Mary Goodnow. This was the first knowledge they had of her fate.

Encouraged by the General Court, the people had erected a number of forts into which they could flee in time of danger. These garrisons were mere pickets inclosing the houses and no-

mark of their location would long remain: still we know that there were twenty-six garrisons and that to each garrison were assigned two or more families. There was but little need of these forts, however, for a treaty of peace was made in 1713 and the war closed.

During the French and Indian War, which began in 1754, Marlborough, like the other towns in Massachusetts, furnished a large number of men, a list of whom may be found in Hudson's History of Marlborough.

Some of the Marlborough Indians were strongly suspected of having taken part against the white people in King Philip's war by giving information in regard to the condition of things in the town. This suspicion is strengthened by the fact that they were displeased with the white people for building their church upon a part of the Indian Planting Field. Capt. Moseley was sent by the Government to bring them to Boston. He arrived in Marlborough at midnight, surprised the Indians, and captured them without resistance. Their hands were tied behind them and, connected by a rope, they were driven to Boston in company with some of the Natick Indians. They were taken to one of the islands in Boston Harbor, where it is said, they suffered great hardships.

After the war was over some of the Marlborough Indians returned to their former homes, but their plantation was in a measure broken up, and they were obliged to seek shelter where they could. A large portion of those who returned lived in the western part of the town on the farm of Thomas Brigham, one of Marlborough's earliest settlers. Among those who returned was one named David Munnanow. He had been absent from Marlborough several months, and after his return gave no account of himself. He was recognized, however, by a man from Medfield, who was in Marlborough on a visit, as being one of the Indians concerned in the attack on Medfield. David had returned with a slit thumb, and it was on account of this that he was so quickly identified. At first he denied having been with Philip, but finally confessed, saying that he had been enticed

away. The white people forgave him, and he was allowed to live in peace. He built a wigwam on the border of Lake Williams near the Tavern, where he and his family lived for many years.

How long the Indians had occupied their Planting Field before the place was known to the white men is uncertain, but probably they had lived there for a long time. On the northern slope of the hill, opposite the farm of Mr. William Howe, they undoubtedly had a burial place.

Mr. Howe, the present owner of the hill, in excavating the earth in order to reset a wall, found a quantity of beads which had probably been buried with the wearer. He also found bones, arrow-heads, tomahawks and other articles that no doubt were once in possession of the Indians.

Although the township was granted to the white people in 1656 by the General Court, as the Indians who remained in Marlborough after the war laid claim to the township, the white people, although not obliged to do so, paid them a sum of thirty-one pounds for a deed of the land. The original deed is in the hands of the city clerk.

GRADE VIII.

Marlborough took a prominent part in the Revolutionary War. Soon after the passage of the Stamp Act, the Legislature of Massachusetts took alarm, and in 1768 petitioned the Crown for a redress of grievances. They also addressed a circular to the other colonies, requesting their aid in securing measures for redress. In all the movements in favor of liberty, Boston took the lead. Letters were addressed to the other towns in the Province, asking their co-operation and requesting them to send delegates to meet others from Boston in consultation.

In answer to this call, Marlborough responded favorably, as appears by this record: "The town came into the following vote, that it is their opinion that what the town of Boston has done respecting the present difficulty is proper, and having

accordingly chosen Mr. Samuel Witt to meet the committee of Boston at the time and place named and proposed."—(Marlborough, September 19, 1768.)

The oppressive acts of the British government drove the people to measures of self-defense, among which were the refusal to import and use taxed articles. This measure which originated in Boston was also adopted by the people of Marlborough. A special town meeting was held March 29, 1770, to act on the following article: "To see whether the town will do anything to strengthen the hands of the merchants in their non-importation agreement." John Warren was chosen moderator, and Hezekiah Maynard, Peter Bent, and Robert Baker were made a committee to consider the matter. After due deliberation they submitted a spirited and patriotic report which was adopted by the town, transmitted to the Boston committee, and published in the *Evening Post*, a newspaper of the day. These resolutions approved the action of the Boston merchants, pledged the support of the town, condemned as "enemies to their country and posterity" those who refused to endorse the Non-Importation Agreement, and agreed to make public the names of all citizens who continue to buy goods of the importers. At a subsequent meeting, Hezekiah Maynard, Peter Bent, Robert Baker, Alpheus Woods and Moses Woods were chosen a committee to carry out the provisions of the resolution.

