GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. I.

REMINISCENCES OF GROTON

DURING THE YEARS 1823 AND 1824.

GROTON, MASS.

1884.

649

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, M.D.

VOL. I.

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I PURPOSE some time to write a history of my native town, beginning with her earliest settlement and coming down to the present day; and to this end I have collected many Papers. During a long period she stood in the midst of a wilderness, and was exposed to all the trials of frontier life. She suffered much from hardships and want, as well as from the savage warfare of the Indians. Her original territory has been cut up, and now she is a mother of towns. In former years she exerted great influence in the neighborhood, and her experiences make a story worth telling.

In order to get this historical material under cover, where it may be preserved, and in the meanwhile accessible to others, I have published this Series, which, perhaps, will be continued at some future day.

S. A. G.

MARCH 16, 1887.

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GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1884.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. I.

REMINISCENCES OF GROTON

DURING THE YEARS 1823 AND 1824.

DR. SAMUEL A. GREEN.

MY DEAR SIR, — To one so familiar with the history of Groton, in all its departments and records, from the foundation of the town, I am aware that no slipshod reminiscences of my short visit to that place so long ago, can be of much interest or of any use; and without the pen of Sir Walter or the mallet and chisel of Old Mortality to scrape off the moss and to restore the inscriptions in the churchyard of my memory, any attempt will be in vain.

But, in compliance with your request of yesterday, to make some memoranda of my experiences and observations at Groton during a short residence of about five months in the winter of 1823 and 1824, I will try, though in nearly the eightieth year of my age, and after the expiration of sixty years, without the assistance of any diary, and with a memory materially impaired by age, to furnish, as briefly as I can, the few reminiscences I am able to recall.

ARRIVAL IN GROTON.

Early in the winter of 1823–24, after my dismission from Harvard College, with about half my classmates, in conse-

quence of the rebellion of the class of 1823, and after entering my name as a law student in the office of a distinguished lawyer in Boston, I was induced, partly for the purpose of superintending the education of a younger brother, in whom I felt a great interest, to go to Groton, and there, still pursuing the study of the law, to remain for about five months.

Groton was then a town of about two thousand inhabitants, famous as the birthplace of the distinguished and numerous family of the Lawrences, and Colonel William Prescott, of Bunker Hill memory; and possessing many advantages, from the beauty of its scenery, the loveliness of its situation, and its social attractions as a place of residence.

But, remaining there so short a time, it necessarily offered but few opportunities to collect many reminiscences valuable to an author of a history of that town. A few, however, I will attempt to supply, leaving it to your discretion to adopt, reject, or alter as much or little as you please; presuming that after such a space of time it is impossible to recall, with any degree of exactness, dates, events, and persons with which you will have to deal in your book.

At that time the two most prominent men in Groton were Mr. Luther Lawrence and Judge Dana, to both of whom I was introduced by the honorable and eminent lawyer, Judge Prescott, of Boston. They received us with hospitality and kindness, and contributed much to the pleasure of our short stay in that town. On our arrival we found comfortable rooms and good board in a large house, standing high on the east side of the main street, or stage road, in a central situation, belonging to Mr. William F. Brazer, and directly opposite to the dwelling of Mr. Butler, a most excellent and estimable man, at that time, I believe, the town clerk, and since then the postmaster and historian of Groton. At Mr. Brazer's two young men, Mr. Norman Seaver and Mr. Charles Butterfield, both graduates of Harvard College and students at law, were our fellow-boarders and agreeable companions. Thus began my first experience of country life in New England.

Thanksgiving Day.

On Thanksgiving day we were hospitably invited to dine and spend the day with the family of Mr. Butler, our opposite neighbor, where we were inducted into the mysteries of that New England festival, with all its games and frolics in the evening, after a generous supply of turkey, mince and pumpkin pies at dinner, with the welcome exchange of appropriate customary presents. The party was composed of Mr., Mrs., and Miss Butler, and we had a first-rate time. The daughter, Miss Susan Butler, then about sixteen, would, by Washington Irving, have been called the "Pride of the Village." She was bright, pretty, and graceful, full of animation, and the best of company for such an occasion. With a face full of expression and a mind well stored, for her age, with knowledge, with a figure tall and straight, and manner simple and attractive, she would have done credit to any society. Added to all this, she wrote poetry of much more than ordinary merit. She was of an age when coasting was good fun; and I regretted not a little that my brother anticipated me in securing the best sled and the best girl for this exhilarating winter amusement, which, considering that he was younger, better-looking, and more skilful in steering, was not surprising. About two years afterward, while in Europe, I heard with deepest sorrow, that this child, only sixteen when I knew her, — already then the pride of her parents, the idol of her companions, and the favorite of all who knew her, and, as I was told, still improving in person and character, surrounded by every blessing in possession and prospect to make life happy, — had fallen a victim to some fatal malady, and had been followed to her early grave in Groton, with aching hearts and streaming eyes, by her fond parents and admiring friends. Who, after an interval of nearly sixty years, is now left to tell how much of youthful promise, purity, grace, and sweetness of character lies buried in that grave, with the crushed hopes and fond wishes of those who loved her?

s^d. Securities Shall give in on oath what they gave for the same and Shall Receive no more of the publick Treasurer Including Interest.

14^ly To see if the Town will Vote to open our Ports to all nations that a free trade may commence to the Good of the Community at large.

15^ly To see if the Town will Vote to Chose a Committee of safety to see that there is no more Infringements made on our Injured Rights and previledges — and act [on] any thing Relative to the above Articles or any other things which may be Necessary for the good of the Publick at Large.

Benj^a. Page	Peletiah Russell	David Woods
Eph^m Ward	Thomas Farwell	John Woods
Stephen Munroe	Richard Sawtell	Benj^a. Hazen
Jabez Holden	Samuel Kemp Jr.	Jason Williams
Eben Tarbell	Ephraim Kemp	Daniel Williams
John Moors	Amos Adams	Jacob Williams
Amos Stone	Caleb Blood	Shattuck Blood
John Park	Benj^a Tarbell	David Blodget
Eben^r Farnsworth	Saml. Hemenway	James Bennet
Jonas Stone	Zech^r. Fitch	Isaac Lakin
Jon^a Stone	James Shiple	Sam^ll Hartwell
Asa Stone	Joseph Shed	John his × mark Lawrance
Thomas Hubbard	Oliver Fletcher	
Jon^a. Lawrence	Josiah Hobart	John Gragg
Robart Ames	Oliver Parker	Job Shattuck
Amos Ames	Royal Blood	Job Shattuck Jr.
Oliver Shed	Phinehas Parker	Benj^a. Lawrance
John Fiske	Jon^a Worster	Samuel Gragg
Asahel Wyman	Ephraim Nutting	Jacob Lakin Parker
Joh Sartell	James Wood	Jacob Gragg
Jonathan Fiske	Nath^ll Sartell	Oliver Blood
Amos Lawrence	Jacob Patch	Levi Kemp
Enoch Cook	Sam^ll. Chamberlin	Timothy Woods

And you are to make return of this Warrant with your doings therein to the Town Clerk of said Town or to some one of the Selectmen of the s^d. Town by Tuesday next [June 27,] at Eight o Clock beforenoon hereof you will not fail at the peril of the Law. Given under my hand & seal this 24th. day of June A. D. 1786.

By order of the Selectmen of said Town.

ISAAC FARNSWORTH Town Clerk

These several articles were referred to a committee, chosen at the meeting, consisting of Dr. Benjamin Morse, Captain Job Shattuck, Ensign Moses Childs, Captain Asa Lawrence, and Captain Zechariah Fitch, to whom "Discretionary power" was given to act as they thought best. They were requested to

correspond with the committees of other towns in the Commonwealth, in relation to their public grievances, and to petition the General Court for redress.

The "request" contained in the warrant shows clearly the utter want of appreciation of the true causes of their troubles, on the part of the signers, as well as the proper remedies for relief. Their political notions were crude in the extreme, and in many respects agree well with the views of those who now advocate free trade and fiat money.

Committees from Groton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, and Ashby met at Groton on June 29, 1786, two days after the town-meeting, in order to make preparations for calling a county convention. At this preliminary meeting a committee was appointed, of which Captain John Nutting, of Pepperell, was the chairman, who addressed a circular letter to the selectmen of the other towns in Middlesex County. They were invited to send delegates to a convention, to be holden at Concord, "to consult on matters of public grievances and embarrassments, and devise a remedy therefor." At Newton a town-meeting was held expressly for the purpose of considering this letter, when a very sharp and decisive answer was sent by that town to Captain Nutting, declining to take part in the affair. Extracts from the reply are found in Francis Jackson's "History of Newton" (pp. 211–213).

The county convention was afterward held at Concord, on August 23, — the immediate result of the meeting of the town committees at Groton. Its object was to consult on public grievances; and one such grievance was the Court of Common Pleas, which was to sit on the 12th of the following month. The malcontents felt a special spite against this court, sometimes called the Inferior Court, as it was the principal source of the executions by which property was sold to satisfy the demands of the tax-gatherer. The convention voted ten articles of grievance, and adopted an address to the public, which was ordered to be printed, when it adjourned to meet again on the first Tuesday of October.

Trouble was now feared, and means were taken to prevent it. But notwithstanding these measures, a mob of about a hundred men from Groton and its neighborhood, under the command of Job Shattuck, assembled at Concord, on the afternoon of September 12, in order to prevent the session of the court.

They lodged that night in the court-house, and under such other temporary shelter as they could find, and on the next day took possession of the ground in front of the court-house. Strengthened by considerable accessions to their numbers, they succeeded in their aim so far as to prevent the sitting of the court; and this produced a great excitement, not only in Middlesex, but throughout the State. Flushed with success, the rioters were now determined to suppress the session of the court to be held at Cambridge on November 28, though some of them were inclined to go no further against the government, but in this were overruled by the leaders. As the day drew near, there were unpleasant rumors of a probable collision between the authorities and the rebels, and due care was taken to avert it. The show of strength on the part of the government, and the want of discipline among the insurgents, prevented the disaster.

John Quincy Adams, then a young man in college, writes in his journal, under the date of November 27, 1786,—as quoted by the Hon. Charles Francis Adams in his Phi Beta Kappa address, at Cambridge, on June 26, 1873:—

"This evening, just before prayers, about forty horsemen arrived here, under the command of Judge [Oliver] Prescott, of Groton, in order to protect the court to-morrow from the rioters. We hear of nothing but Shays and Shattuck. Two of the most despicable characters in the community now make themselves of great consequence." (Page 6.)

General John Brooks, afterward the Governor of the Commonwealth, writes from Medford, under the date of November 27, 1786, to Commissary-General Richard Devens, that "one hundred Volunteers are expected in this town every moment from Groton to support the Court at Cambridge tomorrow."[1] This is, undoubtedly, an allusion to the force under Judge Prescott, who was a prominent military character in the county. He had previously held in the militia the respective commissions of major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, brigadier-general, and major-general.

On November 27 a small party of insurgents, headed by Oliver Parker, of Groton, marched into Concord, on their way to Cambridge with the intention of suppressing the court.

[1] Massachusetts Archives, vol. clxxxix. p. 35.

This movement created fresh excitement, as the Middlesex leaders had indeed promised to remain quiet, and their appearance now was quite unexpected. Job Shattuck joined them later, coming in a more secret manner. It was intended that he should have command of the party, and act with the rebel force from Worcester County; but, owing to some want of co-operation between them, their plan fell through. At this failure the ringleaders became disheartened and scattered, when most of them returned to their homes. Warrants were at once issued for the arrest of the principal offenders. Executive action was based on the following communication:[1]—

To the Governor and Council of Massachusetts

I hereby certify that Job Shattuck & Oliver Parker Gentlemen & Benj^a. Page Yeoman all of Groton & Nathan Smith & John Kelsey of Shirley Gentlemen, all in the County of Middlesex & Commonwealth aforesaid have been active in the late rebellion & stirring up the people to oppose Government, are therefore dangerous persons & pray a Warrant may be issued to restrain them of their personal Liberty.

Oliver Prescott.

Boston Novr. 28th 1786

A company of horsemen, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Hichborn, aided by another party under Captain Henry Woods, of Pepperell, was sent from Boston to secure the subjects of the warrant.

George R. Minot, in "The History of the Insurrection in Massachusetts" (pp. 77–79), gives the following account of the affair:—

"The execution of these warrants was committed to the Sheriff of *Middlesex* [Loammi Baldwin], and others, to whose aid, a party of horse, who had voluntarily associated for the support of government, under Colonel *Benjamin Hichburn*, was ordered from *Boston*, early in the morning of [Wednesday] the 29th of *November*. They were joined by a party from *Groton*, under the command of Colonel *Henry Wood*, and the whole consisting of more than 100, proceeded immediately for *Concord*. On their arrival there, the *Groton* horse, as being best acquainted with the country, and least liable to excite an alarm from an unfamiliar appearance to the inhabitants, were despatched to secure the subjects of the warrant. These returned at night, with two prisoners, *Parker* and *Page*, but Shattuck, the principal leader, had taken an

[1] Massachusetts Archives, vol. clxxxix. p. 40.

alarm and escaped. Under this disappointment, at midnight, in the midst of a violent snow storm, the whole party were ordered on to *Shattuck's* house in *Groton*, where they did not arrive till late in the morning. Here they found that *Shattuck* had fled to the woods. A search was immediately commenced, and a judicious pursuit discovered him to a party of a few persons, led by Colonel *Wood* himself. *Shattuck* obstinately resisted, and was not taken until he had received several wounds, one of which was exceedingly dangerous, and which he returned, though without much injury. The three principal objects of the warrant being thus apprehended, the party returned to *Boston*, on the next day but one after their departure, having pervaded the country for near fifty miles. The short time in which this excursion was performed with so large a body, and the extreme severity of the weather, rendered the execution of this service as honourable to the gentlemen who subjected themselves to it, as their motives in the undertaking were commendable."

Job Shattuck lived near Wattle's Pond, in a house which he built about the year 1782, still standing, and occupied by Harrison Holmes when the map in Mr. Butler's History was made. He is supposed to have passed the night before his arrest at the house of Samuel Gragg, two miles away from his own dwelling. When the company failed to find him at his home on the morning of Thursday, November 30, twelve men, under Sampson Reed, of Boston, proceeded at once to Gragg's residence, where there was reason to think he was hiding. They learned that he had been there, but had just left; and by the tracks in a light snow which had fallen during the previous night, they traced him to the neighborhood of his own house. Here he was taken by his pursuers, after a desperate resistance, on the banks of the Nashua River, almost within sight of his dwelling. A blow from the broadsword of F. C. Varnum, of Boston, made a fearful wound in Shattuck's knee, dividing the capsular ligament.

Another account of the arrests is found in "The Massachusetts Gazette," December 5, 1786, as follows: —

"We have the pleasure of announcing to the publick the very agreeable and authentick information of the safe return of the corps of volunteer horse, under the command of Col. Hichborn, after having achieved the object of their expedition, by the capture of *Shattuck*, *Parker* and *Page*, who have been the indefatigable fomenters of sedition in the county of Middlesex.

"Too much credit cannot be given the officers and men on this occasion, who performed a long and disagreeable march, a great part of the way in the night, in a heavy snow-storm, and in a very short period. — The people every where in the country, through which they passed, so far from the opposition which the rioters threatened, cheerfully gave them every assistance that was wanted. A company of horse, under Col. Wood, of Pepperell, were particularly active, and had the honour of securing two of the prisoners before the party arrived at Groton. — Shattuck, however, had found the means of eluding their vigilance — but upon the arrival of the troop in the vicinity of his house, a second search commenced with renewed ardour — until he was finally discovered, pursued and apprehended — though not without a sharp conflict with one of the horse, in which much personal bravery was displayed — but upon two others coming up, he was obliged to surrender. — Shattuck was badly wounded in the knee, and the gentleman immediately engaged received a slight cut on his face. — These deluded and daring violaters of the publick peace had been in arms the day before in Concord, on their way to Cambridge, to stop the Court of Common Pleas, which is now sitting unmolested in that town.

"The most absurd and contradictory stories have been circulated throughout the country; and it may be truly said, that they have supported a bad cause by the most scandalous deception, as well to their own strength, as to the views of government.

"Every body joins in giving praise to the volunteers, who have done honour to their characters, and rendered the most essential benefit to the State by this achievement.

"Groton is about 43 [33?] miles from this town, so that what with the direct course, and the chase which they had before the seizure of Shattuck, who immediately fled to the woods, upon being discovered behind a barn, many of the company must have rode near one hundred miles from Wednesday morning to Thursday evening, and were some of them nine hours on horse-back, without scarcely dismounting in that time. There was not a gun fired at the horse, in the whole expedition, though it was generally believed that Shattuck had fortified his house in order to a vigorous opposition: This, however, proved not to be the case, for he had endeavoured to abscond, after trying in vain to raise a party for his protection. — The troop went in aid of the Sheriff, by order of his Excellency, when it was found that the late amnesty of government was without effect, in reclaiming these hardened offenders."

Captain Shattuck was carried to Boston on December 1, and committed to jail with Page and Parker, though these last two were soon afterward released on bail. Page's liberation was

due, doubtless, to the following letter from Judge Oliver Prescott, one of the selectmen at that time:[1] —

GROTON Jany. 1st 1787.

SIR Mr Benja Page the State Prisoner with his Wife, beggs to know of your Excellency, whither he can be admitted to Bail before the sitting of the General Court; as he has a large young Family suffering by his absence. Mr Page is a man of property & Messrs Joseph Allen & Jonathan Lawrence of Groton, men of property, will appear as sureties. Mr Levi Kemp the bearer, went with sd Page on the 27th of Novr last, to Carry a Letter from the Malcontents, to Capt. Pratt in Bristol County, & will inform you of their Conduct in that Journey. Your Excellency will be pleased to inform Mr Kemp whither Page can be admitted to Bail, & what are the necessary requisites for that purpose.

I have the honor to be, with the most perfect Esteem,

Your Excellencies most Obedient, Humbl Servant;

OLIVER PRESCOTT.

THE GOVERNOR.

While in confinement Shattuck was treated kindly, and had the best of medical skill. "The Massachusetts Gazette," December 12, says: —

"*Shattuck*, the state prisoner now in this town, is amply provided with all the necessaries and conveniences proper for any person labouring under such a wound, as he received in his violent and obstinate resistance to the gentlemen who apprehended him; he is constantly attended by a number of respectable gentlemen of the Faculty, and treated with all the humanity that could possibly be shewn to any person whatever."

He remained in jail more than four months, but was finally released on April 6, under bonds of £200, and allowed to return to his family. The following letter relating to his son is on file:[2] —

GROTON, Jany 9th 1787

SIR Job Shattuck Junr son of Capt. Shattuck the State Prisoner, earnestly requests your Excellency's permission to see his Father. — he hath been in Arms twice; & after his father was apprehended absconded & went into the Western Counties, but after his return came & Volun-

[1] Massachusetts Archives, vol. clxxxix. p. 57.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 71.

tarily took the oath of Allegiance a Certificate of which I have sent to the Secretary.s office, & believe he will be a good Subject & I desire he may be allowed to return to his Family & Business. He will give an account of his discoveries in his Journey if interrogated.

I have the honor to be with the most perfect Esteem & respect,

Your Excellency.s most Ob.t Hle S.t

OLIVER PRESCOTT.

THE GOVERNOR.

The following account of Shattuck's wounds is found in "The Massachusetts Gazette," January 5, 1787:—

"As the curiosity of the publick has been excited by the situation of *Job Shattuck*, now confined in the jail in this town; and as it is not improbable his real condition may have been wilfully misrepresented in different parts of the country, it is thought expedient to publish the following, which may be relied on as a true state of facts.

"About 10 o'clock in the morning of the 30th of November, he was overtaken by a party of the posse who attended the Sheriff. Being armed with a broad sword, he assaulted the party, and before he could be made a prisoner, and disarmed, he received several slight cuts in his face and hands, and a wound in the joint of his right knee, from a broad sword. His hands and face were soon healed.

"By the wound in the knee, the capsular ligament was divided in an oblique direction, on the anteriour and external part. As soon as he could be brought to an house, his wounds were dressed; and as he was to be conveyed immediately to Boston, it was judged expedient to close the gaping wound by three stitches through the cellular membrane. In this state he was conveyed to town in a sleigh, the most easy mode of conveyance at this season of the year. On the first of December, he was lodged in Boston jail. Having lain a few hours in a room on the first floor, he was removed on the same day into an upper-chamber, warm and comfortable, with a good fire-place, and capable of free ventilation, a room usually appropriated for debtors, and accommodated with glass-windows, where he was provided with suitable bedding, fireing, and a faithful nurse, and every other necessary, attended by a number of the faculty of the town.

"The great degree of inflammation usually brought on by a wound on this part, and of such a nature, was in a considerable degree prevented by bleeding, cooling medicines, anodyne and sedative applications, and by keeping the limb in an easy posture, and for the first week, the wound wore as favourable an appearance as, from the nature of it, could be expected.

"A degree of pain and inflammation, however, continued, particularly on the external and upper part of the joint; and on Friday the 8th December, it was found necessary to open a sinus which had formed from the upper lip of the wound, and a little above the joint, which discharged a considerable quantity of matter. Notwithstanding this discharge, and the constant use of antiphlogistick applications, and a total abstinence from animal food, and every thing of a spirituous kind, and inflammation of all the parts about the joint continued, and did not begin to subside until Tuesday the 12th, when they became less turgid, and the wound, with the parts adjacent, assumed a more agreeable aspect, the matter discharged was of a good quality, the patient was in general free from pain, rested well at night, and discovered that inclination for food which proves the system to be at ease.

"The inflammation having now subsided, it was thought proper to give the bark and wine, in order to restore the strength of the patient, which had been much impaired by the fever and discharges of matter; and there was a pleasure in observing the agreeable appearance and improvement of the wound from day to day under this course. His recovery was evident, not only to the gentlemen who attended him, but was experienced by the patient, and drew from him his approbation and acknowledgment.

"Notwithstanding these promising circumstances, he was indulged, by government, in the privilege, enjoyed by every other citizen, to choose his own physician and surgeon, and according to his own request, was delivered into the care of Mr. Kitteredge, of Tewksbury, on Wednesday the 20th; since which time, neither of the gentlemen, who had attended, have seen him, or been consulted in his case.

"[It is to be remarked, that the patient at this time acknowledged, and Mr. Kitteredge declared the wound to be in good order, and that it 'run good matter.']"

"The Massachusetts Gazette," January 26, 1787, announces that —

"A report having been circulated in the country, that Mr. Shattuck, one of the state prisoners, had died in jail, it is proper to inform the publick, that he was last evening as well as he has been for three weeks past; and that his recovery is not improbable."

In the month of May, Captain Shattuck was tried and convicted before the Supreme Judicial Court, and sentenced to be hanged on June 28; but, the day before this, a reprieve was granted to July 26; then, on the day preceding this, the execution of the sentence was again postponed to September 20,

but on the 12th of that month he received a full and unconditional pardon.

Job Shattuck's life was one of large experiences. He was born on February 11, 1736, and at the early age of nineteen took part in the French War, serving through the campaign of 1755 under General Monckton in Nova Scotia; and later he was present at the battle of Bunker Hill. In the year 1776 he was lieutenant of a company that went to Boston after that town was evacuated by the British, and the next year he commanded a company raised in Groton, that marched to Fort Ticonderoga. During the whole period of the Revolution he gave freely of his time and money to promote the popular cause.

In the autumn of 1781, Shattuck was engaged in what were then known as the Groton riots, incited by the opposition to the silver-money tax. He and sixteen other citizens of the town threatened and bullied William Nutting and Benjamin Stone, while attending to their duties as constables in collecting taxes. It was an affair that created a good deal of excitement in its day. At the trial he pleaded guilty, and was fined £10 and the cost of prosecution.

It is but just to the memory of Captain Shattuck to say that he was a member of the church and much respected by his townsmen. At the time of the rebellion he was near the middle age of life, and a man of great bodily vigor. He was the son of a respectable farmer, and himself a large landowner. Strong and athletic in person, skilled in the use of the broadsword and proud of the accomplishment, utterly insensible to fear and having a good war-record, — all these qualities, aided by his position and means, gave him great influence among his neighbors. He paid dearly for his errors, as the crutch which he used until the day of his death, January 13, 1819, would testify; and we can well afford to be charitable now to the poor misguided men who took part in that needless and wicked rebellion.

It should not be supposed, however, that the whole town of Groton sympathized with the insurrectionary proceedings, as there were many law-abiding citizens still remaining. The following extract is taken from "The Massachusetts Gazette," December 12, 1786: —

"It may serve, says a correspondent, to give information to the publick, with respect to the importance of the *mob* in Middlesex, to know, that all the independent farmers, and all the sober, thinking people in that county, discovered the highest approbation of the measures lately taken to put a stop to all future tumults there; hoping, as they declared, that they should *now* hear and suffer no more from such infamous doings, and that the neck of sedition was broken. The people of Groton provided every refreshment, for the men and horse who went out to apprehend the leaders of the mob, and refused to receive one farthing's recompence, though ample pay was urged upon them."

During the period of Shays's Rebellion Groton was one of the three towns in Middlesex County where the Court of Common Pleas used to sit, Cambridge and Concord being the other two. In the spring of 1787 its sessions were removed by an act of the Legislature, presumably on account of the part taken by the town in this uprising.

In the year 1835 there was published anonymously at Philadelphia, a work entitled "The Insurgents: An Historical Novel," in two volumes. It is based on Shays's Rebellion, and the scene is laid mainly in the Connecticut valley. In the second volume is an account of Shattuck's capture, which is given with all the freedom of a novelist's pen.

During the excitement of the rebellion Aaron Brown's pot-ash works at Groton were burned, on November 30, by some of the insurgents. Brown was one of the two constables who served the warrants against the leaders on that very day, and the feeling toward him was bitter. The establishment was situated on the south side of the Broad Meadow road, near the village, just before you come to the meadow. "The Massachusetts Gazette," December 8, says: —

"On Thursday night [November 30], last week, the Pot-Ash works belonging to Mr. Brown, of Groton, together with several tuns of Pot-Ashes, were destroyed by fire. The loss to Mr. Brown is very considerable; and we are well informed, that there is great reason to conclude it was occasioned by the malice of one or more of the insurgents belonging to Middlesex."

It appears from the General Court Records (vol. xlvii. p. 426), May 1, 1787, that Mr. Brown subsequently received some compensation for his losses. The entry is as follows: —

In the House of Representatives . . . Whereas Aaron Brown of Groton has represented to this Court, that his pot and pearl ash works were destroyed by fire, and also exhibited evidence which affords good reason to believe that the same were destroyed by some unknown and wicked incendiary, in consequence of his great exertions in the support of good Government.

And whereas it is incumbent on the Legislature of this Commonwealth, to encourage the manufacture of pot & pearl ash, as well as to provide, as far as consistently may be, that no person shall suffer injury in consequence of his exertions to support and defend the Government: —

Resolved That there be paid out of the Treasury of this Commonwealth to Aaron Brown from the money arising from the fines which are or shall be paid by persons who have been or shall be convicted of being concerned in the late rebellion, the sum of one hundred pounds, to enable him to rebuild his pot and pearl ash works — Provided notwithstanding if the said Brown shall hereafter discover the perpetrators of the aforesaid wicked act, and shall recover the damage he has sustained, he shall in that case repay the said sum of one hundred pounds, into the Treasury, taking duplicate receipts, one of which he shall lodge in the Secretary's office.

In Senate read & concurred

Approved by the Governor

The works were subsequently re-established on the same site, and the building was standing as late as 1820. Some of the old iron kettles, used in the manufacture of potash, were lying behind Major Gardner's store at a period many years later.

[*Republished from the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, November*, 1884.]

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. IV.

GROTON AS A SHIRE TOWN.

DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO.

TWO GROTON CONVENTIONS.

THE SOAPSTONE QUARRY.

GROTON, MASS.

1884.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1884.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. IV.

GROTON AS A SHIRE TOWN.— DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO.— TWO GROTON CONVENTIONS.— THE SOAPSTONE QUARRY.

[The following articles have appeared at different times either in "The Groton Landmark" or the "Groton Citizen," and are now revised and reprinted in this Series. — S. A. G.]

GROTON AS A SHIRE TOWN.

IN the year 1729 an attempt was made to divide Middlesex and form a new county from its northwestern section. The matter is referred to in the Reverend Wilkes Allen's History of Chelmsford (page 44), where it says that a committee was appointed in Chelmsford, during that year and the four following ones, to meet with committees from other places in order to carry out the scheme. The author gives a list of the towns to be embraced in the new county, which were Groton, Townsend, Pepperell, Dunstable, Merrimack, Dracut, Litchfield, Chelmsford, Westford, Littleton, Concord, Bedford, Billerica, and Tewksbury. At that time Merrimack and Litchfield were considered as belonging to Massachusetts; but after the running of the provincial line in the spring of 1741, they fell on the New Hampshire side of the boundary. It is a mistake, however, to include Pepperell in the list, as

that town was not incorporated for many years after this period, either as a precinct or as a district. Bedford and Westford were both set off as towns on September 23, 1729, and doubtless, as new settlements, were interested in the project; but Townsend, not incorporated until June 29, 1732, and Tewksbury, not until December 23, 1734, could have taken no part in the movement.

Rufus C. Torrey, Esq., in his History of Fitchburg, Massachusetts (1865 edition), refers to the same subject, and says that the inhabitants of Lunenburg in 1729 chose Captain Josiah Willard as their agent to join with others to consider what may be best in order to divide the county of Middlesex. This scheme resulted in the formation of Worcester County, on April 2, 1731, which took eight towns from Middlesex, besides others from Suffolk and Hampshire. It was a distinct affair from the one mentioned in the History of Chelmsford. Mr. Torrey furthermore says:—

In a little more than two years after this, attempts were made to form a new county out of the counties of Worcester and Middlesex, of which Groton was to be the shire town. These attempts in a short time were abandoned. (Page 39.)

Further particulars are given in the following extracts from the Journal of the House of Representatives, under the respective dates of June 15 and 17, 1736.

On a motion made and seconded by divers members, *Ordered*, That the House will enter into the consideration of the Petition of *Benjamin Prescot*, Esq; and Capt. *Joseph Blanchard*, for themselves and others, praying for a division of the Countys of *Middlesex* and *Worcester* on Thursday next the 17*th*. currant in the forenoon. (Page 49.)

According to the order of Tuesday last the House enter'd into the consideration of the Petition of *Benjamin Prescot*, Esq; and Capt. *Joseph Blanchard*, Agents for *Groton*, *Dunstable*, &c. praying for a new County to be erected partly out of *Middlesex* and partly out of *Worcester* Countys, as entred the 18*th*. of *June* last, and 26*th*.

of *March* and referred; the same being read, with the respective answers thereto, and some debate being had, the following Vote passed, *viz.* In answer to the within Petition, *Ordered*, That the prayer thereof be so far granted as that the Towns of *Groton*, *Dunstable*, *Littleton*, *Wesford*, *Dracut*, *Nottingham*, *Townshend*, *Lunenburgh*, and *Harvard*, with the Towns lately granted, and lying Northerly and Westerly of the Towns afore enumerated, and not already included in any County, be and hereby are erected into a seperate and distinct County by themselves, to all intents and purposes in the Law, and that the Petitioners have leave to bring in a Bill accordingly. Sent up for Concurrence. (Page 51.)

The question of dividing the county does not appear to have been brought forward again for nearly thirty years. In the Journal of the House of Representatives, June 6, 1764, the following entry is found:—

A Petition of Capt. *Abel Lawrence* and others, Agents for several Towns in the County of *Middlesex*, praying that sundry Towns in the County of *Middlesex* and *Worcester* as mentioned, may be erected into a seperate County.

Read and *Ordered*, That the Petitioners insert Copies of this Petition in all the *Boston* News-Papers three Weeks successively, that so the several Towns in the Counties of *Middlesex* and *Worcester*, may shew Cause, if any they have, on the second Wednesday of the next Session of this Court, why the Prayer thereof should not be granted. Sent up for Concurrence. (Page 39.)

The petition is given in "The Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter," August 23, 1764, and sets forth the reasons for the division. It is as follows:—

Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY FRANCIS BERNARD, Esq;

Captain-General and Governor in Chief in and over His MAJESTY'S said Province; and to the Honorable His Majesty's COUNCIL, and House of REPRESENTATIVES, in General Court assembled at *Boston*, *December*, A. D. 1763.

The Petition of the Subscribers, Agents for the several Towns and Districts, viz. of *Groton*, and District of *Shirley*, and *Pepperrell*, as also the Towns of *Westford*, *Lyttleton* and *Townshend*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and the Town of *Lunenburg*, and the Township of *Ipswich-Canada* [Winchendon], and *Dorchester-Canada* (so called) [Ashburnham] in the County of *Worcester*. *Humbly sheweth*,

THAT your Petitioners and their Predecessors, inhabiting the several Towns and Districts aforesaid, from the first Settlements of said Towns and Districts have, and still do labour under great Difficulty and Burthen, by Reason of the great Distance they live from the usual Place of holding the several Courts of Justice within the Counties aforesaid, as well as the Courts of Probate in the same Counties; many of the Inhabitants living fifty, some forty, and few less than thirty Miles from the Courts of Probate aforesaid, which renders it at all Times very difficult and sometimes impossible, for poor Widows and others to attend the Probate Courts, and other Courts of Justice, without great Expence; by Means whereof, many times Actions are and necessarily must be continued, to the great Cost and Charge, oftentimes, to poor Orphan Children, and others who are necessarily obliged to attend said Courts; and this almost inconceivable Difficulty and Burden daily increases, in Proportion to the Increase of the Inhabitants of said Counties, which are now so large, that the Inferior as well as Superior Courts are frequently obliged to adjourn over Sundays, in order to finish the necessary Business of said Courts, to the great Cost and Damages of many poor Witnesses and Jurymen, and others who are obliged to attend, &c. Wherefore your Petitioners, in behalf of themselves and the several Towns and Districts aforesaid, most earnestly pray Your Excellency and Honors to take their difficult Case under your wise Consideration, and pass such Acts and Laws, as that the Towns and Districts aforesaid, together with the Towns of *Chelmsford*, *Dracut*, *Dunstable*, and *Stow*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and the towns of *Harvard* and *Leominster*, in the county of *Worcester* (or such of said Towns and Plantations, or any others, as your Excellency and Honors shall think fit) may be erected and incorporated into a separate and distinct County, and that the same may be invested with all the Privileges that other Counties have and enjoy in this Province; or otherwise grant Relief as Your Excellency and Honors, in Your known Wisdom and Goodness shall see meet, and

Your Petitioners in behalf of themselves and the several Towns they represent, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray.

Abel Lawrence
Oliver Prescott
Jonas Cutler
James Prescot
Josiah Sartell } Agents for *Groton.*
Jonath. Lawrence
Thomas Warren
Joseph Harwood } Agents for *Lyttleton.*
Jonas Prescott
William Fletcher
Jabez Reep [*Keep*] } Agents for *Westford.*
Benjamin Brooks, Agent for *Townshend.*
William Prescott, Agent for *Pepperrell.*
Hezekiah Sawtell, Agent for *Shirley.*

In the House of Representatives,

JUNE the 14th. 1764.

READ, and ordered, That the Petitioners insert Copies of this Petition in all the *Boston News Papers*, three Weeks successively, that so the several Towns in the Counties of *Middlesex* and *Worcester* may shew Cause (if any they have) on the Second *Wednesday* of the next Session of this Court, why the Prayer thereof should not be granted.

Sent up for Concurrence,

THOS. CLAPP, *Speak'r, Pro Tempr.*

In COUNCIL, *June* 14. 1764, read and concurred.

A. OLIVER, *Sec'ry.*

It will be seen that the spelling of some of the names of these towns differs from the modern method. Lyttleton, Townshend, and Pepperrell were formerly common ways of writing them. It is somewhat doubtful how Littleton got its name; but Townsend was so called from Viscount Townshend, a member of the Privy Council, and Pepperell from Sir William Pepperrell, the hero of the capture of Louisburg, who always wrote his surname with a double "r." While, therefore, these forms were correct more than a century ago, long and good usage has decided against them.

It is useless now to speculate on what might have been, if the prayer of the petitioners had been granted. It would

have materially changed the destiny of Groton, which was to be the shire town of the new county.

On February 6, 1776, an Act was passed removing the November term of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Court of Common Pleas from Charlestown to Groton, presumably on account of the disturbances of the War. Two years later, on September 23, 1778, this November term was transferred to Cambridge, to take the place of the May term, which in turn was brought to Groton, where it remained till the spring of 1787. The sessions of the Court were held in the First Parish Meeting-house; and the Court was sitting here during the famous dark day of May 19, 1780, when candles had to be used.

It is highly probable that Shays's Rebellion, which occurred during the summer and autumn of 1786, had some connection with the removal of these sessions from Groton. The uprising in Middlesex County was confined exclusively to this neighborhood, and the insurgents always felt a bitter spite against the Court of Common Pleas, which they tried to abolish. The action of the Legislature in making the change seems to have been in part retributive.

The Court House at Concord was burned down early on the morning of June 20, 1849, during a session of the Court. The County Commissioners declined to rebuild, and left the matter to the next General Court. On February 13, 1850, Mr. Boutwell, then a member of the Legislature, presented to that body a petition of Nathaniel P. Smith and others, that the terms of the Court of Common Pleas ordered to be held at Concord, should be held at Groton; and the question was duly referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The subject was followed up, on March 18, by petitions from Pepperell, Townsend, Shirley, Littleton, and other neighboring towns, in aid of Mr. Smith's petition, which all took the same course. On March 26 the committee reported leave to withdraw, which recommendation was carried on April 8, after a long debate. The matter again came up in another form on the 15th, when the project for a change was defeated for the last time.

Some years ago, the late Ellis Ames, Esq., of Canton, Mas-

sachusetts, by my request furnished the following account of the Probate Courts held here, which forms a fit supplement to this article.

GROTON PROBATE COURT.

No statute in the Provincial period regulated the times and places of holding Probate Courts. I suppose the Probate Judges held their Courts at the Court House on days of which they had before given notice to the public.

By the Constitution of Massachusetts, which went into effect on October 25, 1780, the Judges of Probate were required to hold their Courts at such places, on fixed days, as the convenience of the people should demand, and the General Court was required from time to time thereafter to appoint times and places for holding Probate Courts, until which appointments the Courts were to be holden at such times and places as the respective Judges of Probate should direct.

The General Court did not, by any law, fix times or places for holding Probate Courts in Middlesex County until, by a statute passed June 14, 1813, a Probate Court was ordered to be held at Groton on the first Tuesday in March, on the second Tuesday in May, and on the third Tuesday in October.

A change was made in the law by statute passed February 14, 1822, when the Probate Courts in Groton were required to be held on the first Tuesday of May, the last Tuesday of September, and the last Tuesday of December.

By a law passed on March 20, 1832, the Probate Courts at Groton were required to be held on the first Tuesdays of May and November, which was continued by the Revised Statutes of 1836.

By statute of 1856, Chap. 273, the first Tuesday of November was changed to the third Tuesday of October. By statute of 1857, Chap. 78, the Probate Courts at Groton were required to be held on the fourth Tuesdays of May and September, which last provision was carried into the General Statutes, and by the statute of March 30, 1866, these two Groton Probate Courts were removed to be held at Cambridge, since which time no Probate Court has been held at Groton.

October 20, 1877.

An Act was passed by the Legislature, on June 15, 1821, authorizing the Judge of Probate to hold a special Court at Groton, on the second Tuesday of August of that year.

DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO.

THE following description of a destructive tornado in Warwick, Massachusetts, on September 9, 1821, was written by the postmaster of that town. It is given in a letter addressed to the late Caleb Butler, Esq., under these circumstances.

An account book had been picked up by the wayside near Sandy Pond, in the south part of Groton. It was found by the late Eliab G. Bolton, who judged, from the pieces of shingles and other rubbish scattered about, that there had been a severe gale in the neighborhood, and the fragments brought here by the wind. The book was fourteen inches in length, five and a half in width, and nearly half an inch in thickness. It had a pasteboard cover, on which was written, in a large and clear handwriting, "Blotter, 1802." The book was given to Mr. Butler, who, on hearing of the tornado at Warwick, wrote to the postmaster of that town about it, and received in reply the following letter. By a coincidence the postmaster happened to be the very man who had made and lettered the Blotter nearly twenty years before. The shortest distance between Warwick and Groton is forty-five miles, and the fragments, carried at a great height, must have gone much farther even than this. The exact time of their falling is not known, as it occurred after dark.

WARWICK October 1821 —

CALEB BUTLER Esq.

SIR — Yours of the 24th Ult. was received in due course of mail — stating that clapboards shingles books &c. had been found in the fields in Groton, which were supposed to be carried from Warwick by the wind in the late Tornado. There is no doubt of the fact, as there has been found in Winchendon and Fitchburg large quantities of the ruins of buildings that went from this place.

The daybook mentioned in your letter was the property of Ebenezer Willson, who at the time of the dates, kept a tavern in this place. — He commenced business on the 1st day of April 1802 — about which time it is probable, the accounts in the book begin —

according to the description you give of the book, it was made & letter'd on the cover, by my own hand. A leaf of Willson's Ledger was picked up in Winchendon containing an account against myself & James Ball in the year 1802, which is probably posted from the daybook in your possession — If so, you will find me charged with 1 cwt. hay April 5th — 50 — [cents] May 6th 74lb hay, 34 & August 12th 2 Pts brandy, 58. —

I am well acquainted with all the names you mention, and the charges against them will give you a very good idea of the character & habits of some of them. Said Willson removed from this place to Upper Canada, and left his accounts & papers with his father (Jonathan Willson) in this town, whose Dwelling-house, Barn & out Buildings were all demolished, and the greatest part of their contents carried away by the late Tornado. Those buildings in the centre of the track of the Whirlwind, were more exposed to its ravages, than any others in its whole extent. I visited this place about an hour after the wind had passed, but have it not in my power to picture to your view, this field of desolation — everything was swept close to the ground, and *that* considerably torn up. The orchard was carried all away — scarcely a tree within sight, and the heavy stone walls were level with the earth. From the best information I can obtain, those buildings we[re] demolished in less than 10 seconds of time. The family, six in number, who were all in the house, were providentially saved from instant death. Two boys escaped without injury, the other four were taken up much bruised and wounded — one was found in the cellar, one was taken up in the wind, and after being knocked about by the flying timbers, fell a little distance from where the house stood — the other two were found in different directions, among the small quantity of ruins that remained on the ground. Their confinement is a very great addition to their other sufferings. Many others have suffered severely, and some have lost, perhaps, a greater amount of property, but no others have suffered the loss of every thing that is necessary for upholding life, and at the same time deprived of their own exertions to save the scatter'd remnants, or provide a shelter for the approaching inclement season. When we look for the Buildings & conveniences of 50 years industry and prudence, and find nothing, and when we enquire for the subjects of this calamity and are conducted to their beds where they are confined to pain & anxious solicitude, the stoutest heart withdraws in tears, to wash away an accumulated load of sympathetic sorrows.

The people in this place are doing what they can, to repair the loss of all the sufferers. The town has appropriated $700, for their immediate necessities; but the loss is so extensive, that it seems impossible for the people here, to grant the relief which their situations require, and repair the damages which the sufferers have sustained. We count five Dwelling houses and thirteen Barns, together with a great number of other buildings, which were demolished, and their contents broken to pieces and scattered over a vast extent of territory: to this calamity we may add, a very great amount of Property destroyed, in wood, timber, orchards, fences and domestic animals. If any of the calamities to which the human family are subject, ever demanded the charity of the Public, I think this is one of the number; and I am requested by the Central Committee in this town, viz. Justus Russell Esq. Joshua Atwood & Josiah Procter, thro this medium, to solicit of the inhabitants of the town of Groton such assistance as they may feel disposed to grant to the sufferers in this place. You, sir, will have the goodness to communicate to the Selectmen, or other proper persons, the desire of the aforesaid Committee. Your compliance will confer a signal favour upon your friend & Very Humble Servant,

WM COBB

The letter is addressed on the outside to

CALEB BUTLER Esqr
Groton Ms.

and franked in the right-hand upper corner thus:—

Free — WM. COBB P. M.
Warwick Ms

The tornado happened on a Sunday afternoon, between five and six o'clock; and the dark, heavy cloud betokening the event was noticed by several persons at Groton. I was told by the late Dr. Amos B. Bancroft, that Mr. Butler himself saw the cloud from Walter Dickson's house on Farmers' Row, where he and others were engaged at the time in practising singing for the Sunday evening exercises. The Blotter and Mr. Cobb's letter are now deposited in the library of the Essex Institute at Salem, where it is filed among the manuscripts, and marked "Blotter — 1802." An account of this tornado is found in Blake's History of Warwick, which says that "a part of a leaf [?] of an account-book was found in Groton, about sixty

miles from the house where it was deposited in a chamber" (page 107). The distance, however, as given by Mr. Blake, is somewhat exaggerated.

"The Massachusetts Spy" (Worcester), September 12, gives the following description of the gale:—

On Sunday afternoon last [September 9], about 6 o'clock, a most destructive tornado was experienced in Northfield, Warwick and Orange, in the County of Franklin. It commenced near the middle of the town of Northfield, passing with desolating fury, in a direction nearly east, until it was arrested by "Tully's Mountain," about two miles north of Athol Meeting-House. It first struck and demolished a house and barn in Northfield — and thence passed to the easterly part of that town, and destroyed the house of Chapin Holton, seriously injuring him. From Northfield it passed into Warwick, completely demolishing, in its course, the house of a Mr. Brown, a daughter of whom, about fourteen years of age, perished in its ruins — and the barn and out-buildings of a Mr. Ball. A little distance east of Mr. Ball's, in Orange, a house, two barns, and a blacksmith's shop, all belonging to Mr. Smith, fell prostrate before the blast. The family, consisting of eleven individuals, escaped death by retreating to the cellar — all, save one, a young woman by the name of Stearns, who was crushed to death by the falling timber. Several others were, however, so seriously injured that their lives are despaired of.

We have not room nor time, at the late hour at which we write, to detail the numerous circumstances which, we learn, attended this desolating whirlwind. The width of its ravages was from 40 to 60 rods — its length about ten miles. So resistless was its force that the stoutest trees were up-rooted, stone fences removed, immense rocks torn from their beds, and even the surface of the earth itself broken up, as if with "the plough-share of destruction."

"The Massachusetts Spy," September 26, contains an account, taken from the Concord (N. H.) Patriot, of another violent hurricane that swept through the towns of Croydon, Wendell, New London, Sutton, and Warner, New Hampshire, at nearly the same hour this tornado burst forth in Franklin County. They lie about fifty miles away, in a northerly direction from Warwick.

During the preceding century a severe hurricane occurred in the West Parish of Groton, now known as Pepperell, of which an account appears in "The Boston Weekly Post-Boy," August 15, 1748. It is as follows:—

GROTON, WEST-PARISH, July 30. 1748.

We had here, last Thursday, the 28th Instant, a terrible Hurricane, with shocking Thunder. The Course of the Whirlwind was from South to North, tho' often varying, sometimes bearing to the East and sometimes to the West. It has torn up a vast number of large Trees by the Roots, twisted others off in the midst, took up and carry'd away some Apple Trees to such a Distance that they could not readily be found, removed some large Logs from the Ground, and carry'd them to some Distance from the Place where they lay; entirely demolishing two or three Buildings, taking off part of the Roofs of some, moving others a Foot or two from the Foundation: It hath carried away a considerable part of the Roof of the Meeting-House, threw down the Fences, Stone-Walls, laid the Corn even with the Ground; the Air was fill'd with Leaves, Hay, Dust, Pieces of Timber, and Boughs of Trees of considerable bigness, for a Quarter of an Hour, which was the Time it was in passing thro' the Parish; one House which it took in its Way was garrison'd; one Side of the Garrison was thrown with great Violence against the House, the other Sides levell'd with the Ground, and part of the House carry'd away: There was a Woman and three small Children in the House, who were all wonderfully preserved, from receiving the least Hurt. Notwithstanding the great Desolation made among us, there was not Life lost, thro' the divine Goodness, tho' many Persons were in imminent Danger. We have not yet heard where it began; it went quite thro' the Parish; it's Impetuosity ceased near the Line between Hampshire and this Province, which is not far from us. Damage sustain'd by one man is very considerable, what in the Destruction of his Buildings, Corn, Hay, Fences, &c. he has lost above 500*l.*

This description was written, undoubtedly, by the Reverend Joseph Emerson, the minister of the West Parish at that time, as it is substantially the same as the one given in the parish records, according to Mr. Butler's History (pages 347, 348).

TWO GROTON CONVENTIONS.

A CONVENTION was held in the Orthodox Meeting-house at Groton, on October 1 and 2, 1834, for the purpose of organizing a County Anti-slavery Society. It was noted for the presence of the English abolitionist, George Thompson, and other well-known reformers. It was at this meeting that Mr. Thompson made his first public appearance in America, and this fact gave the Convention a certain notoriety. To his logic and eloquence Lord Brougham had attributed the triumph of the anti-slavery cause in England, saying to the House of Lords, "I rise to take the crown of the most glorious victory from every other head, and place it on George Thompson's. He has done more than any other man to achieve it." It can readily be understood that such a person would produce an impression in any assembly. He had just arrived in Boston, and it was arranged by William Lloyd Garrison and the Reverend Samuel J. May that he should accompany them to the Convention, then about to take place at Groton.

In Mr. May's book, entitled "Some Recollections of our Anti-slavery Conflict" (Boston, 1869), is an account of their trip, as follows: —

At that time I was devoting a few weeks of permitted absence from my church in [Brooklyn] Connecticut to a lecturing tour in the anti-slavery cause, and came to Mr. Garrison's house in Roxbury an hour after the arrival of Mr. Thompson. He readily consented to go with us the next day to Groton, there to attend a county convention. We gladly spent the remainder of the day together, in an earnest and prayerful communion over the great work in which we had engaged; and at night repaired to lodge at the Earl Hotel in Hanover Street, that we might not fail to be off for Groton the next morning at four o'clock, in the first stage-coach, no conveyance thither by railroad being extant then.

At the appointed hour, the house being well filled, the meeting was called to order, and business commenced. As all were eager

to see and hear the great English orator, preliminary matters were disposed of as soon as practicable. Then Mr. Thompson was called up by a resolution, enthusiastically passed, declaring our appreciation of the inestimable value of his anti-slavery labors in England, our joy that he had come to aid us to deliver our country from the dominion of slaveholders, and our wish that he would occupy as much of the time of the convention as his inclination might prompt and his strength would enable him to do. He rose, and soon enchained the attention of all present. He set forth the essential immitigable sin of holding human beings as slaves in a light, if possible, more vivid, more intense, than even Mr. Garrison had thrown upon that "sum of all villanies." He illustrated and sustained his assertions by the most pertinent facts in the history of West India slavery. He inculcated the spirit in which we ought to prosecute our endeavor to emancipate the bondmen, — a spirit of compassion for the masters as well as their slaves, — a compassion too considerate of the harm which the slaveholder suffers, as well as inflicts, to consent to any continuance of the iniquity. He most solemnly enjoined the use of only moral and political means and instrumentalities to effect the subversion and extermination of the gigantic system of iniquity, although it seemed to tower above and overshadow the civil and religious institutions of our country. He showed us that he justly appreciated the greater difficulties of the work to be done in our land, than of that which had just been so gloriously accomplished in England, but exhorted us to trust undoubtedly in "the might of the right," — the mercy, the justice, the power of God, — and to go forward in the full assurance that He, who had crowned the labors of the British Abolitionists with such a triumph, would enable us in a like manner to accomplish the greater work he had given us to do.

Mr. Thompson then went on to give us a graphic, glowing account of the long and fierce conflict they had had in England for the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies. His eloquence rose to a still higher order. His narrative became *a continuous metaphor*, admirably sustained. He represented the anti-slavery enterprise in which he had been so long engaged as a stout, well-built ship, manned by a noble-hearted crew, launched upon a stormy ocean, bound to carry inestimable relief to 800,000 sufferers in a far distant land. He clothed all the kinds of opposition they had met, all the difficulties they had contended with,

in imagery suggested by the observation and experience of the voyager across the Atlantic in the most tempestuous season of the year. In the height of his descriptions, my attention was withdrawn from the emotions enkindled in my own bosom sufficiently to observe the effect of his eloquence upon half a dozen boys, of twelve or fourteen years of age, sitting together not far from the platform. They were completely possessed by it. When the ship reeled or plunged or staggered in the storms, they unconsciously went through the same motions. When the enemy attacked her, the boys took the liveliest part in battle, — manning the guns, or handing shot or shell, or pressing forward to repulse the boarders. When the ship struck upon an iceberg, the boys almost fell from their seats in the recoil. When the sails and topmasts were well-nigh carried away by the gale, they seemed to be straining themselves to prevent the damage; and when at length the ship triumphantly sailed into her destined port with colors flying and signals of glad tidings floating from her topmast, and the shout of welcome rose from thousands of expectant freedmen on the shore, the boys gave three loud cheers, "Hurrah! Hurrah!! Hurrah!!!" This irrepressible explosion of their feelings brought them to themselves at once. They blushed, covered their faces, sank down on their seats, one of them upon the floor. It was an ingenuous, thrilling tribute to the surpassing power of the orator, and only added to the zest and heartiness with which the whole audience applauded (to use the words of another at the time) "the persuasive reasonings, the earnest appeals, the melting pathos, the delightful but caustic irony and enrapturing eloquence of Mr. Thompson."

Thus commenced his brilliant career in this country. The Groton Convention lasted two days, the 1st and 2d of October. Mr. Thompson went thence immediately to Lowell, where he spoke to a delighted crowd on the 5th. Four days after, on the 9th of October, he gave his first address in Boston. (Pages 116–119.)

A report of the proceedings is found in "The Liberator" (Boston), October 11, 1834. In a notice of the meeting, Mr. Garrison, the editor, says: —

We were enabled providentially to attend the Convention, in company with Prof. [Elizur] Wright of New York, Rev. Mr. May of Brooklyn [Connecticut], and our distinguished coadjutor from abroad, George Thompson, Esq. As no reporter was present, the very able and eloquent speeches of these gentlemen, as also those

of Rev. Messrs. Rand and Pease of Lowell, and Rev. Mr. Woodbury of Acton, must be lost to the public, although we trust the effects of these speeches will never cease to be felt. Mr. Thompson was received with that hospitality and attention which are justly his due. His addresses were most happily conceived, and most felicitously spoken, much to the admiration and edification of his spellbound audience. He stood sublimely upon the apex of Christianity, and brought within the scope of his vision every tribe and nation on the face of the globe.

Another noted meeting in Groton was the Christian Union Convention, held on August 12, 13, and 14, 1840. The call for it was issued by Come-outers, so called, and Second Adventists, and had attracted the notice of Theodore Parker, at that time a young man of thirty. He proposed to some of his friends, among them Christopher P. Cranch and George Ripley, that they should walk to Groton and attend the Convention, which suggestion was readily taken up. In his journal, Mr. Parker wrote an account of the trip and the meeting, which is given in Weiss's "Life and Correspondence of Theodore Parker" (London, 1863). He says: —

At Groton we went to reconnoitre, and find Mr. ——, the person who called the Convention which we went to attend. Our host directed us to a certain house, which we could not find, so we accosted a man in the street, —

"Can you tell us where Mr. —— lives?"

"He boards with Brother Hall, about a mile and a half off; but his wife is up there in that house."

Ripley replied, "It is ——, sir, and not his wife we want to see."

"Oh, you will find him down at Brother Rugg's, just behind the meetin'-house."

Thither we went, and found a body of men gathered about the door of the Brother. We were introduced to Mr. —— and found that dignified personage a youngster about four-and-twenty, about the middle size, with a countenance pleasant rather than otherwise. He had a cunning look, appeared designing and ambitious. His natural language was not prepossessing. It said to me, "Take care — take care!" (I. 125, 126.)

"Brother Hall" was Benjamin Hall, who lived at what is now known as the Community. "Brother Rugg" was Deacon

Abel Rugg, the tinman, who lived on Hollis Street, near the Orthodox Meeting-house. Mr. Garrison, the editor of "The Liberator," in his issue of August 21, 1840, gives a notice of the gathering, and says that "a band of choicer spirits, we venture to say, has not been brought together within the last century." There were about two hundred and seventy-five members of the Convention from different parts of New England and New York, not including those of the towns-people who naturally would be attracted to such an assembly. Among the persons present was "—— Parker of Roxbury;" as the young minister who afterward became so famous as a writer and thinker, was styled in The Liberator's notice.

The Convention was held in a large hall, situated on the east side of Hollis Street. The building was afterward moved to Main Street, and known as Liberty Hall, but subsequently burned on March 31, 1878. Dr. Amos Farnsworth, of Groton, was the presiding officer of this meeting, as he was of the previous one in the autumn of 1834. The hall on Hollis Street was built by the Second Adventists, or Millerites, as they were called in this neighborhood after William Miller, one of the founders of the sect. The Reverend Silas Hawley, the minister of the society which used to meet in this building, was the ruling spirit of the Convention. It is probably to him that Mr. Parker refers as the person who called the Convention. Mr. Hawley at one time was the editor of "The Church Reformer," a semi-monthly newspaper printed in Boston and devoted to various so-called reforms. It was published in part as an outcome of the Convention, which warmly recommended it to the public for their support.

THE SOAPSTONE QUARRY.

THIS quarry was discovered, in the year 1828, by John Fitch on his farm in Groton, situated a mile north of the village. He worked it in a small way for several subsequent years, sawing the stone by hand at a shop by the roadside, near his house; but afterward he built a steam mill at the quarry, forty or fifty rods away. In the year 1855 the establishment was bought of the Fitch heirs by the Honorable Samuel Adams, of Townsend, and Daniel McCaine, and during 1857 the quarry was worked by Mr. Adams.

In May, 1858, Mr. McCaine, with his twin brother, David, and another brother, William, removed from Francestown, New Hampshire, to Groton, and took charge of the business, Mr. Adams having died on April 5 of that year. They enlarged the shop, improved the machinery, and worked the quarry on a grand scale. In the spring of 1859 the building was burned down, and on the same site another and larger one was put up.

In 1861 the Adams heirs sold out their interest to the McCaine brothers, who continued the business till September, 1864, when the mill was again burned. The next month the property was sold to a stock company, known as the Groton Soapstone Company, which represented a capital of $100,000. Just before the formation of this company, a "Statement" regarding the location and value of the property was printed, accompanied by reports from the Superintendent, Daniel McCaine, and the State Assayer, Dr. Charles Tracy Jackson, on the resources of the quarry. Their estimates were liberal, and showed, on paper, that large profits would result from investments in the company.

In the summer of 1865 the new company completed their mill, which was 80 by 50 feet in dimensions, with engine-house attached. It was run by a Corliss engine of 75 horse-power, and contained six gangs of saws. It had the latest

improvements in machinery, and was considered the best-equipped and largest factory of its kind in the country.

During the year 1867 the McCaine brothers, who were still in charge of the quarry, invented and patented a process for making artificial stone. The patent was subsequently sold to the Groton Soapstone Company, which soon afterward became the Union Stone Company. For a while the new process was considerably used in connection with the soapstone, and finally became the exclusive business of the company. The affairs of the corporation, however, did not seem to prosper, and, dividends not forthcoming, the establishment was abandoned and dismantled. The capital stock was then increased, and another mill built at Revere, near Boston, where artificial stone was made under the patent.

The following account is taken from "The Groton Herald," May 29, 1830: —

Groton Soap-Stone Quarry.— An extensive quarry of Soapstone was discovered in this town, about two years since. It is on the land of Mr. J. Fitch, who was led to the discovery by accident, and commenced penetrating into it immediately, with considerable success. We have seen some specimens of the stone, that has been wrought into hearths, which retains a beautiful polish — and we understand that while the workmen penetrate deeper into the rocky caverns, the stone becomes more pure and valuable, and promises an inexhaustible supply. The quarry is opened on the side of a hill, in two or three places, and the descent from the top is about forty feet, over projecting crags and huge blocks of stone, above which stands a forest of tall trees — the whole forming a grand and pleasing scene. The trees are seldom felled, and as farther researches are made into the earth, they often fall to the bottom of the cavity and are drawn out in the manner that stone is taken from the opening of the quarry. New discoveries are made almost daily, and we should judge from the appearance of what has already been done, that it is but a slight introduction to a vast territory of stone, of a very valuable kind.

Some minerals have also been found in this place. Particles of iron ore may be seen among the stones, and black lead has been picked up in considerable quantities — and minerals of different colors, sparkling among the rocks and waters, can be distinctly

discerned. Several springs gush from between the crags, and the water has filled the bottom of the quarry so as to delay the work, in one or two places ; but this obstruction is shortly to be remedied by fixing pumps to take away the water, and greater progress will doubtless be made the ensuing Summer, than formerly.

The situation of this quarry is remarkable for its beautiful and romantic scenery — the wildness of nature which presents itself in varying scenes, and the rich groves and forests that appear on every side. After leaving the road we are led about a half mile, over valleys and variegated hills, till the path begins to be lined by huge pieces of Stone that have been drawn from their bed in immense quantities, and thrown aside like the worthless covering of a more valuable substance. The quarry is hidden from the view by towering trees that overshadow it, until winding along the rocky path, we stand before a damp and craggy place that opens at once upon us; here are heard the sounds of workmen, who are employed in purging from the bowels of the earth this stony substance — some of which is so soft as to yield to the pressure of the fingers, while other kinds are of a much harder nature. The whole is remarkably smooth and soap-like, and Mr. Fitch owes his discovery to the fact that a part of a stone adhered to his axe, as he struck it inadvertently, while cutting wood on his farm. Many fragments were scattered over the surface of the ground at the time, but they had never excited attention until this late period.

An attempt was made, about thirty years ago, to dig down on Mr. Needham's land eighty or ninety rods to the southward of the quarry, in order to strike the vein of soapstone. Many days of fruitless labor were thus spent, but the dip of the stone was too deep to be reached.

Mr. Fitch's first shop by the roadside was originally attached to Major William Swan's house, — which is now occupied by Charles Woolley, Jr., on the north side of the Common near the burying-ground, — and at the end of the last century was used as a store.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. V.

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF MIDDLESEX HUSBANDMEN.

RAILROADS AND OTHER CORPORATIONS, ETC.

MISS PRESCOTT'S SCHOOL.

GROTON NEWSPAPERS.—GROTON BAKERY.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS.

AN OLD WALL.—"THE NECK."

GROTON, MASS.

1885.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1885.

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[The following articles, with the exception of the last three, have appeared at different times either in "The Groton Landmark" or the "Groton Citizen," and are now revised and reprinted in this Series.—S. A. G.]

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF MIDDLESEX HUSBANDMEN.

A FEW gentlemen, living in the westerly parts of Middlesex County and interested in farming, met at Chelmsford, on January 6, 1794, and formed a Society for the "promotion of useful improvements in agriculture;" and subsequently, on February 28, 1803, they were incorporated by an Act of the Legislature, under the name of "The Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen." The various presidents of the organization have been the Reverend Jonathan Newell, of Stow; the Reverend Phineas Whitney, of Shirley; the Reverend Edmund Foster, of Littleton; the Honorable Ebenezer Bridge, of Chelmsford; Dr. Oliver Prescott, of Groton; Colonel Benjamin Osgood, of Westford; Wallis Tuttle, Esq., of Littleton; and the Honorable Samuel Dana, of Groton. Since the date of its incorporation, and probably before that time, the Society met annually at Westford, Littleton, and Groton, in rotation, but held no public exhibition.

The following Act is found among the laws of the State:

An act to incorporate and establish a society by the name of The Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Ebenezer Bridge, Joseph B. Varnum, Phineas Whitney, Jonathan Newell, Solomon Aiken, John Bullard, Daniel Chaflin [Chaplin?], Edmund Foster, John Pitts, Parker Varnum, Samuel Pitts, Henry Woods, Timothy Bigelow, Abel Fletcher, Oliver Crosby, Thomas Clarke, Joshua Longley, Ebenezer Bancroft, Timothy Jones, Oliver Prescot, jun. Sampson Tuttle, Zacheus Wright, Abijah Wyman, Jonathan Fletcher, John Farwell, Francis Kidder, Cornelius Waters, William Tuttle, Benjamin Osgood, Benjamin Fletcher, Benjamin Bowers, Paul Howard, John Wood, John Egerton, Samuel Stone, David Lawrence, Samuel Fletcher, Samuel Lawrence, Jonathan Bancroft, Ephraim Russell, Jonathan Lawrence, Ebenezer Bancroft, jun. Thomas Russell, together with such others who shall become members thereof, be, and they are hereby incorporated into, and made a body politic and corporate, by the name of The Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said corporation shall be capable of taking and holding in fee simple, or in any less estate, by gift, grant, devise or otherwise, any estate, real or personal, the annual income whereof shall not exceed *one thousand dollars,* and they may sell or dispose thereof at pleasure, not using the same in trade.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That the said corporation may have and use a common seal, and the same may alter or change at pleasure, and shall be capable of suing or being sued in any actions real, personal or mixed, in any court proper to try the same.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That the said corporation may establish and put in execution such bye-laws and rules for the government thereof, as they may think proper, not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth; and they may appoint such officers as they think proper, who shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing of said corporation as shall be authorized by the bye-laws thereof: And furthermore said corporation may from time to time admit new members thereunto, when, and in what manner they may think best: *Provided however,* That every person being a member of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting

Agriculture, shall be considered as an honorary member of the Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen, and shall have a right to assemble and vote at all meetings thereof.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the end and design of the institution hereby incorporated is to promote useful improvements in agriculture.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That Ebenezer Bridge, Esq. be, and he hereby is authorized to appoint the time and place for holding the first meeting of said society, and to notify the members thereof, by publishing the same in one or more newspapers printed in *Boston*, fourteen days at least before the time of such meeting.

[This act passed Feb. 28, 1803.]

I do not find any notice of the first meeting printed in a Boston newspaper of that period; but among the societies given in The Massachusetts Register for 1805 (page 51) is the following:—

Western SOCIETY OF *Middlesex* HUSBANDMEN.

Incorporated Feb. 28, 1803.

Yearly Meeting for choice of Officers, is held on the 1st Tuesday in September, at Westford, Littleton, and Groton, in rotation, at 10 *o'clock* A. M.

President, Hon. Ebenezer Bridge.
First Vice-President, Zaccheus Wright, Esq.
Second Vice-President, Rev. John Bullard.
Recording Secretary, Mr. David Lawrence.
Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Edmund Foster.
Treasurer, Capt. Francis Kidder.

(Who are Trustees *ex officio*.)

Trustees, Oliver Prescott, Esq. Hon. Timothy Bigelow, Mr. Ebenezer Bancroft.

In the Register for 1806 (pages 46, 47) the list of officers was again published, though remaining the same with this exception, that Oliver Prescott's name is left off from the Board of Trustees and Deacon Abel Fletcher's added. The list continued to be printed in the Register until 1810, when the names of the officers are dropped from the notice, and the heading only appears; and this continued till 1815, when the name of the society alone is given, together with the date

of incorporation and the day of the annual meeting. In 1818 the notice disappears entirely, and before this time probably the society had ceased to exist.

In the "Columbian Centinel," August 21, 1805, an advertisement appears which gives the place of meeting for that year. It is as follows:—

NOTICE.

THE Members of the *Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen* are hereby notified, that their annual meeting for the choice of Officers, will be holden at Mr. *Hall's* tavern, in *Groton*, on the first Tuesday of September next, at ten of the clock, A. M.

DAVID LAWRENCE, *Sec'ry.*

Littleton, August 5th, 1805.

This meeting was duly held, and a reference to it is made in "The Medical and Agricultural Register for the years 1806 and 1807" (page 175), edited by Daniel Adams, M. B., when a vote was passed, expressing an approval of the editor's proposals to publish a "Medical and Agricultural Register."

Dr. Adams was a well-known physician of Boston, who had just previously to this time lived at Leominster, and was distinguished as the author of several text-books for schools. He was born at Townsend on September 29, 1773, and died at Keene, New Hampshire, on June 8, 1864, nearly ninety-one years of age. He was an elder brother of the late Deacon Jonathan Stow Adams, of Groton.

In its day, The Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen was considered a permanent institution, and its full history would now be interesting.

RAILROADS AND OTHER CORPORATIONS, ETC.

FORTY years ago several railroad schemes were stirring the people of Groton, and now the very recollection of them has nearly passed away. The earliest one was the Groton Branch Railroad Company, chartered on March 16, 1844,

which authorized Benjamin M. Farley, Nathaniel P. Smith, and John G. Park to form a corporation for the purpose of building a branch railroad from what is now Ayer to the centre of Groton, and thence "to some convenient point upon the road leading from Pepperell to Dunstable, between Jewett's Bridge and the house of John Shattuck in said Groton." Its capital stock was to be $125,000, in shares of $50 each.

The next project was the Groton and Nashua Railroad Corporation, chartered by the New Hampshire Legislature on December 24, 1844. The company was authorized to build a railroad from a point in the southern boundary line of New Hampshire, within one hundred rods of the Nashua River, to any convenient point in the present city of Nashua. A few months later, on March 5, 1845, the General Court of Massachusetts passed An Act to Incorporate the Worcester and Nashua Railroad Company, which empowered the corporators to build a road in a northerly direction from Worcester toward Nashua as far as the State line. It also authorized the Company to unite at any time with the Groton and Nashua Corporation. In accordance with this provision, and a similar one in a special Act passed by the New Hampshire Legislature on June 26, 1845, the two companies were united on November 6, 1846, so as to form one corporation, under the name of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad Company. The building of this road began on December 1, 1846, and was finished in a little more than two years. The road was opened for regular business, through its entire length, on December 18, 1848,—though the section from Groton Junction, now Ayer, to Clinton had previously been opened on July 3, 1848, and from Clinton to Worcester on November 22.

The Groton and East Wilton Railroad Company was another scheme, incorporated March 25, 1845. It authorized Lemuel W. Blake, Asa F. Lawrence, Abraham Whittemore, James Parker, and Joseph Tucker to form a company to build the road. It was to begin "at the southerly line of said State of New Hampshire, at a point in Pepperell, in the county of Middlesex, within one mile of the Nissittisit River,

where it can be best united with a rail-road from East Wilton to the said State line; and thence in a southeasterly direction in said Pepperell, to the Worcester and Nashua Rail-road, at the most convenient point for a connection therewith, in either of the towns of Pepperell or Groton, in the valley of the Nashua River."

In connection with these railroad schemes, it may be of sufficient interest to go back to an earlier period and give the following Act for a turnpike. It suggests a contrast between the conveniences for travelling at the beginning of the century and the present day. It will be noticed that Pepperell is spelled with two "r's," formerly a common way of writing the word, and agreeing with that of Sir William Pepperrell, after whom the town was named.

An act to establish a Corporation by the name of the Groton and Pepperrell Turnpike Corporation.

SECT. I BE *it enacted by the Senate* and *House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Oliver Prescott, James Brazer, Thomas Gardner, Joseph Moors, Aaron Brown, Luther Lawrence, William Merchant Richardson, esq. Benjamin Woods Parker, William Nutting, Jacob Lakin Parker, James Lewis, jun. and Joseph Fletcher Hall, all of Groton aforesaid, the Rev. John Bullard, Joseph Heald, esq. Simeon Green, and Lemuel Parker, all of Pepperrell aforesaid, together with such other persons as may hereafter associate with them, be, and they hereby are made a corporation and body politick, by the name and style of the Groton and Pepperrell Turnpike Corporation, for the purpose of laying out and making a turnpike road from the first parish meeting-house in Groton in the county of Middlesex, or from the burying ground to the west of the same, as the locating committee may judge will best promote the publick interest, to such point in the line of the state of Newhampshire, as will be, in the nearest convenient rout from the place of departure in Groton aforesaid, to the meeting-house in Milford in said state of New-Hampshire, and for this purpose shall have all the powers, and privileges, and be subject to all the duties, requirements, and penalties, contained in an act, entitled an act defining the general powers, and duties of turnpike corporations, made and passed the sixteenth day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight

hundred and five, and any acts which have been made in addition thereto.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That when the road aforesaid, shall be laid out, made, completed and shall be approved by the Court of Common Pleas for said county of Middlesex, the said corporation shall have power to erect one gate thereon, at such place as the said court may order, and shall be entitled to receive toll thereat, any thing in the act aforesaid notwithstanding.

[This act passed *March* 3, 1809.]

The following Act for an Insurance Company may be added to the foregoing list of corporations:—

An Act to incorporate the Nashua River Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

David Child, Thomas A. Staples, and Oliver Sheple, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of Nashua River Mutual Fire Insurance Company, in the town of Groton, in the county of Middlesex, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions and liabilities set forth in the thirty-seventh and forty-fourth chapters of the Revised Statutes, passed on the fourth day of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, for the term of twenty-eight years.

[Approved by the Governor, March 31, 1836.]

These several enterprises are now nearly forgotten, though the bare mention of them may revive the memory of a few persons. They show the supposed needs of the town at various times, as well as some of the changes continually taking place among its citizens. In their day these schemes were the subject of much discussion, and attracted a good deal of attention.

The following Act is so recent as to be within the recollection of most persons, but I give it with this explanation. A joint resolution had passed both branches of Congress, and was duly approved on March 13, 1876, recommending a due observance of the centennial anniversary of American independence, on the part of the several counties and towns throughout the country. In accordance with the recommen-

dation, the town took action, and appropriated five hundred dollars ($500) for the purpose, but subsequently, owing to some informality, this was found to be illegal. In order to correct the difficulty, an appeal was made to the Legislature.

AN ACT TO LEGALIZE CERTAIN DOINGS OF THE TOWN OF GROTON.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

SECTION 1. The action of the town of Groton at its meeting held on the third day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, in appropriating five hundred dollars to defray the expenses to be incurred in celebrating the centennial anniversary of our national independence on the fourth day of July next, is confirmed, legalized and made valid.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 28, 1876.

The celebration duly took place, when an historical address was delivered by Samuel A. Green, a native of the town and a resident of Boston, and a poem was read by the Reverend John Martin Luther Babcock, at that time the minister of the First Parish Church. Both productions have since been printed.

MISS PRESCOTT'S SCHOOL.

MORE than sixty years ago, there was a famous school at Groton, kept by Miss Susan Prescott. It was established about 1820, and continued for perhaps ten years. It was first opened in the house occupied by Charles Gerrish, but was soon afterward transferred to a building put up expressly for the purpose, near Miss Prescott's own residence. She was the daughter of Judge James Prescott, who lived on the east side of Main Street, toward the southerly end of the village.

The school building was subsequently removed to what is now Hollis Street, near the southeast corner of the old burying-ground, and occupied as a dwelling-house by Mrs. Mansfield. The school had a wide reputation and a large number of scholars. In the library of Harvard College there

is a catalogue of the institution for the year ending November, 1826,—probably the only year when one was printed,—which gives the names of 102 pupils. Miss Mary Oliver Prescott, a sister of the principal, was the assistant teacher; Miss Ann Catherine Reed was the teacher in drawing, painting, and needlework; and Miss Eliza H. Hewitt the teacher in music.

The following advertisement appeared in the "Columbian Centinel," April 25, 1829, and soon after this time the school was given up:—

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, AT GROTON.

MISS PRESCOTT informs her friends and the public, that the summer term in her Seminary will commence the third Wednesday in May next. All the solid and ornamental branches of female education are taught in this school, and every attention given to the health, manners, and morals of the pupils.

Groton, April 14th, 1829.

Miss Prescott was married, on May 13, 1829, to John Wright, Esq., of Lowell, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1823, who had studied law in the office of Judge Dana.

It was at this school that Margaret Fuller passed two years of her girlhood, having been under Miss Prescott's instruction during 1824 and 1825. Her life here has been described by herself with touching truthfulness, in the story of Mariana, in a book entitled "Summer on the Lakes, in 1843." A recently published biography, written by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, says that Margaret's experience at the school, though painful in some respects, exerted a strong influence on her subsequent life.

In the early part of 1833 her father, the Honorable Timothy Fuller, impressed with the natural attractions of the town, came here from Cambridge to live. He bought the fine estate of Judge Samuel Dana, situated on Farmers' Row, where he passed the remainder of his days. He had previously been a prominent Democrat, having served two terms as Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and as a member of the State Senate, as well as of the House of Representatives at Washington.

He died in this town on October 2, 1835, and his family continued to live here until the year 1839. Mrs. Howe writes:—

In the spring of 1833 Margaret found herself obliged to leave the academic shades of Cambridge for the country retirement of Groton. Her father, wearied with a long practice of the law, had removed his residence to the latter place, intending to devote his later years to literary labor and the education of his younger children. To Margaret this change was unwelcome, and the result showed it, at a later day, to have been unfortunate for the family. She did not, however, take here the position of a malcontent, but that of one who, finding herself removed from congenial surroundings, knows how to summon to her aid the hosts of noble minds with which study has made her familiar. Her German books go with her, and Goethe, Schiller, and Jean Paul solace her lonely hours. She reads works on architecture, and books of travel in Italy, while sympathy with her father's pursuits leads her to interest herself in American history, concerning which he had collected much information with a view to historical composition. (Pages 49, 50.)

Margaret's remaining days in Groton were passed in assiduous reading, and her letters and journals make suggestive comments on Goethe, Shelley, Sir James Mackintosh, Herschel, Wordsworth, and others. Her scheme of culture was what we should now call encyclopedic, and embraced most, if not all, departments of human knowledge. If she was at all mistaken in her scope, it was in this, that she did not sufficiently appreciate the inevitable limitations of brain power and of bodily strength. Her impatience of such considerations led her to an habitual over-use of her brilliant faculties which resulted in an impaired state of health.

In the autumn of 1836 Margaret left Groton, not without acknowledgment of "many precious lessons given there in faith, fortitude, self-command, and unselfish love." (Pages 59, 60.)

In later years Margaret Fuller passed some time in Italy, and while there married the Marquis d'Ossoli; subsequently, when returning to her native land, the vessel was wrecked, during a severe storm, on the coast of New Jersey, and she, with her husband and infant son, perished in the waves, on the afternoon of July 19, 1850.

A second edition of the "Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli," in two volumes, was published at Boston in 1881; and the work contains many references to Miss Fuller's Groton life, which was tinged with sorrow and sadness.

The Reverend Arthur Buckminster Fuller, her brother, delivered the historical address at the bi-centennial celebration of this town, on October 31, 1855. It was afterward printed in the "Weekly Public Spirit" (Groton Junction), beginning with the issue of March 31, 1870, and continuing through the next three numbers of that newspaper.

During the last century Groton was the home of another noted character. In the spring of 1778 Judge James Sullivan bought the farm situated on the north side of the present Lowell road, about three-quarters of a mile east of the First Parish Church. The house, still standing, is on an elevated site which commands a beautiful landscape. During the Revolution it was a place of much resort for his associates on the bench, as well as other distinguished men. In the year 1779 Judge Sullivan was a delegate from this town to the Convention which formed the State constitution. He left Groton in the spring of 1782, removing with his family to Menotomy, since known as West Cambridge, but now as Arlington, and opened an office in Boston, having previously resigned his seat on the bench. Afterward he was the Governor of the Commonwealth during the years 1807 and 1808, and died on December 10 of the latter year, while in office.

GROTON NEWSPAPERS.

THE average newspaper represents the enterprise and reflects the character of the community where it is published. A good journal is a great benefit to the neighborhood, and goes far toward educating the people. The various newspapers printed at Groton are intimately connected with the history of the town, and deserve a record in this Series. The list is as follows: —

The Groton Herald, published by Stacy and Rogers, "next door to the Post Office," was first issued on December 5, 1829, and appeared regularly every Saturday until September 4, 1830, when it was merged in The Lowell Weekly Journal. The post-office at that time was in the north end of the building now known as Gerrish's Block. James F. Rogers, the editor, came from Newburyport, and died a long while ago; but the senior member of the firm, George Whittemore Stacy, is now living at Milford, Massachusetts. They were the pioneer printers and publishers of the town.

One number of the Groton Post and Business Advertiser was printed in June, 1843, and one number of The Golden Rule in May, 1846. The Spirit of the Times, a paper advocating the election of General Taylor to the presidency, appeared on July 26, 1848; and twelve numbers were printed, the last one on December 30. The prospectus announcing this publication was dated February, 1848, and styled it the Middlesex Spirit of the Times. The Groton Mercury, monthly, was first issued in June, 1851, and continued two years, when it was removed to Groton Junction, and afterwards took at different times the name of Railroad Mercury, and Brown's Railroad Mercury. The last number (Vol. IV. No. 10) appeared on June 27, 1857. Three numbers of a campaign paper, entitled "Give 'em Jessie," were printed at the Junction, the first one appearing on August 25, 1856, and the last on November 1. This paper supported for the presidency General Fremont, whose wife's given name was Jessie. All these publications were printed by George Henry Brown, at one time the postmaster of Groton and afterward of Ayer. On September 15, 1859, he established at the Junction the Railroad Mercury, a weekly journal, which was kept up until September 26, 1861. On May 13, 1869, John Henry Turner, a son-in-law of Mr. Brown, began the publication of The Public Spirit, which after the fifth number was called The Weekly Public Spirit. From November 3, 1870, to January 11, 1872, it was called the Groton Public Spirit, but on January 18, 1872, the name was again changed to the Public Spirit. In the meantime the village was set off

as a separate town, on February 14, 1871, under the name of Ayer. The newspaper on March 13, 1875, took the title of Turner's Public Spirit, and is now a well-known journal, circulating widely in northern Middlesex. On August 23, 1884, Mr. Turner issued the first number of The Groton Landmark, which is made up of the same matter as his Public Spirit, though with a different heading. Similar editions, with a changed title, are printed for other towns in the neighborhood.

One number (No. 3) of the Olive Branch was published at Groton by the "Good Will Society," on April 2, 1869, and probably the only one printed. One number of The Centennial Record was issued on February 22, 1876, and devoted principally to the history of the town during the Revolution.

The following papers have been edited at different times by the scholars of Lawrence Academy: The Groton Literary Journal, the only number printed, appeared in May, 1843; The Gleaner, November, 1850, published monthly during term time for two years, nineteen numbers; The Echo of the Lawrence Academy, February and March, 1853, two numbers only; the Literary Gazette of Lawrence Academy, July, 1853, and July, 1854, two numbers; and The Groton Gem, a monthly, appeared in May, June, September, and October, 1859 (four numbers). The first number of The Student's Aid was issued on November 27, 1877, and the second on March 12, 1878, both appearing as folio sheets. The third number was published in a pamphlet form as "Vol. I. No. 1" of a new series, but the next number was called "Vol. II. No. 1." This periodical is still kept up, and three numbers are issued annually, — one at the end of each term. The title is very slightly changed, being now called The Students' Aid.

I have seen one number of The Star, which was printed in April, 1859. It is a very small sheet, and evidently the work of an enterprising boy. The name of William H. Hard appears as the publisher.

The latest addition to the list of local journals is the Groton Citizen, which began in January, 1884, as a monthly publica-

tion, but was changed on September 3 to a weekly. It is printed at Marlborough by the Pratt Brothers, in connection with several other newspapers intended for this neighborhood, and "edited by a syndicate of ladies and gentlemen." These papers contain the same matter; but their heading varies according to the towns in which they are circulated.

The Church Reformer was a weekly newspaper published at Boston in the autumn of 1840, and edited by the Reverend Silas Hawley, of Groton. The editor at that time was connected with the society known as the Second Adventists, or "Millerites," who worshipped in the hall on Hollis Street.

GROTON BAKERY.

THE first baker in town was Charles Quails, who lived many years ago where Eliel Shumway's house now stands. Charles Woolley, an octogenarian of Waltham, still remembers him and his sign, which used to read — "Gingerbread, Cake and Bisket sold here."

The following facts connected with the business have been furnished me by George S. Gates. The bakery at the corner of Main Street and Fagot Lane, as it was called in my boyhood, though now known as West Street, was established about the year 1825 by James Minot Colburn and Daniel Shattuck. Soon afterward Mr. Colburn sold out, leaving Mr. Shattuck alone in the business; he continued it for a short time only, when George Green was admitted as a partner, and the style of the firm was Shattuck and Green. About 1833 the partnership was dissolved, and Francis Champney took the place and carried it on during one year. He was followed by the firm of Green and Remington, who conducted the business for about two years, at the end of which time Remington gave up his connection and Green went on with it until about 1839. He was succeeded by the firm of George Green & Co., who carried on the business until about 1844. During the next year the proprietor was George Green, and during 1846 it was George S. Gates, after

which time the bakery was shut up for three years and never much used afterward.

About 1838, and the two subsequent years, the business of the establishment was transferred to the opposite side of the street, after which time it was carried back to the original building, in the meanwhile changed and enlarged.

About 1851 another bakery was built on Elm Street, and the business conducted by Boynton and Brown, and afterward by Mr. Gates, though he left it ten or a dozen years ago. The building was burned down on April 24, 1874, and in just two months to a day from that time another one of brick was put up in its place, where an extensive business is now carried on by William J. Boynton.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS.

SEVERAL days before the Battle of Lexington, a hostile incursion by the English soldiers stationed in Boston was expected by the patriots. Its aim was the destruction of stores collected for the use of the Provincial cause; and on this account every movement of the British troops was closely watched. At this time the Committees of Safety and of Supplies voted that some of the stores should be kept at Groton; and, if their plan had been fully carried out, it is among the possibilities of the War that another battle might have been fought in Middlesex County, and Groton have been the scene of the action. But open hostilities began so soon afterward, that no time was given to make the removal of the stores. It was ordered by these Committees, April 17, 1775, that the four six-pounders be transported from Concord to Groton, and put under the care of Colonel Oliver Prescott. On the next day it was voted that all the ammunition should be deposited in nine different towns of the Province, of which Groton was one, and that one-half of the musket cartridges be removed from Stow to Groton. It was also voted that two "medicinal chests" should be kept at different places in the

own, and that eleven hundred tents be deposited in equal quantities in Groton and six other towns.[1]

During this period a committee was appointed to inspect the stock of powder in the Province, and report the amount on hand in the various towns. This they did on May 25, 1775, when there was, according to the Report, a barrel of powder in Groton,— kept probably in the magazine which, two years later, was enlarged by the Board of War. This magazine was built on the land of Benjamin Bancroft, afterward owned by the Honorable James Prescott, Jr., and is still remembered by some of the older inhabitants of the town. It was situated in the roadway of the present High Street, — which at that time was not laid out, — perhaps thirty-five rods from its north end. It was a stone building, about twelve feet square, and taken down, probably in the summer of 1829. For a long time previously it was not used for any purpose, and became much dilapidated. Some of the material from the building was used in stoning a well, dug near the Meeting-house in order to supply in part Mr. Hoar's tavern with water.

The following papers, found at the State House, relate to the magazine, as well as to the Guard having it in charge: —

State of Massachusetts Bay Council Chamber July 10. 1777.

Whereas it appears that it is absolutely necessary that a Magazine for powder should be erected in some Interior part of this State the other Magazines being insufficient or unsafe

Therefore Voted that it be and hereby is recommended to the Board of War to Enlarge the Magazine at Groton in the County of Middlesex Sufficient to Contain five hundred barrels of Powder.

Read & Accepted Jno Avery Dp^y Sec^y

[Massachusetts Archives, CLXXIII. 274.]

State of the Massachusetts Bay Council Chamber July 17th 1777.

Whereas the Board of Warr have deposited five hundred Barrills of powder in the magazine in Groton in the County of Middlesex for the use of this State and it appears necessary that a Guard be Constantly kept at s^d magazine for the Security thereof,

[1] Journals of the Committee of Safety and of the Committee of Supplies of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, 1774–1775, pages 516–518.

Therefore ordered that one Corporal and four privates be appointed by the Brigadier of the County of Middlesex afores^d from the militia in the s^d Town of Groton for that purpose, who shall be allowed such pay and Subsistance as the General Court shall hereafter order; And the said Brigadeer is also ordered to take special care that no person be inlisted into said Guard that is not known to be attached to the American Cause.

Read & Accepted JN^o AVERY Dp^y Sec^y

[Massachusetts Archives, CLXXIII. 290.]

State of the Massachusetts Bay Council Chamber Novr 7th 1777.

Whereas it hath been represented to this Board that the Guard which hath been kept at the Magazine in Groton in the County of Middlesex in consequence of an order of Council passed July 17th, 1777, is not Sufficient for the Security of the Stores deposited therein for the use of this State.

Therefore ordered that the Brigadier of the County of Middlesex be & hereby is directed to inlist or Cause to be Drafted from the militia in the Town of Groton afores^d one Sergeant & nine privates, to serve as a Guard for the afores^d Stores, untill the further order of Council, who shall be allowed such pay & subsistance as the General Court shall hereafter order

read & Accepted JN^o AVERY D^y Sec^y

[Massachusetts Archives, CLXXIII. 549.]

Subsequently, on February 3, 1778, the General Court passed a Resolve "That there be allowed and paid out of the public treasury of this State unto the men stationed at *Groton*, for a guard, the same wages and rations that are allowed to the sea-coast men."

Two years later, on January 13, 1780, another Resolve was passed, directing Joseph Hosmer —

forthwith to remove all the powder in the magazine at *Groton*, to the following towns, *viz.* one third of it to *Concord*, one third to *Billerica*, and one third to *Woburn*, to be delivered into the care of the Selectmen of said towns, he taking their receipt therefor, which he is directed to lodge with the Board of War, and as soon as said powder is removed that the guards now doing duty at said magazine in *Groton*, be discharged from any further service there, and that said *Joseph Hosmer*, Esq; lay his account of the expence of removing the same before the Committee on accounts for allowance and payment.

This Resolve was afterward so far modified by the General Court, on May 4, that Joseph Hosmer was ordered "to deliver one third part of the powder aforesaid to the care of the Selectmen of *Groton*, and take their receipt for the same, the Resolve of the 12th [13th?] of *January* to the contrary notwithstanding."

The following application to the Council, from Dr. Oliver Prescott, relates to the Revolutionary period, and will explain itself: —

May it please your Hon^{rs}.

The windows of the Publick meeting House & School house in the Town of Groton are very much broken and it is not in the power of the Selectmen to purchase a Box of Glass Unless it be from the Board of Warr, who have been so obliging as to inform me they would Sell a Box for that purpose by your Hon^{rs} permission. Therefore [I] earnestly request an order for that purpose which will much oblige the Town & your

Honour^{s} most ob^{t} & very Hm^{l} Ser^{t}

Octr 16th 1779 OLIVER PRESCOTT

To the Hon^{le} Council Massachusetts-Bay

Underneath is written the action of the Council, as follows: —

In Council Octr 16th 1779

Read & Ordered that the Board of War be and they are directed to deliver the Honble Oliver Prescott Esqr One Box of Glass, he paying for the same.

Attest JOHN AVERY D Se^{y}

[Massachusetts Archives, CLXXV. 647.]

Such papers give us a glimpse of some of the privations and annoyances to which the people were subjected during the Revolution.

AN OLD WALL.

JONAS PRESCOTT, the progenitor of the numerous families of the name in this neighborhood, was a blacksmith by trade, and owned the mill in the south part of Groton, now within the limits of Harvard. It is said that a grant of land, made in the spring of 1678, by the town when it was much in need of a blacksmith, induced him to remove nearer to the village. He built a house and shop on the lot, which was situated on the easterly side of James's Brook, perhaps a third of a mile south of Lawrence Academy. He bought lands, until he became one of the largest owners of real estate in the town. In the year 1876 a piece of stone wall was removed, which separated a part of his house-lot from the highway, — near where it forks from the Boston road, — and which contained a small boulder, bearing this inscription:

I P
1680
Rebuilt by
O P
1784
rebuilt by
S. J. Park
1841.

The initials I. P. are those of Jonas Prescott, — rudely cut, undoubtedly by himself, — and O. P. are those of his grandson, Dr. Oliver Prescott.

Three years after this part of the wall was taken away, I endeavored to find the stone, then to all intents and purposes lost, and it was a long while before I got any trace of it. Willard H. Giles, the owner of the farm at that time, knew nothing about it, and in fact had never seen it. I was told, however, that it might have been used in stoning up the cellar of a barn built in 1876, and here I directed my attention. With Mr. Giles's permission I employed two men for two days to take out and replace various stones, until the missing one

was found. Subsequently I gave the memorial to James Lawrence, a lineal descendant of Jonas Prescott, who has had it set in the wall on the north side of his front gate, where it is likely to remain for many years.

"THE NECK."

In the town-records, as early as February 17, 1670, a reference is made "to the neck vpon the riuer." This is an allusion to a peninsula that once belonged to Amos Farnsworth's farm. It was formed by a long bend in the Nashua River, — perhaps a hundred and thirty rods around, — and joined to the main land by a neck, probably not more than thirty rods wide. At a period near the middle of the last century, very likely during a spring freshet, it was entirely severed from the farm, by the river's breaking through the neck, thus leaving an island of several acres, now partially covered with a growth of pines. The Honorable Claudius Buchanan Farnsworth, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, who was born and passed his early life in the immediate neighborhood of this particular place, tells me that, during his boyhood, his grandfather, Major Amos Farnsworth, used to relate how the affair happened, though it was before his grandfather's recollection, and he was born on April 28, 1754. The Major's father, Amos, Senior, had previously owned the neck or peninsula, and it was during his ownership that the new channel was formed. He continued to hold it, until the day of his death, which occurred on December 5, 1775, by the upsetting of a boat, in which he and his youngest son, Benjamin, were crossing over the river to this very island, when both were drowned.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. VI.

The Functions of New England Academies:

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE DEDICATION OF LAWRENCE ACADEMY, GROTON, JUNE 29, 1871.

BY THE REV. CHARLES HAMMOND.

With an Appendix,

CONTAINING ACT OF INCORPORATION, ETC.

GROTON, MASS.

1885.

Yours Truly

C. Hammond

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1885.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. VI.

THE FUNCTIONS OF NEW ENGLAND ACADEMIES:

An Address delivered at the Dedication of Lawrence Academy, Groton, June 29, 1871.

BY THE REV. CHARLES HAMMOND.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE main building of Lawrence Academy was burned down in the afternoon of July 4, 1868, during the summer vacation. The fire was first seen on the roof, and is supposed to have caught from the use of fire-crackers by some boys playing in the yard. Bigelow Hall, at one time in great danger, was with difficulty saved from the flames. The Academy was built of wood in the autumn of 1793, though it had been twice remodelled since that time: first, in the summer of 1841; and secondly, in the autumn of 1846, when it was much enlarged. The destruction of the building was complete, and swept away the last trace of the original structure. After the fire the regular exercises of the school were held in Bigelow Hall, where they were continued till the end of the summer term of 1869, when there was an intermission of eighteen months, lasting until March, 1871.

The new building, a handsome edifice of brick and stone, was erected on the same site, and dedicated with appropriate services on June 29, 1871, when an historical address was delivered by the Reverend Charles Hammond, of Monson, a former Principal of the Academy. Owing to various circumstances, it was not printed at the time, as was intended by the Trustees; but subsequently Mr. Hammond lent me the

manuscript with authority to use it, and I had it published in the "Public Spirit" (Ayer), January 1, 1874, from which newspaper this copy is taken. In accordance with his permission, I have made some slight changes and corrections.

Mr. Hammond was the Preceptor of the school from 1852 to 1863, a period of eleven years, thus filling a longer term of continued service than any other teacher. He was enthusiastic in his profession and always interested in educational methods. Before coming to Lawrence Academy Mr. Hammond had been the Principal of Monson Academy for nine years, though not continuously; and on leaving Groton he went back to Monson to take his former position. He was a keen lover of antiquarian studies, and had at his command a rare knowledge of New England history. On several occasions he delivered historical addresses, which have since been printed. He wrote a sketch of Lawrence Academy, which appeared in Barnard's "American Journal of Education" (ii. 49–60) for August, 1856, and another which was published in a pamphlet entitled "New England Academies and Classical Schools" (Boston, 1877). A native of Union, Connecticut, where he was born on June 15, 1813, he graduated at Yale College in the class of 1839, and died at Monson on November 7, 1878. At the Commencement of 1877, Iowa College conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D.

Mr. Elbridge Smith, master of the Dorchester High School, delivered a memorial discourse on his life and character before the Massachusetts Teachers' Association at Boston, on Wednesday, December 31, 1879, which was published by a vote of the Association. Mr. Smith says:—

"When the Trustees of Monson Academy would celebrate their semi-centennial anniversary, they recalled Mr. Hammond from Groton to review its history. When the Trustees at Groton would dedicate their new Academy building, they sent to Monson for Mr. Hammond to come and teach them the history of academic education in New England."

S. A. G.

ADDRESS.

It is a real pleasure to visit once more this town, which was for eleven years my home. I am glad to greet again, after long absence, many of my former neighbors and friends. The place is familiar to my recollection, as it was before the work of renovation had so much changed the scenes of former days. There are yet remaining many vivid reminders of past associations, pleasant indeed to recall, though not unmixed with sad reminiscences; for forms of persons once visible and active here are seen only in the mind's eye to-day, and many of them we shall meet on earth no more.

The present occasion is one which properly directs our thoughts to the future, while it reminds us of the past. It is indeed gratifying to join with you in these services by which this new building is specially devoted to its most important uses. It is certainly a marked event in the history of Lawrence Academy.

The building which occupied the site of this new structure was identified wholly or in part with the experiences of all who have been educated on this ground. All the teachers employed since the school was founded in 1793 performed their work within the walls of the ancient structure. An edifice long devoted to the purposes of education may become antique and inconvenient, and yet claim respect, and even veneration, at least as a memorial of those by whom it was erected and as an object of interest to pupils of former times.

A regard for the ancient as against what is convenient and elegant in school buildings is not so profound a sentiment in New England, at least, as in some other lands. I remember meeting in this town an intelligent Scotch woman who prided herself on having learned the rudiments in the school-

house, still standing in Ayrshire, where William Wallace was a pupil. It is a plain stone building, and its furniture is simple and rude. The memory of Wallace is a bar to improvement, the villagers being quite willing that the house should remain as it was when Wallace went to school, more than six hundred years ago. However disposed some of us may be to respect the past, we all, I am sure, feel alike in not wishing to see the old Academy back again in the place of the fine building we this day behold. We must all regard the erection of this edifice as a most fortunate event in its relations to the future welfare of the seminary, although its substantial prosperity must depend on other conditions than the advantage of new and commodious school-rooms.

Indeed, the general character and influence of such a school as this was designed to be by its founders depend on considerations nearly independent of its material form and development, although it must have, indeed, a local habitation, as well as a name, in order to live and thrive.

Standing here as we do to-day, and regarding with deep interest the work here wrought with beautiful designs and skilful hands for the benefit of generations to come, what topic can be more appropriate for us than to consider some of the conditions on which the future prosperity of this institution must depend? For with that prosperity in view as an end, all your contributions have been made, and all the work of the architect and the artisans in the erection of this building has been so fitly done.

In forecasting the future, it is obvious that the general character of this seminary will remain unchanged. It will continue to belong to that class of secondary or middle schools designated as academies. Its character in this respect was determined long ago by its founders, in accordance with a policy or system of secondary education, which was new in their times, and is, I think, strictly American in its origin.

A New England academy of the primitive type is a foundation or incorporated school, and hence, in a legal sense, a private school, as distinguished from a public school, supported by a public or municipal corporation, as a town, city,

or State. Although an academy is a private school in the legal sense, yet its uses are wholly and altogether public. Its aim is not the benefit of one locality only and exclusively: its domain of influence and patronage is unlimited and universal. Its object is to meet the wants of the community at large in the same manner as a college or a hospital does, with a view to public utility.

The academy, as a private school, differs from a common, or community school, supported by taxation, — as a railroad, which is corporate and private, differs from a common road, which is municipal and public; and yet both kinds of ways are indispensable in their popular uses. In one important respect an institution of learning, such as a college or an academy, differs from a railroad corporation; for all the income of rich schools must be devoted by the trustees to the public good, — not a cent of it to their own advantage; while railroads and bank corporations, in consideration of their service to the public, have liberty to serve themselves.

This view of the New England academy shows us how it differs in its nature and design from the ancient grammar schools of England and the few grammar schools early established in this country, at Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, and from the Dummer School at Byfield before it became an academy in 1782. The old grammar schools of England and this country, all of them being Latin schools, were established as local institutions, although pupils outside of the town or precinct might be admitted by paying tuition. Not until a comparatively recent period did the term "free," as applied to any grade of schools, have the modern sense of "gratuitous." So careful were the founders of the Phillips Academies at Andover and Exeter to prevent localization that provision is made in their charters for their removal to other places whenever the Trustees shall judge that the prosperity of those seminaries requires a change of location. For the same reason a majority of the Trustees of this Academy must, by its charter, be non-residents of Groton.

In my search for facts some years since relating to the early history of New England academies, I found in the

Library of Harvard College a manuscript copy of the "solemn charge" of Benjamin Thurston, an original Trustee of Exeter, to the first Preceptor, William Woodbridge, at his induction into office, on the day when that academy was formally opened to the public, May 1, 1783, — ten years before Groton Academy was founded. It was delivered, doubtless, in the presence of Dr. John Phillips and Lieutenant-Governor Samuel Phillips, both founders and Trustees of Andover and Exeter. I will read a part of this "charge," to show the policy on which those noble men laid the foundations of the oldest, and ranked as among the best, schools yet established of their class.

"You will make no discrimination," said Mr. Thurston, "in favor of any particular State, town, or family on account of parentage, wealth, or sentiments of religion, as the institution is founded on principles of the most extensive liberality." The word "liberality" here used meant unrestricted privileges and opportunities of education. It had at that period no trace of any technical sense as a symbol of party or opinion. The comprehensive liberality of the Phillips family was blended with the profoundest convictions and principles of religion, as the constitutions and early laws of Andover and Exeter both alike most clearly prove. The Exeter constitution, drafted by the hand of Dr. John Phillips, contains the following sentence: —

"It is expected that the attention of instructors to the minds and morals of the youth under their charge will exceed every other care, well considering that, though goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous, and that both united form the noblest character, and lay the surest foundation of usefulness to mankind. The first and principal design of this institution is the promotion of virtue and true piety, useful knowledge being subservient thereto."

The founders of Groton Academy were contemporaries of the founders of Andover, Exeter, and Leicester; and there is no doubt whatever that such men as Samuel Lawrence and the Rev. Dr. Chaplin, of Groton, coincided in their views per-

fectly as to the ends and uses of all higher education. This Academy was not favored with princely endowments, as were Andover and Exeter at their very origin; but the first building erected here, and which long remained unchanged in form, was equal in size and appearance to the first buildings erected at either of the Phillips Academies. Whatever we might think of them now as compared with modern structures, so spacious and finely furnished, it is yet an incontrovertible fact that the founders of this Academy had as good reason to be satisfied with what they did in their times and with their means for education, as we have with all our boasted outlay in splendid buildings and apparatus.

The first edifice here — which many now living can remember in its primitive form — was indeed unpretending; and yet in that plain building a good work was wrought during that early period in the history of this institution, so well termed by Mr. Means, in his Jubilee discourse, as the age of faith.

Soon after the Revolution a general interest began to prevail among the leading minds of New England in the cause of education. Compared with the long period of indifference which preceded it, this impulse in favor of a higher standard of culture in the colleges, and of improvement in popular education, was as remarkable and hopeful as any which has since occurred. It was a period prolific of good teachers in the colleges and in the newly established academies.

Among the few to initiate the "new education" of that period was Dr. Dwight, of Yale College, who began the reform of the ancient curriculum of study long before his accession to the presidency in 1795. While he was tutor in the college, from 1771 to 1777, he and his distinguished associates, Trumbull and Howe, first introduced the proper study of the English language and literature.[1] From 1783 to 1795 he had the

[1] Professor Olmstead, of Yale, in an article on "Timothy Dwight as a Teacher," published in "The American Journal of Education," (v. 572) says: "Through the influence of three contemporary tutors, — Howe, Trumbull, and Dwight, — a taste for literary pursuits was excited, and the art of speaking began, for the first time in the history of the college, to be cultivated. Dwight, especially, both by his example and instructions, produced a great reform in the

charge of a classical school of wide repute, and open to both sexes, during his pastorate at Greenfield Hill, a parish of Fairfield, Connecticut. President Dwight was an intimate friend of Judge Phillips, of Andover, and in his "Travels" has left on record a remarkable tribute to his character.

Another leading mind in all the educational movements of that day was Dr. Eliphalet Pearson, the first Principal of Phillips Academy at Andover, afterwards Professor and Fellow at Harvard College, and then the first Professor of Sacred Literature at Andover Theological Seminary. Though a professor of Hebrew at Cambridge and Andover, he was interested in every branch of academical instruction. Like Dr. Dwight at Yale, he gave lectures on English grammar and rhetoric at Cambridge, and, by his taste and skill and severe criticism, had a most beneficial effect on the style of composition at the college.

President Quincy — who was twelve years his pupil, eight at Andover and four at Cambridge — spoke of Dr. Pearson,[1] at the Andover semi-centennial celebration, August 5, 1858, as a teacher of the highest ability, and as having labored for the institution founded by the Phillips family with a zeal and perseverance that were irresistible.

These historical references reveal the leading objects of the founders of the oldest New England academies. They were designed to subserve the wants of colleges by providing better-fitted candidates for admission, and also to make the advantages of a college education accrue to the advancement of popular education. In the best secondary schools those studies were introduced, which had previously formed an important part of the course of college instruction. At the

style of writing and speaking. He delivered to the students a series of lectures on style and composition, on a plan very similar to that contained in Blair's Lectures, which was not published until a considerable time afterwards." Trumbull, the author of "McFingal," awakened an interest in poetical studies. Rev. Joseph Howe was a minister of Boston, of unequalled elocution. He died August 25, 1775, aged twenty-eight years.

[1] Professor Quincy's remarks and Professor Park's tribute to the memory of Dr. Pearson were published in the memorial of the semi-centennial celebration of the Theological Seminary.

beginning of this century there was hardly a college in New England in which arithmetic, English grammar, and geography did not form a part of the course of study during the Freshman year. Very soon, however, they were dropped from the curriculum and made the condition of admission. They were transferred to the academies, and thence everywhere to the common schools, although they continued to be, as they ever ought, the staples of instruction in secondary schools. They are needed as the essential conditions of all culture to be superadded, whether classical or scientific. The founding of academies rendered it possible for those who had natural gifts and tastes for teaching to enter upon that work as a permanent profession. It is certain that, near the beginning of the present century, graduates of Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth of the highest rank and talents did become teachers of unsurpassed excellence in the newly established academies.

It was then that the valedictorian of the class of 1800 at Dartmouth, after one year's service at Moor's Charity School, came to Groton, and began his long and successful career. Nearly contemporary with Mr. Butler at Groton were Ebenezer Adams, of Leicester, John Adams, of Andover, Benjamin Abbott, of Exeter, John Vose, of Atkinson and Pembroke, and Simeon Colton, of Monson and Leicester. Though all these teachers were honored in their day, no one had a higher claim to respect than the Preceptor of Groton Academy. The school then had no fund, except the State endowment; but it had the cordial support of a very able Board of Trust.[1] The pupils at that time were not so numerous as in some other schools; but their quality was good.

[1] On the Board of Trust, during Mr. Butler's administration, there were some persons of wide celebrity. The names of Prescott, father and son, of Adams, of Bigelow and Lawrence, of Thayer and Chaplin, are historic in the learned professions and the annals of the State. Dr. Chaplin had rare qualifications for the trusteeship. After his settlement in Groton, he was elected the first Preceptor of Phillips Academy at Exeter, but declined. This appointment is evidence of his high scholarship and character, in the opinion of the Phillips family, with whom he was on intimate terms. He was a fellow-student with Judge Phillips and Eliphalet Pearson at Dummer Academy, under the famous Master Moody, and afterwards at Harvard College, where they graduated in successive classes, — Phillips in 1771, Chaplin in 1772, and Pearson in 1773.

Some of us, I am sure, remember the Jubilee of July 12, 1854, with Mr. Butler as the central object of interest. We remember how his pupils came from all parts of the land, and from places of the highest position in the State, the university, the learned professions, and all useful and honorable occupations, in order to honor him who had been their instructor.

No more impressive demonstration of the value of such an institution as this in its broad relations and far-reaching influence throughout our land could be given than what we then saw in the "array"[1] of eminent men, who stood up in that great assembly to receive from their revered preceptor his last benediction.[2]

The plan of administration long ago adopted at Exeter, and doubtless the best for that institution, — to admit no one who does not intend to pursue a course of study preparatory for college, — has never been established here. Though this Academy was designed primarily to fit candidates for college, yet it has also in view the training of that class of young men — some of them having the best minds and hearts — whose talents and tastes fit them for active business rather than for the so-called learned professions; and it is a great advantage for this class of men to enjoy to some extent the advantages of a classical course of study. A good foundation for liberal culture can be laid in the best secondary schools; and it is well for those whose term of education is necessarily brief to pursue those studies they need in association with those destined to a longer course. It is well also for those

[1] "And these young men on my left, if they are Academy boys, as I take it they are, I congratulate them on their opportunity. It will be their fault if they do not make a better show when they come up here fifty years hence, in their sixties and seventies, to keep the next Jubilee. And yet the old set have done pretty well. Look along down the table, boys. Here is a Governor of the State, a Mayor of Boston, a Judge of a Supreme Court, a Postmaster-General, a law professor of Harvard, a President of Harvard, a Minister to the Court of London, and others, if untitled, yet as worthy, I am sure. Upon my word, it is rather a goodly array." — *Rev. Dr. George Putnam's speech at the "Jubilee" dinner, July* 12, 1854.

[2] Mr. Butler died at Groton, on October 7, 1854, aged 78, less than three months after the Jubilee.

who are to be ministers and lawyers to be educated as far as possible with those who are to be merchants, manufacturers, engineers, and farmers. During their brief course the latter class often learn to appreciate the value of high education, and so become the most liberal patrons of literary institutions and schools of every grade. There have been many such among the graduates of Lawrence Academy.

The relation of this seminary to popular education deserves special attention. It is certain that the founders and early patrons of this class of schools regarded the service rendered in preparing teachers of common schools for their work as one of their most important functions.[1] There is no doubt whatever that it was because of their direct relations to the popular schools that the State endowments were given to the early incorporated academies; and provision was made by the law of 1797 (proposed by Nathan Dane, of Beverly), whereby the advantage of an academy might be enjoyed in all sections of the State. We hope the ancient public policy of Massachusetts will be revived in favor of those academies that make special provision in their courses of instruction for the training of teachers in the primary schools. This work can be done in academies at a cheap rate, and in a way which is convenient, efficient, and satisfactory to the people. This measure has been repeatedly proposed to the Legislature by Governor Claflin, and approved by the Secretary of the Board of Education in his recent annual reports.

The history of popular education includes more than what relates to school architecture or the increase of teachers' wages; it embraces improvements in the courses and methods of instruction. But this part of the history of American education is as yet in a great measure unwritten.

The beginning of progress was from a low condition of the public schools at a period not very remote. When this Academy was founded the teacher of a common school was deemed

[1] Judge Phillips, of Andover, was a most devoted friend of common schools. He left a fund in charge of the Trustees of Phillips Academy, the income of which was forever to be applied in part to enable female teachers employed in the district schools of Andover to qualify themselves for their delicate and important trust.

qualified, if he could instruct in reading, spelling, penmanship, and in arithmetic as far as "the Golden Rule of Three." But when Ebenezer Adams became Preceptor at Leicester in 1792 a revolution was near at hand; and at the close of his fourteen years' administration there was not a district school in the central and southern towns of Worcester County which had not felt his influence. A like influence emanated from this very spot, and spread through all the surrounding region. Mr. Adams and Mr. Butler were good mathematicians and excellent teachers of advanced arithmetic, which was then studied in all the colleges, and is really a *very high* branch in all secondary schools when properly taught.

It was then that Dr. Daniel Adams, a recent graduate of Dartmouth in the class of 1797, printed his first arithmetic, with his "block demonstration" of the dread mysteries of the cube root, and other originalities. The first edition was published in the year 1801, under the sanction of William M. Richardson, "the Preceptor of Groton Academy;" and the recommendation was retained in subsequent editions, long after the preceptor had become the Chief Justice of New Hampshire.

Caleb Bingham, another graduate of Dartmouth, and Noah Webster, a graduate of Yale and a pupil of Dr. Dwight when a tutor, had begun their mission of preparing spelling-books and reading-books in countless thousands. And the marvellous educational power of Webster is yet undiminished; for his spelling-book is still published at the annual rate of a million copies, and his dictionaries are used wherever the English language is spoken.

The early editions of Webster's spelling-book contained a compend of English grammar; and thus the attention of pupils was directed to the so-called second part of his "Grammatical Institute," — a text-book formerly used in the colleges, which was never popular, being superseded by the better works of Caleb Alexander and Bishop South. I have already referred to influences which led to an increased interest in the study of the English language at the colleges. It is certain that the study of grammar became popular in the secondary and

primary schools, through the influence of college graduates at that period in charge of the academies.