Another special town meeting was held December 21st, 1772, and Hezekiah Maynard, Alpheus Woods, Edward Barnes, Jonas Morse and Daniel Harrington were chosen to draft instructions to the representatives in the General Court and also to correspond with the Committee of Correspondence of Boston. The report of this committee consisted of a series of resolutions censuring the British government, and closed with the following: "Resolved, That every town, not only in this Province, but in all the British Colonies, and elsewhere in the British dominions, ought to furnish themselves with everything necessary that is lawful and commendable in the sight of God, in order to save and defend themselves, and regain support and secure ourselves,

property, liberties and privileges, civil and sacred, and that without any further delay."

Other resolutions of a similar nature were adopted by the town in 1773.

On the 20th of June, 1774, another town meeting was held to act on the following article: "To see what measures the town will come into respecting an Act passed by the British Parliament for blocking up the Harbor of Boston, and other Acts which have passed and are in agitation respecting the Colonies, or the Province of Massachusetts Bay in particular."

After due consideration, a committee was appointed to draw up a covenant of non-consumption of British goods for the people to subscribe to at an adjourned meeting. At this meeting, after hearing the names of those who had refused to sign the covenant, the town, by vote, ordered that the names of those persons who had not signed, or who did not do so by the first of September following, should be published to the world by the Committee of Correspondence of the town.

At a meeting held September 29, 1774, Peter Bent was elected representative, and the town instructed him as follows: "We hereby instruct you that you adhere strictly to the Charter of this Province, stipulated and agreed to between their Majesties, King William and Queen Mary and this Province, and that you pay no acknowledgment to any unconstitutional and new fangled counsellors, and that you do not give your consent to any act or thing that may be construed a tacit acknowledgment to any of the late oppressive, wicked and unjust Acts of the British Parliament, for altering the Government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay."

In the meantime the town adopted measures to prepare for any exigency that might arise. They directed the selectmen "to make an addition to the town's stock of ammunition—powder, bullets and flint." They also united with neighboring towns in the choice of field officers and in reorganizing the militia.

The town also adopted measures to carry into effect recommendations of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, raised

a company of minute men, provided for their drill and discipline, and offered them a bounty, provided they were called into service.

In the spring of 1775, active preparations for war were made throughout the Province. In Marlborough, fifty-five additional guns, with bayonets, were procured; drums were furnished to the companies; blankets were procured for the minute-men, who were to be paid for the time spent in their weekly drill. While these preparations were going on, Gov. Gage prorogued the Legislature, and the people substituted a Provisional Congress as a government of the people themselves. In this Provisional government Marlboro was represented by Edward Barnes, Peter Bent, and George Brigham, some of the most substantial and patriotic citizens, who justly represented the sentiment of the town.

In March, 1776, the town chose a committee of seven of the prominent men "to devise ways and means for the manufacture of saltpetre in private families," as preparatory to the manufacture of gunpowder.

At a meeting held May 28, 1776, the town voted, "that if the Honorable Continental Congress shall, for the safety of the United Colonies, declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, we, the inhabitants of Marlborough, will solemnly engage, with our lives and fortunes, to support them in the measure."

On the 19th of April, 1775, on hearing of the march of the British troops from Boston, and of the engagement at Lexington, four companies of minute-men marched from Marlborough. A large number of Marlborough men served in the Revolution, and the town paid them liberal bounties for enlisting, and contributed toward the support of their families during their absence.

GRADE IX.

In April, 1861, on receiving the news of the attack on Fort

Sumpter, immediately a large number of the leading citizens of all the political parties assembled and discussed the duty of the town in this emergency. They were of one mind in the opinion that prompt and hearty support was the only right policy; consequently they urged the selectmen to call a town meeting for the further consideration of the matter. This meeting was held April 29, 1861, and, in response to the appeal of President Lincoln calling upon all loyal citizens to support the Union, it was resolved, "That the citizens of Marlborough in legal town-meeting assembled, tender our cordial and united support to the government of the United States; and pledge our lives and our fortunes for whatever service our country may require."

At a special town meeting held July 21, 1862, patriotic resolutions prepared by Hon. O. W. Albee were also adopted.

The total number of men furnished by the town and actually engaged in the service was 869; 574 serving for three years, 91 for one year, 108 for nine months, and 96 for one hundred days.

MB 24.2

DOBBS BROS.
LIBRARY BINDING

ST. AUGUSTINE
FLA.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 069 895 7