The study of English grammar as taught formerly was introductory to the criticism of written or spoken language. It related to the forms and laws and figures of thought, as expressed in words of proper use. The minute analysis of propositions, according to the old logical distinctions or the "objective" relations of words as symbols of ideas, are repulsive to most young minds; for they belong to the department of mental philosophy and logic, the last studies of a complete course of education.

The stimulus given to popular education by these academies soon led to the multiplication of schools under that general name. But they were mostly without endowments, and had of course a limited range of patronage. Hence they became local schools, and their nearly sole purpose was to supplement the range of the primary schools in the neighborhood.

By the influence of Horace Mann and others, the system of public instruction was soon enlarged so as to embrace them as high schools, so called from their relation to those lower in the grade. The principle of gradation as applied to public schools is certainly the greatest improvement in modern education; and hence it is not strange that many persons, realizing the transcendent value of graded schools for the people at large, should call in question the need of academies, on the ground that high schools can be established in almost any town.

I propose not to argue this question here, where it has been so long the subject of earnest discussion and conflicting opinions; for it is vain to refer to the relations of the Academy to the system of instruction here, if we must admit a necessary conflict. But believing, now and always, that no conflict need to exist, and that entire harmony is possible, — that the academy may subserve the welfare of all grades of the public schools, and that the highest prosperity of the schools will accrue to the benefit of the academy, — I will venture to refer to the grounds and condition of mutual advantage and good will.

If two institutions resting on different foundations endeavor to perform the same class of duties for the same persons, then indeed competition and opposition is inevitable; but if they revolve in different orbits, they may belong to one system, and each have a sphere of most useful service. The academy ought not to do the work which may be done better by schools of a lower grade. The distinctions of grade in schools are not those of honor or dignity, but of function. All are equally worthy of interest and regard. The high schools and grammar schools are complements of the lower grades; and a pupil is assigned his place in them with a view solely to his benefit.

The academy is related to the colleges by reason of the studies taught in them. The scholarships founded by Amos Lawrence, and the charitable provisions in the will of William Lawrence, relate to candidates for a collegiate education fitted here on foundations for those purposes; and the Trustees are forever bound to see that the intent of the donors is fulfilled.

But the town of Groton, as the patron of the public schools, had not the same sort of obligations to meet. Its range of duties is different, and yet vital to the public welfare. If by any arrangement the Academy may serve as a high school for the town in its public uses, it will be an institution with a range of studies equal to that of a high school in cities and the largest towns, and not one of the second class. If the Academy secures, by able administration, the favor and patronage of the public at large, it will be likely to meet the wishes and the wants of this neighborhood. In order to meet the claims of the public at large, the Academy must be furnished with apparatus and means of instruction in the natural sciences. When thus equipped, it will stand in intimate relations to the Scientific School at Cambridge, as preparatory thereto; and the amount of training for such preparation will soon be equal in amount to that required for admission to the academical department at the University. We have the authority of President Eliot in favor of the study of classics as a needed discipline for success in scientific in-

vestigation. Especially is there need of linguistic culture to impart scientific instruction in the best modes and forms.

If this Academy fulfils its duty to the public at large, it may reasonably be expected that every year some young men will be sent from this institution to the school of science at Cambridge. The benefactors, of kindred blood, had a kindred aim in the endowment of the two schools under a common name.

The Trustees will do their utmost to meet all the claims upon the institution in its relations to higher seminaries and to the public at large. At the same time, they will not overlook, I am sure, the intimate relation of the Academy to the town of Groton, especially when we consider the new position of hope and promise in which the institution stands to-day.

The policy of harmony and co-operation with the public-school system was long since recommended here. Sixteen years ago a paper was read to the Trustees, recommending the purchase of apparatus for teaching natural science. In that paper allusion was made to the legal obligation of the town to provide high-school instruction, and thus to grade the public system. Regarding that event as certain to happen, it was suggested to the Trustees, before the town had taken any action in the matter, that a more comprehensive range of studies should be pursued at the Academy, and thus competition with the proposed high school would be avoided, and the Academy would meet the claims of the public in providing facilities for education in branches not ordinarily taught with advantage in schools of a low grade.

It was observed "that if the rank of the Academy was advanced to its proper position, the improvement of public schools would eventually increase the patronage of the Academy; for as the quality of scholarship improved in the lower grades of schools there would be a demand for a higher course of studies, which the Academy ought to furnish. Therefore the people of the town should be encouraged to perform their duty. The burden of their duty would become a blessing to them and to the institution."

Such for substance was the argument offered many years ago in favor of improvements in the course of academical instruction here and in favor of a proper gradation of the popular schools. The Trustees favored the suggestions then made for procuring philosophical apparatus, by appropriating a part of the Brazer Fund for that purpose.

If we might plead so long ago for co-operation in promoting the cause of education by all proper forms and methods and institutions, much more may we make such a plea now, when we see what the friends and helpers of so good a cause have done, — for different projects indeed, but all acting for a common end. This noble building, on this matchless site, for the use of the Academy, and that fine structure designed for the use of the public schools, erected simultaneously, are both in happy accordance with the historical associations, the social culture, and the natural beauty of this peerless old town.

If a careful system of gradation is formed for each of these institutions, then every advantage which both in turn can furnish will be enjoyed by all the young whose lot shall be to have a home on these healthy hills and live in sight of those delectable mountains.

It is the grandest function of all our New England towns to raise money by taxation and spend it for the education of the young. Whenever a town fails to fulfil this, — the highest end of its corporate being, — it should cease to exist. Such a town has really no right to be in the old Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

But while I say this, I do not hold to the obligation of every town as large as Groton, or even a great deal larger, to sustain all the grades of schools which a perfect system of education demands. It cannot be done, and ought not to be attempted. Very few towns, or cities even, should be obliged to fit boys for college as a municipal duty; for there is a cheaper and a great deal better mode of providing such instruction. The best education for the candidate is determined by its quality, not its place. But few towns or cities have candidates enough to provide the best school for them;

for there is not one boy in a thousand of all enrolled in the public schools that is destined ever to enter the university.

Some towns as large as this do not furnish a candidate once in five years; and the ratio of supply from the cities is less even than from the country. Hence towns, as such, ought not to provide so liberally for the contingent wants of one boy, and neglect the certain wants of nine hundred and ninety-nine. The aim of the best local system of public instruction is to provide impartially for the average necessities of all, and raise the average standard of opportunity and attainment to the highest limit the people will allow and bear. But they will not bear the burden of supporting colleges or academies in their best estate; for but few out of the whole number of the people will ever enter them.

The lower grades of schools bring their blessings of priceless value to every man's door, and hence their cost must be met as a common or public advantage directly received. The schools for the people demand the oversight of the Government; and no functionary has an office higher in honor or dignity than the minister or secretary of public instruction. If the State will sustain the public schools in their best possible condition, then the colleges and schools of a high grade, and many of the best secondary schools, will look chiefly for their support to their graduates and friends. They can claim from the State its fostering care and protection, and occasional benefactions; but beyond this they can look for little more. The history of advanced education in this country and England shows that the higher seminaries have been supported mainly by individual founders and patrons, and only partially by the State.

It has been an objection to the constitution of colleges and academies established for unlimited uses that the Government does not directly control them. This objection is giving way. The State has voluntarily sundered its connection with Harvard and Yale, and no detriment to the cause of good learning is likely to ensue from the want of benefactions. The academies have not been so fortunate as the colleges. We trust, however, that the day of their enlargement is at

hand. When their true position as secondary schools is better understood, they will find patrons and benefactors. We need in this country but few academies; but they must be well endowed in order to meet all the demands of the colleges and the public at large. According to President McCosh, of Princeton, the great educational defect in America is the want of vigorous secondary schools. We have no such institutions as the great public schools of England, — as Rugby and Winchester and Eton, — where young men are fitted for Oxford and Cambridge. Throughout Europe they are considered as important as the universities, being closely connected with them; yet only a small part of the students of the great schools of England enter the university. The greater number leave them for business occupations, as boys do in our American academies.

The foundations of this Academy are too surely laid ever to be broken up. We trust they will be enlarged, as well as endure forever. "My desire," said William Lawrence, "is that this Academy may be equal to any in the State." An academy must keep pace with the progress of the times, if it is to live and thrive. On the graduates and friends of this institution rests the responsibility of realizing the desire of its principal benefactor.

The two chief donors did nobly for this and other institutions in their day; but they could not and ought not to provide for all future times. Other benefactors must build on the strong foundations laid by those who have gone to their reward. Education is an ever-progressive, never-completed enterprise for the "glory of God and the relief of man's estate." It is a debt which each generation must pay, according to its ability, to that which is its successor; and its magnitude increases with the demands of our advancing civilization.

In times to come, as in those gone by, there will be those who will rejoice "to rise and build," in addition to the beautiful structure we consecrate to-day. The patrons, trustees, and teachers of former days are passing away; but their works remain; and their example of faith and devotion will live

forever. Their memory will be cherished by the pupils that shall throng these halls, and look out, as we so often have, upon this far-reaching, ravishing landscape, from this "beautiful Mount Zion of the mind," so beautiful for situation, the joy of generations past, and to be the joy of generations long to come.

APPENDIX.

AN Act to establish an Academy in the Town of *Groton*, by the Name of *Groton Academy*.

WHEREAS *the encouragement of Literature among the rising generation has ever been considered by the wise and good, as an object worthy the most serious attention, and the happiness of the community requires the dissemination of knowledge and learning among all classes of citizens: And whereas it appears from a petition of a large number of the inhabitants of the town of* Groton, *and its vicinity, that a sum of money has been subscribed towards erecting a suitable building for, and supporting an Academy in the said town; and as such an Institution, besides encouraging the interest of Literature and the Sciences, and diffusing useful knowledge in that part of the Commonwealth, may otherwise essentially promote the interest thereof: Therefore,*

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That there be, and hereby is established in the town of *Groton*, in the county of *Middlesex*, an Academy, by the name of *Groton Academy*, for the purpose of promoting Piety and Virtue, and for the education of youth in such languages, and such of the liberal Arts and Sciences as the Trustees shall direct: And the Hon. *Oliver Prescott*, Esq. Rev. *Daniel Chaplin*, Rev. *Zabdiel Adams*, Rev. *Phineas Whitney*, Rev. *John Bullard*, Rev. *William Emerson*, Hon. *Josiah Stearns*, Esq. Col. *Henry Broomfield*, *James Winthrop*, *Henry Woods*, *Joseph Moors*, *Oliver Prescott*, jun. *Samuel Dana*, *Timothy Bigelow*, and *Aaron Brown*, Esquires, be, and they hereby are nominated and appointed Trustees of the said Academy; and they are hereby incorporated into a body politic, by the name of *The Trustees of Groton Academy*, and they, and their successors shall be, and continue a body politic and corporate, by the same name forever.

And be it further enacted, That all the lands and monies heretofore given or subscribed, or which for the purpose aforesaid, shall

be hereafter given, granted and assigned unto the said Trustees, shall be confirmed to the said Trustees, and their successors, in that trust forever, for the uses which in such instruments shall be expressed; and they the said Trustees shall be further capable of having, holding, and taking in fee simple, by gift, grant, devise or otherwise, any lands, tenements, or other estate, real or personal; provided the annual income of the same shall not exceed *five thousand dollars*, and shall apply the rents and profits thereof, in such manner as that the end and design of the Institution may be most effectually promoted.

Be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall have full power from time to time, as they shall determine, to elect such Officers of the said Academy, as they shall judge necessary and convenient, and fix the tenures of their respective offices; to remove any Trustee from the Corporation when in their opinion he shall be incapable, through age or otherwise, of discharging the duties of his office; to fill all vacancies by electing such persons for Trustees, as they shall judge best; to determine the times and places of their meetings; the manner of notifying the said Trustees; the method of electing or removing Trustees; to ascertain the powers and duties of their several Officers; to elect Preceptors and Teachers of said Academy; to determine the duties and tenures of their officers; to ordain reasonable rules, orders and bye-laws, not repugnant to the laws of the Commonwealth, with reasonable penalties for the good government of the Academy, as to them the said Trustees and their successors, shall, from time to time, according to the various occasions and circumstances, seem most fit and requisite; all which shall be observed by the officers, scholars and servants of the said Academy, upon the penalties therein contained.

Be it further enacted, That the Trustees of the said Academy may have one Common Seal, which they may change at pleasure; and that all deeds, made, signed and sealed with said Common Seal, and duly executed by the Treasurer or Secretary of said Trustees, by their order, shall be considered valid in law, as good deeds of bargain and sale: And that the Trustees of said Academy may sue and be sued, in all actions real, personal and mixed, and prosecute and defend the same until final judgment and execution, by the name of *The Trustees of Groton Academy.*

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the number of said Trustees shall not, at any one time, be more than fifteen, nor less than nine, five of whom shall constitute a quorum for doing

business, and a majority of the members present at any legal meeting, shall decide all questions proper to come before the Trustees; that the major part of them shall consist of men who are not inhabitants of the town of *Groton*.

And it is further enacted, That *Aaron Brown*, Esq. be, and he hereby is authorized and empowered to fix the time and place of holding the first meeting of the said Trustees, and to notify them thereof.

[This Act passed *September* 28, 1793.]

Resolve granting half a township to certain Academies, to be laid out under the direction of the Committee for the sale of Eastern lands. Feb. 27, 1797.

Resolved, That in pursuance of a report of a joint Committee which has been accepted by both branches of the Legislature, there be, and hereby is granted to the Trustees of *Dummer Academy*, to the Trustees of *Phillip's Academy*, to the Trustees of *Groton Academy*, and to the Trustees of *Westford Academy*, respectively, and to their respective successors, one half township of six miles square, for each of their Academies, to be laid out or assigned by the Committee for the sale of Eastern lands, in some of the unappropriated lands in the district of *Maine*, belonging to this Commonwealth, excepting all lands within six miles of *Penobscot River*, with the reservations and conditions of settlement, which have usually been made in cases of similar grants, which tracts the said Trustees, respectively, are hereby empowered to use, sell or dispose of as they may think most for the benefit of their respective institutions.

The land given to the Academy under this Resolve was situated in Washington County, District of Maine. It comes now in Hodgdon, Aroostook County, and lies on the eastern frontier of the State, just south of Houlton. The grant consisted of half a township, equal to 11,520 acres, which afterward was sold by the Trustees to John Hodgdon, of Weare, New Hampshire, at fifty cents an acre. The early

settlers of this territory obtained the title to their lands from Mr. Hodgdon; and the town was named after him. The northern half of the township was given to Groton Academy, and the southern half to Westford Academy.

During the summer of 1841 the Academy building was remodelled for the first time and somewhat enlarged by an addition to the rear, at a cost of $2,000, generously given for the purpose by Amos Lawrence, Esq., of Boston. The grounds also were improved, and a fence, consisting of stone posts and chains, placed in front of the yard, — as well as on the south side, separating it from the Brazer estate. Before this time there was a travelled way to the Brazer house, diagonally across the grounds in front of the Academy. While the building was undergoing this alteration, the regular exercises of the school were held in the town hall, at that time in the lower story of the Unitarian Meeting-house. The annual catalogue of the institution, printed in the autumn of 1841, thus refers to these changes:

During the past summer alterations and improvements have been made in the Academy building, to the amount of two thousand dollars. The number of rooms has been increased, and the old ones have been thoroughly repaired. The room appropriated to the young ladies is now handsomely carpeted and the whole furnished in a convenient and tasteful manner. The building is warmed throughout by a furnace, thus affording an agreeable summer atmosphere without subjecting the students to those sudden variations of temperature equally deleterious to comfort and health. The grounds around have also been greatly improved.

In the spring of 1844 William Lawrence, Esq., of Boston, an elder brother of Amos, gave the sum of $10,000 to be added to the permanent funds of the institution. In consequence of this liberal gift, and other manifestations of their

interest in the school, on the part of the two brothers, the Trustees voted at the annual meeting, on August 20, 1845, to petition the General Court to change the corporate name of the school to "The Lawrence Academy of Groton." At the next session of the Legislature, the petition was duly presented and resulted in the following:

An Act to change the Name of the Trustees of the Groton Academy.

Be *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

From and after the passing of this act, the corporate name of "The Trustees of the Groton Academy" shall be changed, and the said corporation shall be known and called by the name of "The Trustees of the Lawrence Academy at Groton," any thing in the act incorporating the same to the contrary notwithstanding. [*Approved by the Governor, Feb.* 28, 1846.]

The benefactions of the Lawrence brothers did not cease with the change of name in the school. During the month of July, 1846, Amos Lawrence, Esq., bought the Brazer estate, so called, — adjoining the Academy lot on the south, and formerly belonging to James Brazer, Esq., — for the sum of $4,400, and soon afterward conveyed it by deed to the Trustees of Lawrence Academy. He also requested that all the buildings and fences on the place should be put in complete repair at his expense, which was accordingly done at a cost of more than $1,200. During the next month William Lawrence, Esq., wrote to the Trustees, offering to give $5,000 to be used for the enlargement of the Academy building; for the erection of a substantial stone and iron fence in front of the grounds, including the Dana and Brazer estates; and for the purchase of another bell for the school. The Dana estate, adjoining the Academy lot on the north, had formerly belonged to the Honorable Samuel Dana, and was bought by the Trustees in the summer of 1836. With this sum, thus generously placed in their hands, the Trustees during the ensuing autumn enlarged the Academy by an extension on its

north side, and very soon afterward carried out Mr. Lawrence's wishes in the other matters. While these changes were making in the building, the regular exercises of the school were again conducted in the town hall, in the lower story of the Unitarian Meeting-house. The annual catalogue of the institution, printed in the autumn of 1846, says that "the elegant mansion adjoining the Academy has been purchased and presented to the Trustees; the Academy building has been doubled in capacity and convenience and more than doubled in good looks; and the front is to be enclosed by an elegant iron fence." At his death, which occurred on October 14, 1848, Mr. Lawrence left by will the sum of $20,000 to the institution.

The original Academy building was square, with the entrance at the north front corner. The school-room was in the lower story, where the boys and girls were "co-educated," as the modern expression is; and the upper room, known as the Hall, was used for exhibitions and declamations. Subsequently this was fitted up for school purposes, and at one time was used by Miss Susan Prescott, for her private school for girls, a somewhat noted institution in its day. After the changes of 1846 the old entrance came in the centre of the building.

A lithograph representation of the original structure and of the Brazer house, as they appeared in the year 1820, is given opposite to page 15 in "The Jubilee of Lawrence Academy, at Groton, Mass., July 12, 1854" (New York, 1855). The drawing was made by Miss Henrietta Butler, afterward Mrs. Atkinson, and a daughter of the former preceptor. The original copy is now in the possession of her sister, Mrs. Francis A. Brooks, of Boston. Another representation of the Academy, and also of the Dana house, as well as the Unitarian Meeting-house, is found on page 391 of John Warner Barber's "Historical Collections" (Worcester, 1839). The drawing was made by Mr. Barber in the year 1838; and as a small boy I remember well when he came to Groton and did it. This cut has been reproduced and appears in the Appendix to a private edition of "The Early Records of Groton" (page 200). Both these copies are considered correct views of the building, as it formerly appeared.

After the alterations during the autumn of 1846 the Brazer house was occupied by the principal as his place of residence, and the Dana mansion was used as a boarding-house for scholars. An engraved plate was made, — representing these buildings with the Academy in the centre, — which appears in the several issues of the annual catalogue up to the time of the burning on July 4, 1868, as well as in the frontispiece of the account of the "Jubilee." When the new structure was finished in the summer of 1871, another plate was engraved, representing the present appearance of the buildings and grounds, which is the one now used in the annual catalogues.

The Honorable William Adams Richardson, Chief Justice of the Court of Claims at Washington, D. C., at one time had a sketch of the Academy, as it was in 1839, drawn by Stillman S. H. Parker, of Shirley, then a fellow-student with him preparing for college, but who died two years later, before entering Harvard as he had intended to do.

Bigelow Hall, seen in the engraving now used, is a large dormitory, built during the autumn of 1863, and first occupied at the beginning of the term, which opened on March 23, 1864. The Hall was so named after the Honorable John Prescott Bigelow, a native of Groton, whose father, the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, served as one of the original Trustees of the institution, through a period of twenty years. The annual catalogue of the Academy, published in the month of November, 1864, says of this Hall that it "is an elegant brick building erected for a dormitory. It has a fine situation, commanding delightful views from nearly every window. Each suite of rooms consists of a study-room and two bed-rooms, and they are furnished with every thing essential, except bedding. A superior system of ventilation runs through the entire building. A teacher rooms in the building, and has special charge of the occupants."

The oldest graduate of the Academy at the present time is Mrs. Sarah (Chaplin) Rockwood, who is living in Cortland, Cortland County, New York. She was born at Groton, on November 8, 1785, and consequently is now in the one hundredth year of her age. She is a daughter of the Reverend Daniel and

Susanna (Prescott) Chaplin, and first attended the school, then known as Groton Academy, in the autumn of 1797, while it was under the mastership of Asahel Stearns. Her father was the minister of the town during more than half a century, and her mother was a niece of Colonel William Prescott, the commander of the American Forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill. She is still able to sew and read the newspapers, and continues to take an active interest in passing events. I am informed by her that the Academy, when first opened in the spring of 1793, was kept for a while in the District school-house on Farmers' Row.

A celebration in connection with the history of Lawrence Academy took place on July 12, 1854, when an address was delivered by the Reverend James Means, a former principal of the institution. It was a distinguished gathering, and known at that time as the "Jubilee." A full account of the proceedings was afterward published, with a general catalogue of the school from its beginning. Another reunion was held on June 21, 1883, when a dinner was given in the town hall to the old pupils. The assemblage was not so large as the previous one, but quite as enthusiastic. The wish was generally expressed that the centennial anniversary of the school, which comes in the year 1893, should be duly celebrated. The proceedings on this occasion also were printed in a pamphlet form.

S. A. G.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. VII.

THE OLD STORES AND THE POST-OFFICE OF GROTON.

GROTON, MASS.

1885.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1885.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. VII.

THE OLD STORES AND THE POST-OFFICE OF GROTON.

BY SAMUEL A. GREEN.

TRADITION has preserved little or nothing in regard to the earliest trading stores of Groton. It is probable, however, that they were kept in dwelling-houses by the occupants, who sold articles in common use for the convenience of the neighborhood, and at the same time pursued their regular vocations.

Jonas Cutler was keeping a shop on the site of Mr. Gerrish's store, before the Revolution; and the following notice, signed by him, appears in The Massachusetts Gazette (Boston), November 28, 1768:—

A THEFT.

Whereas on the 19th or 20th Night of November Instant, the Shop of the Subscriber was broke open in *Groton*, and from thence was stollen a large Sum of Cash, viz. four Half Johannes, two Guineas, Two Half Ditto, One Pistole mill'd, nine Crowns, a Considerable Number of Dollars, with a considerable Quantity of small Silver & Copper, together with one Bever Hat, about fifteen Yards of Holland, eleven Bandannas, blue Ground with white, twelve red ditto with white, Part of a Piece of Silk Romails,

1 Pair black Worsted Hose, 1 strip'd Cap, 8 or 10 black barcelona Handkerchiefs, Part of a Piece of red silver'd Ribband, blue & white do, Part of three Pieces of black Sattin Ribband, Part of three Pieces of black Tafferty ditto, two bundles of Razors, Part of 2 Dozen Penknives, Part of 2 Dozen ditto with Seals, Part of 1 Dozen Snuff Boxes, Part of 3 Dozen Shoe Buckels, Part of several Groce of Buttons, one Piece of gellow [yellow?] Ribband, with sundry Articles not yet known of—— Whoever will apprehend the said Thief or Thieves, so that he or they may be brought to Justice, shall receive TEN DOLLARS Reward and all necessary Charges paid.

JONAS CUTLER.

Groton, Nov. 22, 1763 [8?].

☞ If any of the above mentioned Articles are offered to Sail, it is desired they may be stop'd with the Thief, and Notice given to said *Cutler* or to the Printers.

On October 21, 1773, a noted burglar was hanged in Boston for various robberies committed in different parts of the State, and covering a period of some years. The unfortunate man was present at the delivery of a sermon by the Reverend Samuel Stillman, preached at his own request, on the Sunday before his execution; and to many of the printed copies is appended an account of his life. In it the poor fellow states that he was only twenty-one years old, and that he was born at Groton of a respectable family. He confesses that he broke into Mr. Cutler's shop, and took away "a good piece of broad-cloth, a quantity of silk mitts, and several pieces of silk handkerchiefs." He was hardly seventeen years of age at the time of this burglary. To the present generation it would seem cruel and wicked to hang a misguided youth for offences of this character.

Mr. Cutler died on December 19, 1782; and he was succeeded in business by Major Thomas Gardner, who erected the present building known as Gerrish's block, which is soon to be removed. Major Gardner lived in the house now owned by the Waters family.

Near the end of the last century a store, situated a little north of the late Benjamin Perkins Dix's house, was kept by

James Brazer, which had an extensive trade for twenty miles in different directions. It was here that the late Amos Lawrence served an apprenticeship of seven years, which ended on April 22, 1807; and he often spoke of his success in business as due, in part, to the experience in this store. Late in life he wrote that "the knowledge of every-day affairs which I acquired in my business apprenticeship at Groton has been a source of pleasure and profit even in my last ten years' discipline."

The quantity of New-England rum and other liquors sold at that period would astonish the temperance people of the present day. Social drinking was then a common practice, and each forenoon some stimulating beverage was served up to the customers in order to keep their trade. There were five clerks employed in the establishment; and many years later Mr. Lawrence, in giving advice to a young student in college, wrote: —

"In the first place, take this for your motto at the commencement of your journey, that the difference of going *just right*, or a *little wrong*, will be the difference of finding yourself in good quarters, or in a miserable bog or slough, at the end of it. Of the whole number educated in the Groton stores for some years before and after myself, no one else, to my knowledge, escaped the bog or slough; and my escape I trace to the simple fact of having put a restraint upon my appetite. We five boys were in the habit, every forenoon, of making a drink compounded of rum, raisins, sugar, nutmeg, &c., with biscuit, — all palatable to eat and drink. After being in the store four weeks, I found myself admonished by my appetite of the approach of the hour for indulgence. Thinking the habit might make trouble if allowed to grow stronger, without further apology to my seniors I declined partaking with them. My first resolution was to abstain for a week, and, when the week was out, for a month, and then for a year. Finally, I resolved to abstain for the rest of my apprenticeship, which was for five years longer. During that whole period, I never drank a spoonful, though I mixed gallons daily for my old master and his customers."[1]

[1] Diary and Correspondence of Amos Lawrence, pages 24, 25.

The following advertisement is found in the Columbian Centinel (Boston), June 8, 1805:—

James Brazer,

WOULD inform the public that having dissolved the Copartnership lately subsisting between AARON BROWN, Esq. SAMUEL HALE and the Subscriber; he has taken into Copartnership his son WILLIAM F. BRAZER, and the business in future will be transacted under the firm of

JAMES BRAZER & SON;

They will offer for sale, at their store in *Groton*, within six days a complete assortment of English, India, and W. India GOODS, which they will sell for ready pay, at as low a rate as any store in the Country.

JAMES BRAZER.

Groton, May 29, 1805.

"Squire Brazer," as he was generally called, was a man of wealth and position. He was one of the founders of Groton Academy, and his subscription of £15 to the building fund in the year 1792 was as large as that given by any other person. In the early part of this century he built the house now belonging to the Academy and situated just south of it, where he lived until his death, which occurred on November 10, 1818. His widow, also, took a deep interest in the institution, and at her decease, April 14, 1826, bequeathed to it nearly five thousand dollars.

After Mr. Brazer's death the store was moved across the street, where it still remains, forming the wing of Gerrish's block. The post-office was in the north end of it during Mr. Butler's term as postmaster. About this time the son, William Farwell Brazer, built a store nearly opposite to the Academy, which he kept during some years. It was made finally into a dwelling-house, and occupied by the late Jeremiah Kilbourn, whose family have recently sold it to Charles Gerrish.

James Brazer's house was built on the site of one burnt down during the winter season a year or two previously. At

that time there was no fire-engine in town, and the neighbors had to fight the flames, as best they could, with snow as well as water. Loammi Baldwin, Jr., a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1800, was then a law student in Timothy Bigelow's office, and had a natural taste for mechanics. He was so impressed with the need of an engine that with his own hands he constructed the first one the town ever had. This identical machine, known as Torrent, No. 1, is still serviceable after a use of more than eighty years, and will throw a stream of water over the highest roof in the village. It was made in Jonathan Loring's shop, then opposite to Mr. Boynton's blacksmith shop, where the iron work was done. The tub is of copper, and bears the date of 1802. Mr. Baldwin, soon after this time, gave up the profession of law, and became, like his father, a distinguished civil engineer.

At two different times within a few years, Torrent, No. 1, has done most excellent service in putting out fires, and it is the testimony of all acquainted with the facts, that on each of these occasions it prevented a serious conflagration. Notably this was so at a recent fire which took place early on Sunday morning, October 26, 1884, when a dwelling-house, owned by Andrew Robbins, was burned down. At this fire Mr. Dix's buildings, in very close proximity, were in great danger, but they were saved through the efforts of the fire department and the use of the old machine, which was worked to good advantage in narrow quarters, where the other engine could not be taken.

The brick store, opposite to the High School, was built about the year 1835 by Henry Woods, for his own place of business, and afterward kept by him and George S. Boutwell, the style of the firm being Woods and Boutwell. Mr. Woods died on January 12, 1841; and he was succeeded by his surviving partner, who carried on the store for a long time, even while holding the highest executive position in the State. In the spring of 1855, when he began to practise law, Governor Boutwell sold out the business to Brigham and Parker. The post-office was in this building during the years 1839 and 1840, and until April, 1841. For the past thirty years it

has been occupied by various firms, and now is kept by David Herbert Shattuck and Company.

During the last war with England, Eliphalet Wheeler had a store where Miss Betsey Capell, and her sisters, Sarah and Catherine, in more modern times, kept a haberdasher's shop. It is situated opposite to the Common, and is now used as a dwelling-house. They were daughters of John Capell, who owned the saw-mill and grist-mill, which formerly stood on the present site of the Tileston and Hollingsworth paper-mills, on the Great Road, north of the village. Afterward Wheeler and his brother, Abner, took Major Thomas Gardner's store, where he was followed by William F. Brazer, Park and Woods, Park and Potter, Potter and Gerrish, and lastly by Charles Gerrish, who kept it for more than thirty years. It was given up as a store in July, 1884, and at the present time is vacant. Soon it will make way for modern improvements.

Near the beginning of the present century there were three military companies in town: the Artillery company, commanded at one time by Captain James Lewis; the North company by Captain Jonas Gilson; and the South company by Captain Abel Tarbell. Two of these officers were soon promoted in the regimental service: Captain Tarbell to a colonelcy, and Captain Lewis to a majorate. Captain Gilson resigned, and was succeeded by Captain Noah Shattuck. They had their spring and fall training-days, when they drilled as a battalion on the Common, — there were no trees there then, — and marched through the village. They formed a very respectable command, and sometimes would be drawn up before Squire Brazer's store, and at other times before Major Gardner's, to be treated with toddy, which was then considered a harmless drink.

David Child had a store, about the beginning of the century, at the south corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, nearly opposite to the site of the Orthodox Meeting-house, though Pleasant Street was not then laid out. It was subsequently occupied by Deacon Jonathan Stow Adams, then by Artemas Wood, and lastly by Milo H. Shattuck. This was moved off twelve or fifteen years ago, and a spacious building put up,

a few rods north, on the old tavern site across the way, by Mr. Shattuck, who still carries on a large business.

Alpheus Richardson kept a book-store, about the year 1815, in his dwelling, at the south corner of Main and Elm Streets, besides having a book-bindery in the same building. Soon afterward an L was added to the house, and for a short time he carried on a country variety store in connection with his other business. The book-store and binder's shop were continued until about 1850. It is said that this house was built originally by Colonel James Prescott, for the use of his son, Abijah, as a store; but it never was so occupied by him.

Joseph and Phineas Hemenway, uncles of the late Augustus Hemenway, of Boston, built a store on the north corner of Main and Elm Streets, about the year 1815, where they carried on a trading business. They were succeeded by one Richardson, then by David Childs; and finally by John Hamilton Spalter, who had for many years a book-store and binder's shop in the building, which is now used as a dwelling-house. At the present time Mr. Spalter is living in Keene, New Hampshire.

About the year 1826, General Thomas Adams Staples built and kept a store on Main Street, directly north of the Orthodox Meeting-house. He was followed successively by Benjamin Franklin Lawrence, Henry Hill, and Walter Shattuck. At one time the style of the firm was Shattuck, Brown and Company. The building was burned down very early on Tuesday morning, November 17, 1874, and its site is now occupied by Dr. David Roscoe Steere's house.

In November, 1844, a large building was moved from Hollis Street to the corner of Main and Court Streets. It was put up originally as a meeting-house for the Second Adventists, or Millerites as they were called in this neighborhood, after William Miller, one of the founders of the sect; and during the following winter and spring, it was fitted up in a commodious manner, with shops in the basement and a spacious hall in the second story. The building was known as Liberty Hall, and formed a conspicuous structure in the village. It was first occupied by tenants in July, 1845. The post-office

was kept there while Mr. Lothrop and Mr. Andruss were the postmasters. It was used as a shoe-store, a grocery, and a bakery, when, on Sunday, March 31, 1878, it was burned to the ground.

The brick store, owned by the Dix family, was built and kept by Aaron Brown, near the beginning of the century. He was followed by Moses Carleton, and after him came —— and Merriam, and then Benjamin P. Dix. It is situated at the corner of Main Street and Broad-Meadow Road, and is now used as a dwelling-house. A very good engraving of this building is given in The Groton Herald, May 8, 1830, which is regarded by persons who remember it at that time as a faithful representation, though it has since undergone some changes.

Near the end of the last century Major William Swan traded in the house now occupied by Charles Woolley, Jr., north of the Common, near the old burying-ground. It was Major Swan who set out the elms in front of this house, which was the Reverend Dr. Chaplin's dwelling for many years.

At the beginning of this century two daughters of Isaac Bowers, a son of Landlord Bowers, had a dry-goods shop in the house owned and occupied by the late Samuel William Rowe, Esq. About the year 1825, Walter Shattuck opened a store in the building originally intended for the Presbyterian Church, opposite to the present entrance of the Groton Cemetery. There was formerly a store kept by one Mr. Lewis, near the site of Captain Asa Stillman Lawrence's house, north of the Town Hall. There was a trader in town, Thomas Sackville Tufton by name, who died in the year 1778, though I do not know the site of his shop. Captain Samuel Ward, a native of Worcester, and an officer in the French and Indian War, was engaged in business at Groton some time before the Revolution. He removed to Lancaster, where at one time he was the town-clerk, and died there on August 14, 1826.

THE GROTON POST-OFFICE.

The Groton post-office was established at the very beginning of the present century, and before that time letters intended for this town were sent through private hands. Previous to the Revolution there were only a few post-offices in the Province, and often persons in distant parts of Massachusetts received their correspondence at Boston. In the Supplement to The Boston Gazette, February 9, 1756, letters are advertised as remaining uncalled for, at the Boston office, addressed to William Lakin and Abigail Parker, both of Groton, as well as to Samuel Manning, Townsend, William Gleany, Dunstable, and Jonathan Lawrence, Littleton. Nearly five months afterward letters—and perhaps these identical ones—are advertised for the same persons in The Boston Weekly News-Letter, July 1, 1756, as still uncalled for. The name of David Farnum, America, appears also in this list, and it is hoped that wherever he was he received the missive. The names of Oliver Lack (probably intended for Lakin) and Ebenezer Parker, both of this town, are given in another list printed in the Gazette of June 28, 1762; and in the same issue one is advertised for Samuel Starling, America. In the Supplement to the Gazette, October 10, 1768, Ebenezer Farnsworth, Jr., and George Peirce, of Groton, had letters advertised; and in the Gazette, October 18, 1773, the names of Amos Farnsworth, Jonas Farnsworth, and William Lawrence, all of this town, appear in the list.

I find no record of a post-rider passing through Groton, during the period immediately preceding the establishment of the post-office; but there was doubtless such a person who used to ride on horseback, equipped with saddle-bags, and delivered at regular intervals the weekly newspapers and letters along the way. In the year 1794, according to the History of New Ipswich, New Hampshire (page 129), a post-rider, by the name of Balch, rode from Boston to Keene one week and back the next. Probably he passed through this town, and served the inhabitants with his favors.

Several years ago I procured, through the kindness of General Charles Devens, at that time a member of President Hayes's Cabinet, some statistics of the Groton post-office, which are contained in the following letter: —

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 3, 1877.

Hon. CHARLES DEVENS, Attorney-General, Department of Justice.

SIR, — I have to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Samuel A. Green, of Boston, Massachusetts, with your indorsement thereon, requesting to be furnished with a list of postmasters at the office of Groton, in that State, from the date of its establishment to the present time.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you, that the fire which consumed the department building, on the night of the fifteenth of December, 1836, destroyed three of the earliest record-books of this office; but by the aid of the auditor's ledger-books, it is ascertained that the office began to render accounts on the first of January, 1801, but the exact day is not known. Samuel Dana was the first postmaster, and the following list furnishes the history of the office, as shown by the old records.

Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Office probably established in November, 1800. Samuel Dana began rendering accounts January 1, 1801. Wm. M. Richardson, October 1, 1804. From this time the exact dates are known.

Abraham Moore, appointed postmaster January 31, 1812
Eliphalet Wheeler, August 20, 1815.
James Lewis, September 9, 1815.
Caleb Butler, July 1, 1826.
Henry Woods, January 15, 1839.
George S. Boutwell, January 22, 1841.
Caleb Butler, April 15, 1841.
Welcome Lothrop, December 21, 1846.
Artemas Wood, February 22, 1849.
George H. Brown, May 4, 1849.
Theodore Andruss, April 11, 1853.
George W. Fiske, April 22, 1861.
Henry Woodcock, February 13, 1867.
Miss Hattie E. Farnsworth, June 11, 1869, who is the present incumbent.

Each postmaster held the office up to the appointment of his successor, but it is probable that Mr. Boutwell and Mr. A. Wood, although regularly appointed, did not accept, judging by the dates of the next postmasters.

As to the "income" of the office, to which allusion is made, it is very difficult to obtain any of the amounts; but the first year and the last year are herewith appended, as follows: —

(1801)		FISCAL YEAR	(1876)	
First quarter,	$1.91		First quarter,	$314.15
Second „	2.13		Second „	296.94
Third „	2.93		Third „	305.71
Fourth „	5.29		Fourth „	294.28
For the year,	$12.26		For the year,	$1,211.08

Trusting the foregoing, which is believed to be correct, will be acceptable to you, I am, sir, respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

JAMES H. MARR,

Acting First Ass't P.M. General.

It will be seen that the net income of the office, during the first seventy-five years of its existence, increased one hundred fold.

This letter of the Acting First Assistant Postmaster-General supplements the account in Butler's History of Groton (pages 249–251). According to Mr. Butler's statement, the post-office was established on September 29, 1800, and the Honorable Samuel Dana was appointed the first postmaster. No mail, however, was delivered at the office until the last week in November. For a while it came to Groton by the way of Leominster, certainly a very indirect route. This fact appears from a letter written to Judge Dana, by the Postmaster-General, under the date of December 18, 1800, apparently in answer to a request to have the mail brought directly from Boston. In this communication the writer says: —

It appears to me, that the arrangement which has been made for carrying the mail to Groton is sufficient for the accommodation of the inhabitants, as it gives them the opportunity of receiving their

letters regularly, and with despatch, once a week. The route from Boston, by Leominster, to Groton is only twenty miles farther than by the direct route, and the delay of half a day, which is occasioned thereby, is not of much consequence to the inhabitants of Groton. If it should prove that Groton produces as much postage as Lancaster and Leominster, the new contract for carrying the mail, which is to be in operation on the first of October next, will be made by Concord and Groton to Walpole, and a branch from Concord to Marlborough.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JOS. HABERSHAM.

The amount of postage received from the office, after deducting the necessary expenses, including the postmaster's salary, was, for the first year after its establishment, about twelve dollars, or three dollars for three months. In the year 1802 it was thirty-six dollars, or nine dollars for three months, a large proportional increase. At this time the mail came once a week only, and was brought by the stage-coach.

Samuel Dana, the first postmaster, was a prominent lawyer at the time of his appointment. He was the son of the Reverend Samuel Dana, of Groton, and born in this town, June 26, 1767. He occupied a high position in the community, and exerted a wide influence in the neighborhood. At a later period he was President of the Massachusetts Senate, a member of Congress, and finally Chief-Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. He died at Charlestown, on November 20, 1835.

Judge Dana kept the post-office in his own office, which was in the same building as that of the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, another noted lawyer. These eminent men were on opposite sides of the same entry, and generally on opposite sides of all important cases in the northern part of Middlesex County. The building stood on the site of Governor Boutwell's house, and is still remembered as the medical office of the venerable Dr. Amos Bancroft. It was afterward moved away, and now stands near the railway-station, where it is occupied as a dwelling-house. Judge Dana held the position during four years, and he was succeeded by William

Merchant Richardson, Esq., afterward the Chief-Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire. Mr. Richardson was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1797, and at the time of his appointment as postmaster had recently finished his professional studies in Groton, under the guidance of Judge Dana. After his admission to the bar, Mr. Richardson entered into partnership with his former instructor, succeeding him as postmaster in July, 1804; and the office was still kept in the same building. During Judge Richardson's term, the net revenue to the department rose from nine dollars to about twenty-eight dollars for three months. He held the position nearly eight years, and was followed by Abraham Moore, who was appointed on January 31, 1812.

Mr. Moore was a native of Bolton, Massachusetts, where he was born on January 5, 1785. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1806, and studied law at Groton with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, and after his admission to the bar settled here as a lawyer. His office was on the site of the north end of Gerrish's block, and it was here that the post-office was kept. During his administration the average income from the office was about thirty-three dollars for the quarter. In the summer of 1815, Mr. Moore resigned the position and removed to Boston.

Eliphalet Wheeler, who kept the store lately occupied by Mr. Gerrish, was appointed in Mr. Moore's stead, and the post-office was transferred to his place of business. He, however, was not commissioned, owing, it is thought, to his political views; and Major James Lewis, who was sound in his politics, received the appointment in his stead. Major Lewis retained Mr. Wheeler for a short time as his assistant, and during this period the duties were performed by him in his own store. Shortly afterward Caleb Butler, Esq., was appointed the assistant, and he continued to hold the position for eight years. During this time the business was carried on in Mr. Butler's law office, and the revenue to the government reached the sum of fifty dollars a quarter. His office was then in a small building, — just south of Mr. Hoar's tavern, — which was moved away about the year 1820, and

taken to the lot where Colonel Needham's house now stands, at the corner of Main and Hollis Streets. It was fitted up as a dwelling, and subsequently moved away again. At this time the old store of Mr. Brazer, who had previously died, was brought from over the way, and occupied by Mr. Butler, on the site of his former office.

On July 1, 1826, Mr. Butler, who had been Major Lewis's assistant for many years, and performed most of the duties of the office, was appointed postmaster.

Mr. Butler was a native of Pelham, New Hampshire, where he was born on September 13, 1776, and a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1800. He had been the preceptor of Groton Academy for some years, and was widely known as a critical scholar. He had previously studied law with the Honorable Luther Lawrence, of Groton, though his subsequent practice was more in drawing up papers and settling estates than in attendance at courts. His name is now identified with the town as its historian. During his term of office as postmaster, the revenue rose from fifty dollars to one hundred and ten dollars a quarter. He held the position nearly thirteen years, to the entire satisfaction of the public; but for political heresy he was removed on January 15, 1839, when Henry Woods was appointed his successor.

Mr. Woods held the office until his death, which occurred on January 12, 1841; and he was followed by the Honorable George S. Boutwell, since the Governor of the Commonwealth and a member of the United States Senate. During the administration of Mr. Woods and Mr. Boutwell, the office was kept in the brick store, opposite to the present High School.

Upon the change in the administration of the National Government, Mr. Butler was reinstated in office, on April 15, 1841. He continued to hold the position until December 21, 1846, when he was again removed for political reasons. Mr. Butler was a most obliging man, and his removal was received by the public with general regret. During his two terms he filled the office for more than eighteen years, a longer period than has fallen to the lot of any other postmaster of

the town. Near the end of his service a material change was made in the rate of postage on letters; and in his History (page 251) he thus comments on it:—

"The experiment of a cheap rate was put upon trial. From May 14, 1841, to December 31, 1844, the net revenue averaged one hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy-one cents per quarter. Under the new law, for the first year and a half, the revenue has been one hundred and four dollars and seventy-seven cents per quarter. Had the former rates remained, the natural increase of business should have raised it to one hundred and fifty dollars per quarter. The department, which for some years before had fallen short of supporting itself, now became a heavy charge upon the treasury. Whether the present rates will eventually raise a sufficient revenue to meet the expenditures, remains to be seen. The greatest difficulty to be overcome is evasion of the post-office laws and fraud upon the department."

Like many other persons of that period, Mr. Butler did not appreciate the fact that the best way to prevent evasions of the law is to reduce the rates of postage so low that it will not pay to run the risk of fraud.

Captain Welcome Lothrop succeeded Mr. Butler as postmaster, and during his administration the office was kept in Liberty Hall. Captain Lothrop was a native of Easton, Massachusetts, and a land-surveyor of some repute in this neighborhood. Artemas Wood followed him by appointment on February 22, 1849; but he never entered upon the duties of his office. He was succeeded by George Henry Brown, who had published The Spirit of the Times — a political newspaper — during the presidential canvass of 1848, and in this way had become somewhat prominent as a local politician. Mr. Brown was appointed on May 4, 1849; and during his term the office was kept in an L of his dwelling, situated nearly opposite to the Orthodox Meeting-house. He was afterward the postmaster of Ayer. Mr. Brown was followed by Theodore Andruss, a native of Orford, New Hampshire, who was appointed on April 11, 1853. Mr. Andruss brought the office back to Liberty Hall, and continued to be the incumbent until April 22, 1861, when he was succeeded

by George Washington Fiske. On February 13, 1867, Henry Woodcock was appointed to the position, and the office was then removed to the Town House, where most excellent accommodations were given to the public. He was followed on June 11, 1869, by Miss Harriet E. Farnsworth, now Mrs. Marion Putnam; and she in turn was succeeded on July 2, 1880, by Mrs. Christina Dakin (Caryl) Fosdick, the widow of Samuel Woodbury Fosdick, and the present incumbent. Few towns in the Commonwealth can present such an array of distinguished men among their postmasters as that of Groton, including, as it does, the names of Judge Dana, Judge Richardson, Mr. Butler, and Governor Boutwell.

The office is still kept in the Town House, and there is no reason to think that it will be removed from the spacious and commodious quarters it now occupies, for a long time to come. This public building was erected in 1859, and the first town-meeting was held within its walls, on Tuesday, November 8, of that year. The High School was first opened in the lower hall on Monday, December 5, and the examination of classes for admission took place three days previously, on Friday, December 2.

West Groton is a small settlement that has sprung up in the western part of the town, dating back in its history to the last century. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Squannacook River, and in my boyhood was known as Squannacook, a much better name than the present one. It is to be regretted that so many of the old Indian words, which have a local significance and smack of the region, should have been crowded out of the list of our geographical names. There is a small water-power here, and formerly a saw-mill, grist-mill, and a paper-mill were in operation; but these have now given way to a factory where leather-board is made. The Peterborough and Shirley branch of the Fitchburg Railroad passes through the place, and some local business is transacted in the neighborhood. As a matter of course, a post-office was needed in the village, and one was established on March 19, 1850. The first person to fill the office was Adams Archibald, a native of Truro, Nova Scotia, who kept it in the railway-station.

The following is a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointment: —

Adams Archibald, March 19, 1850.
Edmund Blood, May 25, 1868.
Charles Henry Hill, July 31, 1871.
George Henry Bixby, July 11, 1878.

During the postmastership of Mr. Blood, and since that time, the office has been kept in a store near the station, and for a long while the only one in the place.

A post-office was established at South Groton, on June 1, 1849, and the first postmaster was Andrew Boynton Gardner. The village was widely known as Groton Junction, and resulted from the intersection of several railroads. Here six passenger-trains coming from different points were due in the same station at the same time, and they all were supposed to leave as punctually.

The trains on the Fitchburg Railroad, arriving from each direction, and likewise the trains on the Worcester and Nashua Road from the north and the south, passed each other at this place. There was also a train from Lowell, on the Stony Brook Railroad, and another on the Peterborough and Shirley branch, coming at that time from West Townsend.

A busy settlement grew up, which was incorporated as a distinct town under the name of Ayer, on February 14, 1871, so called after the late James Cook Ayer, of Lowell.

The following is a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointment: —

Andrew Boynton Gardner, June 1, 1849.
Harvey Alpheias Woods, August 11, 1853.
George Henry Brown, December 30, 1861.
William Holmes Harlow, December 5, 1862.
George Henry Brown, January 15, 1863.
William Holmes Harlow, July 18, 1865.

The name of the post-office was changed by the Department at Washington, from South Groton to Groton Junction, on March 1, 1862; and subsequently this again was changed to

Ayer, on March 22, 1871, soon after the incorporation of the town, during the postmastership of Mr. Harlow.

By the postal law which went into operation on October 1, 1883, the postage is now two cents to any part of the United States, on all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight. This rate certainly seems cheap enough, but in time the public will demand the same service for a cent. Less than forty years ago the charge was five cents for any distance not exceeding three hundred miles, and ten cents for any greater distance. This was the rate established by the law which took effect on July 1, 1845; and it was not changed until July 1, 1851, when it was reduced to three cents on single letters, prepaid, or five cents, if not prepaid, for all distances under three thousand miles. By the law which went into operation on July 1, 1863, prepayment by stamps was made compulsory, the rate remaining at three cents; though a special clause was inserted, by which the letters of soldiers or sailors, then fighting for the Union in the army or navy, might go without prepayment.

Closely akin to the post-office in its functions is the service of the telegraph and the telephone, and for that reason I add the following facts: —

The telegraph office was opened in the village of Groton on Saturday, March 20, 1880, mainly through the exertions of the late Charles Harrison Waters and of Francis Marion Boutwell, Esq.; and the first message was sent to Nashua. The office was established in the railway-station, where it has since remained, and the first operator was Miss Etta Augusta Shattuck.

The telephone office was opened in the village on Friday, April 29, 1881. It was in the building at the south corner of Main Street and Station Avenue, and under the management of Appleton Howe Torrey, who still has charge of it.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. VIII.

THE OLD TAVERNS AND STAGE-COACHES OF GROTON.

GROTON, MASS.

1885.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1885.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. VIII.

THE OLD TAVERNS AND STAGE-COACHES OF GROTON.

BY SAMUEL A. GREEN.

IT has been said that there is nothing contrived by man which has produced so much happiness as a good tavern. Without granting or denying the statement, all will agree that many good times have been passed around the cheerful hearth of the old-fashioned inn.

The sites of the earliest taverns of Groton cannot easily be identified, but the names of some of the landlords are found in the records of the Middlesex Court of Sessions, — now at East Cambridge, — when they were licensed as inn-holders. At that period no great preparations were made in the small towns for lodging strangers, beyond obtaining the necessary license, and guests were treated like members of the family. Occasionally a farmer would keep a tavern for a while, and thus make a market for his home products. For a long time Groton was a frontier settlement, and all beyond it was a wilderness. The travel through the place was mainly along the circumference of civilization, from one out-lying town to another, and there was but little patronage for public houses. The following list of early landlords and retailers of spirits is taken from the Court records, and the entries are made during the months of July, August, and September in the respective years.

1699. Joseph Cady.
1700. Probably no license granted.
1701. Joseph Cady.
1702. Probably no license granted.
1703. Samuel Parker, Nathan Mors.
1704. Samuel Parker.
1705. Samuel Parker.
1706. Samuel Parker.
1707. Samuel Parker.
1708. Samuel Parker.
1709. Probably no license granted.
1710. Samuel Woods.
1711. Mr. Samuel Woods.
1712. Probably no license granted.
1713. Nathaniel Woods.
1714. Nathaniel Woods.
1715. Nathaniel Woods.
1716. Nathaniel Woods.
1717. Nathaniel Woods, Eleazer Robbins, Eleazer Green; James Patterson, retailer.
1718. Mr. Nathaniel Woods, Mr. Eleazer Robbins, Mr. Eleazer Green.
1719. Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Nathaniel Woods.
1720. Mr. Eleazer Green.
1721. Mr. David Whetcomb, Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Jonathan Hubbart.
1722. Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1723. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1724. Mr. Jonathan Hubbart, Mr. Joseph Spaulding.
1725. Mr. William Tarbell.
1726. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. William Tarbell.
1727. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. William Tarbell, Mr. Josiah Sautell.
1728. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1729. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1730. Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. Josiah Sartel, Nathaniel Sartel, Esq.
1731. Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1732. Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. James Parker.
1733. Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. John Bulkley.

1734. Nathaniel Sartell, Esq., Mr. John Bulkley, Mr. Benjamin Bancroft.

1735. Nathaniel Sartell, Esq., Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkley.

1736. Nathaniel Sartle, Esq., Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkley.

1737. Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkely.

1738. John Bulkeley, Captain Samuel Parker, Jonathan Sheple.

1739. Captain Samuel Parker, John Bulkeley; Jonathan Sheple, Abraham Moores, retailers.

1740. John Bulkeley, Abraham Moores, William Lawrence, Esq.

1741. Samuel Parker, John Bulkley; William Lawrence, Esq., Abraham Moores, retailers.

1742. Samuel Parker, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores; William Lawrence, Esq., Thomas Tarbell, retailers.

1743. Samuel Parker, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; William Lawrence, Esq., Thomas Tarbell, retailers.

1744. Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Isaac Farnsworth, Benjamin Bancroft, John Bulkley, Samuel Parker.

1745. Isaac Green, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; William Lawrence, Esq., Benjamin Chase, retailers.

1746. Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Benjamin Bancroft, John Bulkley, Samuel Parker, Amos Lawrence.

1747. Isaac Greene, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; John Sheple, Ezra Farnsworth, retailers.

1748. Capt. Benjamin Bancroft, Capt. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Amos Lawrence.

1749. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1750. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1751. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1752. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence, James Colburn, Jr., William White; Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., retailer.

1753. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Thomas White, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr.; Josiah Sartell, retailer.

1754. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Thomas White, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr.; Josiah Sartell, John Stevens, Esq., retailers.

1755. John Bulkeley, Abraham Moores, Samuel Bowers, Thomas White; John Stevens, Esq., Jonathan Sartell, retailers.

In the Journal of the House of Representatives (page 96), December 21, 1752, is a petition of Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., of Groton, stating that —

He lives upon a publick Road leading from *Dunstable* to *Harvard*, which is frequented by many Travellers; that the publick Houses on said Road are fifteen Miles distant from each other; that he has only Liberty to Retail, yet is often crowded with People who want necessary Refreshment, but is not allowed to sell it to them; he therefore prays he may now obtain a Licence as an Innholder.

Pass'd in Council, *viz.* In Council, *December* 21st 1752. Read and *Ordered*, That the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, be and they hereby are allowed to grant the Petitioner a License to be an Innholder, if they see Cause, at their Adjournment on Saturday the 23d Instant, the Time for granting Licences being elapsed notwithstanding, provided the Petitioner first obtains the Approbation of the Select-Men of *Groton* for that Purpose.

Sent down for Concurrence. Read and concur'd.

The Trowbridge tavern cannot now be identified with certainty; but it is highly probable that it was the same as the Bowers inn, mentioned in the next paragraph.

The earliest tavern in Groton, of which there is any positive record or knowledge, was kept by Samuel Bowers, Jr., in the house lately and for a long time occupied by the Champney family. Mr. Bowers was born in Groton on December 21, 1711, and, according to his tombstone, died on "the Sixteenth Day of December Anno Domini 1768. Half a hour after Three of the Clock in ye Afternoon, and in the

Fifty Eight year of his age." He was first licensed in the year 1755, and was known in the neighborhood as "Land'urd Bowers," — the innkeeper of that period being generally addressed by the title of landlord. I do not know who succeeded him in his useful and important functions.

The next tavern of which I have any knowledge was the one kept by Captain Jonathan Keep, during the latter part of the Revolution. In "The Independent Chronicle" (Boston), February 15, 1781, the committee of the General Court for the sale of confiscated property in Middlesex County advertise the estate of Dr. Joseph Adams, of Townsend, to be sold "at Mr. Keeps, innholder in Groton." This tavern has now been kept as an inn during more than a century. It was originally built for a dwelling-house, and, before the Revolution, was occupied by the Reverend Samuel Dana; but since that time it has been lengthened in front and otherwise considerably enlarged. Captain Keep was followed by the brothers Isaiah and Joseph Hall, who were the landlords as early as the year 1798. They were succeeded in 1825 by Joseph Hoar, who had just sold the Emerson tavern, at the other end of the village street. Excepting the year 1836, when Moses Gill and his brother-in-law, Henry Lewis Lawrence, were the landlords, Mr. Hoar kept it until the spring of 1843, when he sold out to Thomas Treadwell Farnsworth. It was then conducted as a temperance house, at that time considered a great innovation on former customs. After a short period it was sold to Daniel Hunt, who kept it until 1852; and he was followed by James Minot Colburn, who had it for two years. It then came into the possession of Joseph Nelson Hoar, a son of the former landlord, who took it in 1854, and in whose family it has since remained. Latterly it has been managed by three of his daughters, and is known now as the Central House. It is the only tavern in the village, and for neatness and comfort cannot easily be surpassed.

In a list of innholders printed near the end of Isaiah Thomas's Almanack for 1785, appears the name of Richardson, whose tavern stood on the present site of the Baptist

church. It was originally the house owned and occupied by the Reverend Gershom Hobart, which had been considerably enlarged by additions on the north and east sides, in order to make it more suitable for its new purposes. Mine host was Captain Jephthah Richardson, who died on October 9, 1806. His father was Converse Richardson, who had previously kept a small inn on the present Elm Street, near the corner of Pleasant. It was in this Elm Street house that Timothy Bigelow, the rising young lawyer, lived, when he first came to Groton. Within a few years this building has been moved away. Soon after the death of Captain Jephthah Richardson, the tavern was sold to Timothy Spaulding, who carried on the business until his death, which occurred on February 19, 1808. Spaulding's widow subsequently married John Spalter, who was the landlord for a short time. About 1812 the house was rented to Dearborn Emerson, who had been a driver of a stage-coach, as well as the owner of a line. He remained in possession of it for a few years.

During the War of 1812 it was an inn of local renown; and a Lieutenant Chase had his headquarters here for a while, when recruiting for the army. He raised a company in the neighborhood, which was ordered to Sackett's Harbor, near the foot of Lake Ontario. The men were put into uniforms as they enlisted, and drilled daily. They were in the habit of marching through the village streets to the music of the spirit-stirring drum and the ear-piercing fife; and occasionally they were invited into the yard of some hospitable citizen, who would treat them to "the cups that cheer but not inebriate," when taken in moderation. William Kemp was the drummer, and Wilder Shepley the fifer, both noted musicians in their day. Sometimes Moses Kemp, a brother, would act as fifer. William is still alive, at the advanced age of ninety-six years, and gives many reminiscences of that period. He lives with his son James, near Squannacook, in the house used as a tavern by Amos Adams more than a hundred years ago. Mr. Kemp was born at Groton on May 8, 1789, and began to drum in early boyhood. His first appearance in the public service was during the year 1805, as drummer of

the South Company of Groton, commanded by Luther Lawrence, Esq., afterward the mayor of Lowell. He has been the father of nine children, and has had thirty grand-children, thirty-three great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Even now he can handle the drumsticks with a dexterity rarely equalled; and within a short time I have seen him give an exhibition of his skill which would reflect credit on a much younger person. Among the men enlisted here during that campaign were Marquis D. Farnsworth, Aaron Lewis, William Shepley, and John Woodward, of this town; and James Adams, and his son, James, Jr., of Pepperell.

During his boyhood Mr. Kemp knew Major Daniel Simpson, now the veteran drummer of Boston, whose mother was Sarah, daughter of Job and Sarah (Hartwell) Shattuck, of Groton. The Major was born in Boston, on September 29, 1790, and for one of his age is still quite active. In former years he used to spend considerable time at Groton, where many a trial of skill between the two drummers has taken place. May they both live to be a hundred!

It was about the year 1815 that Dearborn Emerson left the Richardson tavern, and moved down the street, perhaps thirty rods, where he opened another public house on the present site of Milo H. Shattuck's store. The old tavern, in the meantime, passed into the hands of Daniel Shattuck, who kept it until the year before his death, which occurred on April 8, 1831. The business was then carried on during a short time by Samuel Clark Tenny, who has the following advertisement in "The Groton Herald," June 12, 1830:—

OLD STAND.

THE Subscriber would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, that he has taken the Tavern lately occupied by Mr. DANIEL SHATTUCK, in Groton; and having thoroughly fitted up the same for the reception and accommodation of travellers, he flatters himself he shall obtain a share of their custom.

No pains shall be spared to give satisfaction to all those who may be disposed to patronize him.

SAMUEL C. TENNY.

Groton, June 12, 1830.

The next landlord was Lemuel Lakin, and after him Francis Shattuck, a son of Daniel, for another brief period. About the year 1833 it was given up entirely as a public house, and thus passed away an old landmark widely known in those times. It stood well out on the present road, the front door facing down what is now Main Street, the upper end of which then had no existence. In approaching the tavern from the south, the road went up Hollis Street and turned to the left somewhere south of the Burying-Ground. The house afterward was cut up and moved off, just before the Baptist meeting-house was built. My earliest recollections carry me back faintly to the time when it was last used as a tavern, though I remember distinctly the building as it looked before it was taken away.

Dearborn Emerson married a sister of Daniel Brooks, a large owner in the line of stage-coaches running through Groton from Boston to the northward; and this family connection was of great service to him. Jonas Parker, commonly known as "Tecumseh" Parker, was now associated with Emerson in keeping the new hotel. The stage business was taken away from the Richardson tavern, and transferred to this one. The house was enlarged, spacious barns and stables were erected, and better accommodations given to man and beast, — on too large a scale for profit, it seems, as Parker and Emerson failed shortly afterward. This was in the spring of 1818, during which year the tavern was purchased by Joseph Hoar, who kept it a little more than six years, when he sold it to Amos Alexander. This landlord, after a long time, was succeeded in turn by Isaac J. Fox, Horace Brown, William Childs, Artemas Brown, John McGilson, Abijah Wright, and Moses Gill. It was given up as a hotel in 1854, and made into a shoe-factory, owned by Messrs. Bigelow and Randall; and finally it was burned on Wednesday evening, December 19, 1855. Mr. Gill had the house for seven years, and was the last landlord. He then opened a public house directly opposite to the Orthodox church, and called it The Globe, which he kept for two years. He was succeeded by

Stephen Woods, who remained only one year, after which time this also was given up as a public house.

The following advertisement in "The Groton Herald," March 13, 1830, shows that the selectmen of the town at that time, wishing to be impartial in distributing their official patronage, used to meet equally at all the taverns in the village for the transaction of public business: —

Stated meetings of the Selectmen.

THE Selectmen of Groton will meet on the last Saturdays of each month the present municipal year, at 3 o'clock, P.M. viz: — At *Hoar's* Tavern in March, April, May, and June; at *Alexander's* in July, August, September, and October; and at *Shattuck's* in November, December, January, and February.

CALEB BUTLER, *Chairman.*

Another hostelry was the Ridge Hill tavern, situated at the Ridges, three miles from the village, on the Great Road to Boston. This was built about the year 1805, and much frequented by travellers and teamsters. At this point the roads diverge and come together again in Lexington, making two routes to Boston. It was claimed by interested persons that one was considerably shorter than the other, — though the actual difference was less than a mile. In the year 1824 a guide-board was set up at the crotch of the roads, proclaiming the fact that the distance to Lexington through Concord was two miles longer than through Carlisle. Straightway the storekeepers and innholders along the Concord road published a counter-statement, that it had been measured by sworn surveyors, and the distance found to be only two hundred and and thirty-six rods further than by the other way.

The first landlord of the Ridge Hill tavern was Levi Parker, noted for his hearty hospitality. He was afterward deputy-sheriff of Middlesex County, and lived at Westford. He was followed, for a short time, by John Stevens, and then by John Hancock Loring, who conducted the house during many years, and was succeeded by his son Jefferson. After

him came Henry Lewis Lawrence, who kept it during one year; he was followed by his brother-in-law, Moses Gill, who took the tavern in April, 1837, and kept it just five years. When Mr. Gill gave up the house, he was followed by one Langdon for a short time, and he in turn by Kimball Farr as the landlord, who had bought it the year previously, and who remained in charge until 1868. During a part of the time when the place was managed by Mr. Farr, his son Augustus was associated with him. Mr. Farr sold the tavern to John Fuzzard, a native of Brighton, England, who kept it as the landlord for a while, and is still the owner of the property. He was followed by Newell M. Jewett, and he in turn by Stephen Perkins, a native of York, Maine, who took it in 1880. The building had been vacant for some years before that time. It was given up by Mr. Perkins in the spring of 1884, when it ceased to be a public house, and was occupied again by Mr. Fuzzard as his dwelling. A fair used to be held here on the first Tuesday of every month for the sale of horses, and buyers were attracted from a long distance. At one time this property was owned by Judge Samuel Dana, who sold it to John H. Loring.

As early as the year 1798, there was a tavern about a mile from the Ridges, toward Groton. It was kept by Stephen Farrar, in the house now standing near where the brook crosses the Great Road. Afterward one Green was the landlord. The house known as the "Levi Tufts place," in the same neighborhood, was an inn during the early part of this century, conducted by Tilly Buttrick. Also about this time, or previously, the house situated south of Indian Hill, and occupied by Charles Prescott, — when the map in Mr. Butler's History was made, — was an inn. There was a tavern kept from about the year 1812 to 1818 by a Mr. Page, in Mr. Gerrish's house, — near the Unitarian church in the village, — which was built by Martin Jennison, about 1803. There was also a tavern, near the present paper-mills of Tileston and Hollingsworth, kept for many years (1820–45) by Aaron Lewis, and after him for a short time by A. M. Veazie. It was originally the house of John Capell, who owned the saw-mill

and grist-mill in the immediate neighborhood. Amos Adams had an inn near Squannacook, a hundred years ago, in a house now owned by James Kemp.

Just before and during the Revolution, a tavern was kept by George Peirce, in the south part of the town, within the present limits of Ayer. This landlord was perhaps the innholder of Littleton, whose name appears in an advertisement printed on the first page of "The Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter," August 8, 1765. Peirce's house was advertised for sale, according to the following advertisement in "The Boston Gazette," September 27, 1773:—

To be Sold at PUBLIC VENDUE, to the highest Bidder, on Wednesday the 3d Day of November next, at four o'Clock in the Afternoon (if not Sold before at Private Sale) by me the Subscriber, A valuable FARM in Groton, in the County of Middlesex, pleasantly situated on the great County Road, leading from Crown Point and No. 4 to Boston: Said Farm contains 172 Acres of Upland and Meadow, with the bigger Part under improvement, with a large Dwelling House and Barn, and Out Houses, together with a good Grist Mill and Saw Mill, the latter new last Year, both in good Repair, and on a good Stream, and within a few Rods of the House. Said Farm would make two good Livings, and would sell it in two Divisions, or together, as it would best suit the Purchaser. Said House is situated very conveniently for a Tavern, and has been improved as such for Ten Years past, with a Number of other Conveniences, too many to enumerate. And the Purchaser may depend upon having a good warrantee Deed of the same, and the bigger Part of the Pay made very easy, on good Security. The whole of the Farming Tools, and Part of the Stock, will be sold as above-mentioned, at the Subscriber's House on said Farm.

GEORGE PEIRCE.

GROTON, Aug. 30, 1773.

The grist-mill and saw-mill mentioned in the advertisement were on Nonacoicus Brook. In the Gazette, November 15, 1773, another notice appears, which shows that the tavern was not sold at the time originally appointed. It is as follows:—

The Publick are hereby Notified that the Sale of the FARM in Groton, which was to have been the 3d Instant on the Premisses, at the House of Mr. George Peirce, is adjourn'd to the house of Mr. Joseph Moulton, Innholder in Boston, where it will certainly be Sold to the highest Bidder, on Wednesday the 1st Day of December next, at 4 o'Clock, P.M.

The following advertisement is found in "The Independent Chronicle" (Boston), September 19, 1808. The site of the farm comes now within the limits of Ayer; Stone's tavern was afterward kept by Moses Day, and subsequently burned, in the spring of 1836.

A FARM — for Sale,

CONTAINING 140 acres of Land, situated in the South part of *Groton*, (*Mass.*) with a new and well-finished House, Barn, & Out-Houses, and Aqueduct, pleasantly situated, where a Tavern has been kept for the last seven years; — a part or the whole will be sold, as best suits the purchaser. For further particulars, inquire of THO'S B. RAND of *Charlestown*, or the Subscriber, living on the Premises.

JESSE STONE.

Sept. 12.

About a generation ago an attempt was made to organize a company for the purpose of carrying on a hotel in the village, and a charter was obtained from the Legislature. The stock, however, was not fully taken up, and the project fell through. Of the corporators, Mr. Potter was the last survivor, and he died in Cincinnati, on December 2, 1884. Below is a copy of the Act: —

An Act to incorporate the Groton Hotel Company.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECT. 1. Luther F. Potter, Nathaniel P. Smith, Simeon Ames, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Groton Hotel Company, for the purpose of erecting, in the town of Groton, buildings necessary and convenient for a public house, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all

the liabilities, duties and restrictions, set forth in the forty-fourth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

SECT. 2. Said corporation may hold such real and personal property, as may be necessary and convenient for the purposes aforesaid, not exceeding in amount twenty thousand dollars: *provided*, that no shares in the capital stock of said corporation shall be issued for a less sum or amount, to be actually paid in on each, than the par value of the shares which shall be first issued. And if any ardent spirits, or intoxicating drinks of any kind whatever, shall be sold by said company, or by their agents, lessees, or persons in their employ, contrary to law, in any of said buildings, then this act shall be void. [*Approved by the Governor, May* 2, 1850.]

In the spring of 1852, a charter was given to Benjamin Webb, Daniel D. R. Bowker, and their associates, for the purpose of forming a corporation to carry on a hotel at the Massapoag Springs, in the eastern part of this town; but the project fell through. It was to be called the Massapoag Spring Hotel, and its capital stock was limited to $30,000. The Act was approved by the Governor, on May 18, 1852; and it contained similar conditions to those mentioned above in regard to the sale of liquors. In the spring of 1859, an Act was passed by the Legislature, and approved by the Governor on April 1, incorporating Abel Prescott, Harvey A. Woods, Levi W. Woods, Stephen Roberts, and Levi W. Phelps, their associates and successors, under the name of the Groton Junction Hotel Company, for the purpose of erecting a hotel at Groton Junction, now known as Ayer. The capital of the Company was limited to $15,000, but the stock was never taken. These enterprises are now nearly forgotten, though the mention of them may revive the recollections of elderly people.

THE GROTON STAGE-COACHES.

During the first half of the present century, Groton had one characteristic mark, closely connected with the old taverns, which it no longer possesses. It was a radiating centre for different lines of stage-coaches, until this mode of travel was superseded by the swifter one of the railroad. Wayfarers from the surrounding towns off the line of travel came hither daily in private vehicles to engage their seats and take their passage. During many years the stage-coaches were a distinctive feature of the place; and their coming and going were watched with great interest, and created the excitement of the day. In early times the drivers, as they approached the village, would blow a bugle in order to give notice of their arrival; and this blast was the signal at the taverns to put the food on the table. More than a generation has now passed away since these coaches were wont to be seen in the village streets. They were drawn usually by four horses, and in bad going by six. Here a change of coaches, horses, and drivers was made.

The stage-driver of former times belonged to a class of men that has now disappeared from the community. His position was one of considerable responsibility. This important personage was well known along the route, and his opinions were always quoted with respect. I easily recall the familiar face of Aaron Corey, who drove the accommodation stage to Boston for so many years. He was a careful and skilful driver, and a man of most obliging disposition. He would go out of his way to bear a message or leave a newspaper; but his specialty was to look after women and children committed to his charge. He carried also packages and parcels, and largely what to-day is intrusted to the express. I recall, too, with pleasure Horace George, another driver, popular with all the boys, because in sleighing time he would let us ride on the rack behind, and even slacken the speed of his horses so as to allow us to catch hold of the straps. In youthful dialect, the practice was called "ketching on behind."

Some people now remember the scenes of life and activity that used to be witnessed in the town on the arrival and departure of the stages. Some remember, too, the loud snap of the whip which gave increased speed to the horses, as they dashed up in approved style to the stopping-place, where the loungers were collected to see the travellers, and listen to the gossip which fell from their lips. There were no telegraphs then, and but few railroads in the country. The papers did not gather the news so eagerly, nor spread it abroad so promptly, as they do now; and items of intelligence were carried largely by word of mouth.

The earliest line of stage-coaches between Boston and Groton was the one mentioned in the "Columbian Centinel," April 6, 1793. The advertisement is headed "New Line of Stages," and gives notice that —

A Stage-Carriage drives from *Robbins'* Tavern, at Charles-River Bridge, on Monday and Friday, in each week, and passing through *Concord* and *Groton*, arrives at *Wyman's* tavern in *Ashley* [Ashby?] in the evening of the same days; and after exchanging passengers there, with the Stage-Carriage from *Walpole*, it returns on Tuesdays and Saturdays, by the same route to *Robbins's*.

. . . . . .

The *Charlestown* Carriage drives also from *Robbins'* on Wednesday in each week, and passing through *Concord* arrives at *Richardson's* tavern, in *Groton*, on the evening of the same day, and from thence returns on Thursday to *Robbins'*.

. . . . . .

Another Carriage drives from *Richardson's* tavern in *Groton*, on Monday in each week, at six o'clock in the morning, and passing by *Richardson's* tavern in *Concord*, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, arrives at *Charlestown* at three o'clock in the afternoon. From *Charlestown* it drives on Tuesday and Thursday in each week, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and returns back as far as *Richardson's* tavern in *Concord* — and from that place it starts at 8 o'clock in the mornings, of Wednesday and Friday, and runs again to *Charlestown*. From there it moves at six o'clock on Saturday morning, and returns to *Richardson's* tavern in *Groton*, in the evening of the same day.

It was probably one of these "Carriages," to which allusion is made in Mr. Winthrop's Memoir of the Honorable Nathan Appleton, as follows: —

At early dusk on some October or November evening, in the year 1794, a fresh, vigorous, bright-eyed lad, just turned of fifteen, might have been seen alighting from a stage-coach near Quaker Lane,[1] as it was then called, in the old town of Boston. He had been two days on the road from his home in the town of New Ipswich, in the State of New Hampshire. On the last of the two days, the stage-coach had brought him all the way from Groton in Massachusetts; starting for that purpose early in the morning, stopping at Concord for the passengers to dine, trundling them through Charlestown about the time the evening lamps were lighted, and finishing the whole distance of rather more than thirty miles in season for supper. For his first day's journey, there had been no such eligible and expeditious conveyance. The Boston stage-coach, in those days, went no farther than Groton in that direction. His father's farm-horse, or perhaps that of one of the neighbors, had served his turn for the first six or seven miles; his little brother of ten years old having followed him as far as Townsend, to ride the horse home again. But from there he had trudged along to Groton on foot, with a bundle-handkerchief in his hand, which contained all the wearing apparel he had, except what was on his back.

[Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, v. 249, 250.]

It has been said that the first public conveyance between Boston and Groton was a covered wagon, hung on chains for thoroughbraces; but this was probably subsequent to the time of the advertisement. It was owned and driven by Lemuel Lakin, but after a few years the owner sold out to Dearborn Emerson.

The following advertisement from the "Columbian Centinel," June 25, 1800, will give a notion of what an undertaking a trip to Boston was at the beginning of the century: —

[1] Now Congress Street.

GROTON STAGE.

The subscriber respectfully informs the public that he drives the Stage from *Boston* to *Groton*, running through *Lexington*, *Concord*, and *Littleton*, to *Groton*: Starts from *Boston* every *Wednesday* morning, at 5 o'clock, and arrives at *Groton* the same day; Starts from *Groton* every *Monday* morning, at 7 o'clock, and arrives at *Boston* the same day at 4 o'clock. Passage through, 2 dols. per mile, 4*d*

DANBORN EMERSON.

Seats taken at Mr. SILAS DUTTON'S in *Royal Exchange Lane.* Newspapers supplied on the road, and every attention paid to conveyances.

The given-name of Emerson was Dearborn, and not "Danborn," which is a misprint. Two years later he was running a stage-coach from Groton to New Ipswich, New Hampshire; and on the first return trip he brought three passengers, — according to the "History of New Ipswich" (page 129). Emerson was a noted driver in his day; and he is mentioned with pleasant recollections by the Honorable Abbott Lawrence, in an after-dinner speech at the jubilee of Lawrence Academy, on July 12, 1854, as appears from the published account of the celebration. Subsequently he was the landlord of one of the local taverns.

It is advertised in "The Massachusetts Register," for the year 1802, that the —

GROTON Stage sets off from J. and S. Wheelock's [Indian Queen Inn], No. 37, Marlboro'-Street [now a part of Washington Street, Boston], every Wednesday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at Groton at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, same day; leaves Groton every Monday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrives in Boston at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, same day. (Pages 19, 20.)

It seems from this notice that it took three hours longer to make the trip down to Boston than up to Groton, — of which the explanation is not clear. In the Register for 1803, a semi-

weekly line is advertised, and the same length of time is given for making the trip each way as is mentioned in the Register of the preceding year.

About the year 1807 there was a tri-weekly line of coaches to Boston, and as early as 1820 a daily line, which connected at Groton with others extending into New Hampshire and Vermont. Soon after this time there were two lines to Boston, running in opposition to each other, — one known as the Union and Accommodation Line, and the other as the Telegraph and Despatch.

One of the drivers for the Telegraph and Despatch line was Phineas Harrington, popularly known along the road as "Phin" Harrington. He had orders to take but eight passengers in his coach, and the trip was made with remarkable speed for that period. "Phin" was a man of small size; and the story used to be told of him that, on cold and stormy nights, he would get inside of one of the lamps fixed to the box, in order to warm his feet by the lighted wick! He passed almost his whole life as a stage-man, and it is said that he drove for nearly forty years. He could handle the reins of six horses with more skill than any other driver in town.

William Shepard and Company advertise in "The Groton Herald," April 10, 1830, their accommodation stage. "Good Teams and Coaches with careful and obliging drivers will be provided by the subscribers." Books were kept in Boston at A. M. Brigham's, No. 42 Hanover Street, and in Groton at the taverns of Amos Alexander and Joseph Hoar. The fare was one dollar, and the coach went three times a week.

About this time George Flint had a line to Nashua, and John Holt another to Fitchburg. They advertise together in the Herald, May 1, 1830, that "no pains shall be spared to accommodate those who shall favor them with their custom, and all business intrusted to their care will be faithfully attended to." The first stage-coach from this town to Lowell began to run about the year 1829, and John Austin was the driver. An opposition line was established soon afterward, and kept up during a short time, until a compromise was made between them. Later, John Russ was

the owner and driver of the line to Lowell, and still later, John M. Maynard the owner. Near this period there was a coach running to Worcester, and previously one to Amherst, New Hampshire.

Fifty years ago General Thomas Adams Staples was a well-known stage-proprietor. He was a man of large frame and fine proportions, and is still remembered by many residents of the town. He was born in Boston, on July 20, 1804, and died at Machias, Maine, on November 13, 1880.

The following is a list of some of the old drivers, who were well known along their respective routes. It is arranged in no particular order and is by no means complete; and the dates against a few of the names are only approximations to the time when each one sat on the box.

Lemuel Lakin was among the earliest; and he was followed by Dearborn Emerson. Daniel Brooks drove to Boston during the period of the last war with England, and probably later.

Aaron Corey drove the accommodation stage to Boston, through Carlisle, Bedford, and Lexington, for a long time, and he had previously driven the mail-coach. He was succeeded by his son, Calvin, the driver for a few years, until the line was given up in 1850. Mr. Corey, the father, was one of the veterans, having held the reins during thirty-two years; he died March 15, 1857, at the age of seventy-three.

Isaac Bullard (1817–30), William Smart (1825–30), George Hunt, Jonathan Buttrick, Obadiah Kendall, Albert Hayden, Charles Briggs, Levi Robbins, James Lord, Frank Brown, Silas Burgess, Augustus Adams, William Dana, Horace Brown, Levi Wheeler, Timothy Underwood, ——— Bacon, Horace George (1838–45), Lyman William Cushing (1842–45), and Joseph Stewart, — these drove to Boston. After the stages were taken off, "Joe" Stewart was the driver of the passenger-coach from the village to the station on the Fitchburg Railroad, which ran to connect with the three daily trains for Boston. The station was three miles away, and now within the limits of Ayer.

Among the drivers to Keene, New Hampshire, were

Kimball Danforth (1817–40), Ira Brown, Oliver Scales, Amos Nicholas, Otis Bardwell, Abel Marshall, the brothers Ira and Hiram Hodgkins, George Brown, Houghton Lawrence, Palmer Thomas, Ira Green, Barney Pike, William Johnson, Walter Carleton, and John Carleton. There were two stage routes to Keene, both going as far as West Townsend in common, and then separating, one passing through New Ipswich and Jaffrey, a northerly route, while the other went through Ashby, Rindge, and Fitzwilliam, a southerly one.

Anson Johnson and Beriah Curtis drove to Worcester; Addison Parker, Henry Lewis Lawrence, Stephen Corbin, John Webber, and his son, Ward, drove to Lowell; the brothers Abiel and Nathan Fawcett, Wilder Proctor, and Abel Hamilton Fuller, to Nashua.

Micah Ball, who came from Leominster about the year 1824, drove to Amherst, New Hampshire, and after him Benjamin Lewis, who continued to drive as long as he lived, and at his death the line was given up. The route lay through Pepperell, Hollis, and Milford.

The forerunner of this Amherst stage was a one-horse vehicle, which used to go over the road each way two or three times a week, and carry the mail. It began to run about the year 1820, and took passengers as occasion required.

Other reins-men were John Chase, Joel Shattuck, William Shattuck, Moses Titus, Frank Shattuck, David Coburn, —— Chickering, Thomas Emory, and William Kemp, Jr.

The sad recollection of an accident at Littleton, resulting in the death of Silas Bullard, is occasionally revived by some of the older people. It occurred on February 3, 1835, and was caused by the upsetting of the Groton coach, driven by Samuel Stone, and at the time just descending the hill between Littleton Common and Nagog Pond, then known as Kimball's Hill. Mr. Bullard was one of the owners of the line, and a brother of Isaac, the veteran driver. The "Columbian Centinel," February 5, 1835, contains the following account of the affair: —

From Briggs's News Room Bulletin.

On Tuesday afternoon [February 3], as the Groton and Keene mail stage was returning to this city, in a narrow pass of the road in Littleton, one of the fore wheels of the stage came in contact with the hind wheel of a wagon, which suddenly overturned the stage. — There were eleven passengers in the vehicle at the time, who, with the exception of Mr. Silas Bullard, of this city, and Mr. Washington Shepley, of Groton, escaped uninjured. Mr. Bullard was seated with the driver at the time of the accident, and was thrown, with great violence, to the ground, the stage falling immediately upon him. His collar-bone and two of his ribs were broken, shoulder blade dislocated, and otherwise injured. He was conveyed to a private dwelling, where he has the best medical aid, but his recovery is very doubtful. Mr. Shepley's injuries were of an internal nature, but not such as to prevent his immediate return to Groton. A passenger states that no blame can be attached to the driver.

Mr. Bullard died on February 5, and the Centinel of the next day pays a worthy tribute to his character.

Besides the stage-coaches the carrier wagons added to the business of Groton, and helped largely to support the taverns. The town was situated on one of the main thoroughfares leading from Boston to the northern country, comprising an important part of New Hampshire and Vermont, and extending into Canada. This road was traversed by a great number of wagons, drawn by four or six horses, carrying to the city the various products of the country, such as grain, pork, butter, cheese, eggs, venison, hides ; and returning with goods found in the city, such as molasses, sugar, New-England rum, coffee, tea, nails, iron, cloths, and the innumerable articles found in the country stores, to be distributed among the towns above here. In some seasons it was no uncommon sight to see forty such wagons passing through the village in one day.

In addition to these were many smaller vehicles, drawn by one or two horses, to say nothing of the private carriages of individuals who were travelling for business or pleasure.

For many of the facts given in this paper I am indebted

to Moses Gill, an octogenarian of Groton, whose mind is clear and body active for a man of his years. Mr. Gill is a grandson of Lieutenant-Governor Moses Gill, and was born at Princeton, on March 6, 1800. He has kept several public houses in Groton, already mentioned, besides the old brick tavern situated on the Lowell road, near Long-sought-for Pond, and formerly known as the Half-way House. This hotel came within the limits of Westford, and was kept by Mr. Gill from the year 1842 to 1847. In his day he has known personally seventy-five landlords doing business between Davenport's tavern in Cambridge, — which formerly stood opposite to the once celebrated Porter's hotel, — and Keene, New Hampshire; and of this number, only seven are thought to be living at the present time.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. IX.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MILITARY MATTERS.

FIRES OCCURRING IN 1829.

THE RINGING OF THE NINE O'CLOCK BELL.

MISTAKE IN THE SPELLING OF A NAME.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. IX.

GROTON DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

THE earliest public document of the town is a pamphlet entitled: Bye Laws | of | Groton | relative to Schools; | and | Instructions | of | the School Committee. | 1805. || Cambridge printed by William Hilliard. 1806. pp. 12; to which are appended the "Committee's Instructions." pp. 3. It appears to be in the nature of a report, which was accepted at a town-meeting held on November 18, 1805. It is drawn up with considerable care, and comprises thirteen Articles for the general guidance of the School Committee. Article I describes the various Districts, and gives the names of so many householders at the beginning of the present century, — of which a few are now wholly forgotten, — that I print the entire Article in order to revive the recollection in regard to the others. It is given line for line with the original.

The sites of some of these houses may be learned by an examination of Mr. Butler's Map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829, and published in 1830. The dwellings of Abel Prescott, Jonas Gilson, Nehemiah Whitman, Joseph Sawtell, and William Bancroft all appear, while Joseph Bennet's house is represented on the map by "Wid. Bennett" northwesterly of Baddacook Pond; Elisha Young's by Widow Young, who lived easterly of Long Pond; and Peter Ames's by Bulkley Ames, Esq., near Brown Loaf. John Fisk dwelt where Stephen Kendall did, when the Map

was made. "The causeway, called Swill Bridge," was between the homesteads of Eber Woods, Jr., and Joel Davis, a short distance west of the present railroad bridge; "Capell's mills" were near the site of the Tileston and Hollingsworth paper-mills; Nod-road led from Capell's mills to the district known as Nod, in the vicinity of the cross-roads below the soapstone quarry; "Naumox place" is in the neighborhood of a long, low hill or ridge, known as Naumox, west of the road to East Pepperell, near the Longley monument, and running parallel with the road; "the Presbyterian Meeting house" stood opposite to the present entrance of the Cemetery, where Walter Shattuck lived. The site of "the brickyard, near Abel Prescott's land," is unknown to the present generation.

Twelve districts defined & numbered.

Article 1. That there shall continue to be twelve School Districts in the town, except as herein after mentioned, defined by the limits and boundaries herein after expressed, and to be henceforward called and known by the numerical denominations following.

School District No. I. Beginning at the Causeway near to and northerly of Capt. Jephthah Richardson's tavern, thence running southerly and southeastwardly, as the County road goes, to the brickyard, near Abel Prescott's land; extending northerly to the guide post in the crotch of the roads northerly of the house, where Isaac Bowers now lives; westerly towards Jonathan Farwell's to the northeast corner of the Farnsworths' land; easterly to the crotch of the roads,[1] where Jonas Gilson now lives; also down the back road from the Meeting house by Peter Ames' house to Nehemiah Whitman's farm, and on the Harvard road to the lane south of the dwelling house of Joseph Sawtell 2d, and on the road by the dwelling house of Rufus Moors to Jonathan Fisk's farm; including the inhabitants on both sides of said roads except Joel Lawrence.

No. II. Beginning at the crotch of the roads near the dwelling house of Ebenezer Hopkins, thence running westerly by Deacon Amos Farnsworth's house to Page's bridge, so called; thence, as the County road goes, to the crotch

[1] The word *near* is interlined before "where Jonas Gilson now lives." — Ed.

of the roads near Morgan place, so called; thence by Major Moors' and Levi Stone's to the crotch of the roads south of John Fisk's house; thence towards Groton Meeting house, as the road goes till it comes to the lane, north of Joseph Allen's house, called Russell's lane; including the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits, and also the occupants of the farm owned by Joel Lawrence, where he now lives.

No. III. Beginning at the crotch of the roads westerly of William Bancroft's house, near where Ebenezer Hopkins now lives; thence running northerly, as the road goes, to Capt. Levi Kemp's, including said Kemp's farm, and extending from said William Bancroft's house to the causeway, called Swill Bridge, and thence, as the road goes, by Amos Davis' to the road aforesaid, and extending easterly by Ezra Farnsworth's to Broad meadow, and from Jonathan Farwell's towards Capt. Richardson's to the northeast corner of the Farnsworths' land; and from said Kemp's to Timothy H. Newman's shop; including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits, except said Newman.

No. IV. Including that whole section of the town, which lies on the westerly side of Nashua river.

No. V. Beginning at the guide post in the crotch of the roads between Silas Parker's and Isaac Bowers', thence running northerly, as the road goes, by Job Shattuck's to Naumox place, where Jonathan Pratt lately lived, and from the causeway, near Capt. Richardson's tavern, by Wilder Sheple's to Capell's mills, at the bridge over Nashua river; and so down the river to include William Nutting's farm, and the inhabitants on the Nod-road, so called, and on the road from said William Nutting's to Silas Parker's, and thence by James Sheple's to Martin's Pond, including the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits, and also William Farwell's farm, and the farm, where Oliver Lakin lately lived, lying easterly of said limits.

No. VI. Beginning at Naumox place, so called, and thence running northerly, as the County road goes, by John Lawrence's to the river, and thence, as the road goes, by Lemuel Lakin's and Ebenezer Procter's to Dunstable line,

and so by Dunstable line to Thomas Bennet's, and by the road leading over Cold spring, so called, to said Naumox place; including Capt. Simeon Williams' farm, lying near said limits, and all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads, and within the limits aforesaid.

No. VII. Beginning at the gravelly hill on Dunstable road, near the Presbyterian Meeting house, thence running easterly, as said road goes, to Dunstable line, and bounding northerly on the limits of School District No. VI, and including all the inhabitants on both sides of said road, and within the limits aforesaid; and also including Ezekiel Fletcher's farm, so called, lying southerly of said road.

No. VIII. Beginning at a little brook, or stream, between Joseph Bennet's house and the house of Job Shattuck 3d, thence running easterly and northerly, as the road goes, by the farm, where Oliver Fletcher lately lived, to Dunstable line; thence running easterly by Dunstable line, southerly by Tyngsborough line, and westerly by Westford line, to the road leading by David Prescott's house, and so on by said road leading by Timothy Woods' house to Baddacook brook; including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits, and also including Eber Woods' farm on the north, and Jotham Woods' farm on the south, of said limits.

No. IX. Beginning at the crotch of the roads west of Jonas Gilson's house, thence running northerly, as the road goes, to Martin's pond; thence running easterly, as the road goes, by the Widow Susannah Shed's house to the little brook, or stream, between the houses of Joseph Bennet and Job Shattuck 3d; thence running southerly by the house of Phinehas Parker over Baddacook brook to Nahum Woods' house, including said Parker's farm, and said Woods' farm; thence to Jonas Green's house, including the land, whereon he now lives; thence to Amos Ames' house; thence to Nehemiah Whitman's house, as the road goes, including said Ames' farm and said Whitman's farm; thence to the place of beginning, including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads, and within said limits.

No. X. Beginning at the brickyard, near Abel Prescott's land, thence running southeasterly, as the County road goes,

to Littleton line, and easterly, as the County road goes, to Westford line, and northerly down Boiden's lane to Amos Ames' farm, and northeasterly, as the town way goes, by the widow Nash's house, and the house, where John E. Ross now lives, over Brownloaf brook to a place, called the Sawmill dam; and running from said County road at Stephen Farrar's tavern southerly and southwesterly, as the road goes, till it comes to Rufus Moors' farm; including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits.

No. XI. Beginning at Snake hill, so called, thence running southeasterly, as the road goes, by Sandy pond, till it comes to the County road near Aaron Bigelow's, thence running westerly, as said County road goes, to a small house, where Oliver Blood 3d now lives, including the land, which he now occupies, and running from said Bigelow's easterly, as the County road goes, to Littleton line, and running northerly from the school house at said County road, near where Caleb Symmes now lives, as the town way goes by Elisha Young's to Rocky hill, so called, near Tobacco pipe plain; including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads and within said limits; and also including the occupants of the farm lying easterly thereof, formerly owned by Daniel Farwell; and also including all the inhabitants living southerly of the County road aforesaid to Harvard line.

No. XII. Beginning at the crotch of the roads near Morgan place, so called, thence running southeasterly, as the County road goes, by Stone's sawmill, so called, to the small house, where Oliver Blood 3d now lives; and from said sawmill southerly, as the County road goes, to Harvard line; including all the inhabitants on both sides of said roads, and living southerly and westerly thereof to the lines of Harvard and Shirley; and also including all the inhabitants living on the road leading from the crotch of the roads south of John Fisk's house to Stone's mill, and on the road leading from the crotch of the roads aforesaid to John Park's house, and all within the limits aforesaid.

COMMITTEE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

AT a meeting of Groton School Committee Nov. 30th A. D. 1805,

Voted to adopt the following instructions, viz.

Preamble. THE school committee of Groton, deeply impressed with the importance of proper instruction and government in the schools in this town to the rising generation, and to the community at large, considering their responsibility for the promotion of the most useful knowledge and correct morals among those, who attend our schools, and having a due predilection for ancient sentiments, manners, and customs, which, in the opinion of the greatest and wisest men, are built on the soundest principles of reason and morality, and have a powerful tendency to make society virtuous and happy, as well as feeling an abhorrence of the absurdities of infidelity and the spirit of innovation, which threaten ruin to all social order and religion, think it necessary, in discharge of their duty, to give the following instructions to the several teachers of the schools in said town, which they require them strictly to observe, viz.

The bible to be read in schools. 1. The bible, which affords the best lessons of morality and religion, must be read in all the schools, at least a portion of it, in the forenoon, and another, in the afternoon, either by the Instructor, or by a class of such scholars, as can read with propriety, according to his discretion. All those, who can read well enough to belong to the bible class, must be required to supply themselves with bibles for their use in schools.

Instructors to pray. 2. The Instructors are all required to pray with their respective schools at the opening of the school exercises, in the morning, and at the close of those exercises in the evening, immediately after reading the holy scriptures, either extemporaneously, or by deliberately and solemnly reading a suitable form of their own composition, or taken from books on the subject of prayer, and to require their scholars to rise and attend with sobriety during that religious service.

3. The Schoolmasters are carefully to inspect the manners of their pupils, frequently inculcating lessons of virtue and wisdom, humanity and benevolence, upon them, and constantly correcting all the vices, which they perceive in them; always considering, that morality is the only solid basis of a good education. Instructors to inculcate morality.

4. Next to morality in point of importance is the knowledge of the English language, or the art of reading, then writing, and the knowledge of figures, all which must be attended to and pursued according to their respective utility. And those, who write, must be required to furnish themselves with proper books, and carefully preserve their books for inspection at the time of examination, that the committee may be able to judge of the improvements, which they have severally made. Pupils to be supplied with writing books.

5. Those, intrusted with the care of schools, are reminded, that due subordination must be established in their respective schools, in order to their being useful and respectable. Lenient measures will be preferred to coercive and severe; but if the former do not avail, the latter must be adopted. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Subordination enjoined. Punishment.

6. Uniformity of books in all the schools would contribute to the interest of learning, as well as to the convenience and relief of the Instructors. The committee, therefore, recommend the following, as the most eligible, viz; Perry's Spelling book and Dictionary, Dana's Selections, American Preceptor, Beauties of the Bible, Adams' Correct Reader, and his Arithmetic (2d or 3d edit.), Pike's Abridgement, and Alexander's English Grammar.[1] Uniformity of books recommended.

7. The Schoolmasters are all directed to read these instructions to their respective schools, as soon as may be convenient after receiving them, and are strictly enjoined to return the copies immediately after the expiration of their term of service to the town clerk, in order to be entitled to their wages. Instructions to be read, and returned.

A true copy,

Attest OLIVER PRESCOTT, } *Clerk of sd. comm.*

[1] *Constitutions, &c.* interlined. — Ed.

The copy of this edition of the By-laws, in my possession, is bound up at the beginning of a blank book, in which are kept the school records of District No. 11, from March 25, 1806, to January 25, 1838. This District lay in the southerly quarter of Groton, and constitutes now a part of the township of Ayer. The book contains the proceedings of the various school meetings held in the District, and gives a few statistics in regard to the number of scholars, etc. There is a second volume, covering the period from March 7, 1838, to March 3, 1869, which contains similar matter to the first. At the beginning of the book is bound up a pamphlet entitled: Extracts | from the | Revised Statutes | of the | Commonwealth of Massachusetts, | Chap. XXIII. | together with the By-laws of the | Town of Groton, | in relation to Schools. || Lowell Journal Press, 1837. pp. 17. This pamphlet also describes the limits of the several Districts in town, as they existed at the time, and mentions the names of many householders. These two volumes will soon be placed in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. As a sample of their contents, I print from Volume I. the proceedings of several meetings, as follows:—

At a School Meeting at the School-house in District N° 11 in the Southerly part of Groton legally warned & assembled this 25th day of March 1806. The following Votes were passed. Viz.

1st. Voted & Chose Mr Saml Farnsworth Moderator.

2d. Voted & Chose Caleb Symmes Clerk.

3d. Voted & Chose Capt Samson Farnsworth a Committee to hire a School Mistress.

4th Voted that the Mistress' board be put up to the lowest bidder — Mr Saml Peirce being the lowest bidder the Mistress board was struck off to him at Ninety Nine Cents a Week.

5th Voted that the school begin the first Monday in May next.

6th Voted that Capt. Samson Farnsworth be a Committee to warn the next School meeting.

7th Voted that four days at least shall be a legal warning: for next School Meeting.

8th Voted that the meeting be dissolved & it is dissolved accordingly.

Attest. CALEB SYMMES, Clerk.

At a School Meeting at the School House in District N° 11 in the Southerly part of Groton legally warned and Assembled this twenty fifth day of August 1806, the following Votes were passed. Viz.

1st. Voted & Chose Capt. Samson Farnsworth Moderator.

2. Voted that the old School House be sold at Auction to the highest bidder. Mr Elijah Peirce being the highest bidder it was struck off to him at thirty two Dollars.

3. Voted that the building a new School house be put up at Auction to the lowest bidder. Mr Samuel Peirce being the lowest bidder it was struck off to him at one hundred & Ninety eight Dollars.

4th. Voted & Chose Mr Elisha Young & Mr Thomas Gass a Committee to hire a School Master.

5th. Voted that the Master's Board be put up at Auction to the lowest Bidder.

Mr Elijah Peirce being the lowest bidder the Master's Board was struck of to him at eight shillings & six pence a Week.

6th Voted that the Wood be put up at Auction to the lowest bidder.

Caleb Symmes being the lowest bidder it was struck off to him at eight shillings & six pence a Cord.

7th. Voted that Mr Elisha Young be a Committee to measure the Wood.

8th. Voted that the School begin the first Monday in January 1807.

9th. Voted that this Meeting be dissolved & it is dissolved Accordingly.

Attest CALEB SYMMES, Clerk.

September 15th 1806.

This day I sent to Oliver Prescott Esq the names of 52 Children whose Parents belong to this district to be recorded. & 1 Death.

The following is the number of Children resident in School district N° 11 in the southerly part of Groton the first day of September 1806. that are upwards of 4 & under 18 & twenty one Years of Age taken in the Month of September Agreeable to the bye Laws of said Town by Caleb Symmes, Clerk, of Said District.

	Girls.	Boys.
Elisha Young	4	
Samuel Peirce	1	
Elijah Peirce		
Henry Farwell	2	
Joseph Abbot	3	
Samuel Farnsworth	2	–
Caleb Symmes	3	3
Capt. Samson Farnsworth		2
Aaron Williams	1	1
Wido' Phebe Crouch	1	
Abel Sawtel	3	
Oliver Blood	1	
John Boit	1	
Thomas Gass		2
Joseph Wyeth	1	2
	23	19
	19	
	42	

At a School meeting at the School House in District N° 11 in the Southerly part of Groton legally warned & assembled this twenty seventh day of March 1807. the following Votes were passed. Viz.

1st. Voted & Chose Mr Elisha Young, Moderator.

2d. Voted & Chose Caleb Symmes, Clerk.

3d. Voted & Chose Caleb Symmes a Committee to hire a School Mistress.

4th Voted that the Mistress' board be put up to the lowest bidder. Mr Elijah Peirce being the lowest bidder it was struck off to him at one Dollar a Week.

5th Voted that the School begin the first monday in may next.

6th Voted that this meeting be dissolved & it is dissolved accordingly.

Attest, CALEB SYMMES, Clerk.

The following is the number of Children resident in School District N° 11 in the southerly part of Groton the first day of September, A. D. 1807 that are upwards of 4 and under 18 & 21 Years of age taken in the month of September agreeably to the bye Laws of said Town by Caleb Symmes, Clerk of sd District.

	Girls.	Boys.
Samuel Farnsworth	1	1
Caleb Symmes	3	2
Capt. Samson Farnsworth		
Aaron Williams	1	
Thomas Gass		
Joseph Wyeth	1	
Oliver Blood	2	
Abel Sawtel	3	
Widº Phebe Crouch	1	
Elijah Peirce	1	
Samuel Peirce	1	
Elisha Young	4	
	18	16
	16	
Total	34	

At a School meeting at the house in District Nº 11 in the southerly part of Groton Legally warned and assembled this third dav of December 1807 the following Votes were passed Viz

1st Voted and Chos Elisha young moderator

2 Voted and Chos Samuel Farnsworth Clark

3 Voted and Chos Elisha young and Elijah parce a Commitee to hire a master

4 Voted that the massters board be put up at auction to the lowest bidder Elijah Parce being the lowist bidder the masters board was struck of to him at one Dollar and fifty Cents a week

5 Voted that the School should begin the first monday in January

6 Voted that the squadron would find thar one wood

7 Voted that the meeting bee dissolved and it is dissolved acordingley

atest SAMUEL FARNSWORTH Clerk *pro tem*

At a School meeting in the School House in district Nº 11 in the Southerly part of Groton legally warned & assembled this twenty third day of March 1808 the following Votes were passed, viz.

1st. Voted & Chose Capt. Samson Farnsworth Moderator.

2dly. Voted & Chose Caleb Symmes, Clerk.

3d Voted & chose Mr Saml Farnsworth a Committee to hire a School Mistress.

4th Voted that the Mistress' board be put up at auction to the lowest bidder Mr Samuel Peirce being the lowest Bidder it was struck off to him at Ninety nine Cents a Week

5th Voted that the School begin the first monday in May next

6th Voted & Chose Caleb Symmes & Mr Samuel Farnsworth a Committee to find out if possible, who it is that has damaged the School House & report

7th Voted that this meeting be dissolved & it is dissolved accordingly.

Attest CALEB SYMMES, Clerk.

The following is a list of the Number of Children resident in School-District No. 11. in the Southerly part of Groton, the 1st Day of September 1808; that are above 4 years of age & under the age of 21 & 18. taken in the month of September agreeably to the bye laws of said Town, by Caleb Symmes Cl'k of said District.

	Females.	Males.
Samuel Farnsworth	1	2
Caleb Symmes	2	2
Capt. Samson Farnsworth		
Aaron Williams		
Thomas Gass		1
Thomas Wood	1	2
Joseph Wyeth	1	2
Oliver Blood	2	
Widº Phebe Crouch	1	2
Adam Hill	2	1
Abel Sawtel	3	
Elijah Peirce	1	
Samuel Peirce	1	2
Elisha Young		3
	16	22
	22	
Total	38	

At a School meeting in the School House in District No. 11, in the Southerly part of Groton legally waru'd and assembled this 13th day of October, A. D. 1808. the following Votes were passed, Viz.

1st. Voted & chose Capt. Samson Farnsworth, Moderator.

2d Voted to have but one person for a Committee to hire a School-master.

3d Voted & chose Mr. Samuel Farnsworth a Committee to hire a School-master.

4th. Voted that the Master's board be put up at Auction to the lowest bidder.

Mr Samuel Peirce being the lowest bidder it was struck off to him at one Dollar & fifty Cents a week.

5th. Voted that the School begin the second Monday in November next.

6th. Voted that each one bring a load of Wood to the School House in three Weeks from this day & that each one cut the Wood he brings

7th. Voted that this Meeting be dissolved. and it is dissolved accordingly.

Attest. CALEB SYMMES, Clerk.

In the year 1823 District No. 10 was divided, forming a new district, No. 13; and in 1828 District No. 1 was also divided, making No. 14, — the line of division being James's Brook. The territory north of the brook constituted District No. 14, while the part south of it continued as No. 1. On March 7, 1870, the Selectmen were "directed to dispose of School Houses Nos. 3 and 5, according to their discretion." Under this authority No. 5 was sold, but No. 3 was kept, and of late has been called the Lawrence School, whenever it has been used.

The town of Ayer was incorporated on February 14, 1871, and taken for the most part from the town of Groton. The new township included Districts Nos. 11 and 12; and soon afterward the method of designating the several schools by numbers was discontinued. On March 3, 1873, a committee was appointed to suggest suitable names for the different districts, and on April 7, 1873, they made a report, which was adopted by the town. The next year, however, the plan was slightly modified, and on March 2, 1874, the town voted to change the names so as to read as follows: —

No. 1, Butler School.	No. 8, Trowbridge School.
No. 2, Moors School.	No. 9, Willard School.
No. 4, Dana School.	No. 10, Prescott School.
No. 6, Hobart School.	No. 13, Chaplin School.
No. 7, Chicopee School.	No. 14, Winthrop School.

West Groton, Tarbell School.

These names were all closely connected either with the history of the town or with the neighborhood of the schools. In this list five of the early ministers of the town — viz., Willard, Hobart, Trowbridge, Dana, and Chaplin — are represented, but the names are applied without any special reference to locality. With the two exceptions of John Miller and Dudley Bradstreet, the list includes all the ministers of the town during the time it formed a single parish, a period of one hundred and seventy years. It was fit that Mr. Butler's name should be associated with one of the school Districts. The historian of the town had been the principal of the Academy during eleven years, though not in continuous succession. The family of Moors had lived for a long time in the neighborhood of Schoolhouse No. 2, and the family of Tarbell was closely identified with the village of West Groton. Deane Winthrop, a son of Governor John, was one of the original grantees of the town, and his name stands at the head of the earliest list of Selectmen appointed by the General Court. Colonel William Prescott, the commander of the American forces at the battle of Bunker Hill, was born in Groton, and his family name has always been a distinguished one in its annals. Chicopee is an old and familiar designation of a district in the north part of the town.

It is worthy of note that, in the early town-records, the terms "angles" and "squadrons" were, for many years, used for what are now called school districts. This use of them did not disappear until the latter part of the last century.

The following subscription paper, among the manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is of some interest, in connection with the account of the schools given by Mr. Butler on page 219 of his History:—

GROTON Jan^{y}: y^{e}: 10th: 1739.

Wee the Subscribers Do Joyntly & Severally Promis To pay or Cause to be paid the Severall Sum or Sums of money Perfixt or Anex'd to Each of our Names: Respectively To be Expended towards the Building Finishing Compleating or Erecting of a

Schoole house att the North East Corner of the Town of Groton: as Witnes our hands the Day & year first above written.

	£ :	s :	d
John Lakin	2 :	0 :	0
John Sheple	3 :	0 :	0
Dudley Bradstreet:	1 :	0 :	0
William Nutting:	1—	0—	0
Jason Williams	3—	0—	0
Peter hobart	3—	0—	0
Nathaniel Larence Junior	0—	15—	0
Jonas Varnum	1—	10 :	0
Nathaniel Blood	1—	10—	0
Jeremiah Shattuck	3—	0—	0

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE Groton Public Library was established in the year 1854, and started at the suggestion of the Honorable Abbott Lawrence, who offered to give the sum of five hundred dollars for that purpose, on condition the town would appropriate the same amount. The following letters, found among the papers of Mr. Lawrence after his death, and now among the manuscripts of the Boston Public Library, are connected with its history, and have a local interest. They tell their own story, and need no further introduction from me. The first letter is in Mr. Butler's handwriting, and, from the style, evidently his composition.

GROTON, February 13, 1854.

HONORED SIR, —

Your communication of the 3d instant, in relation to establishing a town library in the place of your nativity, has been received and considered.

Knowledge and virtue generally diffused among the mass of the people, are elements necessary to the support and maintenance of our New England institutions, — civil, moral, ecclesiastical, and social. Books are the customary vehicles of conveying knowledge to the mind. Hence, in order to perpetuate the institutions, privileges, and advantages of which we find ourselves in the possession, to improve, enlarge, and transmit them to generations yet to come, in purity, books best adapted to the purpose should be made accessible to all, and all should be encouraged to use and improve them. Indeed, if a well-selected public library could effect nothing more than to divert the minds of youth from the mischievous products of morbid imaginations which at present load the shelves and counters of our book-shops, and to give a taste for truthful history, biography, morality, and science, as in progress they might be able to comprehend, an invaluable object would be obtained by it.

Individually entertaining these views on the subject, your generous proposal cannot but be to us otherwise than most acceptable; and we hope and trust that a majority at least of our fellow-townsmen, entertaining the same or similar views, will accept your

munificence, and in good faith fulfil the conditions you have annexed. The earliest opportunity shall be embraced to lay the matter before the people in their municipal capacity, and of the result you shall be duly apprised.

We deem the present inhabitants of Groton very fortunate in having contemporary natives of the place so abundantly able and so generously disposed to afford them the means and facilities of acquiring useful knowledge themselves, and of educating the generations which are to follow.

With sentiments of high esteem, and of grateful acknowledgments for your beneficent offer, we subscribe ourselves

Your most obedient and humble servants,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
JOHN BOYNTON,
NOAH SHATTUCK,
CALEB BUTLER,
JOSHUA GREEN.

Hon. ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

GROTON, March 13, 1854.

SIR, —

I have the honor, in pursuance of the unanimous vote of the inhabitants of Groton, to enclose a copy of the proceedings in relation to your proposition for a public library in this town.

I am, with much respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN W. PARKER,
Town Clerk.

To the Honorable ABBOTT LAWRENCE, Boston.

IN TOWN MEETING, GROTON, March 6, 1854.

Whereas, the Honorable Abbott Lawrence has generously proposed to present to this town the sum of five hundred dollars for the purpose of establishing a public library, and whereas it is believed that such an institution will be of eminent advantage to this and succeeding generations: therefore —

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the inhabitants of Groton be presented to the Honorable Abbott Lawrence for his liberal proposition in aid of the cause of education and good morals.

Resolved, That the Town Clerk furnish Mr. Lawrence with a copy of the proceedings of the town.

IN TOWN MEETING, GROTON, March 6, 1854.

Resolved, That George S. Boutwell, George F. Farley, Joshua Green, David Fosdick, and John Boynton be a committee with authority to appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars, if they see fit, for the foundation of a public library, for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the town.

Resolved, That said library be subject to such rules and regulations as the town may from time to time establish, not contrary to the Laws of the Commonwealth.

Resolved, That said committee confer with Mr. Lawrence in relation to his proposed donation, to the selection of books, and to such other matters as may be for the interest of the library; and that said committee be authorized to expend the money appropriated to this object, to procure a suitable room for the accommodation of the library, and also to prepare and present to the town such by-laws as they may deem necessary for the government of said library.

GROTON, April 17, 1855.

Honorable ABBOTT LAWRENCE, —

SIR, — Agreeably to your generous proposition of February 3, 1854, to present to the town of Groton the sum of five hundred dollars, to establish and maintain a public library, upon condition that the town shall raise a like sum for the same purpose, the undersigned have the pleasure to inform you that the town unanimously voted to accept the condition, and appropriated five hundred dollars for that object. This sum has now been expended, and the library nearly completed. The committee, therefore, take the liberty to draw on you for five hundred dollars; and they have no doubt that the town will accept your further proposition, "that at any time within three years from this date, I [you] will pay another sum of five hundred dollars, upon condition that the town raise the same amount, to be applied to the purchase of books for the said library."

With great respect and esteem,

Your obedient servants,

GEO. F. FARLEY,
GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
JOSHUA GREEN,
} *Committee on the Library of the Town.*

Mr. Lawrence's death took place on August 18, 1855, — a few months after the date of this letter, — which event prevented the town from accepting his second offer of another sum of the same amount, under a similar condition.

The library now contains more than four thousand volumes, and circulates annually not far from ten thousand books. Its first catalogue was printed in the year 1855, a second in 1862, and a third in 1875, — supplementary to which there appeared later a "List of New Books for 1875 and 1876" (pp. 12), and a "List of New Books for 1877 and 1878" (pp. 15).

The last catalogue was published in 1885, making a volume of 192 pages, which contains this article as an Introduction.

The late Willard Dalrymple, Esq., of Charlestown, is another man who remembered the place of his birth. He died on July 26, 1884, and a clause in his will reads as follows: —

To my native Town of Groton aforesaid, I give the sum of four thousand (4,000) dollars, to be known as the "Dalrymple Fund," of which the income only of two thousand (2,000) dollars shall be applied to the purchase of books for its Public Library, and the income only, of two thousand (2,000) dollars shall be applied, under the direction of the Overseers of the Poor of said town, to the treatment of worthy American citizens of said town, suffering from disease of or injury to the eye.

Akin to the subject of the Public Library, I make an extract from Mr. Butler's History of Groton, as follows: —

About the year 1796, a number of individuals associated for the purpose of establishing a Social Library [in Groton]. What the number of the associates was, or of the books with which they commenced, is not known; but they both must have been very small, for in the year 1810, when they assumed a corporate form under the statute of March 3, 1798, there were less than forty members, and only one hundred and thirty volumes. This association never after received any material increase of members or addition to their books.

In the year 1828, a second social library association was formed, and a subscription for the purchase of books made, which amounted to about $185. Of this sum Luther Lawrence, Esq., and his four

brothers, though not at the time residents in Groton, contributed about one half. The selection of books for this library was judicious, embracing more modern publications, and those better adapted to the taste and instruction of readers generally, than those of the first library.

The proprietors of the second were mostly proprietors of the first also; and the natural consequence was, the first was almost entirely neglected, while the second received some considerable addition in members and volumes. Under these circumstances committees were chosen by each association, in 1830, to take measures to unite the two. This was harmoniously effected, the rights and privileges of all to use the books being justly and equitably preserved. (Pages 225, 226.)

GROTON MILITARY MATTERS.

[This article and the two following ones appeared originally in "The Groton Landmark," and now, somewhat revised, they are reprinted in this Series.— S. A. G.]

FROM the earliest period of our Colonial history training-days were appointed by the General Court for the drilling of soldiers; and at intervals the companies used to come together as a regiment and practise military exercises. From this custom arose the modern militia muster.

During a long time, and particularly in the early part of the present century, many such musters were held at Groton. A training-field often used for the purpose was the plain, situated near Capell's Mills, a mile and a half north of the village. Sometimes they were held on the easterly side of the Great Road, and at other times on the westerly side. During my boyhood musters took place, twice certainly, on the eastern slope of the hill on the south side of the Broad Meadow Road near Farmers' Row; and also, once certainly, in the field lying southeast of Lawrence Academy, where High Street now runs, though it occurred before that street was laid out. Musters have been held on land back of Charles Jacobs's house, and in a field near the dwelling where Benjamin Moors used to live, close by James's Brook in the south part of the town.

A well-known military company of the Volunteer Militia, and one of the oldest in the State, was the Groton Artillery, organized on October 19, 1778, with William Swan as its first captain. In later times, known as Co. B, Sixth Massachusetts Militia Regiment of Infantry, it took part in the War of the Rebellion. It went into the public service on the memorable occasion when Governor John A. Andrew called for three-months men to go to Washington, and it was one of the companies forming the Sixth Massachusetts Militia Regiment which passed through Baltimore on April 19, 1861.

After an eventful experience at the outset, the regiment returned to Boston on August 1. In the autumn of the same year the Twenty-Sixth was recruited in Lowell, the Old Sixth furnishing the nucleus, and they left Boston for Ship Island, Mississippi Sound, on November 21. The officers in the two regiments were for the most part the same; and again the Groton Artillery company shared the lot and fortune of the new organization. It formed Co. B, and served with distinction during three years. In the summer of 1862, after a call for nine-months men, the Sixth Regiment was ordered into camp at Lowell, and recruited to its full strength. When it left for Washington on September 1, a company went with it which was an offshoot of the Groton Artillery. And still later the same regiment was mustered into service for one hundred days, on July 20, 1864, and left for Washington on the same day, again accompanied by the representatives of the old Artillery.

Upon the re-organization of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, under Chapter 204, Acts of 1876, by an order dated July 14, 1876, this historic organization was designated Co. F, Tenth Regiment. For one reason or another its former life and prosperity now seemed to desert it, and by an order from the Adjutant General's office, under date of August 15, 1878, the company, with several others at the same time, was disbanded.

Near the beginning of the present century the Governor of the Commonwealth visited Groton, and was received with military honors by this same company. The fact is given in the "Columbian Centinel," July 10, 1802, as follows: —

His Excellency Governor STRONG, and Lady, are on a tour to the western part of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

We hear from *Groton*, that on Thursday last [July 8], upon the departure of Governor STRONG from that place, where he had tarried the preceding night, the artillery company in that town, commanded by Capt. [James] LEWIS fired a salute of sixteen guns in honor of the Commander in Chief.

By a coincidence, just one hundred years before this time, Joseph Dudley, Governor of the Province, visited Groton, and was welcomed with a military reception. In the autumn of 1702, Chief Justice Samuel Sewall accompanied Governor Dudley through Middlesex County on a tour of inspection; and in his Diary, under date of October 28, he writes:—

Went to Groton, saw Capt. [Jonas] Prescot and his company in Arms. (Govr had sent to them from Dunstable that [he] would visit them.) Lancaster is about 12 Miles Southward from Groton. Concord is 16 Miles ¾ and Ten-Rod from Groton.

[Massachusetts Historical Collections, VI. fifth series, 67.]

Captain Prescott was a blacksmith, and the ancestor of a long line of distinguished families. He was the grandfather of Colonel William Prescott, the commander of the American forces at Bunker Hill, who was himself the father of William Prescott, the lawyer and jurist, and the grandfather of William Hickling Prescott, the historian.

FIRES OCCURRING IN 1829.

In the year 1829 several barns were burned by incendiaries at Groton. The fires all occurred at different times during the early part of the evening, at intervals of about a month; and the excitement ran so high over the matter that a public meeting of citizens was held, in order to take some action in regard to it. In the village and neighborhood the town was divided into districts; and watchmen were appointed to patrol the streets during the night time.

For the following facts I am indebted to Mr. George Dexter Brigham, the town clerk, who distinctly remembers the events.

Judge James Prescott's barn, situated in the south part of the village, was burned on the evening of May 4, which was the first Monday of the month; and the fire broke out just after the monthly meeting of the Torrent engine company, No. 1.

John Peabody's barn, near the Unitarian meeting-house, was burned on the evening of June 1, — again the first Monday of the month, just after the monthly meeting of the engine company.

Judge Samuel Dana's barn near the north end of Farmers' Row, Major Samuel Lawrence's two barns on Farmers' Row, and Sewall Rockwood's at Squannacook — or West Groton, as it is now called — were also burned within the next three or four months, Mr. Rockwood's in October. The third fire, which is the one probably that burned Judge Dana's barn, took place on the Sunday evening before the first Monday in July, which evening came on the 5th of the month.

THE RINGING OF THE NINE-O'CLOCK BELL.

THE custom of ringing a nine-o'clock bell in the evening was kept up at Groton for many years, and it was not finally discontinued until May, 1860. During a considerable period before its discontinuance, the bell in the Unitarian meeting-house was rung one year, and then the bell in the Orthodox meeting-house the next year, thus alternating with each other. The usage started at a time when watches were scarce and clocks not common, and the ringing was the signal, among those who heard it, for going to bed. The inhabitants in general had no other means of telling the time, and they were wont to keep early hours. Sun-dials were not in common use, but often a noon-mark was found cut in the floor of many a kitchen. In the early days of our Colonial history there was a law against the selling of liquor "after nine of the Clock at night;" and this fact may have had some connection with the custom.

The practice of tolling the bell on the death of a person is also passing into disuse. After the bell had ceased to toll, the age of the decedent was struck by rapid blows in succession. This frequently gave to the neighborhood a clew as to the person who had died, as it is generally known in a small community who is seriously ill.

Of the old bell in the Unitarian meeting-house a story is told, which is without doubt apocryphal. It is found in Charles James Smith's Annals of Hillsborough, New Hampshire (Sanbornton, 1841), and is as follows:—

An excellent church bell designed for this forest girt sanctuary was purchased by Col. Hill [about the year 1745], but was never brought here as the settlement was soon after abandoned, and the Meeting house burned. The chime of this same bell has long echoed among other hills than these, and summoned another people than this, to worship the God of their fathers. It is now upon one of the churches in Groton, Mass. Page 12.)

MISTAKE IN THE SPELLING OF A NAME.

JOHN M. GILSON OF GROTON, MASS. — The name of Mr. Gilson having been printed McGilson in the *Groton Landmark*, his son furnishes an item to that newspaper, May 2, 1885, stating that "through the mistake of a sign painter when he was in the livery business over thirty years ago, he got the prefix of 'Mc' to his name. His name," he adds, "is not MeGilson nor McGilson, but John Mekeen Gilson."

The editor of the REGISTER has been informed that the mistake of the sign painter caused many of his friends to suppose his name was McGilson, and that he was afterwards generally called and addressed as McGilson.

[From The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXXIX. 287), for July, 1885.]

So general was the impression that Mr. Gilson's name was McGilson, I gave it as such in a list of tavern-keepers printed in the last number of this Series.

S. A. G.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. X.

"THE EARLIEST CHURCH RECORDS IN GROTON.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. X.

THE EARLIEST CHURCH RECORDS IN GROTON,

CONTAINING THE MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND ADMISSIONS TO THE CHURCH, ETC.

THE earliest book of church records in Groton was begun by the Reverend Dudley Bradstreet, fourth minister of the town. The volume was missing for a long while, though the date of its loss is unknown. Three years ago I succeeded in finding it many miles away, in the possession of a family of Groton origin, from whom I procured it. It is certain that Mr. Butler used it when he wrote his History. It is a small quarto volume, with a parchment cover, containing now 55 pages. Some of the leaves have been cut out, and others have been badly mutilated. The early marriages, baptisms, and admissions to the church are entered for the most part in Latin, but the remainder of the record is mainly in English. The various entries have not been made in regular order, but for the convenience of use they are now arranged in chronological sequence. The large figures enclosed within brackets indicate the pages of the record-book, which were not originally numbered; but in arranging the entries they are sometimes, particularly near the end, thrown out of place. Occasionally I have inserted in the text the names of persons or places, in order to identify them; but in all cases such additions are given in brackets.

The Reverend Dudley Bradstreet was the son of Dudley Bradstreet, of Andover, and the grandson of Governor Simon

Bradstreet. He was born at Andover on April 27, 1678, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1698. He was the first master of the grammar school in his native town, where he was teaching as early as the year 1704, and perhaps earlier. It is highly probable that he was connected with this school when he received his call to Groton. Miss Sarah Loring Bailey, in her "Historical Sketches of Andover," gives some facts concerning his family.

At the town meeting in Woburn, March, 1703–4, — according to the Reverend Samuel Sewall's History of that town (pages 213, 214), — a committee were chosen to provide a teacher, as was required in all towns, who subsequently reported to the Selectmen that they had made an unsuccessful application to the College authorities for a candidate, and then had gone to Andover in order to propose to Mr. Bradstreet, who had agreed to come until they could procure another teacher. He afterward certified that he had been "personally at Wooburne at the time of Charlestown Court," and no scholars appearing he had returned home. For this service they paid him his expenses, and eighteen shillings in silver as a gratuity. The proceeding was an artifice on the part of the town to save the cost of a schoolmaster and yet to avoid a legal presentment.

Mr. Bradstreet married Mary Wainwright on May 4, 1704, and had three sons, Simon, Dudley, and Samuel, and perhaps other children ; of these Dudley and Samuel were born at Groton. He was preaching here as early as March, 1706, and was ordained on November 27 of the same year.

The following references to Mr. Bradstreet's settlement are found in "The Early Records of Groton, Massachusetts, 1662–1707" (pages 128–130).

At a town meting leagly warned in Aprell the 9 1706 this town did by uot ass you may see on the othar side of this Leafe and all so did uot that they would giue mr Bradstret one hondred pounds mor as money to satell him selfe in this towne our minister during life JOSEPH LAKIN *Town Clark* for Groton

The following entry contains the paragraph referred to, as "on the othar side of this Leafe."

Groton At a town meting legally warned this Aprell the 9 1706 the town ded By uot giue Mr bradstret thre scoar pounds thirty pounds in money and thirty pounds ass money in priuison ass foloeth indon corne 2 shilings one bushil and ry 3 shilings one bushil and Wheat 4 shilings and Porke 2 Pance a Pound and Beef ox beefe 3 hapenc a pound and 1 fard[ing] a bound for cowbeefe for Peeas 3 shilin . . . bushil

and at the same meting thay did all so chose Insin farnsworth Simon Stone Joseph lakin to discorse mr bradstret ass the town consarnin his sattlement with us this year

JOSEPH LAKIN *clark*

Groton May the aight day 1706 At a town meting legally worned for to see consarning M^r brodstreets settlement the town ded by uot declare that thay would make a good house of 38 foot long and 18 foot wide and a leantow of 11 foot wide all the langht of the house and they will finish it comfortably this house to be of 14 foot betwen iants JOSEPH LAKIN *Clarck*

and the same meting ded all so by uot declare thay would buld a good letell barne for a mr brodsteret

Groton May the aight 1706 at the same meting the towne did by uot chuse a comity to lat out M^r brodstreets bous and barne and to by a place for the minister to build

the men chose for the same Thomas tarbol Joseph lakin Danil Cady Samuell Parkar Nathanil Wods	a comity for this towne	1706

JOSEPH LAKIN *Clark*

Groton June the 20 day 1706 at a town meting leagaly warned the toown did declear by uot that thay would cleare and pay with and to m^r Brodstret this halfe year JOSEPH LAKIN *clarck*

Groton June the 20 day 1706 At a town meting legaly worned the towne did declear by uote that thay woud pay the one halfe of the purch of that place which We are about to by of Captin Parker

JOSEPH LAKIN *Town Clarcke*

Groton June the 20 day 1706 at a town meting legaly worned the town did agre with Zachariah Sawtell and Sargent lawrnc for 12 thousand of marchiantabel brick and 3 thousand of samman brick the 12 thousand at 18 shilins par thousand and the 3 thousand at half prise

Groton June ye 20 1706 at a town meting legaly warned this towne did by uot giu to Jonathan Kamp that contribuchan money which m^r^ Bradstrat hath now in hand

JOSEPH LAKIN *clark*

The house "of 38 foot long and 18 foot wide," built under the vote of May 8, 1706, for Mr. Bradstreet's occupation, is still standing and in a state of good preservation. It is situated on Hollis Street, southeasterly of the Burying Ground, and was occupied by A. W. Churchill when the map — opposite to page 247 — in Mr. Butler's History was made. The bricks ordered by the town on June 20 were intended, doubtless, for this dwelling. The house is now owned by Charles Bradstreet Baldwin, and its present measurements conform very nearly to the dimensions, as given in the records; but the lean-to has long since disappeared.

In the summer of 1712 Mr. Bradstreet was dismissed from his charge in this town, presumably for his Episcopal tendencies; and soon afterward he went to England to apply for orders in the Anglican Church. It appears from a copy of the original document in Latin, made in a manuscript volume by President John Leverett (page 90), now deposited among the archives of Harvard University in the College Library, that he was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of London, on April 18, 1714, and a priest one week later, on April 25. He died during the next month, only two or three weeks after receiving priestly orders, and tidings of his death reached this country in the following summer Chief Justice Samuel Sewall writes in his Diary, under the date of August 5, 1714, — when the ship arrived, bringing the news, — that "Mr. Dudley Bradstreet quickly after he had received Orders, dy'd of the small Pocks." An allusion to Mr. Bradstreet is found in Wilkins Updike's "History of the Episcopal

Church, in Narragansett, Rhode Island" (page 450), where an abstract of the Proceedings of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts is given. It is there stated: —

From 1713 to 1714. — "For Marblehead or Narragansett was designed the Rev. Mr. Dudley Bradstreet, a native of the country, and a proselyte of their way by education, grandson of Governor Bradstreet."

The Reverend Gershom Rawlins, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1705, officiated at Mr. Bradstreet's funeral, May 16, 1714; and on the next day he wrote to the Bishop of London, mentioning the fact. The letter is found in the "Historical Collections relating to the American Church" (III. 98, 99), and begins: —

SIDNEY STREET, NEAR LEICESTER FIELDS
May 17, 1714.

MY LORD, — The uneasiness which my personal address seemed to give your Lordship yestermorn has obliged me to take this method to acquaint your Lordship that I last night performed ye last office for my late friend and countryman Mr Bradstreet who I may venture to say was very deserving of the favour and esteem wherewith your Lordship was pleased to honour him whilst alive. Your Lordship not being at leisure to hear me explain myself upon the favour I came yesterday to entreat for him since his death, I beg leave to do it here. There are people my Lord in New England who will not fail to say (perhaps from the pulpit) when they hear of Mr Bradstreet's death, that it was a Judgment on him for his Apostasy; for so they qualify conformity. . . .

Mr. Bradstreet died of small-pox, which was the reason why he was buried at night. His family were with him in London at the time, and were left in destitute circumstances. According to Mr. Rawlins's letter, they were probably helped by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, under whose auspices Mr. Bradstreet had gone to England.

S. A. G.

MEMORANDA ON COVER AND FIRST PAGE OF THE MS. BOOK.

[COVER.]

Dudley Bradstreet was married to Mary Wainwright May 4º 1704.

[FIRST PAGE.]

Simon Bradstreet borne March 1º 1705/6 Friday at Andover

Baptiz'd by mr. Barnard March 10° following

Dudley Bradstreet borne at Groton March 12° friday 1707/8 Baptized 14° Inst

D. Bradstreet
Anno Epochæ Christianæ
M.DCCVII.

Caleb Trowbridge

His Book

Thomas Tarbell

Townsend Catharine

Amen among yᵉ heathen

THE EARLIEST CHURCH RECORDS IN GROTON.

[2] 1706

D. BRADSTREET in officium Pastorale apud Grotonenses Nov. 27°. inauguratus.

BAPTISMATA

Dec. 21. Lydia Farnesworth, filia Benj. & Mariæ Farnesworth
Sarah Longly filia Joannis & Saraæ Longly.
Jan. 12. Benj. Stone filius Simonis & Saraæ Stone
Unice Gilson filia Josephi & Elizabethæ Gilson
Feb. 16. Abigail Green filia Eleazr. & Elizabethæ Green
March 2. Elizabetha Holdin Filia Stephani ac Hannæ Holdin
Hannah Shattock Filia Joannis & Mariæ Shattock
1707 30 Timothæus Barron Filius Mosis & Saraæ Barron
Jacobus Scripture filius Samuelis & Saraæ Scripture
Samuel Barron filius Samuelis & Abigail Barron
April. 13 Isaac Robbins filius Roberti & Mariæ Robbins
Amoz Cady filius Danielis & Abigail Cady
17 Jonathan filius Ephraim & Mariæ Pierce
June. 2. Jonathan Fisk filius Jacobi & Tabithæ Fisk
Aaron Woods filius Nathanaelis & Eleonoræ Woods
— 15 Eleazer Tarbol filius Thomæ & Elizæ Tarbol —
— 29 Abigail Filia Samuelis & Hannæ Woods
Joseph Filius Samuelis & Hannæ Woods
July 13 Thomas Woods Filius Thomæ & Hannæ Woods.
— 24 Ebenezer filius Abrahæ & Abigail Lakin
Augt 17 Henricus, filius Henrici & Abigail Willard Lancastriæ
Sept. 21. Phineas Farnesworth filius Jonathæ & Ruth Farnesworth

Oct°. 5 Jeremias filius Danielis & Saraæ Lawrance
26 Simon Filius Ephraimi & Mariæ Pierce.
Nov. 16. Faith Page Filia Jonathæ & Mariæ Page.
[3]
1707
Feb. 15 Guilielmus Longly Filius Joannis & Saraæ Longly
Eleonora Davis Filia Nathanielis & Rosæ Davis
— 29 Ebenezer Gilson, fil, Joannis Gilson (defuncti) & Saraæ Gilson
March 14. Dudleiius Bradstreet fil, Dudleij & Mariæ Bradstreet
— 20 Susannah Filia Samuelis & Susannæ Fisk.
1708.
April 11.° Sarah Farnesworth Filia Joannis & Hannæ Farnesworth.
May 9° Experientia filia Samuelis & Susannæ Fisk.
June 6 Hezekiah Whetcomb filius Hezekiæ & Hannæ Whetcomb
Ruth Shattock filia Guil. Shattock (*Suo Jure*)
July 4 Hannah Shattock filia Guil. Shattock (suo Jure)
Augt. 22. Lydia Stone filia Simonis & Saraæ Stone
Sep^br. 5. Isaac Gilson, filius Josephi & Elizabethæ Gilson
— 19 Elizabeth Farnesworth Filia Ebenez. & Eliz^æ Farnesworth
Elisabetha Bennet filia Jacobi & Hannæ Bennet
1709
Januar 30. Jacobus Green filius Eleaz. & Elisabethæ Green
Feb. 27 Patientia filia Joannis et Mariæ Shattock
Ruth filia Samuelis & Elisabethæ Shattock
March 20 Maria Derbyshire filia Joannis & Mariæ Darbyshire
Oliver filius Joannis & Mariæ Derbyshire (jure Mariæ Derbyshire
April 10. Hannah filia Samuelis & Abigail Barron
24. Samuel Filius Samuelis & Eliz^æ Cummins. (Illegit.)
May 8. Joseph Blood filius Josephi & Hannæ Blood (Illegit : jure matris)
Maria Blood filia Josephi & Hannæ Blood. (jure Matris)
15. Zerubbabel Kemp filius Zerubbabel & Mariæ Kemp
Joannes Kemp filius Zerubbabel & Mariæ Kemp
22 Isaaicus Parker filus Isaaici & Ruthæ Parker (Illegit.)
Martha Woods filia Samuelis & Hannæ Woods.
Unice Scripture filia Samuelis & Saraæ Scripture.
29 Rachel filia Nathanielis & Rosæ Davis.
July 10 Moses filius Nathanielis & Eleanoræ Woods.

[4] 1709

July 17 Elizabetha Filia Benjaminis & Elizabetha Lakin (Illegit)

Sep[t] 4 Aaron Farnesworth filius Benj[a] et Mariæ Farnesworth

Nathan Barron filius Mosis & Saraæ Barron

Oct. 2. Matthias Farnesworth filius Ebenez[r]æ & Eliz[æ] Farnsworth

9 Priscilla Farnesworth filia Jonathæ & Ruthæ Farnesworth

1710.

Jan. 8. Joannes Longly filius Johannis & Saraæ Longly

March 26. Jonathan Page fil[s] Jonathæ & Mariæ Page

Richardus fil[s] Rich[d] & Saraæ Warner

Catalog[s] Infantium q. apud Dunstable S. Baptismate in Ecclesiam admissi fuere April, 22[o] 1710

April 23[o] Samuel Cummins fil, Joannis & Priscillæ Cummins

Oliver[s] Cobourne filius Thomæ & Mariæ Cobourne

Susannah Blanchard, Jane Blanchard } filiæ Josephi & Abiæ Blanchard

Abigail Harrod filius [*sic*] Guilielmi & Esther Harrod.

1711

Feb. 11. Dorothea Kemp, Filia Zerubbabel & Mariæ Kemp.

March 4[o] Wilhelmus Parker filius Isaaici & Ruthæ Parker.

April. 15. Reuben filius Nathanielis & Eleonoræ Woods

22. Stephen Barron filius Samuelis & Abigail Barron

29. Maria Prescot Filia Jonæ, & Thankfull Prescot

May 27 Martha Farneworth Filia Benj[æ] & Mariæ Farneworth

June 10. Samuel Bradstreet filius Dudleij & Mariæ Bradstreet

Josephus, Thomas, Edvardus, Hannah, Elizabetha, Maria } Farwell fil[.] Josephi & Hannaæ Farwell

[5]

July 22. Jonathan Boyden filius Jonathæ & Elizabethæ Boyden

Elizabetha Boyden filia Jonathæ & Elizabethæ Boyden

Joannes Farwell filius Josephi & Hannæ Farwell

1712 Martha Davis filia Nathanielis & Rosæ Davis.

Jan. 27 Jonas Longly filius Joannis & Saraæ Longly.

[6]
March 2d 1714/15 Caleb Trowbridge In Officium Pastorale fuit apud Grotonenses Inauguratus

1715
Aprill 10: Josephus Page filius Jonathæ & Mariæ Page
Sarah Sawtell filia Zecharæ & Merciæ Sawtell

1715
Aprill 17: Abigail filia Mosis & Saraæ Barron

1715
May 22 Sarah Sanders & 2 Liberi Johannes & Elizebeth ꝑ Priorm Maritm Johan: Page

1715
Jun 12th Jonathan Filius Nathll & Alis Woods
Martha Filia Jonathæ & Elizabæ Boyden
Guilielmus Filius Guilielmi & Elizabethæ Farewell
Sarah Filia Jonathæ & Mariæ Nutting
June 26 Jemima filia Johanis Frost & uxoris
[Ruth, daughter of] Ebener Nutting & Uxoris [Ruth]

1715
June 19 { Abigail Filia Roberti & Mariæ Robbins
{ Nathall Filius Nathll & Rosæ Davis
August 14 Hezekiah Filius Zorrubbabeli & Mariæ Kamp
Octob 9th Prudentia Filia Thomæ & Prudæ Lawrence
Octob 23 Esther Filia Samll & Esther Bowers
Decembr 25th { Dorcas Filia Benoni & Annæ Boynton
{ Dorothy Filia Dorothæ Varnum Vidua

1715/6
Jan: 1st Shebuell Filius Shebll & Marthæ Hobart
Janry 8th Ephaim Filius Simonis & [Sarah] Stone
March 25th Isaacus Filius Eleaz: & Elizabthæ Green
Aprill 15 Samll filius Samll & Dorothæ Kemp
Aprill 29 Samll filius Samll & Deborah Parker

[7] 1716
May 20th Oliver Filius Calebi & Saraæ Trowbridge
June 3: Hannah Filia Danielis & Hannæ Nutting
June 10 Miriam Filia Samllis & Susannæ Fisk
July 1 Phebe Filia Abrahæ & Abigailis Lakain
Lydia Filia Johannis & Saraæ Longley
July 15 David & Jonathan filii Jacobi & Mariæ Pattison Gemini

Sep^{t}: 13 { Apud Dunstable Bap[t]ist
Eleazer Filius Josephi & Abiæ Blanchard
Josephus Filius Abr^{m}: & Mariæ Taylor
Sarah Filia Johannis & Saraæ Taylor
Margaret Filia Jonth: & Margart Robbins
Martha Filia Thomæ & Martha Jewell

Sep^{t}: 16 Submitt Filia Jacobi & Abig^{ll} Parker
Lydia Filia Johannis & Ruthæ Frost

Sep^{t} 30 Uriah Filius Ephr^{m}: & [Abigail] Sawtell

Novem^{br}: 11 { Nath^{ll}: Jacobus Enosh } Filii
{ Annah Sarah Marth } Filiæ
Nath^{ll}: & [Anna (Scripture)] Lawrence

Novem^{b} 18th: William Filius Lydiæ Parker vid^{uæ}: uxoris Nath^{ll} Park Mor^{t}:

1717

March 3^{d} Nehemiah Filius Josephi & [Jane] Jewett

March 17 Nehemiah Filius Shebu^{ll}: & Marthæ Hobart:

Aprill 7th: { Josiah Filius Jacobi & Blood
Susannah Filia Samuelis & Deboræ Parker

Aprill 14th { Guilielmus Shattuck Junr
Seth Phillips Ambo Suo Jure
Daniel Filius Dan^{ll} & Hannæ Nutting

June 30th Daniel Filius Josephi & [Hannah] Farewell

Augv^{t}: 18th { Sarah Filia Gu^{l} & Tarbell
Jerathmiel Filius Sam^{ll}: & Esther Bowers
Gershom Filius Gershomi & [Lydia (Nutting)] Hobart
John Filius Johannis & Ruthæ Bush

[8] 1717

Apud Dunstab^{ll} Baptism^{t}

Novem^{br}: 17th { Gvi^{ll}: Filius Moses & Saræ Barron
Dan^{ll}: Filius Dan^{ll}: & Abig^{ll}: Shed
Filius Dan^{ll} & Abig^{ll}: Shed
Seth Phillips & Willm: Shattuck Jun:

Nov^{br}: 24th { John
Abig^{ll}: Fili: Sam^{ll}: & [Elizabeth] Shed

1717^{18}

Jan^{ry}: 12 Josiah son to Joseph & Abigail Parker

Feb. 2^{d}: Johannes Filius Gulielmi & Margar^{t}: Whittney

Aprill 20th: { Simeon filius Jonathæ: & Ruthæ Farnworth
Abigail Filia Ebenr: & Ruthæ Nutting
Maria Filia Josephi & Mariæ Gilson }

May 11th: Zecharias Filius Nathlis: & Eleonoræ Davis

May: 25th { Elizebetha Filia Phinehæ & [Abigail] Parker
Sarah Filia Samlis: & [Martha ?] Shedd Junr }

June 22d { Leonardus Filius Phinhæ: & [Abigail] Parker
Isaacus Filius Sethæ & [Lydia] Phillips }

July 6th: { Sarah & Unice Filiæ Josiæ & [Sarah] Lakin
Danll: Shattuck Filius Gvill: Shattuck }

July 27th: Sarah Filia Petri & Saraæ Hobart Suo Jure

August 3d: Sarah Filia Zorroblis: & Mariæ Kemp

Sept: 28th [Mary] Fil Thomæ & Prudæ Lawrence

Octobr: 12th: Martha Filia Shebll: & Marthæ Hobart

1719

May 31st: { Filii Benjamini & [Mehitabel] Hedley
Mehetabell Filia Benjan: Hedley & [Mehitabel] his wife
Elizabeth Filia Abrahæ & Elizebethæ Mor's }

[9] 1719

August 9th: Caleb Filius Caleb: & Hannæ Trowbridge
Petrus Filius Jacobi & Abigal: Parker

August 16th Elizabeth Filia Guilielmi & Margarettæ Whitney

1720

Aprill 24th { Oliver Filius Simonis & [Sarah] Stone
Amos Filius Seth: & [Lydia] Phillips }
Nehemiah & Sarah Trowbridge

Novembr 27th Ann Filia Jacobi & Abigl: Parker

[10] 1723/4

Febr: 23d Isaac son of Simon & Sarah Stone Junr

1728

June 30: also { Mary ye Daughter of Benja: & Mary Parker
David ye son of Ebenr: & Hannah Prescott
Jemima ye Daughter of Moses & Susanna Willard
Abigail ye Daughter of Dudley & Abigail Bradstreet }

[11] 1728/9

Febry: 23d Silas Filius Jacobi & Abigal: Parker

March 2d Jonathan
Nathll:
Luce
Eunice
Fil: { Abrahæ & Elizb: Mores
Obadiæ & Rachl: Sawtell
Benja: & Abigl: Prescott
Saml: & Patience Woods } Infantes
& Ruth The Daughter of Zecharh & Abigl: Lawrence (Suo Jure)

[12] 1731

Aprill 4th { Mary Fil: Benj.a & Annæ Bancroft
Eunice Fil: Benj.a & Annæ Bennit

1731

Nouem.ber 14.th John ; The Son of Gershom & Lydiæ Hobart
Maria filia Caleb & Hannæ Trowbridge

[13] 1731/2

Feb.ry 13 Nehem.h ye Son of Isaac & Abigail Woods
Sam.ll son of Jacob & Ruth Ames

Feb.ry 27.th Nath.ll Shepley ye son of Jonathan & Lydia Shepley

March 5.th Jn.o ye son of Josiah & Eunice Boyden

July 30.th John ye son of Jn.o Prat & Mihittabel his Wife

Jan.ry 28.th 1732/3 Sybill ye Daughter of Sam.ll & Lydia Tarbell

[14]

May 27.th 1733 { Joseph son of Joseph Gilson Jun.r & Mary his Wife
Eunice Daughter of Josiah Boyden & Eunice his Wife
Mary Daughter of Josiah Tucker & Abigail his Wife

June 3.d { Eleazer Filius Gvilielmi & Hepzib.thæ Spaldin
Sarah Filia Samuelis & Saraæ Hartwell

June 10th { Ruth Filia Jacobi & Saraæ Shattuck
Mary The Daughter of Jn.o & Mary Scott

August 19th Alithea & Esther Fil: Benj.a & Elizeb.th Martin
Jonathan Filius Mossis & Annæ Bennit

[15] 1733

Octob.r 21 { Oliver son of Obadiah & Hannah Parker
Henry ye son of Isaac & Abigail Woods
Sam.ll son of Sam.ll & Annah Wright
Sybill ye daughter of Joseph & Mary Stone

Nov.r 18.th { Will.m son of Jonathan & Lydia Shepley
Lois Daughter of John & Sarah Holdin
Dorothy the Daughter of Isaac & Dorothy Gilson
Elizabeth ye Daughter of John & Elizabeth Shead

Nov.r 25th Nath.ll son of Nath.ll & Dorothy Lawrence

Dec.r 30th Annas Searl suo Jure

1733/4

Jan.ry 6.th Jain & Rachel Lakin suo Jure—also Robert son of Robert & Sarah Blood

Jan.ry 13th Mary ye Daughter of Jn.o Williams & [Margaret] his wife

Jan^{ry} 20th Margaret ye Servant of Sam^{ll} Scripture Junr Suo Jure

Jan^{ry} 27th { Submitt ye Daughter Edward & [Anna] Farwell
Abigail ye Daughter of Nathan & [Abial (Yarrow)] Barron

Feb^{ry} 3^{d} Ruth Fil: of Isaac Parker Junr [and Mary, his wife.]

Feb^{ry} 10th Zechariah & Jer^{h} Lawrence & Simon Lakin

March 3^{d} [William ? son] of James Stone /// Also Joseph son of Joseph Wilson

March 10th Mary filia Johannis & [Elizabeth] Ames /// Also Sarah Daught of Saml & Clark of Townshend

March 17 Robertus Filius Johanis & Sarah Longley /// also Hannah filia Guil & [Mary (Farnsworth)] Tarbel

March 24 Mary The Daughter of James & Mary Lawrence

Aprill 28th Mary ye daughter of Sam^{ll} & Prudence Cummins ye Dom: Sterns &c

May 5th 1734 { Ebenezer & Hannah & Ann Fil: Benj^{a} Hadley & [Mehitabel] his wife
Sam^{ll} son of Jonathan Shead & Sarah his wife

[16]

May 12th 1734 { James son of John Pratt & [Mehitable ?] his Wife
Susannah Daghter of Cornelius & [Sarah] Whittney
Elizabeth daughter of Sam^{ll} Shattuck Junr & his Wife
Jain Daughter of Stephen & Jain Ames

August 25th { Deliveranc ye Wife of William Shattuck suo Jure
Thomas son of Nath^{ll} Jr & Dorothy Lawrence Junr
Oliuer son of Elias & Ruth Eliot
Dan^{ll} son of Dan^{ll} & [Esther] Sawtell

Sep^{t} 1st { Aaron son of Ebenezer & Ruth Nutting
Richard son of Willm & Holdin
David son of Jonathan & Mary Pratt
Elizabeth ye Daughter of John & [Abigail] Buckley

Sep^{t} 8th Elizabeth daughter of Ebenezer & [Abigail] Blood

Sep^{t} 22^{d} { [Daniel] son of David & [Elizabeth] Sawtell
Phebe daught^{r} of Willm & Susannah Lawrence

Sep^{t} 29 Annas Daughter of Ebenezer & Anias Gilson

Novr 17th Thomas Trowbridge /// & /// Patience ye Daugh^{t} of Jno & Ruth Frost

Novr 24th Deborah Tarbel Daughter of Sam^{ll} & Lydia Tarbell
Molle ye Daugh^{tr} of John & Mary Page

Decr. 1st. Nehemh. son of Nathll. & Elizabeth Nutting
Zech: son of Zechr. & [Abigail] Sawtell Junr
Abigail Daughtr. of Matthias & Abigl. Farnwth
Decr. 15th. Caleb son of John & Joanna Blood
[17] Feb 2d William son of Willm. & Mary Longley
Febry. 9th. 1734/5 Lemuel son of Samll. & Sarah Parker

March 16th { David son of Jerh. & Sarah Shattuck
Rachell Daughter of Stephen & Mary Pierce

1735
March 30th Ephrm. son of Hezekiah & Joanna Sawtell
Benja. son of Michael & Susannah Gilson
Bathsheba daughter of Benja. & Mary Bennit
Sarah Daughter of Nathll. & Joanna Parker

Aprill 6th { Hannah Fil. Nathll. & Jain Sawtell
Hanna Fil: Gulielmi & Hepzibethæ Spauldin

Aprill 27th Ruth Daughter of Jacob & Ruth Ames
Abigail Daughtr of Flag & of Dunstabl
May 11th Isaiah son of Jason & Mary Williams
May 18th. Jabez son of Nath & Abigail Holdin

June 29th. Eunice Olive Luce Fil: { Jacobi & Katharinæ Blood
Josephi & Mariæ Farwell
Johannis & Saraæ Woods

July 6th. Sarah Fil Gvilielmi & Simons
July 13th Jonas Fil Isac & Abigalæ Woods
[35]
1735

Octobr 12 { Jacob Lydia Lydia Fil { son of Obadh. & Joanna Parker
Eleazer & Hannæ
Jonæ & Lydiæ Varnum

Thomas Trowbridge son of Caleb & Hannah Trowbridge
Janry — John son of John & Elizabeth Burt
Janry 25th 1735/6 Oliver son of Jonathan & Lydia Shepley
John son of Josiah & Eunice Boyden
Febr. 1st. Thomas son of James & Sarah Shattuck

— 8th. { Mary Daughter of Benja. & Anna Bancroft
Rachel Daughter of John & Elizabeth Shead

1736

March 28th
- Dan.ll Josephi & Mariæ Gilson
- Jonathan Fil Jacobi & Wilson
- George Georgii & Lesly
- Lucy Daught.r of Jonathan & Sarah Green

Calebs Wife & Neh.h Trowbridge before Cap.t Thomas Tarbel & Abigail his Wife Admitted to full Communion — Also Sam.ll Hobart – Oliver Prescott Jonathan Farwel & Triphena his Wife

1736

Sep.t 5th. Abigail Daughter of

Oct.r 3d
- Benjamin son of Will.m & Mary Tarbel
- Will.m son of Jonathan & Sarah Shead
- Hannah Daughter of Edward & [Anna] Farwel

— 10th
- Solomon Son of Nathan & [Hannah (Boynton)] Whipple
- Mary Daughter of Sam.ll & Elizabeth Fisk

— 17th
- Jacob son of Stephen & [Rachel] Pierce
- Mary Daughter of Will.m & Mary Longley
- Sarah Daughter of Amos & Lydia Farnworth
- Joanna Daughter of Nath.ll & Joanna Parker

[36]

Octob.r 31
- Mary Daughter of Matthias & Abigail Farnworth
- Dinah Daughter of Jonathan & Mary Pratt

Nov.r 14th. Phinehas son of Phinehas & [Mary (Hubbard)] Wait

Dec.r 5th. Elizabeth Daughter of John & [Margaret] Williams

— 19 Jn.o son of John & Mary Scott

— 26 Submit Daughter of Jn.o & Mary Page

Feb.r 6th.
- Isaac son of Nath.ll & Dorothy Lawrence
- Martha Daughter of Will.m & Martha Blood
- Abigail Daught.r of James & Mary Stone
- Alis Daught.r of Ebenezer & Elizabeth Jefts

— 13th. John son of John & [Abigail] Buckley

— 20 Susannah Daught.r of Will.m & Susannah Parker

March 20th
- Solomon son of Thomas & Abigail Tarbell
- Joseph son of Nath.ll & Susannah Smith
- Caleb son of Isaac & Abigail Woods
- John son of John & Sarah Cummins

1737

April 12th Hannah Daughter of Jonathan & Russell

April 14th James son of James & Mary Lawrence

May 22d. Abigail & Elizabeth Daughters of Zechr. Lawrence suo Jure
Mary Daughter of Josiah & Mary Farnworth
— 29th Hannah Daughter of Caleb & Hannah Trowbridge
1737
June 12th. Solomon son of Jeremiah & Sarah [(Parker) Shattuck.]
Abel son of Benja. & Emme Stone
Paul son of John & Lydia Fletcher
— 19th Phebe Daught of Ebenr. & Ruth Nutting
[37]
July 7th. 1737 John son of John & Sarah Woods
Josiah son of Samll & Anna Wright
Sarah Daughter of Phinehas & Sarah Burt
— 14th – Abigail Daughter of Willm. & Simonds
March 5th. Simon son of Simon & Susannah Pierce
March 12th Sybill Daughter of Joseph & Abigail Parker
1738
May 28th { Willm. son of Willm. & Mary Longley
Mary Daughtr of George & Lesley
June 4th. Margaret &
{ Abiah — Daughters of James & Irvine
Mary Daughter of Abraham & Elizabeth Moar's
Jonathan son of Jonathan & Elizabeth Gates
Mary Daughter of Josiah & Mary Sawtell
[38]
1738
August 2d. Oliver Trowbridge 2d son of Caleb & Hannæ
1740
1st June abigl. Filia Caleb & Hannæ Trowbridge
[39]
May 10th. 1741 { David son of Jonathan & Sarah Green
David son of David & Abigail Blood
Willm. Son of Thomas & [Lydia] Smith
1741
June Johannes son of Caleb Trowbridge Junr & Elizabeth &c
Hannah also daghter &c
Febry. 28th. 1741/2 { Jonathan, John, Elizabeth, Ester } Fil: Jonathæ & Elizabethæ Shattuck Qvis qe suo Jure

& Sarah — Filia Johannæ & Saræ Lakin suo Jure
also David — Filius Edvardæ & Hannæ Farwell
& Deborah Filia Simonis & Susannæ Pierce

[18] 1706

Catalogus eorum q Fœdus Bap. Recognovêre.

Decr 21. Joannes & Sarah Longly
Benja & Maria Farnesworth
Jan 12. Joseph & Elizabetha Gilson
Feb 16 Eleaz^r Green
Mart. 2 Joannes Shattock

1707

Mart. 30 Samuel & Sarah Scripture
— Moses & Sarah Barron
— Samuel Barron
April 13 Robert^s Robbins.
— 27 Ephraim Peirce
June 2 Jacobus & Tabitha Fisk
Nathanael Woods. —
15 Thomas & Eliz^a Tarbel
July 13 Thomas & Hannah Woods
— 27. Abraham Lakin
Sep^t 21. Jonathan Farnesworth.
Oct^o 5. Daniel & Sarah Lawrance
Nov. 16. Jonathan Page
Feb. 15 Nathanael & Rosa Davis.
— 29 Sarah Gilson, vidua Joannis Gilson
March 20 Samuel & Susannah Fisk.

1708

June 6 Hezekiah & Hannah Whetcomb.
Ruth Shattock.
July 4° Hannah Shattock
Sept. 19. Jacobus Bennet
Ebenezer & Elizabetha Farnesworth
Feb 27. Samuel Shattock

1709

April 24. Samuel & Elizabetha Cummins
May 15. Zerubbabel & Maria Kemp.
— 22. Isaaicus & Ruth Parkerus.

[19] 1710
March 26. Richardus Warner.
1711
June 10. Josephus & Hannah Farwell
Ili sub Dom: Bradstreet

℘ me C TROWBRIDGE

1715
Marc 22 Sarah Sanders
June 26 John Frost & Ruth his Wife
August 21 Cornelius Whittney & Sarah his Wife
Octob: 9th: Thomas Lawrence & Prudence his Wife
1715[16]
Jan 1st: Shebuell Hobart & Martha his Wife
Aprill 29th: Samll Parker & Deborah his Wife
June 3 Daniell Nutting Cum Hannah ; Uxore Ejus
1716
Novemb 11 Nathll Lawrence & [Anna] his Wife
1717 { William Tarbell & Mary his Wife
Seth Phillips & Willm: Shattuck Jur:
Novembr: 17 Daniell Shed & Abigail his Wife
1718
Aprill 20th: Josephus Gilson & Maria Ejus Uxor
May 20th Samll Shed Junr: & [Martha?] his Wife
June 22d The Wife of Seth Phillips
July 6th { Josiah Lakin & [Lucy] his Wife
Danll Shattuck
July 27th Petrus Hobart & Sarah Ejus Uxor
1719
May 31 Abraham Mores & Elizabeth his Wife
August 16 Benjm Parker & Mary his Wife
Eleazr Gilson & his wife Nath Holdin & Wife
[20] Stephen Holdin & his wife [Hannah.]
John Green & wife [Hannah.]
Eleazer Green Junr: & his wife
Danl: Boynton
Benjamin Bennitt & his Wife
Stephen Boynton
March 3d: James Stone
John Wood & his Wife Sarah
David Pierce & Wife Elizabeth

Thomas Farwell & Elizabeth his Wife
Moses Bennit & Anna his Wife
Michael Gilson & wife — Gibson & wife
Saml Fisk — wife before
John Shepley & wife — John Burt & his Wife — Jer^{h} Shattuck & Wife
John B
Dudley Bradstreet
Hepzebeth Bush
Hannah ye Wife of Timothy Barron
June 30th Moses Willard Wife After

[21] 1728/9
March 2^{d} { Eleazer Tarbell & Elizabeth his Wife
Ruth Lawrence ye Daughter of Zechar^{h}

[23]
1730 Reuben Farnworth & his Wife — Also Phinehas & Wife — Edward Farwell
Jacob Lakin & Wife &c Josiah Boyden & Wife
Willm Spaldin & Wife
Ebenezer Lakin

1733
May the 20th Mary ye Wife of Jno Nutting Junr
June 10th Jno Scott & Mary his Wife

[26] Ownd Cov^{t}
Novr 18th 1733 John Shead & Elizabeth his Wife
Decr 30th Annas Searl

1733
Jany 6th Jain & Rachell Lakin
Jany 20th Margaret The Servant of Sam^{ll} Scripture Junr
Feby 10th Zech^{h} & Jer^{h} Lawrence & Simon Lakin & James Lawrence & his wife
May 3^{d} Joseph Wilson
March 27 Sam^{ll} Cummins & Prudence his wife
May 12th Stephen Ames & Jain his wife
John Fletcher & his wife

1737
May 22 Abigail & Elizabeth ye Daughters of Zech^{h} Lawrence

[29]
1741 David Blood & wife

[24] 1706

Confessiones &c. —

Jan 12º 1706/7

1. Maria Parker vidua (nunc Joannis Nutting Vxor) Πορνιας rea, Sequentem in Ecclesia Confessionem exhibuit:

In quantum magnam perpetravi nequitiam, & Scortatione nefaria in Deum atrociter peccavi haud Sine magno religionis Christianæ dedecore, necnon Sum̃o Animæ meæ discrimine, Simul ac Dei aperto Populorum Scandalo, ac dolore: Spero Ecquidem, peccati ac Amentiæ istius nequissimi Contritione vera Cor meum affectum esse. Anima mea Onere gravissimo deprimitur, quod in Dei fœdere Sanctissimo tam false prævaricarem. Deum Coeli ac Terræ Effectorem quam Ardentissime quam diutissime precibus petivi Supplex quod veram, piamq, in Animam meam Tristitiam infunderet, Et ut vitæ Novitate, ac nova obedientia illi obediam, ope Sua divina me peccatorem feliciter Secundaret.

Mihi maxime est in Consolatium fontem esse apertum pro peccato, Et pro Seperatione Ex im̃unditia, Et obnixè precor quod in isto fonte me purum ex im̃unditia reddat Dominus. In quantum Lapsu meo religionem veram Contumeliâ affici Populoq, ac Ecclesiæ Dei fui offendiculo humilem me reddat Deus. Imprimis ac Præ cæteris a Deo quem contumelia affici deinde ab Ecclesia, populoq, Dei quibus fui offendiculo Condemnationem impetro et imploro. Deniq, enixè rogo ut pro me Deum oretis quod (divina Aspirante Gratia) Malas omnes derelinquam vias et ad Jehovam revertar, ut misereatur mei; & ad Deum quia plurimum Condonat.

[25]

Octob: 8th 1728

Thos: Pa—r Wa̅rd by Ebenr Farnworth & Mores Refusd to come to Ch Meting at my house

Octobr 11th 1728 Suspended / Lt Hubbd Lt Gilson & Willm Lawrence appointed to Enquire in ye Reports & Notifie him &c

They Reported refused to Come — the Suspension Renewd

I Desired to come to meet — but would not

May 11th 1729 ye Same Committe appointed to notifie him to appear after lecture 14th

Reported not at home / he Told Deac Longley would not attend

At Church Meeting at Pages November 6th 1730 Jno Stone & Lt Boyden Appointed to Notifie him to atttend ye next meeting after Lecture; who yn Reported they had seen him & yt sd he would come — but did not (was desired to go again) he Told deacn Farwoth often should not put by any business to wait upon ye Church, & yt had done ym no harm & yy had no business with him &c

The same Committee Reported ye next Lecture yt had been Again — but did not come however after Came & made Satisfaction

[30] 1706/7

NUPTIÆ

1707

Dec. 12. Saml Farnesworth de Grotonia Mariæ Willard de Lancastria

Jan. 3. Johannes Nutting Mariæ Parker (Ambo de Grotonia

April 17. Ebenezer Farnesworth Elizabethæ Whitney. Ambo de G.

— 24 Daniel Cade — Abigaili Cade, Ambo de Grotonia

1708. 1707/8.

March 2. Abraham Byam de Chelmesfordia & Maria Fisk de Grotonia

April 19o Joannes Kitteridge de Billericai Mariæ Abbott de Andover

Septr 28 Stephanus Farr de Stow, Saraæ Stone de Grotonia

1708/9

Febr. 1o Isaaicus Williams de Newtoniæ Marthæ Whitney de Grotonia

May 17. Ricardus Warnerus Saraæ Gilson (Ambo de Grotonia)

1710/11

March 7o Samuel Chamberlain de Chelmsfordia Annæ Gilson de Grot.

— 15 Guil. Shattock, Abigaili Shattock. Ambo de Grotonia. Ambo Bastardi.

Nov. 20 Joannes Gosse de Lancastria Mariæ Woods de Grotonia

Decr 13 Ebenezer Nutting Ruthæ Shattock. Ambo de Grotonia.

1712

July 13. Johannes Blood Joannæ Nutting Ambo de Grotonia

$17\frac{12}{13}$

March 24. Jonathan Lakin Grotoniæ Saraæ Coree (vid; de Concord

Oct.º 13 Joannes Chamberlain Abagaili Woods ambo de Grotonia
Hi Per Dom: Bradstreet

Nupt: Celebr: &c Per me C TROWBRIDGE

1715
Novem.br 29.th Johannes Parker Mariæ Bradstreet ambo De Grotonia
1715/16
Jan.ry 24.th Josephus Parker Abigaili Sawtell Ambo De Grotonia
May 15 Jonathan Whitcomb Deliv.r Nutting Ambo De Grotonia
Nov 22 Johannes Holding Saraæ Davis ambo De Grotonia
[31]
1716 1716
Decem.br 20th Guil.mus Lun De Dunstable Rach.ll Holding De Grotonia
Jan.ry 1.st Thomas Tarbell Abigaili Parker Ambo De Grotonia
1717
July 25 Benj.m Hazen Elizabe.thæ Blanchard Ambo De Grotonia
Novem.br 21.st Abraham Mores Elizebe.thæ Gilson Ambo De Grotonia
Jan 14th Josias Sawtell De Lancastria Lydiæ Parker Vi.d De Grotonia
1717
Feb.r 12th James Lakin to Elizabeth William both of Groton
1718
Aprill 30th Jonas Prescott Jun.r Mariæ Page Ambo De Grotonia
Octob.r 23.d Benj.m Parker Mariæ Sawtell Ambo de Grotonia
Decem.br 11 Nath.ll Holdin Abigali Stone Ambo De grotonia
1718/19
March 24 Guilielmus Shattuck Deliv.r Pee's Ambo de Grotonia
1719
May 6th Eleazer Gilson Hannæ Farewell Ambo de Grotonia
May 22 Johannes Parker Joannæ Am's Ambo de Grotonia
June 23.d { Eleazer Nutting Abigaili Davis Ambo De Grotonia
Jona.th Shattuck Elizabethæ Chamberlain Ambo De Grotonia }
August 11.th Moses Bennit Annæ Blanchard Ambo De Grotonia
Sep.t 2d Stephanus Houldin Hannæ Sawtell ambo de Grotonia
Nov.br 12.th Johannes Spencer Bethiæ Kemp Ambo De Grotonia
Dec.br 9.th Daniell Pierce Eleonoræ Boynton Ambo de Grotonia
dec: 24 Joseph Farwell Mariæ Gilson Ambo de grotonia
March Josias Farnworth Mariæ Pierce ambo de Grotonia

1720

Octo^{br} 27 Jonath: Parker Saræ Pierce Ambo de Grotonia

Nov: 29th Sam^{ll}: Wood to Patience Biggelo Ambo de Grotonia

Jan^{ry}: 3^{d} Robert Robbins of Littleton to Elizabeth Cummins of Groton widdow

1721

May 22^{d} Zech^{r}: Maynard of Sudbury to Hannah Waters of Groton widow

May 24th: Eben^{zr} Prescott to Hannah Farnworth both of Groton

June 1st: Dan^{ll}: Boynton to [Jemima] Brown ambo de grotonia

July 3^{d}: Nath^{ll} Woods of Groton to Sarah Brown of Stow:

[32]

Oct^{br}: 30th: Ephraim Pierce to Esther Sheadd Both of Groton

Nov^{br}: 16th: Obadiah Sawtell to Rachell Parker both of Groton

1721$\frac{22}{}$

Feb^{r}: 1st: Richard Price to Sarah Coree both of Groton

Feb^{r}: 7th: Robert Dixson to Abigail Parker Widdow both of Groton

March 8th: Eleazer Green Junr Annæ Tarbell Am^{bo}: de Groton^{ia}

1722

Aprill 3^{d}: Jonathan Shead to Sarah Barron both of Groton

May 2^{d} Collins Mores of Oxford to Bathsheba Woods of Groton

These Sent to ye Clark

May 30th: John Blanchard of Dunstable to Mary Sawtell of Groton

June 27th: William Lawrence to Susannah Prescot Ambo de Grotonia

July 12th: Joshua Hutchins to Sarah Shead both of Groton

Decem^{br}: 8th: John Gilson to Mary Shattuck both of Groton

Decem^{br}: 26th: John Stone Junr: To Elizabeth Farwell both of Groton

sent to Clark

March 27th 1723 Benj^{a} Bennitt to Mary Lakin both of Groton

Aprill 30th: Thomas Woods to Abigail Chamberlain both of Groton

May 22^{d}: Isaac Williams to Lydia Shattuck

June 13th: Johannes Davis Rebeccæ Burt ambo de Grotonia

Dec^{br}: 24th: Thomas Farwell to Elizabeth Pierce both of Groton

sent to Clark

1724

July 7th: Jerem^{h}: Shattuck to Sarah Parker both of Groton

Febry 25 Jonathan Green to Sarah Lakin both of Groton

1725
April 27th John Farmer of Billerica to Hannah Woods of Groton
June 3d Johannes Woods Saraæ Longley ambo de Grotonia
June 15 David Pierce to Elizabeth Bowers both of Groton
Sept 14th Nathll Woods to ye widdow mary Derbeshire both of Groton
Sept 21st Isaac Woods to Abigail Stevens both of Groton
Octobr 20 Danll Farneworth to ye Widdow Abigail Shead both of Groton
Decembr 29th Samll Tarbell to Lydia Farnworth both of Groton
Janry 13th 1725/6 Timothy Barron of Groton to hannah Fletcher of Chelmsford

[33]
Janry 27th Samll Shattuck Junr to Anna Williams both of Groton
Janry 27th Isaac Lakin to Elizabeth Shattuck ambo de Grotonia
Febry 16th Johannes Shepley Elizabethæ Boyden ambo de Grotonia
March 9th Johannes Burt Elizabethæ Nutting ambo de Grotonia
1726
Aprill 26th Ezra Farnworth to Elizabeth Lakin Clerk
Aprill 28th Michael Gilson to Susanna Sawtell both of Groton
May 31st Timthy Spaldin of Chelmsford to Thankfull Prescot of Groton
Novbr 22d Jacobus Shattuck Saraæ Chamberlain Ambo de Grotonia
Decembr 28th Jacobus Stone Mariæ Farwell Ambo de Grotonia
Janry 12th / 1726/7 Samll Fisk to Elizabeth Parker both of Groton
March 9th Willm Green to Hannah Holdin both of Groton
March 21st Danll Davis to Lydia Am's Ambo de Grot
Aprill 20th Dudley Bradstreet to Abigail Lakin both of Groton
August 4th Ebenezer Hartwell of Concord to Rachll Farnworth of Groton
Sept: 28th Samll Cummins to Sarah Hastins // also Moses Willard to Susannah Hastins All of Turkey Hills [Lunenburg]
Novbr 8th Jonas Gilson to Hanh Goodridge /// also Jonathn Page to Mary Farnwth all of Turkey Hills
Novbr 14th Jacob Ames to Ruth Shattuck both of Groton
Novembr 23d Jno Grout to Joanna Boynton both of Turkey Hills
Decbr 20th Ebenr Tarbll to Elizabth Bowers both of Groton
Febry 27th 1727/8 Samll Davis to Sarah Boynton both of Turkey Hills

Feby 28th Danl Sawtell of Groton to Esther Heald of Concord
May 9th 1728 Joseph Stone to Mary Prescott ambo de Grotonia
Sep^{t} 26th Joseph Blanchard of Dunstab^{ll} to Rebeccah Huburd of Groton
Octob^{r} 11th Jno Stevens to Martha Farnworth both of Groton
Decem^{br} 26th Jonathan Shepley to Lydia Lakin ambo de Grotonia
1728/9
Feby 4th Nath^{ll} Lawrence Junr to Dorothy Chamberlain both of Groton
March 24th 1729 Aaron Farnworth to Hannah Barron both of Groton
[50]
Octob^{r} 27th Jno Lakin to Lydia Parker both of Groton
Decr 18th Elias Eliot to Ruth Lawrence both of Groton
Dec^{br} 30th Ebenezer Jefts to Elizabeth Far–worth both of Groton
Jan^{ry} 7th 1729/30 Josiah Boyden to Eunice Parker ambo de Grotonia
Jan^{ry} 13th Isaac Gilson to Dorothy Kemp both of Groton.
Jan 28th Jacob Lakin to Eunice Lakin both of Groton
Feb^{ry} 2^{d} Nathan Barron to Abial Yarrow ambo de Grotonia.
Febry: 24th Matthias Farworth to Abigail Shead both of Groton
May 7th 1730 Nathan Whipple to Hannah Boynton both of Groton
Janry 12th 1730/1 Jonathan Gates of Stow to Elizabeth Farwel of Groton
Jan^{ry} 28th Jonas Varnum to Mary Shepley both of Groton
Feb^{ry} 9th Jer^{h} Norcross of Lunenburg to Faith Page of Groton
Febr^{y} 11th Phih^{s} Parker Junr to Mary Kemp both of Groton
March 26th 1731 Nath^{ll} Nutting to Elizabeth Page ambo de Grotonia
Apri^{ll} 14th Stephen Ames to Jane Robbins both of Groton
April 22^{d} Jno Fife to Jain Irvine both of Groton
Aprill 27th David Russell to Mary Clark both of Littleton
May 13th Ephr^{m} Nutting to Lydia Spaldin both of Groton
June 15th Eleazer Lawrence Junr of Littleton to Lucy Tuttle of s^{d} Town
Novr 4th Jno Kemp to Sarah Holdin Ambo De Grotonia
Novr 30th Sam^{ll} Randal of Stow to Priscilla Farnworth of Groton
Jan^{ry} 5th 1731/2 Shadrach Whitney of North Town [Townsend] to Prudence Lawrence of Groton wid.
Jan: 6 Willm Spaldin to Hepsibah Blood both of Groton
Jan 13 Ebenez^{r} Lakin to Lydia Lakin both of Groton

[51]
March 14: 1731/2 Phinehas Wait to Mary Hubbard both of Groton
Aprill 4th: 1732 James Horesley of North Town to Exercise Jewet of Groton
Clark

Aprill 19th: — Jno: Scott to Mary Chamberlain both of Groton
Aprill 25th — Jno: Albee to Abigail Searl both of Northtown
Aprill 26 — Jonathan Pratt to Mary Bowers both of Groton
July 12th: Thomas Merrifield to Mary Anderson both of Groton
Octobr 26th: Ephraim Cady of Killingley to Abigail Barron of Groton
Ditto Mr Solomon Prentice of Hassanamisco [Grafton] to Mrs [Miss?] Sarah Sawtell of Groton
Novr: 2d Dan.l Farmer of Lunenburg to Elizabeth Wood of Groton
Novr 14th: Jno: Shead to Elizabeth Shattuck both of Groton
Novr 23d: Josiah Willard Junr of Lunenburg to Hannah Hubbard of Groton
Janry 4th: 1732\3 Will.m Longley to Mary Parker both of Groton
Janry 18th 1732/3 Sam.ll Rite to Annah Lawrence both of Groton
Janry 30th: Sam.ll Cummins to Prudence Lawrence both of Groton
Febry 20th: James Lawrence to Mary Martin both of Groton
June 21st: 1733 John Goodridge of Lunenburg to Eunice Scripture of Groton sent Clark
July 5th: 1733 Amos Woods to Hannah Nutting both of Groton
Sept: 12th Jno: Page to Mary Parker both of Groton
Octobr 25th James Tufts of Medford to Phebee Woods of Groton
Novr 1st: Jonathan Lampson of Concord to Elinor Blood of Groton
Novr 22d Moses Woods to Esther Houghton both of Groton
Decr 6th: Nath.ll Parker to Joanna Stephens both of Groton
Janry 23d: 1733/4 Ebenezr Gilson to Annas Searl both of Groton
[54] 1733/4
Janry 29th Enoch Lawrence to Sarah Stevens both of Groton sent to Clark
Febry 28th: Will.m Blanchard of Dunstable to Deliverance Parker of Groton
Sept: 18th: Sam.ll Cummings of New-Sherbourn [Douglas] to Sarah Robbins of Groton
Novr 7th Simon Lakin to Hannah Butler both of Groton

Decr 5th Zecherh Lawrence Junr to Sarah Lawrence both of Groton

1734/5

Febry 12th Jonas Varnum to Lydia Boyden both of Groton
Sent to Town Clark

March 19th Samll Bowers Junr to Deborah Farnworth } all of Groton
March 20th Amos Farnworth to Lydia Longley — }

Apill 17th St.[ephen] Barron to Sybill Parker both of Groton

Novr 25th Ebenr Procter of Dunstable to Elizabeth Blood of Groton

Janry 21st 1735/6 Phinehas Burts to Sarah Bush both of Groton

Janry 28th — John Cummins of Groton to Sarah Lawrence of Littleton

Febry 11th Willm Blood to Martha Lawrence both of Groton

Febry 25th David Shattuck to Dorothy Varnum both of Groton

1736

march 30th Willm Parker to Susannah Kemp both of Groton

may 13th Benja Stone to Emme Parker both of Groton

June 23d John Fletcher to Lydia Patch both of Groton

1736/7

Janry 13th Isaac Nutting to Lydia Nutting both of Groton

Febry 2d Saml Kemp IIId to Elizabeth Gilson both of Groton
Sent to Clerk

1736/7

March 22d Capt Jonathan Boyden to Widdow Lydia Shepley } all of Groton
— 23d { James Fisk to Lydia Bennit
{ Jeremh Lawrence to Elizabeth Chamberlain
— 24 Willm Farnworth to Ruth Hobart

April 13th Josiah Blogget of Dunstable to Jemima Nutting of Groton

[55]

May 26th 1737 Simon Pierce to Susannah Parker both of Groton

June 2d — Joseph Sanderson to Ruth Parker both of Groton

— 9th — Samll Hartwell to Sarah Holdin both of Groton

June 23d Samll Farwell to Elizabeth Moors both of Groton

July 5th — Joseph Priest Junr of Harvard to Elizabeth Atkinson of Groton

— 21st — John Kelsey to Elizabeth Russel Both of Groton

Novr 1st Nehemh Goold to Esther Bowers Ambo de Grotonia

Novr 23d — Zorrobl Kemp Junr to Abigail Lawrence both of Groton

Decr 6th — Joseph Whittney to Abigail Nutting both of Groton
Decr 22^{d} Benj^{a} Chandler of Suncook to Phæbe Lakin of Groton
1737/8
Jan^{ry} 18th Willm Nutting to Jain Boynton both of Groton
Feb^{ry} 22^{d} James Hartwell of Littleton to Jemima Frost of Groton
March 23^{d} { Sam^{ll} Parker Junr to Mary Lakin both of Groton
{ Willm Knox of Suncook to Lydia Irvine of Groton
April 19th David Sanderson to Eunice Warner both of Groton
August 29th Nehem^{h} Jewet to Lydia Blood: both of Groton
Sep^{t} 18th Caleb Trowbridge Junr to Elizabth Houghton both of Groton
— 28th Benj^{a} Wilson to Ruth Bush both of Groton
Decr 5 – John Irvine to Mary Gilson Ambo de Grotonia
1738/9
Feb 1st John Longley Junr to Mary Lawrence both of Groton
March 6th Robert Camell of Roxbury to Elizabeth McDonnell of Groton
April 3^{d} Aaron Woods to Sarah Boynton both of Groton
Sent to Clerk
April 26th James Green to Sarah Shattuck both of Groton
June: 7th Shebuel Hobart Junr to Esther Parker both of Groton
June 26th Isaac Colburn of Dunstable to Abigail Shattuck of Groton
[34] 1739
Octr 11th James Park to Jain Riche both of Groton
Novr 21st Joseph Page to Abigail Shead both of Groton
Decr 11th John Shattuck to Sarah Hobart both of Groton
sent to Clerk & Paid for
1740
Ap^{ll} 2^{d} Benj^{a} Hazen to Bette Nutting both of Groton
May 1st David Blood to Abigail Farnworth both of Groton
July 23^{d} Sam^{ll} Bason to Sarah Rice vid^{ua} both of Groton
August 4th Daniel Dugless to Lydia Lakin both of Groton
Sep^{t} 17th Zech^{r} Lawrence to Lucy Lakin both of Groton
Novr 11th Willm Kemp to Patience Nutting both of Groton
Sent to Clerk
March 5th 1740/1 John Burt to Barbara Farmer both of Groton
May 5th John Williams Junr of Groton to Elizabeth Cutter of Charlstown
— 13th Uriah Sawtel to Sarah Martin both of Groton

— 25th Nathll Parker Junr to Eleoner Walker both of Groton
June 11th Reuben Woods to ye Widdow Submit Whitney both of Groton
Sept 16th Isaac Phillips to Abigail Nutting both of Groton
octr 6 Danll Shead to Mary Tarbel both of Groton wednesday
Novr 11th Josiah Brown of Littleton to Anna Farwell of Groton
— 12th Nathan Rugg of Lancaster to Zeruiah Frost of Groton
John Moshier to Elizabeth Lawrence both of Groton
Novr 26th Elnathan Blood to Elizabeth Boynton both of Groton
Court week
Decr 8 John Blood Junr to Abigail Parker both of Groton
Janry 14th 1741/2 Seth Walker Junr to Abigl Holdin both of Groton
— 19th Thomas Tarbel Junr to Esther Smith both of Groton
Febry 4th { Ephraim Divol of Lancastr to Elizabeth Woods of Groton
James Blood Junr to Mary Gilson both of Groton
March 4th Peter Parker of Groton to Prudence Lawrence of Littleton
— 11 Thos Fisk to Mary Parker both of Groton
— 25 Thos Patch to Anna Gilson both of Groton
May 6 Willm Sanderson to Sarah Russel both of Boston
July 15 Jno Farwel of Harvard to Sarah Sawtell of Groton
— 22 Olivr Farwel to Rejoice Preston both of Groton
Sept 9th 1742 Josh Blood Jun to Hannah Blood both of Groton

[40]

Decr 9th 1742 Willm Richardson of Townshend to Mary Hobart of Groton
Dec 28th Priamus (Capt Boydens Negro man servant to Margrt Molatto formerly servant to S.[amuel] S.[cripture] both of Groton
Janry 27th Jonathan Shattuck Jun To Keziah Farnworth both of Groton
Febry 8 Nathll Bowers to Elizabth Blood } all of Groton
— 28 Joseph Dodge to Widdw Mary Irvine

1743

Aprill 26 { Jonathn Holdin to Deborh Houghton } all of Groton
Timothy Mores to Lydia Nutting
July 12th Jonathn Parker to Elen Hunt both of Groton
July 27 Josiah Farnworth Junr to Hannah Buttrick both of Groton

Novr 10th	Joseph Stephens of New Ipswich so called to Elizabth Sawtell of Groton
Decr 2^{d}	Sam^{ll} Phillips to Abig^{l} Frost both of Groton
— 8th	Sam^{ll} Flood Resident in Andover to Triphena Powers of Groton
— 13	Josiah Nutting to Mary Blood both of Groton
1743/4	
Janry 5th	David Kemp to Hannah Sawtel both of Groton
April 2^{d}	Thos Jewett of Boxford to Martha Hale of Groton
June 12th	Jno Courtney to Dorcas Barney both Resident in Groton
— 20	Benj^{a} Lawrence to Ruth Dodge both of Groton
July 3^{d}	Thos Lawrence to Sarah Houghton both of Groton
Novr 22^{d}	Willm Williams to Mary Perkins both of Groton
Decr 4th	Isaac Farnworth to Anna Green both of Groton
— 6th	Sam^{ll} Bloget of Westford to Sarah Spencer of Groton
— 18	Eph^{m} Whitney to Esther Woods both of Groton
Jan^{ry} 17th	James Paterson to Widd^{w} Elizabeth Bartlett } all of Jeded^{h} Jewet to Elizabth Shattuck } Groton sent to Clark
march 19	Phinh^{s} Chamberlain to Lidia Willm^{s} both of Groton
1745	
April 2	Nathan Hubburd to Mary Paterson both of Groton
May 22^{d}	Willm Tarbal Junr to Sarah Woods both of Groton
June 27th	Moses Blood to Elizabeth Stone both of Groton
1745/6	
Jan^{ry} 29	Thos Williams to Mary Rolf both of Groton
Feb^{r}	Jno Pratt to Hannah Bowers both of Groton
ap^{ll} 15th	Robin : Lakin to Han^{h} Dodge of Gro^{t}
Jun: 17	Simeon Blood to Sar^{h} Gilson of Gr^{t}
Sep^{t} 17th	Amos Sawtel to Elizabeth Fletcher both of Groton
Octr 9th	Sam^{ll} Script^{r} Junr to Mary Green //
nov: 4	Wm Deramp^{ll} to Elizth Shead both of Groton
— 5	Jno Russell to Mary Cranson both of Groton
Novr 20th	Benj^{a} Swallow to Widd^{w} Hannah Green
Decr 3^{d}	Jno Chamberlain Junr to Rachel Lawrence } all of Josiah Lawrence to Elizabeth Lakin } Grot^{n}
Jan^{ry} 8th	Benjn Benn^{t} Junr to Sar^{h} Lakin both of Grot
Feb^{r} 17	Mos. Ben^{t} Junr to Sar^{h} Blood both of Groton sent to Clark

[41]

April 2d. 1747 Willm. Wallis of Townshend to Eunice Nutting of Groton
— 20th. — Jno. Darby of Harvard to Widdw Elizabeth Holdin of Groton
— 23d. — Willm. Scott of Dunstable to Mary Derumple of Groton
June 25th — Hezekh. Sawtel Junr. of Groton to Margaret Dodge of Lunenburg
July 7th — Jno. Stone Junr. to Anna Pratt both of Groton
Sept. 1st. — David Nutting to Rachel Lakin both of Groton
Novr. 10th. — Willm. Holdin to Annis Nutting both of Groton
— 25 — Oliver Wheeler of Acton to Abigl. Woods of Groton
— 26 — Benja. Wilson to Sarah Whitney both Groton
Decr. 2 — Abijah Willard of Lancaster to Elizth. Prescott of Groton
— 3 — David Sawtel Junr. to Rebeckah Prat both of Groton
— 14 — Moses Wheeler Late of Lunenburg now resident in Groton to Elizabeth Holdin of Groton
— 30 — Edmund Bancroft to Elizabeth atherton both of Groton
Febry. 3 — Moses Wentworth to Mindwel Stone both of Groton
Febry. 16 — Ephraim Chandler of Westford to Widw. Abigail Blood of Groton
May 12 1748 Josiah Conant to Rachel Hobart of Groton
July 7 — Isrll. Hobart & Anna Lawrence both of Groton
Sept. 13 — James Stone Junr. & Deborah Nutting both of Groton
Febry. 9 — Jerahmeel Powers & Eunice Bennit both of Groton
March 1st. — William Bush & Abial Bennit both of Groton
April: 5 1749 Jason Williams & Jemima Nutting
— 26 — Johua Bowers & Sarah Farnworth
James Robbinson
Sent to Clark
Octr. 4th. — Joseph Fairbanks of Harvard & Abigall Tarbel of Groton
— 18 — Benja. Bancroft Junr. & Allis Tarbel both of Groton
Decr. 6th — Henry Farwell & Lydia Tarbel
13 — Jonathn. Sawtel & Mary Holdin } of Groton
14 — Oliver Farnworth & Sarah Tarbel
— Sent to Clark —

March 22d. Eleazr. Nutting & Sarah Farnworth both of Groton
July 31st. 1750 Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury & Sarah Trowbridge of Groton
Novr. 8th. — Jonathn. Pierce & Ruth Gilson both of Groton
— 29th — Josiah Williams & Prudence Nutting both of Groton
Decr. 19 — Eleazer Green Junr & Sarah Parker both of Groton
— 26 — Willm. Green to Ruth Colburn
Janry 10th 1750/1 Philemon Holdin & Lucy Walker
30 — Jonathn. Longley & Anna Bancroft
Febry. 5 — Bode to By [negro servants ?]
— 6 — Amos Holdin to Prudence Holdin
} of Groton

sent to Clark 9s 6d

March 6th. 1750/1 Jonathan Gilson & Susanna Pierce both of Groton
— 13 — Jonas Prescott Junr of Westford & ye Widdw. Rebecah Parker of Groton
Sept. 4th. 1751 Moses Haskel of Harvard & Anna Tarbel of Groton
Octr. 14th. — Floyd Pratt of Maldin & Lydia Coffin of Groton
Novr. 14 — Abel Lawrence & Mary Buckley both of Groton
— 20 — Jonas Longley & Esther Paterson both of Groton
Decr. 17 — Bezaleel Sawyer of Lancaster & Lois Lawrence of Groton
Janry 16 1752 Ambros Lakin & Dorothy Gilson of Groton
— 22 — Benja. Brooks Junr. of Townsend & Elizabeth Green of Groton
march 4th — Jerh. Hobart & Hannah Green
— 5 — Elnathn. Sawtel & Mary Stone
april 1st — David Stone & Lydia Pratt
} of Groton

30th — Jonathan Adams of Concord & Submitt Farwel of Groton
may 19th — Joseph Parkhurst & Deborah Spaulding both of Groton
— 26 Josh. Bennit & Margaret Shattuck of Groton
June 10 Josiah Chamberlain & Hebsibah Crecee of Groton
[1] Sent to Clark
[Ju]ne 17th. 1752 John Solindine & Dorcas Whipple
— 18 — James Prescott & Susanna Lawrence
} all of Groton

Novr. 8th. — Peter Hobart & Abigail Lakin Junr
Novr. 22 — Jonathn. Farwell & Triphena Frost
} Decr 20 — Micah Crecee of Groton & Catharine Weatherbee of Bolton

March 7th	1753	Zechar: Longley & Jemima Moor's both of Groton	
Sept 4th	—	Samll Sawtel & widdw Lydia Douglas both of Groton	
Octr 24	—	John Tarbel & Sarah Parker	
Novr 1st	—	Caleb Blood & Hannah Holdin	of Groton
— 22	—	John Cragg & the widw Jemima Fisk	of Groton
Decr 17	—	James Lock Junr of Townshed & Hannah Farnworth of Groton	
Janry 3d	1754	David Bennit of shirly & Elizabeth Wait of Groton	
— 15th	—	David Gilson of Groton to Annis Gilson of Pepperrill Distirct sent to ye Clark	
March 7th	—	Benaiah Hutson of Peppril & Dorothy Lawrence of Groton	
— 19	—	Isaac Lakin Junr of Groton & Mary Lawrence of Pepperrell	
April 2d	—	Ebenezr Severance & Widdw Sarah Bason	all of Groton
— 10	—	Jonathn Moor's & Sybil Tarbel	all of Groton
May 29	—	Ephm Nutting & Jerusha Parker	all of Groton
Decr 12	—	Jonathan Tarbel & Lydia Farnworth	all of Groton
Janry 9	1755	Willm Parker of Groton to Widdw Sarah Richardson of Pepperrell district	
— 23	—	Joseph Bruce of Mendon to Elizabeth Farnworth of Groton Nathll Lakin of Pepperrill District to Sybil Parker of Groton	
Febry 20	—	Ebenezer Farnworth Junr & Mary Nickols both of Groton sent to Clark	
March 26	—	Capt Ephrm Sawtel & widdw Hannah Gilson	all of Groton
— 27	—	Samll Cragg & Mary Conn Samll Hobart & Ann Bradstreet	all of Groton
April 16	—	John Stevens of Townshend & Susanah Tarbel of Groton	
May 29th		Jonas Sawtel of Groton & Elizabeth Albe of Townshend Amos Dole of Littleton to Molle Page of Groton	
July 9	—	Jonathn Stone & Susanna Moor's	all of Groton
Sept 9		John Shepley & Abigail Green – wils Daugr	all of Groton

Octr 23 Revd Mr Joseph Perry of Windsor [Conn.] & Mrs Sarah Lawrence of Groton *all paid*

Janry 22: 1756 Joshua Nevers Resident in Groton & ye Widdw abigl Sawtel, of ye Same Town

Febry 26 — Jonathan Pratt & Lucy Bradstreet } all of Groton
— 27 — Willm Lakin, & Priscilla Am's } all of Groton
Sent to ye Clark

March 1st — Shattuck Blood & Lydia Nutting } all of Groton
— 11 — Jonathn Shepley & Sarah Green } all of Groton
april 13 — Henry Woods & Deborah Parker } all of Groton
may 6 — John Ames & Susannah Nutting } all of Groton
— 26 — Obadiah Sawtel of Groton & Mary Gould of Shirly District
— 27 — Peter Gilson & Sybil Whitney both of Groton
Sept 30 — Jonan Bancroft of Danvers to Phebe Lawrence of Groton
. . . Harris . . . . Bula Cory both of Shirley all Paid &c

April 17th 1760 John Page & Widdw Martha Green — 1 D–r
— 23 — Doctr Phinehas Phelps of Lancaster & Sarah Green of Groton — Do
— 24 — Jonathn Pratt & widdw Rachel Nutting Do
Sent to the Clark

May 29 — Joseph Sawtel & Lydia Jenkins both of Groton 29s
June 4 — Silas Barron & Rebekah Parker both of Groton 1 D–r
June 26 — Willm Farwel & Esther Woods both of Groton — ½
August 20th — Paul Fletcher of Groton & Anna wilerd of Lanchester 4 : D

[42] 1707
Catalogus eorum q̄. ad Cœnam dominicam fuêre admiss.

June 8o Samuel Woods & Hannah Woods, uxor ejs Saml
1708
May 9o Maria Bradstreet
Thomas & Elizabetha Tarbel
Jonas Prescott.
1709
May 8. Hannah Blood, Uxor Josephi Blood.
Octo 9 Zerubabel Kemp & Maria Kemp.
1711
June. 17. Jonathan Boyden, & Elizabetha Boyden Vx. Ejs

May 1st: 1715 Sarah Trowbridge
June 16 James Robinson
August 14 { Ephraim Sawtell & Elizabeth his Wife &
Mercy The Wife of John Hall
Octobr 9th: { Moses Barron & Sarah his Wife
Jonathn: Farnworth & Ruth his Wife
1716 Lydia Whittney ye Wife of Willm: Whitney
August 5th { Samll Fisk & Susannah his Wife
Richard Warner
Elizabeth The Wife of Benjamin Lakin
oct:br 7 { The Wife of Eprhm: Philbrick
The Wife of Richard Warner
Esther The Wife of Samll Bowers
Decem:br 2 Abigail Uxor Gvilm: Shattuck's Jun
1716/17
Jany: 27th The Wife of Nathll: Lawrence
1718
Aprill 6th: Elizabth: Uxor Ebenr: Farnworth
July 27th: { Maria Farthworth Uxor Benjmin: Farnworth
Elizabeth Uxor Eleazr: Green
Maria Uxor Jon: Prescott
Samll Farworth
James Mirick
[43]
Abigail The Wife of Benjam: Prescott
Obediah Sawtell
Uxor Josephi Gilson
1721
The Widdow Mary Shattuck
Sept 24 Dan:ll Joseph & Isaac } Farnworth
November { The Wife of Joseph Farwell
The Wife of James Parker
The Wife of John Frost
Novembr { Nathll: Smith &
Jonathn Farnworth Junr
1722
May 13 John Longley
Jany: 1722\23 Ensign Joseph Gilson

Feb^{r} 17th. Ebenezer Prescott & Hannah his Wife
March 24th William Lawrence & Susannah his Wife
Novem^{br} 3^{d} Susannah y^{e} wife of John Solindine
Novem^{br} 17th Jerem^{h} Farnworth
January 12th Rachell Farnworth
1723/4
March 3^{d} John Stone Junr & [Elizabeth (Farwell)] his wife
Steven Holdin & [Hannah (Sawtell)] his wife
The wife of Benj^{a} Martin Ebenezer Farnworth
Simon Stone Junr & [Sarah] his Wife
[44]
Nov: 8th John Blood & Joanna his wife
Feb^{r} 28th The Widdow Shead The Younger
1726 Hannah Fisk
Aprill 24th Abigail Lakin Ensigns Daughter
1727
Decemb^{r} 31 { Shebuel Hobart & [Martha] his wife
The wife of Joseph Farnworth
1727/8
March 3^{d} Persons Viz Ensig^{n} Lakin Benj^{a} Parker & Mary his Wife Abr^{h} Moors & his wife ye wife of Dudley Bradstreet — of Ezra Farnworth — of Eleazer Nutting of Gibson of Joseph Gilson also Sarah Farnworth
1728
Aprill 28 Eleazer Gilson & Wife Jno Williams & his wife Ensign Page & his wife Eleazer Nutting. ye wifes of Jonathan Nutting Ebenz^{r} Blood Eleazer Green Jun Dauid Pierce Jno Chamberlain. // 12 in all
June 23^{d} Thomas Hubburd Dan^{ll} Nutting Peter Hobart & y^{r} Wives Jonathan Nutting: ye Wives of Ebenezer Nutting & Jno Shipley Jun & Nath^{ll} Blood Junr Sarah Hobart
August 18th James Nutting & Ephraim Pierce The Wives of Willm Green & Jno Green & of Joseph Sanders
Octob^{r} 13th James Blood & his Wife
Feb: 2 David Sawtell
March 23^{d} The Wives of Isaac Parker & John Bush & Nath^{ll} Woods Junr
May 18th Mich^{ll} Gilson & Wife
July 13th The Wifes of Jno Hold^{n} of Jno Woods & of Jona^{thn} Shead

Gershum Hobart & Wife
Thomas Farwel & his Wife
Sam[ll] Scripture Sen[r]
Benj[a] Bennit
James Stone & Wife
The Wife of Doct[r] Chase

[45]
Janry 2[d] Jonas Varnum — Moses Woods — and the Wife of Nathan Whipple
Bancroft & S[t] Pierce & Obad[h] Parker & y[r] Wives from other Churches Embody'd with us

1732
October 29 Isaac Parker & Jn[o] Swallow
Joseph Stone & Mary his Wife
Cap[t] Shepley & Wife
Will[m] Tarbell & Mary his Wife & David Miriam
Moses Woods his Wife Willm Longley Ebenezer Sprague & Wife from Dedham Chh

1735
March 30th Aaron Whittemore // Pedagogue
Nicholas Bartlett

1736
Octob[r] 10th John Scott & [Mary his] Wife // & Jonas Longley
John Longley Jun[r]

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[52]
At an Associacõn of Churches at Marlborough July 16: 1707
To the Church of Christ at Groton

Bretheren

The Consociation of Churches is a Doctrine, own'd and pleaded by the Revd Elders Whome God honoured greatly by making them the Happy Instruments of Laying the foundations of the Constitutions of the Churches in this American World. The Associated Pastors of 13 churches have out of a zeal for Gods glory and their owne and their churches Good and benefit Resolved by Divine Assistance to pursue the holy instructions left them by those worthy and Learned persons, and to that end have determin'd not to manage any thing in their respective churches which may tend to produce any Embroilment in them without the Advice of those Pastors with whome they are Associated ; and accordingly desire

the Consent of the Several Churches that the Council to advise in and about such Cases shall be call'd out of those Churches to which the Pastors with whome their Pastor is associated doth belong; therefore it is with you to Signifie your Consent hereto.

JOSEPH ESTABROOK
Moderator

At a Church meeting at Groton July 21° 1707

The abovesd Determination was then Voted in this Church Nemine Contradicente D. BRADSTREET

[53]

Groton

At a Church meeting February 2° 1707/8 —

John Farnesworth was duly Elected a Deacon for the Church at Groton. D. BRADSTREET.

At a Church meeting May 14. 1708.

Whereas Some were dissatisfied at the Election of John Farnesworth as Deacon I gave liberty of a new Choyce by Papers and sd Farnesworth was Elected by a Majority of three Voices and accordingly Confirm'd

Voted that if Deacon Whitney cannot Serve at ye next Sacramt that he deliver the Church Vessells to Deacon Farnesworth for the Churches use.

At a Church meeting March 10. 1708/9

Voted that Deacon Farnesworth do by the first opportunity provide a Table Cloth, and Platter, for ye more decent Celebration of the holy Comunion.

At a church meeting Decembr 16. 1709.

Groton Aprill 22th 1715: At a Church Meeting

Wheras Decn Whittney is old, & Desirous of ye Choice of Another to Officiate in his Place; & Whereas Decn John Farnsworth is Desirous of a New Choice; Unless he were more Unanimously Confirmd.

The Church Did Thereupon Unanimously Elect or make Choice of Simon Stone Sen: & Thomas Tarbell Sen: To Officiate as Deacons in ye Church of Groton

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

[46]

1st Sacrament May ye 1st 1718

[A half-page here in the original left blank.]

at a Church Meeting (Partly for y^t Purpose) in Groton 1722 John Longley was Chosen Deacon

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

Att a Church Meeting May 14th 1729 Danl Farworth was Chosen Deacon by a Great Majority

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of ye Church

At a Chh Meeting in Groton on ye 14th of Sept 1733

Voted — That Deacn Longley & Brother Ephrm Pierce, be a Committee, as Trustees for this Church; to Call for, & to Receiue of Brother Willm Lawrence (& to give him a discharge upon Receiving) the 40£ Legacy y^t was given by Mr Jonathan Lawrence in his last Will & Testament to this Church (for ye Procuring Some Silver Vessell or vessels for ye Lords Table) and That they Lay out ye sd 40£ in Such Manner or According to Such Instructions as this Church shall give Them: Agreable to sd Will.

And That Brother Willm Lawrence Joyn wth sd Committee in *Thus* Laying it out

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pasto[r]

The Same Meeting Put to Vote by hand whether ye Brethren were free y^t Danll Farnworth should officiate as Deacn in this Church: Past in ye Affirmative

CALEB TROWBRIDGE

[47]

at ye same meeting Rachell Hartwell Enquir'd of why so Long Absent from Communion of this Church: & advised Reform by me &c CALEB TROWBRIDGE &c

At ye Meeting Last mentiond

Put to Vote Whither ye Brethren y^n Present were free, y^t Jonathan Farnworth & his son Jonathan & Simon Stone Junr should be Dismissed from this Chh; in order to Lie in the foundation of a Chh in Harvard or Embody w^t other Christian brethren & Professors There. It Past in the Affirmative

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

At a Church Meeting in Groton, Janry 11th 1733/4 Voted That ye Persons appointed (by this Church at y^r meeting the 14th of Sept Last) to Lay out the 40£ Legacy given to this Church by mr Jonathan Lawrence in his Last Will — do Lay out ye sd 40£ for Procuring some Silver Vessel or Vessels, according to y^r Best Prudence; or as upon Proper Enquiry they shall think will be most for ye honour of ye Donor: as well as of the Lords Table, And

Deliver s^d^ Vessel or Vessels to this Church as soon as they can with Conveniency.

memorand^m^ ye Churches vote ab^t^ ye ministerial Legacy given by s^d^ Lawrence was Put into Wm Lawrences hand by the Churche order: I gave Bond for s^d^ Legacy to ye Deacon as Trustees &c

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

After some time The Above appointed brought 2 Silver Tankards to ye Churches Acceptance & frely giving in y^r^ time & Trouble Rec^d^ ye Churches Thanks

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

Deac^n^ Farnworth only Surviving of ye Trustees to whom I gave the Bond above-mentioned ye Church in ye Year 1759 added Decon Farwel & Deac^n^ Stone to Deac^n^ Farnworth as trustees in ye Room of Deac^n^ Stone & Deac^n^ Longley deceas'd

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

m^r^ Aaron Whittemore Dismis^t^ from ye Church & Recomended &c

C. T. Pastor

March 9th 1737/8 at a Church Meeting in Groton Voted y^n^ y^t^ ye Deacons of s^d^ Church be Allow'd for y^r^ Trouble in Providing for ye Lords table five shillings for Each time of Providing for ye time past: & seven shillings & six pence a time for ye future; till further order

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

At a Ch̄h̄ meet^g^ in Groton at ye House of Jonath^n^ Page Feb^ry^ 29th 1739/40 Voted That Whereas it has been (for a Considerable time) a Sort of Rule: & the Practice in this Ch̄h̄: respecting Persons Suspected of Fornication: That such of them as had been married seven months before they [*manuscript here torn and illegible*] Infants) had been by the Pastor admitted to Covenant [*torn and illegible*]

[48] y^m^ to one, or other, of y^se^ methods, before admission &c And it being *feared* by *me* that this Custom, has (on the one hand) Proved (with some of the less Conscientious) a Prevailing Temptation to belye y^r^ Consciences, adding Sin to Sin: and being *thought by some* an Hardship (on the other hand) upon the more Consciencious (and Doubted at least whither it be Right) to Compel *them* Publickly to acknowledge, what is, (if not absolutely yet) next to Impossible to Convict y^m^ of: Therefore tis desired y^t^ for ye future (till further Light be afforded) in such like Cases; the Pastor of this Church, admitt^r^ them to desired Priveledges: without Compelling y^m^ to *Either* (Provided in the Judgement of Charity they are otherwise Qualified) Desiring & Trusting y^t^ he will Exhort y^m^ to Serious Repentance

(in Case they are Conscious to y^{m} selves of Guilt) and That he will bring them to declare y^{t} they have Humbly Begg'd of god ye Pardon of all known Sins: & Promise that they will by the help of god be upon their watch against sins of Uncleaness in Particular; as well as all Sins in General — and That they will Study to *know*: & sett themselves to y^{e} *Practice* of all that they *do*, or shall *know*, to be their *duty*.

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor

at a meeting of y^{e} 1st Chh in Groton Voted to give w^{t} Church stock y^{y} had (vizt 16$^{£}$–8^{s}–3^{d}) to y^{e} 2^{d} Chh [1] in s^{d} Town towards furnishing y^{r} Commun^{n} Table

also voted to allow y^{e} Deacons &c. 1$^{£}$–0^{s}–0^{d} old tenor for y^{r} Trouble for Each time of Providing for the Sacrament for y^{e} future till further order

at same time I. S satisfied &c as to all articled against him Exhib: Causes:

Chh Meet^{g} Sep^{t} 23^{d} 1742 James Stone Chosen Deacon

A. D. 1748 voted Each Communicant Contribute 15^{d} old Tenor &c

Dismist to other Churches — Capt Prescot & his son Eben^{r} & y^{r} Wives Capt Jonath^{n} Hobart & his Wife — Jonath^{n} Farnwth & his son Jonathan & Simon Stone Junr ye Wives of s^{d} Jonath^{n} Farnorth & s^{d} Stone

A. D. 1759 Groton Church voted y^{t} Each Communicant should allow 4 Coppers for Evry Sacrament for 1 year — not Exceding 6 months, before they Pay Part

CALEB TROWBRIDGE

Jan^{ry} 25th 1760 Jno Cummings Dismis'd to Littleton Church (,& his Wife sometime before)

C—— TROWBRIDGE

June 22^{d} — Hannah ye wife of Ebenez^{r} Gilson Dismis'd to Pepp^{rll} Church

C. TROWBRIDGE

[1] A Second Church was organized in the West Parish of Groton, now Pepperell, in the year 1742.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XI.

REMINISCENCES OF GROTON

During the Years 1839, 1840, and 1841.

With an Appendix.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XI.

REMINISCENCES OF GROTON

DURING THE YEARS 1839, 1840, AND 1841.

BEAVER DAM, WISCONSIN, January 25, 1886.

MY DEAR DR. GREEN:

I first saw Groton in the autumn of 1839. Though a native of the grand old Puritan State, it had not been my good fortune to see any of its Eastern towns or cities. My parents, in my boyhood, moved from Amherst, Massachusetts, the place of my birth, to Central New York. Setting foot in Groton, the very last of September of that year, I found a town 180 or more years old; population upwards of 2,000. And it had the prestige of being originally a grant by the General Court — in part, at least — to a son of the first Governor of the Massachusetts Colony; also the added prestige of bearing the name of the home-town of the Winthrops in England. I liked it. Though irregular, and setting at defiance all laws of order, — though antique and quaint in its architecture, — though contrasting strangely, in nearly every particular, with Western places, yet it pleased me. Its position was elevated, its natural charms were many; and there was on all sides an air of solidity and comfort. There was too, in its way, a fair show of the æsthetic. It had three churches, — Unitarian, Orthodox, and Baptist; and, for pastors, the Reverend Messrs. Wells, Phelps, and Sanderson. Besides, it had a structure called the Hall, used for lectures on various subjects. It was by itself, quite unpre-

tentious, still roomy and pleasant. Groton Academy, now known as Lawrence Academy, a creditable building, and beautifully situated, was deservedly a pet of the town. I say I liked it; I felt at home; and this is saying not a little for a strange place.

My special mission, at the time, was in the interest of anti-slavery. It was in the dark and trying days of the cause. Late in the preceding summer, the Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society sent an agent to Central New York, to procure two lecturers. They desired a layman and a clergyman of the Orthodox faith. The agent, as directed, went with the proper papers to the Hon. Gerrit Smith, of Peterboro', N. Y., and he, after due consideration, recommended James C. Jackson and myself. Mr. Smith and I were neighbors — that is, of neighboring towns; and, if I may assume so much, co-workers. And yet I was much earlier in the cause than he. When a student, and before Wm. Lloyd Garrison started "The Liberator," — a mere boy so to speak, — I took a stand for the enslaved. A little work, styled "Six Months' Residence in Jamaica," by an English physician, first opened to me the enormities of slavery. I hated it from that hour; fought it from that hour. My father, however, was intensely devoted to Colonization. So, at the time, was Mr. Smith, who, afterwards, was Vice-President of the American Society. It was not until the fall of 1835 that he left that Society. The circumstances were not a little thrilling; they revealed the nobility of the man. A large Convention, in pursuance of a call, met at the city of Utica, the 21st day of October, 1835, — the self-same day the great and heroic Garrison was mobbed in Boston, — to form a New York State Anti-slavery Society. The whole State was represented, and by some of its best and ablest men. Clergymen, I think, predominated; and many of these were veterans. It was my privilege to be among them, though one of the youngest of the number. Gerrit Smith was there, and yet as an outsider. His noble figure was in the assemblage. Not long, however; for, while the meeting was organizing, a mob entered the church, led on by a Committee of twenty-five leading citizens with Congress-

man Beardsley at the head, and assaulted officers and members, not sparing the old and gray-headed, and brutally drove them from the church. Nor was this all. They hunted the flying delegates in every part of the city, inflicting upon them many indignities and cruelties. Mr. Smith saw all; it was a revelation to him. He saw, and with startled eye, the real situation; and, like himself, he said to the hunted and suffering delegates, with tremulous tones: "Gentlemen, go to my Peterboro', and complete your organization; I will see that you are protected."

They went — gladly, gratefully went; and yet, all through the several towns passed — the distance was some thirty-five miles — they were pelted with brickbats and addled eggs. And when gathered, the next morning, in the Presbyterian Church of that rural village, — the home of the great-hearted philanthropist, — the spectacle presented was a strange, not to say a sad one. The church was packed with the fugitive delegates. And numbers of them were seen with bandaged faces; while others, cut and bruised, made no attempt at concealment. It was an unwonted scene. All felt that martyr-times had returned; and no one could forecast what was to follow. Every hour there were startling rumors that the baser sort of other towns were to make a combined assault upon us. It was expected. Such a thing was certainly planned; yet it failed in the execution. Mr. Smith was too strong in his own section of the State. There was no farther disturbance. The organization was effected. The State Society was an actuality; and, more than this, Gerrit Smith pledged it his full and hearty support. He was a convert; and his speech, announcing the change, was one of surpassing power. It was, of course, the speech of the occasion. There was everything lifting it above all others. The speaker, with his grand and handsome personality; his deep, rich, musical voice; his pure, Addisonian style, and marvellous magnetism, was sure not to be second in that or any other Convention. And then the circumstances raised him above himself. His great soul, by what he had seen, had been stirred to its very depths. He had come to see slavery as it was; that its terrible grip

was on the North, as well as on the South; that we were *all* slaves; that our boasted Freedom was nothing but a myth; that the right to assemble,—a first right of freemen,—and in the supposed Free State of New York, was stricken down; and with it, of course, the right of Free Speech. And all at the behest of slavery. Slavery was all and in all. The whole nation was at its feet! He saw this; it terrified him; it converted him. Of course, at such a time, he not only excelled others, but excelled himself: no words can describe it; no words can set forth its effects. It was simply overwhelming; and, as might have been expected of the man, he at once resigned his office in the American Colonization Society, and at the same time sent a check of $10,000, to pay the sum he had before pledged to promote its objects. Such was his high sense of honor; and let it be added that Mr. Smith was much older in Temperance than in Anti-slavery. Among the earliest was he in this great reform. Nor was he much behind in Church reform,—in the work of restoring Primitive Unity. In a large Convention, held at Syracuse in 1838, he read a paper on the subject of great ability and force. It fell to me to draw up, and present to the same meeting, the Declaration of Principles. A broad man was Mr. Smith; hence a comprehensive reformer. He set himself, with all his great strength and great wealth, against social evils, church evils, and national evils. Grandly good and great was he in his day.

Recommendation by such a man was something. So, with me, felt my friend Jackson. He was a Christian layman, a student of medicine, and highly gifted as a speaker. Few could hold and stir an audience as he. He was early in the cause of the slave, and did it grand service; so in the cause of Church Unity. We had toiled much together in both lines of reform. He is now the celebrated Dr. Jackson, of the Dansville (N. Y.) Water-Cure. A most enviable mark has he made in this department, as in the advocacy of the cause of the enslaved, and of Primitive Unity. As for myself, I had been pastor for some time of the Congregational Church of Cazenovia, a gem of a town, ten miles west of the home of

Mr. Smith: had, from broken health, resigned. The duties at home, and much lecturing abroad, prostrated me; my physician enjoined *rest*. I, however, chose an *active* rest. Hence travelled much, speaking almost incessantly on church and national reform: saw, too, both causes advancing. The leaven, as to each, was working. Whole churches took the primitive basis, and an entire Association, which was my own. And, at this time, a grand impetus was given to the movement by the appearance of the "Fraternal Appeal" of the Reverend Professor Schmucker, a work of masterly power, the substance of which found its way into the Comprehensive Commentary, edited by the Reverend Dr. William Jenks, of Boston; even in the Baptist edition. There it stands to-day. An organ, too, was created; a paper of quite an extensive circulation. This was known as "The Union Herald;" published at Cazenovia. Its editor, the Reverend Luther Myrick, was an evangelist of the class of the distinguished Charles G. Finney, and a most successful one. He was a preacher of rare power; and rich spiritual harvests were gathered by him. His "Herald" had no uncertain voice; and it spoke as fearlessly for Freedom as for Unity. Hence, and naturally, the friends of Church Unity were the friends of National Freedom.

And it is due here to say, and I take profound pleasure in saying, that we were nobly aided, especially in the anti-slavery reform, by Wm. L. Chaplin, Esq., a native of Groton, and a son of its seventh pastor. An able man was he, and fearless as able. He treated the question from the standpoint of a lawyer, and with marked effectiveness. His blows were heavy. I first knew of him in the county of Wm. H. Seward, — the county of Cayuga; the home of the great Senator, the first advocate of the *Higher Law*, and the masterly Secretary of State during the Rebellion. It had been mine to break ground on the subject in the southern portion of the county, and narrowly to escape mobbing in one of its towns. Most welcome, then, was the presence of such an ally. He did right good work. And who will say how much the labor, thus early done, and at his very door, had to do with the

making, in this matter, of Wm. H. Seward? Be this as it may, special thanks were due Mr. CHAPLIN for his efficient aid, and to Groton for giving the country so strong and fearless an advocate of Freedom.[1]

Mr. Jackson and I decided to go East; and yet only for three months. Our young families were left behind. After reaching Boston, and speaking in a convention at Taunton, we were assigned our particular fields; more properly, perhaps, our head-quarters. He was to go to the county of Essex, and I to that of Middlesex. This brought me fortunately to Groton, and to the charming home of Dr. AMOS FARNSWORTH. I was his guest by virtue of his membership in the Executive Committee of the State Society. And, as intimated, a high favor it was. A home, indeed, was his. While there was nothing pretentious about it, everything was in taste. All was solidly sensible. He had buried his wife, and yet his home had the light and cheer of a lovely daughter. There were two sons also, and of promise; one of them a student at Cambridge. Still, he himself was the central charm. He was tall and symmetrically built; with large head, mild eye, broad, expressive, pleasant face, and compressed lips. Every thing indicated strength and good-nature. Brain and heart were manifest. With the elements of a commander, he had the gentleness of a woman. He was one of the sunniest of men. Though impressing you with his superiority, you felt wholly at ease in his presence. You knew him at once; could trust him at sight. And greatly was I struck with his originality. It cropped out in everything. He could not think in a groove, or act in a groove; no copyist could he be. In the rig of his horse, and the way of treating him on a trip, you saw it. So, and more strikingly, in his treatment of vines and fruit-trees, and the preservation of their products. He had Cato's love of these things; had means, too. Retired from a long and lucrative practice in Boston, he was able to work out his ideal. Of course, he had the best. And he had a method, it seemed, strictly his own of preserving the same. I own I was not a little irked when I could not draw from

[1] See Appendix, page 19.

him the secret of this, to me, surprising preservation. At a select party at his house, as late as February, I think, he had on his table watermelons seemingly as fresh as when taken from the vines, also choice varieties of grapes in a like state. Pressing him for the secret, I got this in reply: "The Hon. George Thompson" — alluding to the great English anti-slavery orator — "occupying the very seat you occupy, put to me the same question; and he went back to England just as wise on the subject as when he came." This, I knew, was decisive. Still, it did not seem to justify the withholding of so valuable a secret.[1]

The same was sure to mark him in the treatment of disease. Though of the regular school, he came to see, in the latter part of his practice at least, that no medicine should be given in fevers. He almost startled me with this declaration, on our first acquaintance. I thought, indeed said, that, if his fine daughter, or gifted sister, or cherished brother, were down with the typhoid, he would give some medicine. Quickly, and somewhat impatiently, he said he should not. Well, he was soon put to the test. A young man brought the disease from Boston, and into the very neighborhood of his brother Luke. The young man died — his mother died; and, immediately after, that brother was down. The attack was a severe one. And, to *my* eye, the case for days seemed hopeless. I said as much to the Doctor. I told him, and with emotion, that without medicine, and the most active medicine, his brother would die. He said, with an emphasis all his own, he would not. And he *did* not. He kept up his negative treatment, and the brother recovered. He treated some other cases the same, and with a like result. He did this, though retired from practice; Drs. GREEN, the BANCROFTS, father and son, and STEARNS, were the regular and able practising physicians at the time.

Needless is it to add, that my esteemed host was a man of positive convictions, and was loyal to them. He could not be anything else. When he took a stand, he was fixed in it; when he set his foot down, it was down. And this fitted him for his time. It made him the stalwart reformer he was.

[1] See Appendix, page 20.

Now, with such a host, I was sure to lack nothing in my work. He not only arranged my places and times of speaking, but dropped me down at the several points. He was ever alert; preparing, helping, encouraging. So when called to other parts of the State. His optimism never failed. His helpfulness never flagged. It was easy to work; did not seem like work. The time passed — the period of my engagement — almost unconsciously. Though far away from loved ones, the three months quickly sped. I may not go into the details of this labor, — wish I might; it had some marked incidents. Suffice it to say, it seemed quite satisfactory to my host and to the Society employing me.

And here a Second Act begins. As my special mission to Groton was now full, another was suggested and urged. I had incidentally, and perhaps on several occasions, given some hints as to the Unity of the Church. My heart was full of it. And I did this the more freely, the more earnestly, from the fact that numbers in the several churches, and, as it seemed to me, their best members, were alienated from the same, because of their position on the slavery question. The tie, binding them, was exceedingly loose, and growing daily looser. It was getting to be a serious question whether they could continue to walk with them. Conscience was awake; the ethical was at work. But what could they do? Where go? They could not cut themselves off from all churches — all ordinances — all the institutions of religion. They could not do this. What, then, could they do? Every church in the place, *as* such, was in the wrong on the question. Hence no door was open to them. They must be true to the slave — consistently true; but they could not be with any extant church organization. Here they stood; here they stood, longingly casting about for a church home where they might dwell in peace, and consistently with their most sacred convictions. My hints, therefore, were eagerly seized as pointers to the thing needed; so eagerly, that they insisted upon my giving, before leaving for my home, some lectures on the subject. I complied; I lectured an entire week. First looking at the Church, as it came from the hand of its Divine Founder;

then at the inspired injunctions as to unity; then at the example of the Apostles, and the first Christians; then at the dire evils of sectarian divisions; and, finally, answering the objections to a return to Primitive Unity. The whole ground was thus covered.

The lectures were given in the Hall, before noticed. The place had become familiar to me. There the cause of the slave could have a hearing, when no church was open for the purpose. Indeed, I was assured that the place was specially erected on this account. The building, during the delivery of the lectures, was crowded. All classes heard. The clergymen were out, and seemed eager, and even approving, listeners. There might have been dissenting voices, but I heard none. It was approval on all sides. And why? The principles themselves admit of no dissent. Dissent comes in, if at all, when a serious attempt is made to carry them out. Here the trouble begins. Unity is a nice thing — a beautiful thing — a very Christian thing — everybody likes it; but seek to merge the churches into one, to bring about a visible unity, a tangible unity, a unity the world can see, a real unity, and the whole thing is changed. They want oneness, but no visible oneness; unity, but no organic unity. Still, every one knows, every one admits, that such was the unity of the Primitive Church.

Well, the lectures meeting with so wide a favor, it was natural that the large numbers seeking a new ecclesiastical home should rally at once, and gratefully, to the Apostolic basis. It was doubly welcome. They could, on such a foundation, be true to their convictions touching slavery, and to their new convictions touching the unity of the Christian Church. It was, in this view, a supremely happy hour to them.

But as to the future. Resolved to take this stand, to plant themselves on this high basis, the question as to a leader was at once started. A leader, a pastor, they must have; and, to my great surprise, they approached me on the subject. I had not dreamed of such a thing. My field, I had felt, was at the West. There I had grown up; there been trained; there were the loved ones; there the noble

associates in Christian and reform work; there, really, all my cherished ties. But the demand was imperative; I *must* return. I *did* return, and with my family: it was in January, 1840.

The church was at once organized. It had, for materials, the Farnsworths, the Cragins, the Dicksons, the Boutelles, the Wheelers, the Ruggs, the Needhams, the Halls, with many others. Mrs. Rockwood, daughter of Pastor Chaplin and sister of William L., now living at Cortland, Cortland County, New York, upwards of one hundred years old, was with us, though I cannot positively say she was a member. The basis of the church has already been foreshadowed. It was the agreements of Christians, with a toleration of their differences. No narrower, no broader. And by Christians were understood those who were evangelical. It stopped where the Apostolic Church stopped. Whatever made a man a Christian; whatever entered essentially into Christian character; whatever was so as understood by the Evangelical Churches, went into the basis of that church, and nothing more. There was no attempt to cut down, or to modify, in the slightest degree, the system known as Evangelical. This was accepted in its entirety. Is one a Christian; is he one as understood by the Evangelical Communions? — *that*, just that, and *only* that, was the condition of admission. It was really the same as that of the Evangelical Alliance; the same, too, as that of the *Young Men's Christian Association*. And in these, we are sure, we see the CHURCH OF THE FUTURE. Such was the basis. Planted on the essentials of the Christian faith, receiving one another as Christ received them, love was to pervade all, and fuse all; to be, too, the bond of perfectness. All felt we might sing with Cowper —

> "Were love, in these the world's last doting years,
> As frequent as the *want* of it appears,
> The churches warm'd, they would no longer hold
> Such frozen figures, stiff as they are cold;
> Relenting forms would lose their power, or cease;
> And e'en the dipped and sprinkled live in peace:
> Each heart would quit its prison in the breast,
> And flow in free communion with the rest."

The church thus started, earnest work began. A powerful revival soon followed; large numbers were added. The church, at the dawn of spring, was something near a hundred strong; and, of the new recruits, there were not a few of interest. I wish space admitted of extended mention. I must note a few.

There were the two Bancrofts, — George and Henry. These brothers interested me at first sight. As in the case of our Lord, on meeting the young man in the Gospel, I loved them. There was a nobility about them, an affability as well, that instantly won my heart. George was cut out for an orator; had the elements for one. A juster self-estimation and the proper training would have made him eminent as such. Henry had fine gifts, though different. These brothers, together with their excellent wives, — and it was my privilege to make them such, — were among the first to give in their adhesion to the cause. So another choice young man, and related by marriage, John Robbins; he really was slightly in advance in the matter. There, too, was George Green, the baker, an avowed sceptic, who entered the ranks. And another George, quite young, and yet of promise, — George S. Gates. Besides, if I mistake not, a sprightly young man, with high and generous aspirations, a son of parents referred to, — Daniel Needham. There were others deserving of mention. The work was far-reaching. It attracted many from neighboring towns, especially from Lowell; and an interest appearing in that city, I was invited to spend there some two weeks. Most satisfactory results followed. In the meantime a large meeting was held at Groton in the church of the Reverend Mr. Phelps, with some of the ablest men in the State as preachers. It was a meeting of interest.

Some of the actors in those scenes come back to me with great freshness. Still, nearly all are dead. Deacon Cragin, with his winning face, is one: a true man, and Christian, was he. Luther Boutelle is another of them; he, at the time, was a man of the *last*. So was Henry Wilson, of Natick. But he was before his Natick brother in the cause of the slave, — some time before. He was, like Wilson, a

good workman; so as a reformer; was his equal in devotion to the cause. He seemed more eager to mend the nation than to mend boots and shoes. A vast deal of this mending did he; he was ever at it. So when his eyes were opened to the sin and evils of a divided Church; here the same earnestness was shown. He was one of the most hopeful of men. Better than medicine was it to go into his shop; his large hope was a sure cure for despondency: I speak from experience. Fitly was he named; for he had the hope, the firmness, the persistence, of the great German reformer. Nothing could dampen his ardor or shake his purpose; and, in the power of speech, he developed surprisingly. He continues to work; seems to know nothing of age. He is ever moving, — keeps all the wheels of life running. My early love for this man, early esteem, abides the same; though, in later years, we have been somewhat divergent in view and method. I love him, esteem him, for his sterling qualities, and high and varied work.

The Wheelers are others. Early and ardent were they in the work, and in its several lines. The older, however, charming in aspect and sweet in spirit, early fell a victim to consumption; but Samuel C. was spared, and rendered good service. Cheerful and earnest was he. His face was an inspiration; he kept all in heart. He once visited me in after years; and our correspondence, as in the case of Henry Bancroft, was long kept up.

But one of the most marked of these is Elizabeth Farnsworth; she would be marked anywhere. Remarkable was her brain-power and force of character. Physically, much like her brother the Doctor; mentally, if anything, his superior. She was capable of filling any position, and with honor. Her mind was decidedly of a philosophical cast; broad, deep, and intensely clear. She was quick to detect error and to see truth, and grandly able to expose the one and defend the other. Her pen was keen, incisive, strong; so to the last. I have scores of her letters, which, if printed in a volume, would attract wide attention; and age, as hinted, had no power to impair that pen. Her last letters to me. and when she was

along in the nineties, are as racy, trenchant, and nervous as any I ever received from her. Her penmanship, too, held much the same. I have surprised and delighted numbers of my friends by showing them these letters. The like none of them had ever seen. She was early a Christian, and of the Puritan stamp. Hers was the faith brought in the "Mayflower." She, too, was among the very first for Freedom and Church Unity. And, in keeping with her character, near the close of her life she generously remembered Lawrence Academy, the institution to which she felt so much indebted. All honor to a town, giving birth, rearing, culture, even limited scope, to such a woman as Elizabeth Farnsworth! Would that some able pen might do itself the credit, the town the favor, and the subject the justice, to write her full history![1]

It was somewhere, in this connection, I first made the acquaintance of David Fosdick, who had, I believe, previously graduated at Amherst and Andover. He favorably impressed me; his face amply recommended him. Unlike most of his rearing and culture, he seemed in sympathy with my work. Though not making himself at all prominent, he was affording quiet proof of his good-will. This was help; a stimulus indeed. And when, after me and on the same field, he made a most worthy attempt against sects, and in behalf of unity, my love and admiration of the man were greatly increased. True, from the force of early training, and subsequent culture, his plan of union differed from mine; yet I honored and admired him for so noble an attempt in his own line of thought and belief. It was eminently praiseworthy. Besides, the few discourses he kindly sent me, so able and scholarly, afforded me much pleasure and profit.

In my first audiences in Groton, I noticed a young man who attracted my attention. He was, I should say, about twenty-two years of age,—perhaps slightly older; of medium height, spare, erect, trim, dark, with a well-formed head, and a thoughtful face. He was serious, always attentive, ever observant of the proprieties of the place. He was evidently

[1] See Appendix, page 20.

present to hear; to get light, if it was to be shed. These traits so impressed me, that I early inquired who he was. I was told he was a clerk in a certain store. I confess to a little surprise; for I had thought that studious face marked him as a member of one of the professions, and most likely that of the law. But I found that my information was correct. I met him often afterwards at his place of business. He seemed different from most young men. He was not, as I remember, very much in society; his tastes not seeming to run that way. He moved more by himself; so it struck me. He was evidently a young man of books; a close student. I could lay no claim to intimacy. We had little in common, as I conceived, either in politics, ethics, or religion. Still, I felt an interest in him, a drawing towards him, because of the qualities stated; and this was increased by the sad death of his employer, in the fall of 1840. Disappointment as to the result of the election, in that memorable struggle, so wrought upon him as to lead him to end his own days. This sad event drew to the young man more attention, and, as I think, more sympathy.

But for a season I lost sight of him. His time had not yet come. Things were shaping to bring him to the surface, but the process was slow. The leaven of anti-slavery was silently at work in the Church and in the State — potentially at work; and yet there was little to evidence it. God was preparing his men for the grand struggle coming; but it was quite away from the public eye. He had purposed the downfall of slavery, and he had his chief agents in a course of training. They would appear in due time; indeed, surprise the nation and the world when the crisis came. This is the Divine way of working. He knows what he will do, and by what agencies he will do it, and prepares them for it. When needed, they are brought forth. They are no accidents; they are picked and trained agents, to work out his designs, to achieve grand and beneficent results. Lincoln was no accident; Grant was none; Seward was none; Sumner was none; Henry Wilson none; neither was George S. Boutwell. They were chosen men, divinely chosen, and fitted before-

hand for their high work. All went to the anti-slavery school; all learned in that school the high lesson of true Liberty. Without such a school, the country and the world would have been without such men.

In the summer of 1840, a Convention was held at Groton in the interest of Evangelical Unity. It was, I think, in August; it was held in the Hall. The plan was early formed. It was intended to be like that already noticed at Syracuse, N. Y., in 1838. And, to prepare the way, as well as to promote the general cause, a little paper was started, styled "The Church Reformer." It did not, as I remember, aim at permanence; nor was it entirely regular in its appearance. The first issue was devoted largely to a *Plea for Unity* and the *Apostolic Basis* of such Unity. It contained, I believe, The Declaration of Principles adopted at Syracuse. In it, of course, was the Call. Not a copy of it, to my great regret, can be found; nor of any subsequent issue. But the paper, especially the first issue, attracted wide attention. It drew forth many able letters, and nearly all commendatory, which appeared in after issues.[1]

The Convention promised to be a large one, and so it proved. The season was charming; Groton appeared at its best. Representatives gathered from most, if not all, of the New England States. New York was represented. Gerrit Smith was expected, but was prevented. The Reverend Luther Myrick, editor of "The Union Herald" was present, and did himself and the cause great credit. The Reverend A. C. Lord, who was my successor, was also there, and shared creditably in the proceedings. Boston, of course, was present in the persons of some of its stalwarts. I recall Oliver Johnson, the anti-slavery veteran; Mrs. Chapman, one of the foremost women in the great movement, and one of the most gifted; and John A. Collins, general agent of the State Society. Theodore Parker was present, but only as an on-looker.

The Convention was enthusiastic as well as large. It continued for three days. It was not, as expected, entirely barmonious. The *Basis of Unity* was the matter of disagreement;

[1] See Appendix, page 23.

the one bone of contention. But, after a long and earnest discussion,—a good-spirited one, too,—it was overwhelmingly settled that the movement contemplated only a union on the Evangelical Basis; that it simply proposed a return to the Apostolic model; that it was not to alter the basis of that church, or to widen its door, or to modify its doctrines or its ritual or even its polity; that it was not a reform in any of these senses; that its sole object was the restoration of Original Church Unity; that it was broad in this sense, and no broader; that this was its purpose, justification, commendation. Such was the decision reached, and by a most decisive vote. The proceedings were published, as reported by Mrs. Chapman, in "The Church Reformer;" but, as I have said, not a copy have I been able to find.

I will add — yet I need not — that this was no Anti-Church movement. There was, and nearly synchronizing with it, such a movement. It was provoked, and not a little palliated, by the attitude of the Church toward the slave. It was the unchurchly position of the Church that occasioned it. And it went farther — went farther on the same principle. It struck at the State. It was Anti-State, as well as Anti-Church. It struck at both, and logically at what was cherished by both. Even the Bible did not escape. It was, I said, provoked, and in a degree extenuated. Not justified; for the abuse of a thing does not justify its destruction. This principle carried out would leave us nothing; everything would perish. The movement at Groton had no manner of connection with this. It was as far from it — using the Miltonic measurement —

"As from the centre thrice to the utmost pole."

The idea of these grand but mistaken men was to crush slavery by crushing the Church and the State. My idea was to crush it through them, by first bringing them back to their normal position. Hence, through all the bitter struggle, I stood by the Church and the State; stood by the Church to reconstruct it after the pattern of its Divine Founder, and by the State to reconstruct it after the pattern of its founders.

I stood by both for reconstruction after the original models. Such was my position. Such the position of the Church at the Hall.

The Convention naturally gave a new impetus to the cause; gave it character and standing, too. There were calls for lectures on all sides. They were given — given very extensively. And so continued until late in the summer of 1841. At that period, two gentlemen appeared at the hotel. One was the Hon. Wm. H. Stowell, of New Bedford. The North Christian Church of that city, and the largest one there, had, after serious trouble, dismissed its pastor, and not only desired a new one, but was intent upon a *new departure.* It desired an Orthodox man; I was the one sought. I assured them the thing was out of the question; that I could not possibly leave my position and work. Then they said they would stay the remainder of the season. They did stay several days. Finally they pressed me to spend a single Sabbath there; I reluctantly consented. After the Sabbath, a unanimous call was extended. Taking two weeks to consider, I at last accepted on the express conditions that the new departure should be actualized, and that I should have the cordial co-operation of the church in my two lines of reform. The Reverend A. C. Lord, as stated, was brought to take my place. He was a native of Rome, N. Y.; a man of good culture, excellent spirit, and earnestly devoted to Freedom in the State and Unity in the Church.

I left Groton regretfully in September, 1841. Many ties and tender bound me to the place. It will ever have a charm — a special one — as the birthplace of my oldest daughter, now Mrs. Stafford, of Chicago. As to my work there, I did what I could. There were faults and youthful indiscretions; were many. Yet I have nothing to take back, nothing to modify, as to principles or even methods. I feel, after the lapse of forty-five years, that they were right. Nor does the seeming failure, in the slightest degree, lessen this conviction. Whittier is right —

"Thy task may well seem over-hard,
Who scatterest in a thankless soil
Thy life as seed, with no reward
Save that which duty gives to toil.
Yet do thy work; it shall succeed
In thine or in another's day;
And if denied the victor's meed,
Thou shalt not lack the toiler's pay."

I have much more to add; but your space and patience have already been sorely taxed.

Faithfully yours,

SILAS HAWLEY.

APPENDIX.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE CHAPLIN was a prominent Abolitionist in the early days of Anti-slavery agitation. On August 8, 1850, he was thrown into prison at Washington, D. C., and treated with great cruelty and indignity, for helping two runaway slaves to escape, who belonged to Messrs. Toombs and Stephens, representatives in Congress from Georgia. He was subsequently given up to the Maryland authorities, and then confined in the jail at Rockville, the shire-town of Montgomery County, where he was treated with much kindness. It happened, fortunately for him, that the sheriff of this county was a gentleman and a Christian, and the jailer a man of good feelings and humanity. He was finally released on very heavy bail, provided by his friends and of course forfeited by him. A pamphlet was published soon afterward, giving a full history of the case, which was entitled: The Case | of | William L. Chaplin ; | being | an Appeal | to all | Respecters of Law and Justice, | against | the cruel and oppressive treatment to which, under color | of legal proceedings, he has been subjected, in the | District of Columbia and the State of | Maryland.|| Boston: Published by the Chaplin Committee 1851. pp. 54.

The following extract is taken from it: —

Thus, after an imprisonment of six weeks at Washington, and of thirteen weeks more at Rockville, was Mr. Chaplin delivered out of the hands of the Philistines; not, however, till his friends had paid for him the enormous ransom of $25,000. (Page 49.)

Mr. Chaplin was the son of the Reverend Daniel and Susanna (Prescott) Chaplin, and born at Groton on Octo-

ber 27, 1796. He died at Cortland, Cortland County, New York, on April 28, 1871. In speaking of him, the Reverend John Todd, D.D., who was the colleague and successor of his father, writes: —

> He was the youngest son, — the staff of the old man's age. He relinquished all hopes and openings in his profession, — the law, — that he might comfort and support his aged parents on their way to the grave. Most dutifully did he perform every filial duty till he had seen his parents laid in the tomb. Dr. James P. Chaplin, of Cambridge, so successful in the treatment of the insane, was an older brother; and his grandfather [great-uncle?], Col. Prescott, was a commander at the battle of Bunker Hill. (*Ibid.*, page 15.)

Dr. Amos Farnsworth was the son of Major Amos and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Farnsworth, and born at Groton on August 30, 1788. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1813, and died at Roxbury on July 31, 1861. He was a man of marked ability, and Mr. Hawley's appreciation of his character is eminently just. At an early period he espoused the cause of the slave, when it cost a man his social position and popularity to take the side of that unfortunate class. He was with Mr. Garrison at the time of the "Garrison Mob" in Boston, October 21, 1835, and he also helped largely to furnish the means for starting the "National Anti-Slavery Standard" at New York. Dr. Farnsworth's labors in the anti-slavery cause are noticed in the second volume of Mr. Garrison's Life, recently published.

The following tributes to Miss Farnsworth's character appeared soon after her death, the first one in the "Boston Commonwealth," February 23, 1884, and the other in the "Groton Citizen," March, 1884: —

> In Groton, 2d inst., Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth, aged 91 yrs. 3 mos., daughter of Major Amos Farnsworth, who fought at Bunker Hill.

This lady was a rare specimen of a genuine New England woman — strong in intellect, decided and independent in character, of great energy, and firm in her religious faith, and a constant reader of the best books, having a tenacious memory and keeping herself well informed of things occurring all over the world, in which she retained the vivid interest of a young person. An early Garrison abolitionist (as were her whole family), she was in sympathy with all reformatory efforts, including those to secure larger rights for women, and herself voted at the town election for school committee when 86. She excelled as a most ready letter-writer, and wrote a long letter the very morning of her death, which occurred suddenly of heart disease, while her mind was bright as ever. Among her papers has been found the following letter from Mr. Garrison, written her about five weeks before his death, dated Roxbury, April 19, 1879. After acknowledging some gifts for the suffering colored people in Kansas, he says: —

"It would be indeed a most pleasing occurrence to me if I could have the opportunity of seeing you face to face and conversing with you in regard to things past and present; but, though I am at least twelve years your junior, my health is so far affected that I am obliged to keep very closely to my home, though none the less in favor of 'immediate and unconditional emancipation' from all 'the ills that flesh is heir to;' but happily that will be realized at no distant day, in accordance with the law of mortality. I bear in affectionate remembrance your deceased brother, Dr. Amos Farnsworth, whose friendship I greatly prized, and who brought to the support of the anti-slavery cause an inflexible purpose, a whole-souled consecration, a warmly sympathetic spirit, and a noble disregard of that 'fear of man, which bringeth a snare.' I hope to clasp hands with him on another plane of existence, and with many other dear friends and co-workers, who have preceded me in the matter of translation to a higher life. May the remainder of your days be without any drawback and yet extended to a centennial period.

"Yours with profound respect,

"WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON."

MISS ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH,

a well-known resident of Groton, died of old age on Saturday, February 2. She was the daughter of Major Amos and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Farnsworth, and born on October 19, 1792. She came from a sturdy stock, both physically and mentally; and representatives of her family not infrequently have reached an age upwards of ninety years.

Her father died October 19, 1847, aged 93 years, 6 months and 1 day; and her mother died December 11, 1847, aged 90 years, 7 months and 24 days, each one at the time of death the oldest person in town.

Her brother Luke lived to be over 90, and she herself at the time of decease was 91 years, 3 months and 14 days. Her ancestry was peculiarly of Groton origin, having descended from families who belonged to the very earliest settlers of the place, including among them the Rockwoods, Longleys, and Prescotts. She was the last member of her immediate branch, bearing the name, who lived in the town. She was more familiar with the old traditions of Groton than any person living at the present time.

Miss Farnsworth was a woman of strong mental qualities, and took active interest in all the social and political questions of the day. She was a constant reader of the newspapers, and kept herself informed with regard to current news. She was an ardent advocate of temperance, and a firm believer in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures. It was always pleasant to talk with her on these subjects, as she was so familiar with them, and ever ready with apt quotations.

In her girlhood Miss Farnsworth was a scholar at the Academy, having attended in the year 1804, while under the preceptorship of Mr. Butler. At that time the institution was known as Groton Academy. She always took a deep interest in the welfare of the school; and only last October she sent for the writer of these lines and told him that she did not expect to live through the winter, and desired to add her name to the list of subscribers, in aid of the Academy fund. She then gave him the sum of five hundred dollars for that object, and told him to say nothing about it during her life-time, and this is the first public announcement of the fact.

S. A. G.

The following reference to the Convention is found in the Life of William Lloyd Garrison, written by his sons, and published last year in New York. A fuller account is given in No. IV. of this Historical Series (page 13), under the head of "Two Groton Conventions."

The year 1840 was, in a fermenting period, distinguished for the number of conventions, of every species, looking to the amelioration of human society. One, which made much stir, was held at Groton, Mass., on August 12 (while Mr. Garrison was on the water), being called by the friends of Christian Union, who inquired: "Is the outward organization of the Church a human or a divine institution?" Amos Farnsworth was in the chair, and among other Abolitionists who participated were A. B. Alcott, J. V. Himes, and Cyrus M. Burleigh. But also one remarked the Rev. George Ripley, the future founder of the Brook Farm Community; Christopher Pearce Cranch; and (as the report read in the *Liberator*) "—— Parker, of Roxbury," with little-known Second Adventists and "Come-outers" (II. 421).

REMINISCENCES OF THE REV. MR. PATCH.

By the kindness of Mr. Hawley I am allowed to make an extract from a letter, dated Stevens Point, Wisconsin, February 19, 1886, and written to him by the Reverend Jacob Patch, a native of Groton, which gives some of his early recollections of the town.

I have no recollections of Groton that would not probably be far better *recollected* by many who are now living there, and have kept their memory fresh by passing places associated with interesting events, and by hearing over and over again a recital of the otherwise fading scraps of history. Leaving the State at sixteen, I had only a boy's interest in passing events. Dr. Chaplin had grown

old, and as the art of dentistry was not then perfected, old people often were very slow and measured in speech, and we boys were in the habit of doing some thinking *between* the Doctor's utterances, until we were forced to sleep by being compelled to sit still ; and hence when John Todd came, with his sparkling thoughts and earnest gestures, we children became his followers. Dr. Chaplin seems to have been of the Orthodox faith, and so he was in heart sympathy with Mr. Todd and his followers. But the women and children could not vote in church matters, and the poor men going with the Todd party were out-voted, and voted out of the meeting-house by those who had adopted the Unitarian views, and hence were obliged, though not well able, to meet the cost of building a house, and sustain the work incident to the separate congregation. Those were times of highly excited feelings ; and then, as at other times, there were men of the baser sort, who had not intellect and good taste enough to devise any better way to express their zeal, who would take out the *linchpins* (they did not have burrs or nuts then to hold the wheels on their carriages) and make other disarrangement of harness and carriages at the evening meetings, — and these feats of foolishness and danger were practised upon the Todd party without retaliation. The most impressive event of the year 1829 or about that time was the burning of barns.[1] I do not remember how many, but at least seven valuable barns were burned within a few months, and there seemed to be no discrimination of party in politics or church. The whole matter, as far as I can remember, was without explanation. All such events, you readily see, would be the things remembered by a boy, and better remembered, perhaps, by people who were of more mature age at the time, and are still living with their faculties unimpaired ; so please do not let Dr. Green expect me to contribute anything connected with the history of dear old Groton. It is a pleasure to see the name of a son of our physician of olden time in honor.

[1] See No. IX. of this Historical Series, page 24.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XII.

GROTON DURING THE INDIAN WARS.

JOHN PRESCOTT'S AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN

SIMON WILLARD AND NONACOICUS FARM.

SAMUEL CARTER, FOURTH MINISTER OF GROTON.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XII.

GROTON DURING THE INDIAN WARS.

THE following article contains certain facts not mentioned in "Groton during the Indian Wars," and is intended to supplement the incidents given in that book.

The fullest account of the burning of Groton by the Indians, on March 13, 1676, is found in the Reverend William Hubbard's Narrative; though there is a good deal of confusion and uncertainty in the dates, so far as they relate to the relief sent to the town and the removal of the inhabitants at that time. Various attempts have been made by different writers to reconcile these inconsistencies, but without success. The following extracts from manuscripts, hitherto unpublished, throw a little light on the subject, but unfortunately do not solve all the doubts. The first one is from a paper among the Middlesex Court files at East Cambridge.

It seems that Thomas Danforth, Register, had issued a summons to the constable at Watertown to warn the freemen of that town to choose three able and meet men to serve on the jury of trials; and a return is made by William Bond, constable, certifying that John Bright was one of the three men, but he "is now since his choyce Impressed to helpe fetch ye poore desstresed people from Groatne." The certificate is dated "15 1 75-6," — the same as March 15, 1676, — and found in File 27, No. 2, Paper 6.

The other extract is taken from a letter written by the Council to Major Savage, on April 1, 1676, and now among the Massachusetts Archives (LXVIII. 192) at the State House. The extract is as follows: —

The Towne of Lancâster is wholy deserted Groton can abide no longer y^n^ Vntill carts bee sent To bring y^m^ wch wilbe next weeke, Chelmsfored wee fearre will bee soone nessecated to do ye like and what Meadfeld and other froneters towns may short bee put vpon ye Lord know

This agrees with one of the accounts that has come down from early times. It is highly probable, however, that some of the families left the place immediately after the destruction of their homes.

At this assault John Morse was carried off by the Indians, as a prisoner, and taken to the neighborhood of Wachusett mountain, but he was ransomed soon afterward on the payment of five pounds by John Hubbard, of Boston. The following extract from a letter, written by Daniel Henchman, June 2, 1676, helps to fix the date of his release. Probably he was not delivered up until the money was forthcoming, as prisoners were a cash article, worth at that time about four pounds; and the rum, doubtless, hastened the bargain. Tom Dublet, the agent in the affair, was a friendly Indian, with several "aliases," who lived at Wamesit on the Merrimack River.

Captain Daniel Henchman writes, under the date of June 2, 1676: —

Tom. Dublet went a way soone after Mr Clark and with him Jonathan Prescott, Daniel Champney & Josiah White carrying the pay for Goodman Moss & 3 gallons of rum.

[Massachusetts Archives, LXIX. 11.]

In the spring of 1684, eight years afterward, Prescott and Champney signed a certificate to the Council, setting forth the valuable services of the Indian in securing Morse's freedom, and recommending him for a gratuity, which was accordingly granted by that body, in the shape of two coats. The certificate is as follows: —

April the second 1684

Whereas wee Peeter Gardner, Daniel Chamney & Jonathan Prescot were Imployed By the Hono^r^ed Council somtime in May or June 1677 [1676?] To goe vp among The enimy Indians that then quartered in the woods About Watchuset in order to procure the deliuery of Inglish Captiues. Wee doe Certify that Thomas Dublet alius Nepanet was our interp^r^ter & helper in that Affayre; And that hee had beene a jorney before that time to treat wth the enimy & had procured them to meet vs, aboue twenty miles from ther quarters for the sachem met vs betwene Concord & Groaten; And at that time old Goodman Moss of Waterton [Groton?] was deliuerd to vs & brought home & haueing By order paid fower pounds for his redempti[on] wch Thomas Nepan[et] had bargaind for in his forme[r] jorney, And wee further say y^t^ the said Tom Nepanet carried it faithfully in that matter & Deserues satisfaction for his Trauile & Adventure in y^t^ dificult time & wee vnderstand hee hath receiued no satisfaction for that seruice hitherto, therefore wee humble conceue the Hono^r^ed Councill should consider, him & order him to receue thirty or forty shillings for that Hazardoes seruice: And In testimony of the Truth of this certificate wee whose names are aboue exp^r^sed haue hervnto sett o^r^ hands, the day & yeare aboue written.

To bee p^r^sented To the Honble Gouerno^r^ & Councill of the Massachusetts Colony; by the ꝑson Concerned.

JONATHAN PRESCOTT
DANIL CHAMNE

Edward Rawson, the Secretary of the Colony, writes under the certificate the action in regard to it, as follows:—

At a Council held at Boston the 8th May 1684 In Answer to the petition of Tho Dublett Indian & in sattisfaction for his paynes & trauile about ye procurme^t^ of Goodman Morses freedom from ye Indians Its ordered that ye Tresurer Giue him two Coates

past

E R S

[Massachusetts Archives, XXX. 279.]

The Colonial authorities had full knowledge of the intended attacks on the several towns of Lancaster, Groton, Marlborough, Sudbury, and Medfield, during Philip's War; and

their slow action in meeting the danger is not easy to explain. Rumors had been rife among the settlers that danger was threatening, and, in order to learn the truth of these stories, Governor Leverett concluded to send out spies. For this purpose he selected James Quanapaug and Job Katenanit, two friendly Indians, who were as well known for their personal bravery as for their fidelity to the English. They started at once on the service, at the great risk of their lives, "through the Woods in the depth of Winter," says Hubbard, in his Narrative, "when the wayes were impassable for any other sort of people: these two, by name *James* and *Job* ordered their business so prudently, as that they were admitted into those Indian habitations, as Friends, and had free liberty of Discourse with them" (page 76). Quanapaug returned some time before the other spy, and reported to the Council the result of his hazardous journey, which is found in a communication, dated January 24, 1675–6, and now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He says:—

And this Indian [One-eyed John, or Monaco] told mee, they would fall upon Lancast^r^, Groton, Malborough, Sudbury, & Meadfeild; & that the 1° thing they would do should bee to cut down Lancaster bridge, so to hinder theire flight, & assistance coming to them; & that they intended to fall upon them in about 20 dayes time from wedensday last.

The manuscript is printed in the "Collections" (VI. 205–208), and is entitled "James Quanapaug's Information."

This intelligence was of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of these outlying towns, but the authorities do not appear to have heeded it. If prompt action had been taken, some of the bloody massacres of that period might have been averted. Quanabaug foretold, almost to a day, the attack on Lancaster, and it was carried out exactly as he predicted. His paper was dated January 24, 1675–6, which day fell on a Monday, and the preceding Wednesday came on January 19; twenty days from that Wednesday would bring the time to February 8. The attack came on the 10th, which would be "about twenty days" from the date he mentioned.

No attention seems to have been paid to Quanabaug's timely information, until the return of Job, the other spy, who reached Major Gookin's house at Cambridge, completely exhausted after a fatiguing march of eighty miles through the wilderness, on the day before the fatal blow was struck, and confirmed the fearful news. Then, and not till then, was help sent to the beleaguered garrison at Lancaster, where in one house fourteen persons were killed and twenty taken prisoners during this assault, though the relief arrived in season to recapture another garrison house.

The leader of this attack was One-eyed John, the same Indian who commanded a few weeks later at the assault on Groton. He was a vile wretch, who met his well-merited fate on the gallows at Boston, on September 26, 1676. In a letter from the Reverend Thomas Cobbet, of Ipswich, to Dr. Increase Mather, dated March 28, 1677, the writer thus alludes to his jeers: —

ye blasphemous speeches of one eyed John vttered at Groton to Capt. Parker in ye heareing of Diuerse: Boasting how many places he had Burned, & sayeing he would burne Concord, Watertowne Charlestowne &c Adding: And Me will doe, what me will:

[Hutchinson Papers, II. leaf 288 *verso*, in the office of the Secretary of State.]

At this period, Captain James Parker, of Groton, was the most prominent man in town, filling many civil and military positions. Mr. Butler, in his History, says of him: —

He was successively chosen a selectman of Groton in most of the years from 1662 to 1699, when chosen for the last time. During this period he was moderator of most of the town meetings, a member and chairman of all important committees, chosen to locate highways, lay out land, establish boundaries of the town, and in fine, to transact all business of a municipal, parochial, or public nature. He was a very active, noted, and, as is presumed, a very brave officer, in the wars with the Indians. (Pages 281, 282.)

It appears by the following extract from a letter dated April 12, 1692, that he at this time had charge of the public

ammunition stored in Groton. Major Thomas Hinchman writing to the Council from Chelmsford, says: —

I desier an ordr to Capt Parker for some shott who hath a Quantity of ye Cuntrys stock in his hand. I am Advised yt Lancaster hunters have lately been wth a cõpany of Indians near wachusett, ye number of ym is Reported to be about 300. yy Report themselves to be Albanians Senecas Maquas wth ye western or Connecticut Indians, This vnusuall Confluenc of so many Indians makes many to suspect & fear a design agst us. I doubt not but ye Councill will satisfy Themselves about it. The souldrs yt I Desier will be needed in Chelmsfd Groton & Lancaster:

[Massachusetts Archives, XXXVII. 340.]

The following extract is taken from an undated letter, written by John Cotton, the minister of Plymouth, to his wife, Mrs. Joanna Cotton, then visiting at Sandwich. It contains an interesting reference to the Reverend Mr. Hobart's son, who was carried off from Groton by the Indians, on July 27, 1694. There has long been a tradition that one of Mr. Hobart's children lay concealed, during the assault, under a tub in the cellar, and thus was saved from the fury of the savages. This story is in part confirmed by the letter, though it turns out to have been the maidservant, and not one of the children. Mr. Cotton writes: —

I thinke I forgot to tell you that Mr Hobarts lost son & a woman ran away & gat home, the Indians being drunk, she sayes they were 30 & the English were neere them, had they come a little further they might easily have taken & killed them all; Mr. Hob's maid hid herselfe under a tub in the cellar, the Indians were there, laid their guns on the tub, smelt her not.

At the bottom of the letter the following note is appended, in the Reverend Thomas Prince's well-known handwriting: —

July 27. 94. Ye Indns sett on Groton; killed more yn 20 carried away more yn 12 — took 2 sons of ye R Mr Gershom Hobart, ye minr &c.

Mr. Prince adds, also, that the supposed date of the letter is August, 1694, — which conjecture in connection with another

letter from Mr. Cotton, dated, appears to be confirmed. If this supposition is correct, the report that Mr. Hobart's captured son had run away from the Indians was probably false, as Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, in his Diary, under the date of May 1, 1695, says that young Hobart was then still held a prisoner by them.

The original letter is found among the manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in the volume marked "Prince Papers" 61. D, leaf 23. Another undated letter, written by Mr. Cotton, in the same volume of manuscripts, leaf 33, contains an allusion to Bomazeen, who led the Indian forces against Groton at this assault. It is addressed to his son Rowland, the minister of Sandwich, and, according to Mr. Prince, was written on June 10, 1695. The reference is as follows:—

The 8 captives come [*torn and illegible*] g^st^ Bumbazeen to his face in court as a capt in murthers etc at Groton.

At the bottom of this letter Mr. Prince has written: "95. May. 20. ye Indians bring 8 captives to Pemaquid-Fort & obt^d^ a Truce for 30 Days."

All the contemporary accounts of the attack of July 27, 1694, state that thirteen prisoners were taken and carried off, but Ann Jenkins, in her deposition, printed on page 73 of "Groton during the Indian Wars," says that only twelve captives were brought back by the Indian leader. It is highly probable that little Betty Longley was the thirteenth; and tradition says that she perished from exposure, soon after she was taken.

During the early period of Massachusetts history there were "wars and rumors of wars," and sometimes the rumors produced almost as much consternation as the actual hostilities. In common with other outlying places, Groton had her share of vague reports, and the inhabitants were often disturbed by their circulation. General Wait Winthrop, a nephew of Deane Winthrop, who was one of the founders of this town, writes

from Boston, June 13, 1698, to his brother John, in New London, Connecticut, as follows:—

We haue a report from Hadly of Indians and French coming upon Deerfield, Lancaster, and Groton; and orders are giuen to send men for there defence.

[Massachusetts Historical Collections, VIII. fifth series, 530.]

Fortunately, however, there does not seem to have been any good foundation for the report.

A few years after this time, according to the town records, a garrison was needed at Thomas Chamberlain's mill, situated in the northerly part of Groton. Thomas was the father of John Chamberlain, who was noted as the man who killed Paugus in Lovewell's Fight at Pigwacket, on May 8, 1725. The entry in the records is as follows:—

Groton may the 8 1706 At a town Meting legaly woned thay ded by uot declare thay would and doe desire that Thomas Chamberill mill may bee up helde by a solgar or solgars for the good of the town by a patition to the cort or athoratie

JOSEPH LAKIN *town clark*

Thomas Chamberlain was a carpenter and miller, and lived about a quarter of a mile northerly of Wattle's Pond, on the west side of the road to East Pepperell. He is supposed to have died about the year 1709.

If Chamberlain's mill was defended by a garrison at this period, it was probably there that the two Newton soldiers were killed on July 21, 1706, and another Newton soldier was captured at the same time. The account is given on page 92 of "Groton during the Indian Wars." Two of these men were brothers by the name of Seager, and the third one was Nathaniel Healy. It was Ebenezer Seager who was killed, and probably Henry Seager, Jr., who was taken prisoner. They had been dining with one Blood, and families of this name were then living in the neighborhood. Mr. Butler, in his History (page 265), mentions the fact that there was a large number of persons by the name of Blood in Groton, and that "they resided in the north part of the town."

The Reverend Wilkes Allen, in his History of Chelmsford (page 35, *note*), states that Major Tyng was wounded by the Indians between Groton and Concord some time during the year 1711, and taken to the latter town, where he died; and further on in the same work (page 129, *note*) he gives the Christian name of Major Tyng, which was William, and corrects the date, which should be 1710.

The following article contains an allusion to one of the Tarbell captives, and is found in "The Massachusetts Gazette: and The Boston Weekly News-Letter," October 15, 1772. It is the account from which the abridgment was made that appears in Farmer and Moore's "Collections" (Concord, New Hampshire, 1822), and quoted on page 121 of "Groton during the Indian Wars."

DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE in New-Hampshire;
September 21, 1772.

THIS Day Mr. Silvanus Ripley, and his Companion, and Interpreter, Lieut. Joseph Taylor, returned from their Mission to the Indian Tribes in Canada, and brought with them ten Children from those Tribes, to receive an Education in this School; two of which are Children of English Captives, who were taken by the Indians in former Wars, while they were young, and naturalized; and these Children are brought up in the Language, and Customs of the Indians. The great forwardness and unanimity of their chief Men, when they were called in Council on the occasion, to have their Children come, and their final resolution to send them, notwithstanding the most forceable opposition their Priest made to it, the Chearfulness, orderly and good Behaviour of the Lads on their Way, and intire satisfaction on their arrival *Home* (as they called it) and the Accounts they give of Numbers of their Acquaintance which they have left behind, who desired to come with them for an Education, and may be expected in due time, and all this from a Thirst for Learning, founded partly on a Conviction of the Utility of it, which they have got by observing the great Advantage which the Learned have, above others they have lived amongst, and only thro' their superior Learning, also the great and general Veneration the Chiefs expressed towards the benevolent, and charitable Design of this Indian School, exhibit a truly encouraging Prospect that

God yet mercifully designs something shall be done in that Quarter for the Honor of his great Name. Among these Children, is a Grandson about 8 Years old, of Mr. Tarbull, who was taken from Groton in the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, about 68 Years ago, when he was about 10 Years old; he greatly rejoiced to see them on this Occasion, and earnestly encouraged his Grandson's coming: the old Gentleman is hearty, and well, and is the eldest Chief of that Village, — he expressed great Affection to his Relations in New-England, and desired they might be informed of his Welfare, and also that he had a Grandson at this School, — also a Grandson of Mrs. Eunice Williams, who was captivated with her Father, the Rev. Mr. Williams of Deerfield, in the Year 1704, would have come with them; but was sick with the Measels; but may be expected in the Spring, if they meet with nothing discouraging.

N. B. The Number of Indian Children now in this School, is 17, besides one that is put out to a private Family, on account of his being too young for the School.

NAUMOX is an additional word to the list of local Indian names printed on page 189 of "Groton during the Indian Wars." It is applied to a long low hill or ridge, a short distance west of the road to East Pepperell, near the Longley monument, and running parallel with the road. It is also used in connection with the neighborhood. Shepley Hill is another long low ridge in close proximity to Naumox, and lying to the west of it. The name is rarely heard at the present time, though it was in use, according to the town records, as far back as February 28, 1670; and I mention the fact here, in order to extend its survival.

The inscriptions on the three monuments erected by the town in the autumn of 1879, and formally dedicated on February 20, 1880, were written by President Eliot, of Harvard University. The original draft of these inscriptions, and various other papers connected with them, are now preserved in the Boston Public Library, bound up with a printed copy of the Address delivered on the occasion by Samuel A. Green.

JOHN PRESCOTT'S AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN.

The following Agreement made between John Prescott, of Lancaster, and a committee of the town of Groton, concerning a grist-mill, is found in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (III. 399, 400) at East Cambridge. My attention was first called to it by the Honorable Henry S. Nourse, of Lancaster. The committee was appointed on August 6, 1667, and authorized to make "a firme bargaine" with Prescott. See the printed edition of "The Early Records of Groton, Massachusetts. 1662–1707" (pages 20, 21).

This Indenture made the twentyninth day of Sep^t In the yeare of our Lord, one thousand six hundred sixty & seaven. Between John Prescott Senr of Lanchaster in the Coun̄ of Midlesex in the Mattachusets Colony in New England Blackesmith on the one party, and James Parker, James Knap, John Page, and Elliz Barnes, agents & ffeoffees in trust in the behalfe of the Inhabitants of Grotton in the above named County on the other party, Witnesseth that the above named John Prescott Senr hath covenanted, granted & Comissoñed, and by these presents for him the said John Prescott, his heyers, executors, and administrato^rs, doth fully, clearly, & absolutely, coven^t, grant, and condition to and with the said James Parker, James Knap, John Page, and Elliz Barnes to Build and errect in some meet place, within the bounds of the abovenamed Towne of Grotton, a good & sufficient corne mill or mills, and the same to finish so as may be fitting to grind the corne of the said Towne, by the 29th of Septem^b next, next ensueing the date hereof or within foureteen dayes after, and from time to time and at all times after the errection or building thereof to keep and maineteyne the said towne mill in good & sufficient repayre, and therewith to grind the corne all and eure part thereof, that shall from time to time be thither brought by the Inhabitants of the said Towne for such a reasonable allowance and towle as the law of the Country doth

pmitt, and at such seasonable times, as shall be orderly agreed upon for the mutuall accomodation of both partyes [inevitable causaltyes by fire, water, or other sudden exegences always excepted] in wch case or cases the sa^d John Prescott Senr his heyres, executors, adm̄strators, & assignes of the said mill shall from time to time and at all times make reparation of any such breach or breaches as may so happen, without any unnecessary delay or neglect.

In consideration whereof the above named James Parker, James Knap, John Page, & Elliz Barnes, by the appoyntm^t, and in the behalfe of the Inhabitants of the abovesaid Towne of Grotton, and by the Power to them betrusted and given, do give and grant unto the said John Prescott his heyres and assignes five hundred acres of Lands with in the lim̄itts of the abovesaid Grotton Towne, to be layd out in any place or places as may best accomodate the said mill, and also twenty acres of meadow land in any place not yet in propriety at the choyce of the said John Prescott, also free liberty to vse and improve any streame, or streames of water within the said Towne, and to raise the same to such height as may be for the best good of the said mill or mills, provided he destroy not any mans property already layd out, Also towards the building of the said mills or mill, two dayes worke of a man for every house lott or family within the lim̄itts of the said Towne, and at such time or times to be done and performed, as the said John Prescott shall see meete, to call for the same, upon reasonable notice given, also freedome and release from all taxes and rates that the said mill and accomodations of lands above granted may at any time be lyable vuto for the vse of the said Towne, for the terme of Twenty years next ensueing the time of the first grinding of the said mill, and finally that no other person or persons whatsoever shall be allowed or prmitted to build any other corne mill within the said Towne, unless he will do it for his owne private use only and on his owne propriety. To haue and to hold the above granted lands and premisses, and eurie pt and parcell thereof vuto him the said John Prescott Senr his heyres and assignes forever to his and their only propper vse & behooffe. And to the true performance hereof both partyes do mutually bynd themselves their executo^rs & administrato^rs each to other firmly by these p^rsents.

In Witnes whereof the abovenamed partyes haue interchangeably put their hands and Seales the day and yeare first above written.

In line ye 25 the word (one) was defaced, before this Covenant was signed as these witnesses can testifie

Sealed & deliu[rd]
In p[r]sence off
Samuel Willard
William Lakin

John Prescott
his marke & a Seale
James Parker
James Knap
John Page
Elliz. Barron

This Covenant was owned by the partyes Conc[r]ned herein the 1[st] of the 5[th] mo. 1668.

Before mee SIMON WILLARD Assist[t]

Entred and Recorded Decemb. 30[th] 1669.
By THOMAS DANFORTH Record[r]

SIMON WILLARD AND NONACOICUS FARM.

One of the most prominent men in the early history of the Massachusetts Colony was Major Simon Willard, a Kentish man from England. He had lived at Concord, Lancaster, and Groton, and in all these places exerted a wide influence. He had filled various civil offices, and in his day was a noted military man. For his public services the General Court, at the session beginning May 6, 1657, granted him five hundred acres of unappropriated land, wherever he could find it. One year later, at the session beginning May 19, 1658, after the tract had been selected, a definite grant was made, — though under a misapprehension, — which appears to have been in satisfaction, in part at least, of a debt due Major Willard from John Sagamore, an Indian living at Pawtucket, in the neighborhood of the present city of Lowell, though sometimes mentioned as of Groton. The land lay in the south part of Groton, and is now included within the town of Ayer. The entry in the General Court Records is as follows: —

Courts Graunt to Major Symon Willard.

In Answer to the petition of Major Symon Willard The Court Judgeth it meete to graunt his Request viz a farme of five hundred acres on the south side of the Riuer that Runneth from Nashaway [Lancaster] to Merremack betweene Lancaster & Groten & is In satisfaction of a debt of forty fower pounds Jn° Sagamore of Patuckett doth owe to him Provided he make ouer all his Right title & Interest in the execution · obtayned agt the sajd Sagamore to the countrje wch was donne. (IV. 281.)

In making this extract and the next one, I have followed the General Court Records in the office of the Secretary of State. The volume has been paged differently at three separate times, and I have taken the paging marked with red ink.

Major Willard's petition for five hundred acres in this particular locality was granted by the General Court through a mistake, as the tract of land had been previously taken up by the proprietors of Groton Plantation, though no proper return had been made to the Court. This neglect or oversight led to the mistake, which was recognized years later and rectified by the Legislature. See "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (pages 32, 33), for a fuller account of the case.

At the session beginning October 18, 1659, the survey of the tract was returned, and duly approved by the Court, as follows: —

Major Willards farme of 500 acres by Groaten &c.

In Obedience to the act or Graunt of the Honnored Generall Court of the Massachusett, in New England lajd out & exactly measured major Symon willards farme . conteyning fiue hundred acres scittuate lying and being for the most part, on the East side of Groaten Riuer = betwixt the plantation . graunted to the Inhabitants of Lancaster and the now Inhabitants of Groten at the place wch is Called by the Indians nanajcoyijcus . begining at the great riuer side . about one hundred rodds to the Nortward of nanajcoyijcus brooke begining wee say at the riuers side runing a due east ljne ninety fower rodds there making an angle varying forty fiue degrees . to the southward then Runing one mile and a halfe and forty Rods . vpon a southeast point there making an Angle varying twenty degrees from the old Ljne . Runing on that point sixty Rodds . there making an Acute Angle of sixty degrees . Runing on a west & by South point halfe a mile there making an angle varying two & twenty degrees . to the Northward Runing on a west & by North point one mile . there making an Angle . varying thirty three degrees from the old ljne . Runing on a northwest point to the Riuer It being seven Score Rods . and from thence vpon a streight line to the place . where wee begann . wch last ljne doth Crosse Groten Riuer twice .

this by me THOMAS NOJES

The Court Allowes & Approooves of this Returne provided the thirtje acres lajd out ouer the North East side of the Riuer be left out & taken on some other part of the ljnes & that there be not . aboue one hundred acres of meadow lajd out in this farme. (IV. 334.)

About the year 1671, Major Willard removed to Groton from Lancaster, where he had previously lived for ten or twelve years, and built a house on this tract of land, — now situated in the town of Ayer, and then known as Nonacoicus, — which he continued to occupy until it was burnt by the Indians during Philip's War. It is said to have been the first house destroyed in the assault on the town. At a town meeting, held on October 14, 1672, Major Willard was made a free commoner for feed for cattle and for wood and timber, and he must have been a resident at that time. His place was well known, and often the rendezvous of troops employed in military expeditions. Soon after the destruction of his house he removed to Charlestown, where he died on April 24, 1676, only a few weeks after Groton was abandoned. The outlines of his farm, according to Noyes's survey, were somewhat irregular, but they can still be traced, in part, by the angular boundary of the town of Ayer, along the western half of its southern border. Originally Nonacoicus included the district now known as the Old Mill, in Harvard, — two miles away from Willard's farm, — where Jonas Prescott had his grist-mill. John Prescott, of Lancaster, in his will, dated October 8, 1673, and on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge, says, in reference to his third son, Jonas, that "he hath Receiued a full Childs portion at nonecoicus in a Corne mill and Lands and other goods." Singularly enough, Mr. Butler, who was familiar with the word, called it *Monafocus*, and in his History (page 287) so prints it. The name of Nonacoicus is still kept up in the neighborhood, as applied to a brook, though it is frequently contracted to Coicus.

In the summer of 1674, Major Willard conveyed one quarter part of the Nonacoicus grant to his son Henry, and in the following year another quarter to his son Simon. Both these sons afterward reconveyed their respective interests to the mother, then a widow and administratrix of her husband's estate. The original deed of Major Simon Willard to his son Henry is now in my possession, given to me more than thirty-five years ago by the late Honorable John Boynton, of Groton. A copy of it was printed in "The New England Historical

and Genealogical Register" (VII. 114), for April, 1852; and soon afterward, at the suggestion of the late Joseph Willard, Esq., it was recorded in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds at East Cambridge. The deed is in the handwriting of the Reverend Samuel Willard, then of Groton, and is as follows:—

Wheras upon a contract, between my son Henry Willard, & Mary Lakin daughter of sergeant Jño Lakin, both of Groton, I thought meet to settle somthing upon him for his outward subsistence: I doe therfore, by these presents, give, grant, aliene, & confirme, as a free deed of gift, without any entaile, one quartar part of my farm at Nonacoiacus in an equal portion & proportion to meadow, entervaile, & upland, with all the appurtenances therto belonging: excepting any part of the broken up land from coming into the division of the said quarter, only four acres of broken land hee shall have freely to improve for a yeer or two, or till hee bring some of his own into tillage: reserving also to my selfe during my life all the ponds & swamps, with free egresse & regresse: & for his quartar part of meadow, hee shall not have liberty, during my life, to hire to any other, till I have the forsaking it, on reasonable terms. & in answer to his desire, I grant him the liberty of taking up sixty acres of his proportion of upland, entervail & meadow neere the river in an entire & formable body: also, as to that part of his meadow wch shall fall to be above the bridge, I reserve liberty of flowing, & damming the brooke, for the subduing of meadow, unto which worke hee shall contribute proportionably:

To the said Henry Willard, his heirs, executo^rs^, administrato^rs^, & assignes, to have, & to hold, to occupye & possesse for ever, without any just molestation, encumbrance, lawsuit, whatsoever, from mee, my heirs, executo^rs^ & assignes for ever, or from any former alienation, mortgaze, deed of gift, or sale, or obligation to any person, or persons whatsoever.

In Testimony wherof I here set to my hand & seale, this sixteenth day of July: 1674.

Signed, sealed, delivered
In presence of:

SIMON WILLARD SEAL.

CYPRIAN STEEVENS
BENIAMEN ALLEN

Joseph Willard, Esq., in the "Willard Memoir; or, Life and Times of Major Simon Willard:" (Boston, 1858), says:—

A plan of Danforth's survey, drawn upon parchment, is still in existence, the property of a citizen of Groton. It gives the position of Major Willard's house, the course of Nashaway River, and Nonaicoicus Brook; but these courses are laid down very inaccurately. This "Nonaicoicus Farm"—at a distance from any village, and, until recently, having but few inhabitants—is now a very valuable territory, in the course of rapid development in population and wealth. It is an important point in our extended net-work of railroads. The station-house at "Groton Junction" [now Ayer] is upon this land, and it is the centre of a growing business. (Page 329.)

Perhaps the plan of Danforth's survey, here referred to, is the one given in "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton," and described on page 13 of that book, though the site of Willard's house and the course of the Nonacoicus Brook are not shown in the reproduction.

At the time of his death, Major Willard owed the estate of Hezekiah Usher, a merchant of Boston, the sum of *£272 2s. 3d.*; and on June 20, 1679, the widow Willard, in payment of the debt, sold the farm to the Usher heirs,—three quarters to Hezekiah Usher, Jr., and one quarter to Samuel Nowell, who had married the widow of the elder Usher. The record of the deed reads "of all that farme or Tract of Land commonly called & knowne by the Name of NONAICOICUS farme." Both these parcels of land were afterward conveyed, on May 11, 1687, to Jonathan Tyng, of Dunstable, in trust for his son John, a nephew of Hezekiah. On December 3, 1713, Tyng in his own name transferred the farm to William Farwell and John Sollendine, both of Dunstable.

Mr. Butler, in his History (page 91), mentions, among the garrisons at Groton in the year 1692, one "at Mr. Hezekiah Usher's farm," where there were stationed three soldiers, besides Samuel Bennett and ——— Bennett, in all five men. He says further, that "the location of Mr. Usher's farm and the Bennett's is not known," but he inclines to the opinion that it was in that part of Groton now included in Littleton.

It was, in fact, the Nonacoicus farm, which then belonged to the Usher family; and the Bennetts undoubtedly lived in the neighborhood. There is a brook rising near the Shaker Village in Harvard, and running into Spectacle Pond, which has been known for a long period as Bennett's Brook; and it is highly probable that it took its name from this family.

Hezekiah Usher, Jr., who owned for a while the Willard farm, married Bridget Hoar, the widow of President Leonard Hoar of Harvard College, who was a daughter of John Lisle, one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal under Cromwell; but the marriage was not a happy one. She left him and went to England in the year 1687, and did not return until after his death, which took place at Lynn on July 11, 1697. Usher's will is dated Nonacoicus, August 17, 1689, and in it he refers very plainly to his domestic troubles, and bitterly blames his absent wife. Usher was a man of morbid temperament and hardly responsible for what he wrote. He says himself, that some people may attribute his will "to melancholy or distractedness," which is probably the correct way of judging him. The document is a long one and published in full in "The Historical Magazine" (Morrisania, N. Y.) for September, 1868 (pages 120–122). The following is an extract taken from the will, on file in the Suffolk County Probate Office, and numbered 2382: —

And when it Shall please God to bring my change on me, As for my body I desier it may be decently buried, And not much Spent on my funirall, for I haue Seene Some that haue bene Soe Expenciue at there funiralls that the Living haue Suffered, for the burieing of the Deceased — And as to the Dispose of my outward Estate — in the first place I desier that all my due debts Should be payd as Soone as posibly may — And unto my Deere wife whome I may count very deere to me, by her Loue to what I had, But not a Reale Loue to me — which Should a counted it more worth then Anny Other outward Enjoym^{t} — And for her coveteosnes — And over Reaching — and cuning — Impresion — That hath almost Ruinated me, by a Gentele Behavior hauing Oyly words but as Sharp Swords to me, whose cuning is like those to be as a Angle of light to Others, but wanting Loue and charity for me, And like Sr Edm^{o}

to oprese the people, And his hand not to be Seene in it and don by his counsell — And — therfor — I doe cut her off from ye benefit of all my Estate, and doe not bestow any thing upon her, but what the Law doth allow, Because I Looke at her as deceauable in her goeing over for Engl^d^, geeting & grasping all her Estate into her hand and of mine, And what Euer don for her by me to be ungratefull — And her Staying away to be a Implicit divorce, which Looke at it worse then a publick Divorce, And giues the power, in to ye hands of women, to Userpe the power out of ye hands of y^er^ husbands — And Rather then in a way of Humillity — to Seek there husband's good, if they can liue comfortably abroad without them — they Regard not the troubles or Temptations of there husbands at home, And Soe become Seperate, which is far worse then the Doctrin of Divills — which forbid to Marry — — But as to her Daughter Bridget, if her Mother had not bene Soe Undermining and over Reaching for her, I Should abene willing to haue done what I could for her, — And doe giue her the Tumbler with the Armes of a Spread Eagle wth two heads — but — I think one head for a Body is Enough — And the Table Cloth of the best Damaske And the Napknies there too, — And this my will I make to be a warning to those women that haue noe Loue for there Husbands — but to what they haue which one had better had a wife that had not bene worth a groat, then to haue one that hath noe Loue for him — And doe desier those many papers y^t^ I haue write as to the Evill of hauing a wife only in Name, And to Seeke them Selves in a way of Seperation from there husbands — or ye Goverm^t^ of wiues to there husbands — and the Duty of wiues to there husbands &c that they — and all my Lett^rs^ — Sent to Madam Bridget &c that they might be perused by Some wise Understanding pious person — that wher any thing hath bene Acted by my Selfe — that is not convenient, And Something may be aded for a Suply — but let it be one that is for men to beare Rule in y^er^ owne bowses — that it may be matter of Benefit, to Some that may follow affter me, for which Ende doe propose, that he or they might have, £30 or £40 allowed him or them, for ye compyling of ye Same, As to her that is Reputed my wife if She acknowliges any thing where in She hath don amise, I freely forgiue her — I doe not Excuse my Selfe altogether, — But my Loue to her & Admiring of her gentele cariage &c — it Occasioned her and her complyces to Userp y^t^ power over me, whereby I haue bene cuningly over Reached, in, and abused Several wayes — And therefor propose this for warning to others.

SAMUEL CARTER, FOURTH MINISTER OF GROTON.

About the year 1690, according to the town records, there was considerable dissension in the church at Groton, though little is known in regard to the details or merits of the trouble. The Reverend Gershom Hobart, who had been the minister of the town since its re-settlement in 1678, appears to have lived unhappily with his parishioners; and near this time he gave up his charge, though he subsequently came back again. The want of harmony between him and his flock apparently had some connection with the amount of his salary and the manner of paying it. During this period a committee was appointed by the town, on December 21, 1691, to "go down & fach up som meet parsan to preach to us & the town is to bare the charg." One week afterward, on December 28, the town voted that "thay would giue to the minister mr hancock aight pounds money for the first quarter of the yere and pay for his bord besides & this to be payed by way of Raate." Again, three months later, on March 21, 1692, they voted to give "to master hancock the full som of sixtey pound one fourth part siluer for a yers salarey for Preaching in order to ordnation in dew time and the other three parts in pay corn or prouishon at comon prys & mr hancocock bord himsalf."

Nearly two months after this date, on May 16, 1692,

the inhabitants of the town being mat togather this day to consider of som tarmes Rafaring to mr hancock wadges for praching the word of god to us & thay did this day by uoat datarman to giue mr hancock fiue pounds in money for his praching 8 sabath days before the comminsment and pay for his bording and then if he pleas to acsapt of the towns proposishans in order to satlment in dew time wt the inhabitants of this town shall Radely acsapt of him for our minister &c.

JONAS PRESCOTT *town clark*

The minister referred to in these several votes was the Reverend John Hancock, sixth child of Nathaniel Hancock, of Cambridge, shoemaker. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1689, and was teaching the Cambridge grammar school in the year 1691, just before he began to preach in Groton. It is evident that he declined the invitation given him by the town, though there is no record of it. He was the grandfather of John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

During the next autumn the town invited the Reverend Samuel Carter to be their settled minister, and he appears to have accepted the offer. He was the eldest son of Thomas Carter, first minister of Woburn, born on August 8, 1640, — though there is some doubt as to the place of his birth, — and a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1660. On the resettlement of Lancaster in the year 1679, after its destruction by the Indians, he supplied the pulpit in that town for a considerable length of time, and from Lancaster he came to Groton. The entry in the town records relating to his invitation is as follows: —

the same day the maiger part of the town did by uoat daclare that thay ware wiling for mr carter to com forth with to be our satled minister in order to ordanation in dew time ockt: 21: 1692

At the same meeting the town did agree to giue mr Carter for this prasant yere the som of sixty pounds in manar as foloweth one fourth money the other part in corn and prouisione at town pryse to be payed the one half by the first of march and before as he needeth it and the other half by the 16. of saptem naxt insewing after the dat hereof ockt 2: 1692

Mr. Carter removed to Groton soon after receiving this call, but did not remain long over his pastoral charge, as he died in the autumn of 1693. According to papers on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge, administration on his estate was granted on October 30, 1693; and in the inventory of his property, dated a few days previously, on October 17, he is spoken of as Mr. Samuel Carter, late of

Groton, deceased. Among the items is "Bookes" to the value of £15 10*s*., which was a large library for that period; and among the debts owed by the estate is one "To widow Locar of Groton," who was without doubt the mother-in-law of Jonas Prescott, a former townsman of Mr. Carter at Lancaster.

Mr. Carter's name appears but twice in the town records, — the two instances just given, — and nothing whatever is known concerning his brief ministry in Groton; but, as one of the pioneer preachers in the early days of New England life, his memory deserves to be cherished.

S. A. G.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XIII.

A REGISTER

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

IN GROTON,

1664—1693,

AND OF MARRIAGES,

1713—1793,

As Copied from the Middlesex County Records;

ALSO

A LIST OF MARRIAGES SENT TO THE TOWN CLERK OF GROTON, UNDER CHAPTER LXXXIV. SECTION 4, OF THE ACTS OF 1857, AND SOME FROM OTHER SOURCES.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XIII.

INTRODUCTION.

AT a very early period in the history of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, the registration of births, deaths, and marriages was required by law. At the session of the General Court, beginning May 6, 1657, it was voted that: —

This Court taking into theire Consideracon the great damage that will vnavoydeably Acrue to the Posteritje of this Comon wealth by the generall neglect of observing, the lawe Jnjoyning a Record of all births deaths & marriages w^th^in this Collony doe therfore Order that hencforth the Clarks of the writts in each Toune respectively take due Care for effecting the same according to the Intent of the aforesajd lawe; And In Case any person or persons shall neglect theire duty required by the sajd lawe, more then one month after any birth Death or marriage, the clarke of the writts shall demand the same wth twelve pence a name for his Care and paynes and in Case any shall refuse to sattisfy him he shall then Retourne the names of such person, or persons to the next magistrate or Comissioner^s^ of the Toune where such persons dwell who shall send for the party so Refusing and in Case he shall persist therein shall give order to the counstable to levy the same. And if any Clarke of the writts shall neglect his duty hereby Injoyned him he shall pay the following pœnalty. i e for neglect of a yearly Retourne to the County Court five pounds and for neglect of Retourning the name of any person Retourneable by this lawe, whither borne marrjed or Dead more than thirty dajes before his Retourne to the County Court five shillings.

[General Court Records, IV. 245.]

In accordance with this requirement the births, deaths, and marriages occurring at Groton were duly recorded in the Middlesex County records; and, as many of them do not appear in the town records, they are now printed for the convenience of genealogical students. It will be noticed that the earlier ones were sent to the recorder by James Fiske, "clerk," which stands for clerk of the writs, as he was not the town clerk during all of the period when he so signs himself, though he was for the year 1665.

Marriages were performed, in the early days of New England, by magistrates only, and other officers appointed for that particular purpose. It was many years before ministers of the Gospel were allowed to take part in the ceremony. At a town meeting held in Groton, on December 15, 1669, the Selectmen were authorized "to petition to the [General] Court for one to marry persons in our towne"; and it is probable that, before this time, persons wishing to be joined in wedlock were obliged either to go elsewhere in order to carry out their intention, or a magistrate was brought for the occasion. The population of the town was small, and the marriages were few; and before this date only eight couples are found recorded as of Groton. Presumably these marriages took place in the town where the brides severally lived.

The following list of early births, deaths, and marriages is taken from two record books, bound in parchment, now in the office of the clerk of Middlesex County Court at East Cambridge, and marked respectively Volumes III. and IV. The returns for the years 1690–1693 are found in the Probate Records, at the end of Volume VI. The marriages after January, 1745, are recorded in two volumes, lettered on the back "Marriages. No. 1." and "Marriages. No. 2." These entries come down to 1793, though during the later years the list is not complete. After each return I have given within brackets the particular volume as well as the page, where it is found in the original record. In all the other instances an exact reference is made to the various sources whence they are derived.

S. A. G.

I.

A REGISTER

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

IN GROTON,

1664–1693,

AND OF MARRIAGES,

1713–1793.

GROTTON.

OCTOB. 3. 1664.

Sarah daughter of Jn° Laken borne february. 4th 1661.
Sarah daughter of Jn° Nutting borne March. 29th 1663.
Thomas sonne of Samuel Woodes borne March. 9th 1663.
Wm sonne of Jn° Lakin borne May. 12th 1664.
—— —— daughter of Samuel Daves borne January. 31. 1662.
Hannah daughter of Nathaniel Lauarnce borne July. 3th 1664.
Mr Jn°. Miller, minister of Gods holy word died. June 12th 1663.
Marah daughter of Richard Bloud died Aprill. 19th 1662.
Elizabeth the wife of Jn°. Laurance died August. 29th 1663.
Jn° Page & Faith Dunster were maried May 12th 1664.
Mr Samuel Willard & Abigail Shearman were maried. August. 8th 1664.

Receiued. August. 8. 1664. and here entred
By THO: DANFORTH. *Recordr*

Abigaill daughter of Mr Samuel Willard borne July 5th 1665.
Abraham sonne of William Laken borne January. 10th 1664.
John sonne of Samuel Davis borne March. 10th 1664=1665

John sonne of Jn.º Barron Aprill. 4th 1665.
Elizabeth daughter of Daniel Peirce borne May. 16th 1665.
Grace daughter of Elliz Barron. borne July. 29th 1665.
Elizabeth daughter of Samuel Woods Septemb. 17th 1665.
William sonne of William Greene July. 13th 1665.
Jonathan Sawtle, & Mary his wife were marled. July. 3d 1665.

By JAMES FISKE *clarke.*

Abigail daughter of Jn.º Laurance senr borne January. 9th 1666.
Sarah daughter of Joseph Parker borne Novemr 16th 1666.
Joshua sonne of Joshua Whitney borne. June. 14th 1666.
Thomas Williams and Mary [Holden] his wife maried August. 11th 1666.
Thomas Tarbole & Hannah [Longley] his wife maried. June. 30th 1666.

By JAMES FISKE. *clark.*

15. 9. 1666.

Entred by THOMAS DANFORTH. *Recordr.*

[III. 45–47.]

Mariages

Thomas Williams & Mary [Holden] his wife was maried vpon the 11th day of July, 1666.
Thomas Tarbole & Hannah [Longley] his wife was maried July. 31. 1666.

Birthes

memo I suppos ye clarke did mistake. & these should be entred 1665.

Abigail daughter of John Laurance Senr & Susanna his wife. borne. January. 11th 1666.
Sarah daughter of Joseph Parker borne, novemb. 16th 1666.
Joshua sonne of Joshua Whitney borne June 14th 1666.

℞ JAMES FISKE *clark.*

Octob. 1. 66.

Entred by THO: DANFORTH *Recordr*

It will be noticed that these returns are duplicated among those which immediately precede them, though the dates do not always agree. The recorder's supposition is undoubtedly correct, that the births belong to the year 1665. As it stands, the record of Sarah Parker's birth was made six weeks before the event took place.

[III. 74, 75.]

Daniel Peirce, sonne of Daniel Peirce, & Elizab. his wife was borne. 28. 9th 1666.

Joseph Gelson sonne of Joseph Gelson & Mary his wife borne. 8. 1. 166⅞

Ebenezer sonne of Jno & Sarah Nutting. borne. 23. 8. 1666.

Anna daughter of Willm Greene, & Mary his wife borne. 12. 3. 1667.

Abigail daughter of Jno Lakin & Marcy his wife borne. 13. 1. 166⅞

Samuel sonne of Samuel Leamond & Marcy his wife. borne. 29. 2. 67.

Thomas sonne of Thomas Tarbole, & Anna his wife. borne July. 6th 1667.

Susanna daughter of Jno Laurance, & Susanna his wife. borne July. 3d 1667.

John sonne of Nathaniel Laurance, & Sarah his wife, borne July, 29th 1667.

Sarah daughter of Samuel Davis, & Mary his wife, borne. 12. 6. 1667.

Thomas sonne of Thomas Williams, & Mary his wife, borne 17. 1. mo 6⅞.

Jno Laurance. Senr died. July. 11. 1667.

By JAMES FISKE *clarke*

Entred by THO: DANFORTH *R.*

[III. 104.]

Elizabeth Baron daughter of Jno Baron borne Sept 28th 1667.

Mary daughter of Jonath. Sawtle, & Mary his wife borne. Octob. 16. 1667.

Joseph sonne of Joseph Morss, & Susanna his wife borne. Novemb. 11. 1667.

Mary daughter of Robert Parish, & Mary his wife borne Jan. 5. 1667.

Nathaniel sonne of Samuel Woods, & Ales his wife borne. March. 25, 166⅞.

Mehetabel Barron daughter of Eliz Barron borne June. 22. 1668.

John sonne of Daniel Pearse borne August. 18. 1668.

Samuel sonne of Mr Samuel Willard borne January. 25. 1667.

Abraham sonne of Willm Leakin, borne Sept 11. 1667.

James Roberson, & Elizab. [Farnsworth ?] his wife was maryed January. 16. 1667,
Grotton. novemb. 16. 1668. ℣ JAMES FFISKE
Entred by THOMAS DANFORTH *Recorder*

[III. 144.]

Sarah Whitney daughter of Joshua Whitney borne. 10. of Octob. 1668.
Elizabeth daughter of James Roberson. borne. Octob. 3. 1668
Jonathan sonne of Jno Nutting borne 17. 8. 68.
Elizabeth Sawtell daughter of Jonathan Sautle borne. febr. 3. 1668
John Williams sonne of Thomas Williams borne Novemb. 3. 1668.
Jonathan sonne of Samuel Kemp borne Aprill. 6th 1668.
Sarah daughter of Joseph Gilson borne June 25th 1669.
Anna daughter of Robert Parish borne Aprill 2. 1669.
John sonne of William Greene, borne in march. 1669.
Timothy Cooper, & Sarah Morss was maryed June. 2. 1669,
James Bloud, & Elizabeth Longly was maryed Septemb. 7th 1669.
Mary Martinn wife of Willm Martin decēd, August. 14th 1669,
Entred by THOMAS DANFORTH *Recorder*

[III. 154.]

	Births
John Prage [Page], sonne of John and faith Prage was borne.	Decemr 10th 1669
Samuel farneworth, sonne of Mathias & Mary his wife, borne	Octob. 8. 1669.
Elizab. sonne [*sic*] of Peleg, & Elizabeth his wife borne	Janu: 9. 1669.
Elizab: Lakin sonne [*sic*] of Wm Lakin, and Lidea was borne	Janu: 8. 1669.
Mary daughter of Mr Samuel Willard and Abigail his wife, borne	Octo: 10. 1669.
Wm Longly sonne of Jno Longly, and Scisely his wife borne	feb: 12: 1669.
Hannah daughter of Walter Skennr and Hannah borne	March 12. 1669.
Moses sonne of Jno Barron borne.	March 26. 1669
Mary daughter of Nathaniel Laurance borne	March 3. 16$\frac{69}{70}$

Samuel sonne of Samuel Davis borne — Janu. 8. 1669.

Timothy Sonne of Timothy Cooper, & of Sarah his wife borne — March 24. 68/70

Joseph sonne of John Lakin borne — Aprill. 14. 1670

Mary daught: of Samuel Woods & of Ales his wife — borne August. 2. 1670.

Anna daughter of Thomas Tarbole, and of Anna his wife borne — June. 10. 1670.

Richard sonne of James Bloud & Elizabeth his wife borne — May. 29. 1670.

Robert sonne of Robert Parish borne — Novemb. 20. 1670.

Samuel sonne of Joseph Morss. borne — Septem. 4. 1670.

Hannah daughter of Jonathan Sawtle, and of Mary his wife borne — Octob. 6. 1670.

Mariages. Cornelius Church and Mary his wife were maryed — June. 4. 1670.

Nathaniel Bloud, & Hannah [Parker] his wife were maryed — June. 13. 1670.

Deaths. Richard Bloud, sonne of James Bloud died. July. 8. 1670.

Thomas Parish sonne of Robert Parish died Aprill. 18. 1668.

By JAMES FISKE *clarke.*

[III. 194, 195.]

Margarett Longly daughter of John Longly. borne. Decemb. 28. 1671.

Abigail farnworth daughter of Mathyas borne January. 17th 1671.

Anna daughter of Nathaniel bloud borne. March. 1. 1671.

John Cooper sonne of Timothy was borne March. 5. 1671.

Abigail daughter of Jonathan Sawtell borne. March. 5th 1671.

Anna daughter of Thomas Smith borne. Aprill. 17th 1672.

Samuel sonne of John Prage [Page] borne June. 4. 1672.

Eleazer sonne of Willm Greene May 20th 1672.

Elliz. Barron sonne of John Barron borne June 14th 1672.

Barnabas Davis, sonne of Samuel Davis borne. Aprill. 17th 1672.

Sarah daughter of Nathaniel Laurance borne May. 16. 1672

Abigail Woods, daughter of Samuel Woods borne August 19th 1672.

Mary Bloud daught: of James Bloud borne Sept. 1. 1672.

Willm Tarbole sonne of Thomas Tarbole borne Octob. 1. 1672.

Willm Longley & Lidea his wife were maryed May. 15. 1672.
Alexand^r. Rouse, & Judah [Cady] his wife were maryed. May 15. 1672.
John sonne of Timothy Cooper. died. Died Aprill 28. 1672.

Grotton. 10th. of Decemb. 1672.

By JAMES FFISKE *Cl:*

Anna Parris daughter of Robert Parris borne. Sep^t 10th. 1672.
Benjamin Laken. sonne of John Laken borne, Novemb. 6th. 1672.
Grace Hall. daught^r of Christopher Hall borne. novemb. 25th. 1672.
Mary Williams, daughter of Thomas Williams borne, febr. 3th. 1672.
Mary Morss, daught^r of Joseph Morss borne febr. 11th. 1672.
John Boyden sonne of Thomas Boyden borne Decemb. 6th. 1672.
Veseulah Coles, daughter of John Coles february. 20th. 1672.
Judeth Rouss } daught^rs of Alexand^r. Rouss.
Elizabeth Rouss } borne. febr. 2. 1672.
Timothy Barron sonne of Elliz Barron borne. Aprill. 18th. 1673.
Sarah daughter of Timothy Cooper borne. March. 20th. 167⅔
John Willard sonne of Mr Samuel Willard Septemb. 8th. 1673.
Elizab: Bloud, daught^r of Nathaniel Bloud, borne Octob. 7th. 1673.
Mehettabell Kemp, daught^r of Samuel Kemp. borne June 4th. 1673.
Ephraim Peirce sonne of Daniel Peirce, borne Octo: 15th. 1673.
Willm Martinn, aged ab^t 76. yeares died March 26th. 1672.
Willm Lakin aged ab^t 9: yeares died Decemb. 10th. 1672.
Judeth Rouss, } daughters of Alexand^r. Rouss
Elizab. Rouss } died. in Aprill. & June. 1673.

By JAMES FISKE. *cl.*

16. 10. 73. Entred by THOMAS DANFORTH *Record^r*

[III. 221–223.]

1674.

Hannah daught^r of Tho: Williams born . .	1. 12. 74	Born
Lidea daught^r of Wm Longley born.	1. 1. 7¾	
Elizab. daught^r of Mr Saml Willard born. . .	27. 12. 74	
Mary daught^r of Jonas Prescott born.	3. 12. 74	
Mary daught^r of Tho: Tarbole born.	2. 2. 75	
Sarah daught^r of Nath^ll. Bloud born	17. 2. 75	
Elizab. daught^r of James Bloud born.	27. 2. 75	
John son of Timothy Cooper born.	5. 3. 75	
Hen: son of Hen: Willard born.	11. 2. 75	
Elizab. daught^r of Alexander Rouss born. . .	23. 3. 75	

Jonathan ffarnworth. son of Mathias Born . . 1. 4. 75
Josiah son of Daniel Peirce born. 2. 3. 75
Samuel son of Sam[l] Scripture born 4. 8. 75

Borne. Josiah son of Jn[o] Leakin born. 14. 7. 75
William son of W[m] Longley born. 17. 12. 75
Eleazer son of Phebe Laurance born. . . . 24. 12. 75
Mary daught[r] of Joshua Whitney born. . . 1. 5. 75

DEAC̄ED

Dyed. Elizab. Lawrence aged one yeare 10. 8. 75
Elizab. Rouss ab[t] 5 : yeare old 10. 8. 75
Hannah Bloud aged one yeare 6. 11. 75

℣ JAMES FFISK *Clark*

Born. Mary Longley daught[r] of John Longley. . . 10. 11. 73
Sarah daught[r] of Jonath. Sawtell born . . . 24. 12. 73
Hannah daught[r] of Joseph Morss born . . . 7. 2. 74
Annah daught[r] of Zach. Sawtell born . . . 14. 1. 7¾
Steeven daught[r] [*sic*] of Sam[l] Davis born. . 10. 2. 74
James son of Thomas Smith born 14. 2. 74
Dorathy Baron, daught[r] of Elliz Baron born . 6. 1. 74
John son of Joseph Gilson born 23. 2. 74
Elizab. daught[r] of Nath[ll] Laurance. 6. 7. 74
Hannah daught[r] of W[m] Sanders. 8. 3. 74
Mary daught[r] of Robert Parris. 8. 7. 74
Annah daught[r] of Sam[l] Woods 18. 7. 74
Mary daught[r] of John Page 9. 11. 74

DEAC̄ED

Dyed. Mary Tarbole, aged 54 dec̄ed 29. 2. 74
Anna wife of Elliz Barron, aged 37. 3. 11. 73
Mary wife of Tho : Parish. aged. 23. dyed 8. 8 74

MARIAGES.

Maryed. Hen : Willard & Mary [Lakin] his wife maryed 18. 5 : 74
John Nuttin, & Mary his wife maryed 11. 10. 74

℣ JAMES FFISK *cl: of y[e] writts,*

Ent[d] by T. D. *R.*

[IV. 55, 56.]

Births

Sam[l] son of Peleg Laurance and Elizab. his wife born. Octo. 16. 1671

Eleazer son of Peleg Laurance, & Elizab. his wife born. febr. 28. 1674.

Jonath: son of Peleg Laurance & Elizab. his wife born March. 29. 1679.

Elizab. daught[r] of Josiah Parker and Elizab. his wife, born. Aug. 31. 1679.

Marah daught[r] of Just. Holden, & Marah his wife born. May 20. 1680.

Mary daught[r] of Nath[ll] Bloud, and Anna his wife born. Apr. 17. 1678.

Nath[ll] son of Nath[ll] Bloud, and Anna his wife born Jan. 16. 1679.

Mary Parker daught[r] of James Parker and Mary his wife, born. Sep[t] 21. 1680.

John son of Christoph. Hall, & Sarah his wife was born. Apr. 9th 1681.

Daniel son of Enosh Laurance, & Ruth his wife was born, March. 7. 1681.

Sarah daught[r] of James Nutting, and Lidea his wife, born, March. 11. 1681.

Abigail daught[r] of Peleg Laurance, and Elizab. his wife, born. Octob. 6th 1681.

John son of Josiah Parker, & Elizab. his wife born. Apr. 13. 1681.

Joseph son of Nath[ll] Bloud, & Anna his wife, born. february 3. 1681.

Anna daught[r] of Sam[ll] Holden, and Anna his wife. born. March 1. 1682

Joseph farnuth son of Mathias farnuth & Sarah his wife. born. Jan. 7. 1682. And dyed ffebr. 2. 1682.

Mary Scripture, daught[r] of Sam[l] & Elizab. his wife, born. feb. 7. 1680.

Sarah daught[r] of Sam[l] Scripture and Elizab. his wife born. feb. 8. 1682.

Samuel son of James Parker, & Mary his wife born Sep[t] 22. 1682.

Sarah daught[r] of Josiah Parker & Elizab. his wife born May. 1. 1683.

Elnathan son of Obadiah Sawtell and Hannah his wife, born. March 27, 1683.

Deborah daught[r] of Nath[ll] Laurance & Sarah his wife born March. 24. 1683:
Simon son of Hen: Willard, & Mary his wife born. Octob. 8. 1678.
Mary daught[r] of Hen. Willard born Aug: 3. 1680.
John son of Hen: Willard, & Mary his wife born Sept. 3. 1682.

Deaced W[m] Longly sen[r]. dyed. Nov. 29. 1680.
Anna wife of Tho: Tarbole Jun[r] dyed Dec. 29. 1680.
Sarah wife of Ch[r] Hall. dyed. Aug. 15. 1682.
Nath[ll] Butterworth dyed Decemb. 29. 1682.

By JAMES PARKER *cl.*

Grotton. June 16. 1683.

[IV. 75–77.]

Births & Deaths 1683.

Zechariah Son of Enos & Ruth Lawrance born.	16.	5.	83
Darkis daughter of Adam & Rebecca Gold born.	8.	7.	83
Elizabeth of Will: & Mary Green born.	11.	1.	80
Hannah of Willyam & Mary Green dyed	28.	11.	82
Hannah daughter of William & Mary Green born.	10.	2.	83
Richard husband of Issable Blood dyed	7.	10.	83
Bethiah daughter of Samuel & Sarah Kemp born.	9.	5.	83

June. 16. 84. JAMES PARKER *Clericus*

[IV. 88.]

Births Sarah, Daughter of Jonah & Mary Prescot, born May. 3[d] 1686.
Sarah, Daughter of Alexander & Judith Roues, born July 26th 86.
Lydia, Daughter of James & Lydia Nutting, born June. 3[d] 86.
Jeremiah, son of Enosh & Ruth Laurence, born May. 1. 86.
Anna, Daughter of Elizer & Mehetabel Parker, born April 17th 86.
Moses, son of Joshua Wheat & Elizabeth his wife, born Sep. 86.
James, son of Samuel & Abigail Parker, born April 28th 86.

Elizabeth, Daughter of Zech. & Elizabeth Parker, born April 10th 86.

Elizabeth, Daughter of James & Hannah Cady, born April 10th 86.

Ezekiel son of Daniel & Mary Cady, born Sept 18th 86.

Deaths. Dorothy, Daughter of Gershom & Sarah Hobart, Dyed June 10th 1686

Jonathan Mors dyed July 31th 86

JOSIAH PARKER *Cler.*

Recd Decemb 21st 86

A true Coppy Entred & Examin'd By LAUR. HAMMOND *Recordr*

Marriages Thomas Tarball & Elizabeth Wood, both of Groton, Joyned together in Marriage before Mr. Ja Russell Justice, Decemb. 1st 1686.

Recorded By L. HAMMOND *Rec.*

[For other marriages of this period, see page 24 near the bottom.]

Births Joseph sonne of Wm & Deliverance Langly, borne Janua. 6. 168⅞

Jeremiah, son of Peleg & Elizabeth Lawrence, borne Janua. 3. 8⅞

Abigail, Daughter of Samuel & Elizabeth Scripture borne Janua. 28. 8⅞

Abigail, Daughter of Ephrã: & Elizabth Philbrook, borne March. 6. 8⅞

Jonathan, son of Samuel & Elizabth Church, borne Febru. 12. 8⅞

James, sonne of James & Marah Parker, borne March 24. 8⅞

Lidia, Daughtr of John & Marah Paresh borne April 20. 1687

Hannah Daughtr of Nathaniel & Hannah Laurence, borne April 26. 87

Deaths Joseph, sonne of Mathias Farnworth Dyed Febru. 20. 8⅞

Jeremiah, son of Peleg Laurence Dyed April 26. 87

Births. Simon, sonne of Josiah & Elizabeth Parker borne Augst. 27. 87

Josiah, sonne of Obadiah & Hannah Sawtell borne Augst. 14. 87

℣ me JOSIAH PARKER *Cler for Groton.*/

Rec^{d}. & Recorded Sep^{t}. 6. 87. By L. HAMMOND *Cler.*

[IV. 127.]

Births Thomas, sonne of Thomas & Elizabeth Tarbal, borne September 13, 1687

Abigail, Daughter of John & Hannah Farnworth, borne. October 17, 87

Nehemiah, sonne of Mr Gersham & Sarah Hubbert, borne October. 24, 87

Elizabeth, Daughter of Elias & Sarah Barron, borne October 26, 87

Josiah, sonne. of Mathias & Sarah Farnworth, borne February 24, 1687

Robert, sonne of Samuel & Abigail Parker, borne April 2, 1688

Aaron sonne. of James & Hannah Cadey, borne April 7, 1688

Edward, sonne. of Zechariah & Elizabeth Parker, born April 23, 88

Abigail, Daughter. of Jonah & Mary Prescot, born May 8, 88

Joseph, sonne of Peleg & Elizabeth Lawrence, born June 12, 88.

Daniel, sonne of Justin & Mary Holden, born July 11, 88.

Margaret, Daughter of Zechariah & Anna Sawtel, born July 19, 88.

Deaths Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Woods, Dyed April 21, 88.

John sonne of Thomas Woods, Dyed May 1, 88

Samuel sonne of Samuel Holden, Dyed June 6, 88.

Stephen sonne of Stephen Holden, Dyed July 28, 88.

Amos sonne of John Cadey, Dyed August 3, 88.

Rec^{d}. & Recorded, Sep. 4. 1688.

℣ L. HAMMOND *Clr.*

[IV. 168.]

GROTON: BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES &c: 1690

Hannah Daughter of John and Elisabeth Comins born. May: 20th. 1690
Benjamin son of Zechariah & Elisabeth Parker born. Augst. 18th 1690
Mathias son of Mathias & Sarah ffarnworth born Augst. 6th 1690
Mary of James and Tabitha ffisk born Sept. 11th 1690
Joseph of Joseph and Sarah Cady born Octobr. 3d 1690
Mara of Nathanll and Anna Laurance born Octobr. 16th 1690
Anna of Joseph and Elisabeth Gilson born Octobr. 22d 1690
Mary of John and Mary Green born Novembr. 3d 1690
John of John and Mary Shadduck born Jan. 6th 1690
Abraham of James and Mary Parker born Jan. 4th 1690
Joanna of James and Lydia Nutting born. Febr. 21. 1690/1.
Elisabeth of John & Mary Parrish born. March: 13 1690/1

MARRIAGES

Joshua Parker and Abigail Mors married together Septembr. 22: 1690
James Dutten and Mary Robin married together Decembr. 9th 1690

DEATHS

Jonathan Sawtell Dyed: July. 6th 1690
Barnabas Dauis Dyed Augst. 12th 1690
Josiah son of Obadiah Sawtell Dyed Octobr. 4th 1690
James Cadey Dyed: Decembr 2d. 1690

Receiued of JOSIAH PARKER *Clerk of ye writts* for Groton 16th Aprill. 91 And Entered by SAMLL. PHIPPS *Recordr.*

1692. 1693 BIRTHS

Ruth Daughter of James and Lydia Nutting Born. Aprill: 7th 1693.
Jonathan Son of John & Joanna Cady Born Jan. 22: 1693
Elisabeth of Ephraim & Elisabeth ffilbrick Born Novembr. 18th 1693
Daniel Son of John & Hannah ffarnworth Born. May: 11th 1692

DEATHS.

John Barron sen^r Died Jan: 1° 1693 1693

July: 4th Re^ced of W^M LONGLY *Town Clerk of Groton* & Entered
By SAM^LL PHIPPS *Record^r*

[Probate Records **VI. 18,** at the end of the original volume.]

Middlesex in Groton
The accot. of Marriages from Justice Prescott, as ffollows
Sam^ll Winter of Killingsly [Conn.] and Elisabeth Philbrook of Groton were married the 16th Day of ffebruary 1713
Gershom Hobart and Lydia Nutting both of Groton were married ye 26th Day of ffebru^ry in the year 1713
Wm Powers of Concord & Lydia Parham of Groton were married ye 16 Day of March in ye year 1713/4
Thomas Farr & Elisabeth Powers both of Nashobah were married ye 16 Day of March in ye year 1713/4
Joseph Powers and Hannah Whetcom both of Nashoba were married ye 16 Day of March in ye year 1713/4
Joseph Sanderson & Sarah Page both of Groton were married the 30 Day of July in ye year 1714
Reced from JOSEPH LAKIN, *Town Clerk for Groton* —
Reced Decem^r: 10th 1717 & Recorded
by SAM^LL PHIPPS. *Reg^r* or *Record^r*

Jt: The acco^t of Marriages by Mr Trowbridge
John Parker and Mary Bradstreet both of Groton were married the 29 Day of Nouember. in ye year 1715
Joseph Parker ju: and Abigail Sawtell both of Groton were married the 24 Day of January in ye year 1715/16
Jonathan Whetcomb and Deliverance Nutting both of Groton were married the 15 Day of May in ye year 1716.
John Holdin & Sarah Davis both of Groton were married the 22d Day of November in ye year . . . . . 1716.
William Lun of Dunstable and Rachel Holdin of Groton were married the 20 Day of Decem^r in ye year 1716
Thomas Tarbell and Abigail [Parker] both of Groton were married the first Day of January in ye year 1716/17
Att: JOSEPH LAKIN *Clerk*
se^br 10/1717/ Reced & accordingly Entered
By SAM^LL PHIPPS *Cler & Reg^er.*

Memorandum of Marriages Celebrated By Mr Caleb Trowbridge

1718	October 23rd	Benjamin Parker to Mary Sawtell	all of Groton
	Decembr 11th	Nathanll Holding to Abigail Stone	
	March 24th	William Shattuck to Deliverance Pease	
1719	May 6th	Eleazer Gilson to Hannah Farwell	
	May : 22d	John Parker to Joanna Am's	
	June 23d	Eleazer Nutting to Abigail Davis	
	Augst. 11th	Moses Bennit to Anna Blanchard	
	Septemr 2d	Stephen Holdin to Hannah Sawtell	
	Novembr 12th	John Spencer to Bethiah Kemp	
	Decemr 9th	Daniel Pierce to Elenor Boynton	
	Decembr 24th	Joseph Farwell to Mary Gilson	
1720.	Octobr 27th	Jonathan Parker to Sarah Pierce both of Groton	
	Novembr 29th	Samll Woods to Patience Biggelow both of Groton	
	January 23d	Robert Robins, of Littleton to ye widow Elisabeth Cummins of Groton — 1721 —	
1721.	May 22d	Zechr Maynard To the Widow Waters of Groton	
	May 24th	Ebenezer Prescott to Hannah Farnworth both of Groton	
	June 1st	Daniel Boynton to Jemimah Brown both of Groton	
	July 3d	Nathnll Woods of Groton to Sarah Brown of Stow	
	Octobr 30th	Ephraim Pierce to Easther [Shedd] both of Groton	
	Novembr 16th	Obadiah Sawtle to Rachel Parker both of Groton	
	Februr 1st	Richard Rice to Sarah Caree both of Groton	
	Febr. 7th	Robert Dickson to Abigail Parker. Widow both of Groton	
	March 8th	Eleazer Green to Annah Tarbell both of Groton	
1722	April 3d	Jonathan Shead to Sarah Farnworth both of Groton	

May 2d:	Collins Mores of Oxford to Bathsheba Woods of Groton
	p'sons married by Mr Caleb Trowbridge
May 30th	John Blanchard of Dunstable to Mary Sawtell of Groton
June 27th	William Lawrence to Susanna Prescott both of Groton
July 12th	Joshua Hutchins to Sarah Shead both of Groton
Decembr 8th	John Gilson to Mary Shattuck both of Groton.
Decembr. 26th	John Stone Junr to Elisabeth Farwell both of Groton

Groton Decemr 21/1719

These may Certifie to whome it may Concern, That William Banks of Groton, and Hannah Wansamug late of Lancaster both in ye County of Middx were Joyned in marriage the 21st day of Decembr. 1719 / at Groton

pr FRA : FULLAM *Justice of Peace.*

All these marriages Returned June 11th. 1723, By Joseph Lakin late Town Clerk for Groton being entered by him And accordingly entered

pr SAMLL PHIPPS *Cler Pacs*

These p'sons whose names are hereafter mentioned were Joyned in marriage by the Revd Mr Caleb Trow Bridge of Groton in ye year 1723 . . vizt

March ye 27th:	Benja Bennit to Mary Lakin	all of Groton in the County of Middx
April 30th:	Thomas Wood To Abigail Chamberlin	
May the 22d:	Isaac Williams To Lydia Shattuck	
June 13th:	John Davis to Rebeckah Burt	
Decembr: 24th:	Thomas Farwell to Elisabeth Pierce.	

A true Coppy Attest: JOHN LONGLEY, *Town Clerk*
Middx: July: 9th: 1724 Reced & accordingly Entered
By SAMLL PHIPPS *Cler Pacs.*

These following persons were Joyned in Marriage by the Reverend Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton, vizt:

1724. July 7th. Jeremiah Shattuck & Sarah Parker both of Groton were married

Febry 25 : Jonathan Green & Sarah Lakin both of Groton were married

1725. April. 27 : John Farmer of Billerica to Hañah Woods of Groton were married

June : 3 : John Woods & Sarah Longley both of Groton were married

June : 15 : David Peace & Elizebeth Bowers both of Groton were married

Entered by JOHN LONGLEY *Town Clerk*

Received & Entered by SAML PHIPPS *Cler Pacs*

[IV. 193, 194.]

GROTON MARRIAGES

These persons hereafter named were Joyned in Marriage at the respective times herein mentioned by the Reverend Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton

Nathaniel Woods to the Widow Mary Derbeshere both of Groton June. 5th 1725.

Isaac Woods to Abigail Stevens both of Groton Sepr 21. 1725.

Daniel Farnsworth to the Widow Abigail Shead both of Groton Octr 20. 1725

Saml Tarbel to Lydia Farnsworth both of Groton December . 19. 1725

Timothy Barron to Hañah Fletcher both of Groton Janry . 13. 1725/6

Saml Shattuck Junr to Anna Williams both of Groton Janry . 27. 1725/6

Isaac Lakin to Elizebeth Shattuck both of Groton Janry . 27. 1725/6

John Shipley to Elizth Boiden both of Groton Februry . 16. 1725/6

John Burt Junr to Elizth Nutting both of Groton March. 9. 1725/6

Ezra Farnsworth to Elizebeth Lakin both of Groton April . 26. 1726

A true Copy Attt JOHN LONGLEY *Town Clerk*

Recd May : 1726 & Entered By SAML PHIPPS *Cler Pacs*

1726.	April. 28th.	Michael Gibson to Susannah Sawtel both of Groton	
	May. 31st.	Timothy Spaulding of Chelmsford to Thankfull Prescot of Groton	
	Novr. 22d.	James Shattuck to Sarah Chamberlin	all of Groton
	Decr 28th.	James Stone to Mary Farwell	
	Janry. 12. 1726/7.	Samuel Fisk to Elizebeth Parker	
	March. 9th.	William Green to Hannah Holding	
	March. 21st.	Daniel Davis to Lydia Ames	
1727.	April 20th.	Dudley Bradstreet to Abigail Lakin ye 4th	
	August 4.	Ebenr Hartwell of Concord to Rachael Farnsworth of Groton	
	Novemr 14.	Jacob Ames to Ruth Shattuck both of Groton	
	Decmr. 20.	Eleazer Tarbel to Elizebeth Bowers both of Groton	
	Febry. 27th. 1727/8.	Samuel Davis to Sarah Boynton both of Turkey Hills [Lunenburg]	
	Febry 28th.	Daniel Sawtel of Groton to Esther Heald of Concord	
1728.	May 9th.	Josseph Stone to Mary Prescot both of Groton	
	Septr. 26th.	Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable to Rebecca Hubbard of Groton	
	Octobr. 11th.	John Stevens to Martha Farnsworth	all of Groton
	Decemr 26.	Jonathan Shepley to Lydia Lakin	
	Febry. 4th. 1728/9.	Nathll Lawrence Junr to Dorothy Chamberlin	
	March 24.	Aaron Farnsworth to Hannah Barron	
1729.	Octor 27th.	John Lakin to Lydia Parker	
	Decemr. 18th.	Elias Elliot to Ruth Laurence	
	Decembr. 30.	Ebenezer Jefts to Elizabeth Farnsworth	

Jan^{r}y. 7. 1729/30	Josiah Boyden to Eunice Parker	all of Groton
Jan^{r}y. 13.	Isaac Gilson to Dorothy Kemp	
Jan^{r}y 28	Jacob Lakin to Eunice Lakin	
Feb^{r}y. 2^{d}.	Nathan Barron to Abigail Yarrow	all of Groton
Feb^{r}y. 24.	Mathias Farnsworth to Abigail Shead	

March. 4. 1729/30. The foregoing is the list of names of the Persons that were joyned in marriage By the Revd Mr Caleb Trowbridge Pastor of the Church in Groton as appears by certificate under his hand

A true Copy Att^{s} JOHN LANGLEY *Town Clerk*

The Persons hereafter named were joyned in marriage By Benjamin Prescot Esqr as appears by Certificate under his hand Viz^{t}

Hezekiah Usher & Abigail Cleveland both of Charlestown June 20th 1728

Thomas Warlley & Mehetable Yarrow both of Dunstable on the 11th of May 1729

John Wheelock & Martha Woods both of Lancaster Septm^{r} 11. 1729

A true Copy Att^{t} JOHN LONGLEY *Town Clerk*

Rec^{d} & Entered By SAM^{L} PHIPPS *Cler Pac*

May. 7th 1730.	Nathan Whipple to Hannah Boynton both of Groton
Jan^{r}y 12 1730/1	Jonathan Gates of Stow to Elizebeth Farwell of Groton
Jan^{r}y 28th	Jonas Varnum to Mary Shepley both of Groton
Feb^{r}y. 9th	Jeremiah Norcross of Lunenburgh to Faith Page of Groton
Feb^{r}y. 11th	Phinehas Parker Junr to Mary Kemp both of Groton
March 26th 1731.	Nathanel Nutting to Elizebeth Page both of Groton
April. 14th	Stephen Ames to Jane Robbins both of Groton
April 22^{d}	John Fife to Jane Irvine both of Groton
April 27th	David Russel to Mary Clark both of Littleton

May. 13th [1731.] Ephraim Nutting to Lydia Spaulding both of Groton

June 25th Eleazer Lawrence Junr to Lucy Tuttle both of Littleton

Novemr 4th John Kemp to Sarah Holding both of Groton

Novemr 30th Saml Randal of Stow to Priscilla Farnworth of Groton

Janry 5th 1731/ Shadrich Whitney of North Town [Townsend] to Prudence Lawrence of Groton

Janry 6th William Spaulding to Hepsibah Blood both of Groton

Janry 13th Ebenezer Lakin to Lydia Lakin both of Groton

March 14. 1731/2 Phinehas Wait to Mary Hubbard both of Groton

April 4th 1732 James Horsley of North Town to Experience Jewit of Groton

These were Joyned in Marriage by the Reverend Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton as by his Certificate to me appears as Atts THOS TARBEL *Town Clerk.*

Recd & Entered By SAML PHIPPS *Cler Paris*

April. 19th 1732 John Scott to Mary Chamberlin both of Groton

April 25th John Albee to Abigail Searl both of North Town

April 26th Jonathan Prat to Mary Bowers both of Groton

July 12th Thomas Merryfield to Mary Anderson both of Groton

Octobr 26th { Mr Solomon Prentice of Hassnamisco to Mrs Sarah Sawtel of Groton
Ephraim Cady of Killingsly [Conn.] to Abigail Barron of Groton }

Novr 2d Daniel Farmer of Lunenburgh to Elizebeth Woods of Groton

Novr 14th John Shead to Elizebeth Shattuck both of Groton

Novr 23d Josiah Willard Junr of Lunenburgh to Hannah Hubbard of Groton

Janry 4. 1732/3 William Longley to Mary Parker both of Groton

Janry 18th 1732/3. Samuel Wright to Annah Lawrence both of Groton

Janry 30 1732/3. Samuel Cummings to Prudence Lawrence both of Groton

Jan^ry. 7. 1729/30	Josiah Boyden to Eunice Parker	all of Groton
Jan^ry. 13.	Isaac Gilson to Dorothy Kemp	
Jan^ry 28	Jacob Lakin to Eunice Lakin	
Feb^ry. 2^d.	Nathan Barron to Abigail Yarrow	all of Groton
Feb^ry. 24.	Mathias Farnsworth to Abigail Shead	

March. 4. 1729/30. The foregoing is the list of names of the Persons that were joyned in marriage By the Revd Mr Caleb Trowbridge Pastor of the Church in Groton as appears by certificate under his hand

A true Copy Att^s JOHN LANGLEY *Town Clerk*

The Persons hereafter named were joyned in marriage By Benjamin Prescot Esqr as appears by Certificate under his hand Viz^t

Hezekiah Usher & Abigail Cleveland both of Charlestown June 20th 1728

Thomas Warlley & Mehetable Yarrow both of Dunstable on the 11th of May 1729

John Wheelock & Martha Woods both of Lancaster Septm^r 11. 1729

A true Copy Att^t JOHN LONGLEY *Town Clerk*

Rec^d & Entered By SAM^L PHIPPS *Cler Pac^s*

May. 7th. 1730.	Nathan Whipple to Hannah Boynton both of Groton
Jan^ry 12 1730/1	Jonathan Gates of Stow to Elizebeth Farwell of Groton
Jan^ry 28th.	Jonas Varnum to Mary Shepley both of Groton
Feb^ry. 9th	Jeremiah Norcross of Lunenburgh to Faith Page of Groton
Feb^ry. 11th	Phinehas Parker Junr to Mary Kemp both of Groton
March 26th. 1731.	Nathanel Nutting to Elizebeth Page both of Groton
April. 14th.	Stephen Ames to Jane Robbins both of Groton
April 22^d.	John Fife to Jane Irvine both of Groton
April 27th.	David Russel to Mary Clark both of Littleton

May. 13th [1731.] Ephraim Nutting to Lydia Spaulding both of Groton

June 25th Eleazer Lawrence Junr to Lucy Tuttle both of Littleton

Novemr 4th John Kemp to Sarah Holding both of Groton

Novemr 30th Saml Randal of Stow to Priscilla Farnworth of Groton

Janry 5th 1731/ Shadrich Whitney of North Town [Townsend] to Prudence Lawrence of Groton

Janry 6th William Spaulding to Hepsibah Blood both of Groton

Janry 13th Ebenezer Lakin to Lydia Lakin both of Groton

March 14. 1731/2 Phinehas Wait to Mary Hubbard both of Groton

April 4th 1732 James Horsley of North Town to Experience Jewit of Groton

These were Joyned in Marriage by the Reverend Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton as by his Certificate to me appears as Attes

Thos Tarbel *Town Clerk.*

Recd & Entered By Saml Phipps *Cler Pais*

April. 19th 1732 John Scott to Mary Chamberlin both of Groton

April 25th John Albee to Abigail Searl both of North Town

April 26th Jonathan Prat to Mary Bowers both of Groton

July 12th Thomas Merryfield to Mary Anderson both of Groton

Octobr 26th { Mr Solomon Prentice of Hassnamisco to Mrs Sarah Sawtel of Groton
Ephraim Cady of Killingsly [Conn.] to Abigail Barron of Groton }

Novr 2d Daniel Farmer of Lunenburgh to Elizebeth Woods of Groton

Novr 14th John Shead to Elizebeth Shattuck both of Groton

Novr 23d Josiah Willard Junr of Lunenburgh to Hannah Hubbard of Groton

Janry 4. 1732/3 William Longley to Mary Parker both of Groton

Janry 18th 1732/3. Samuel Wright to Annah Lawrence both of Groton

Janry 30 1732/3. Samuel Cummings to Prudence Lawrence both of Groton

Feb^ry. 20. 1732/3. James Lawrence to Mary Martin both of Groton
June 21. 1733. John Goodridge of Lunenburgh to junice ript-ure of Groton

The Persons afore named were Joyned in marriage by the Reverend Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton at the times above mentioned as by his Certificate thereof appears.

THO^S TARBEL *Town Clerk*

July 5. 1733. Amos Woods to Hannah Witting both of Groton
Septr 12th John Page to Mary Parker both of Groton
October 25th James Tufts of Medford to Phebe Woods of Groton
Novem^r 1st Jonathan Lampson of Concord to Elinor Blood of Groton
Novemb^r. 22^d. Moses Woods to Esther Houghton both of Groton
Decm^r. 6. Nathaniel Parker to Joanna Stephens both of Groton
Jan^ry 23^d. 1733/4. Ebenezer Gilson to Annas Searl both of Groton
Jan^ry 29. 173/4. Enoch Lawrence to Sarah Stephens both of Groton

The Persons above named were joyned in Marriage by the Revd Mr Caleb Trowbridge of Groton at ye several times above mentioned as by his Certificate to me appears

THOMAS TARBEL *Town Clerk*

The aforegoing Marriages Rec^d & Entred

SAM^L PHIPPS *Cler Pac^s*

[IV. 217–219.]

GROTON MARRIAGES

Groton Feb^r. 21 : 1744/5. To Mr Thos Tarbel Clerk for s^d Town

Sir, That the Persons hereafter named were (at the several Times Set against their respective names) joyned in marriage by me the Subscriber is hereby certified to you Caleb Trowbridge Pastor of the Ch^h in s^d Town

Viz^t.

March 5th. 1740/1. John Burt to Barbara Farmer both of Groton
May 5 : — John Williams jun^r of Groton to Eliz^a. Cutter of Charlestown

[May] 13.	[1741.]	Uriah Sartle to Sarah Martin	all of Groton
— 25.	—	Nathaniel Parker. Jur to Eleanor Walker	
June 11.	—	Reuben Woods to Widow Submit Whitney	
Septr. 16.	—	Isaac Phillips to Abigl. Nutting	
Octo. 6.	—	Daniel Shed to Mary Tarbel	
Novr. 11.	—	Josiah Brown of Littleton to Anna Farwell of Groton	
— 12.	—	Nathan Rugg of Lancaster to Zeruiah Frost of Groton	
—	—	John Moshier to Elisabeth Lawrence	all of Groton
— 26.	—	Elnathan Blood to Elizb. Boynton	
Decr. 8:	—	John Blood to Abigail Parker	
Januy. 14	1741/2	Seth Walker Junr to Abigail Holdin	
— 19	—	Thomas Tarbel Junr to Esther Smith	
Februy. 4.	—	Ephraim Divol of Lancaster to Elizb. Woods of Groton	
—	—	James Blood Junr to Mary Gilson both of Groton	
March 4.	—	Peter Parker of Groton to Prudence Lawrence of Littleton	
— 11.	—	Thomas Fisk to Mary Parker	all of Groton
— 25.	—	Thomas Patch to Anna Gillson	
May 6.	—	William Sanderson to Sarah Russell	
July 15.	—	John Farwell of Harvard to Sarah Sawtle of Groton	
— 22d.	—	Oliver Farwell to Rejoyce Preston	all of Groton
Septr. 9.	—	Joseph Blood Junr to Hannah Blood	
Decr. 9.	—	William Richardson of Townshend to Mary Hobart of Groton.	
— —			
— 28.	—	Priamus Negro (Capt. Boydens Slave) to Margaret Molatto both of Groton.	
— —			
Januy. 27.	—	Jonathan Shattuck Junr to Kezia Farnsworth	all of Groton
Febr. 8.	—	Nathaniel Bowers to Elizabeth Blood	
— 21.	—	Joseph Dodge to ye Widow Mary Irvine	
April. 26.	1743.	Jonathan Holdin to Deborah Houghton.	
—.	—	Timothy Moore to Lydia Nutting	
July 12.	—	Jonathan Parker to Eleanor Hunt	
— 27.	—	Josiah Farnsworth Junr to Hannah Buttrick	

Nov.r 10. [1743.]		Joseph Stephens of New Ipswich (so called) to Elisabeth Sawtle of Groton	
Dec.r 2.	—	Samuel Phillips to Abigail Frost both of Groton	
— 8	—	Samuel Flood resident in Andover to Triphena Powers of Groton.	
—.			
— 13.	—	Josiah Nutting to Mary Blood both of Groton.	
Janu.a 5 : 1743/4.		David Kemp to Hannah Sawtle both of Groton.	
April 2.	—	Thomas Jewett of Boxford to Martha Hale of Groton.	
June 12.	—	John Courtney to Dorcas Barney both resident in Groton.	
— 20.	—	Benjamin Lawrence to Ruth Dodge	all of Groton
July 3.	—	Thomas Lawrence to Sarah Houghton	
Nov.r 22.	—	William Williams to Mary Perkins	
Dec.r 4.	—	Isaac Farnsworth to Anna Green	
— 6.	—	Samuel Bloget of Westford to Sarah Spencer of Groton.	
—			
— 18.	—	Ephraim Whitney to Esther Woods	all of Groton
Jan.a 17 : 1744/5.		James Paterson to the Widow Elisabeth Bartlet	
—			
—	—	Jedediah Jewett to Elisabeth Shattuck	
March 19.	—	Phinehas Chamberlain to Lydia Williams	all of Groton
April 2.	—	Nathan Hubburd to Mary Paterson	
May 22.	—	William Tarbel Jun.r to Sarah Woods	
June 27.	—	Moses Blood to Elisabeth Stone	

Rec.d August 29.th 1745
and Entered ℣ THAD MASON *Cler Pac.s*

[IV. 283–285.]

John Fanworth of Groton & Hannah Aldis of Dedham, were joyned in marriage December 8.th 1686./

James Blood & Abigail Kemp, both of Groton, were joyned in marriage December 20.th 1686./

James Fisk & Tabitha Butterick, both of Groton, were joyned in marriage February 2.d 168⅞./

John Laurance & Hannah Tarbal, both of Groton, were joyned in marriage November 9.th 1687.

By GERSHAM HUBERT *Minist.r of Groton*

[IV. 154.]

The remaining records from Volume IV. are found under the headings of different towns, and in every instance the page is given within the brackets.

Christopher Hall of Groton & Ruth Garfield of Watertowne were Joyned in marriage February 2d. 168⅞. — [154.] Wm Bond Esq *Justice of p:*

William Shattuck Junr of Groton & Hannah Underwood of Watertown, were Joined in Marriage by Justice Willm Bond March 19th. 1687/8 — [164.]

Adam Goold of Groton, & Hannah Knight of Wooburn, were joyned in marriage by ye same Minister [Jabez Fox, of Woburn,] September. 28. 1687./ — [165.]

John Green of Groton, & Mary Pierce of Watertown, were joyned in Marriage by ye same Minister [Joseph Estabrook, of Concord,] December 25th. 1688. — [166.]

John Greene of Charlestown, & Patience Daughter of Samuel Davis of Groton joyned in Marriage before Mr Minot of Concord. — [189.]

Jonathan Kemp of Chelmsford and Sarah Gilson of Groton were Married by Justice Minott — [200.] } Novemr 19th. 1718

Joseph Farnsworth of Groton & Rebecca Gibson [of Sudbury] May. 4. 1727. — [207.]

Samuel Parker of Groton and Sarah Houghton of Lancaster were married — [212.] } Janry 18 . . 1724/5

Joshua Wheeler of Townshend & Mehetabel Hadley of Groton were Married Jana. 4th. 1737/8 by Phinehas Hemenway Pastor of the Chh in Townshend. — [290.]

Timothy Whitney lately an Inhabitent of Townshend & Submit Parker of Groton were married by the Revd Mr Phinehas Hemenway May 24th. 1738. — [290.]

On April. 14: 1747 were lawfully married Jacob Byam of Groton & Sarah Avery of Townshend. as atts Phinehas Hemenway Pastor of Townshend. — [291.]

Benjamin Farnsworth of Groton & Rebekah Pratt of Maldon were married by Mr Jos: Emerson the 19th. of May 1736. — [303.]

After this date the list of marriages is found in the two volumes marked respectively "Marriages. No. 1." and "Marriages. No. 2."

GROTON MARRIAGES

Groton March 2d 1746 To Mr: Thos Tarbell Clerk of Said Town. I do hereby certifie you that the Persons under-named were joyned together in Marriage (at the Several Times affixed to their names) by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of a Church in sd Town

January 29th 1745	Thos Williams & Mercy Rolf	all of Groton
Febry 5 :	John Pratt & Hannah Bowers	
April 15: 1746.	Robinson Lakin & Hannah Dodge	
June 17 :	Simeon Blood & Sarah Gillson	
Septr 17 :	Amos Sawtell & Elisabeth Fletcher	
Octo 9 :	Samuel Scripture Junr & Mary Green	
Novr 4 :	William Derumple & Elisabeth Shead	
Novr 5 :	John Russell & Mary Cranson	
Novr 20.	Benja Swallow & ye Widw Hannah Green	
Decr 3d	John Chamberlain Junr & Rachel Lawrence	
Decr 3d	Jona Lawrence & Elisabeth Lakin	
Janua 8 :	Benjamin Bennet Junr & Sarah Lakin	
Februa 17.	Moses Bennet Junr & Sarah Blood	

The Persons above named are recorded by me as they stand entred in Groton Town Book for Marriages &c.

THOS TARBELL *Town Clerk*

Zachariah Shattuck, Elisabeth Fisk	March 3d 1746/7
Silas Blood, Alathea Martin	May 12th 1747
Nathaniel Shattuck, Hannah Simonds	May 14: 1747
Amos Taylor, Bridget Martin	May 21 : 1747
John Green Kezia Shattuck	July 16 : 1747
Stephen Foster Sarah Blood	Augst 5th 1747

Married ꝑ me JOSEPH EMERSON.

The within Persons are recorded by me in Groton Town Book for marriages &c. THOS TARBELL *Town-Clerk*

Groton Februa 21: 1747. To Mr Thos Tarbell Clerk of said Town this may certifie you that the following Couples were joyned in Marriage at the times set against their Names) by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE

Pastor of the Chh in Said Town

Vizt

April 2d 1747 William Wallis of Townshend & Eunice Nutting of Groton.

[April] 20: [1747.] John Derby of Harvard & Widw. Elisabeth Holdin of Groton.

23d. — William Scott of Dunstable & Mary Derumple of Groton.

June 25: Hezekh. Sawtell Junr. of Groton & Margaret Dodge of Lunenburgh.

July 7: John Stone Junr. & Anna Pratt
Septr. 1: David Nutting & Rachel Lakin
Novr. 10: William Holding & Annis Nutting
} all of Groton

— 25. — Oliver Wheeler of Acton & Abigail Woods of Groton

26. — Benja. Willson & Sarah Whitney both of Groton

Decr. 2. — Abijah Willard of Lancaster & Elisabeth Prescott of Groton.

— 3 — David Sawtell Junr. & Rebekah Pratt both of Groton

— 14 — Moses Wheeler resident in Groton & Elisabeth Holdin of the same Town.

— 30 — Edmund Bancroft & Elisabeth Atherton
Februa. 3d. — Moses Wentworth & Mindwell Stone
} all of Groton

16. — Ephraim Chandler of Westford & Widow Abigail Blood of Groton.

The Persons above named are recorded by me as they Stand entered in Groton Town Book for Marriages &c

THOS. TARBELL *Town Clerk*

All the foregoing were recd. May 3d. 1749
and recorded by me THAD MASON *Cler Pacs.*

Groton April 28th. 1749. To Capt. Thos. Tarbell Clerk of said Town I do certifie you that the Several Couples hereafter named were joyned together in Marriage (at the Several Times Set against their respective Names) by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE
Pastor of the first Church in said Town

Vizt.

May 12: 1748. Josiah Conant & Rachel Hobart
July 7. — Israel Hobart & Anna Lawrence
Septr. 13. — Jams. Stone Junr. & Deborah Nutting
Februa. 9: — Jerahmeel Bowers & Eunice Bennit
March 1: — William Bush & Abiel Bennit
April 5: 1749. Jason Williams Junr. & Jemima Nutting
April 26: — Joshua Bowers & Sarah Farnsworth
} all of Groton

A true Copy from Groton Town Book of Records for Marriages.

THOS. TARBELL *Town Clerk*

Groton Febru^{a} 24th 1749. To Mr Thos Tarbell Town Clerk &c I do hereby certifie that the following Couples were joyned in marriage (at the Several Times Set against their Names by me

CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of the 1st C^{hh} in Said Town

Viz^{t}

Oct^{o} 4 :	1749.	Joseph Fairbanks of Harvard & Abigail Tarbell of Groton.	
Oct^{o} 18.	—	Benj^{a} Bancroft Junr & Alis Tarbell	all of Groton
Decr 6 :	—	Henry Farwell & Lydia Tarbell	
13	—	Jonathan Sawtell & Mary Holdin	
14th	—	Oliver Farnsworth & Sarah Tarbell	

A true Copy from the Town of Groton Book of Records for Marriages,

THO^{s} TARBELL *Town Clerk*

MARRIAGES.

William Blood to Lucy Fletcher	Janu^{a} 5th 1747/8
Eleazer Gillson to Mary Hall	July 21 : 1748
Zachariah Withe to Esther Kemp	July 21 : 1748
Samuel Foster [of Boxford] to Jane Boynton	Novr 24 : 1748
James Parker to Rebekah Bulkley	Decem^{r} 22 : 1748
Abraham Parker to Lois Blood	March 16 : 1749.
Jeremiah Shattuck Junr to Lydia Lakin,	Augs^{t} 10 : 1749

A true Copy from Groton Town Book of Records for Marriages.

THO^{s} TARBELL *Town Clerk*

All the foregoing were rec^{d} Febru^{a} 14 : 1750. and recorded by me

THAD MASON *Cler Pac^{s}*

Groton Febru^{a} 8th 1750. To Capt Thos Tarbell Clerk &c

I do hereby certifie you, that I Caleb Trowbridge have joyned in Marriage the following Couples at the several Times set against their respective Names, Viz^{t}

March 22^{d} 1749.		Ebenezer Nutting & Sarah Farnsworth both of Groton	
July 31st 1750.		Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury & Sarah Trowbridge of Groton.	
Novr 1st		Jonathan Peirce & Ruth Gillson	all of Groton
29th	—	Josiah Williams & Prudence Nutting	
Decr 19.	—	Eleazer Green Junr & Sarah Parker	
26th	—	William Green Junr & Ruth Colburn	

Janu.a 10th [1750/1]	Philemon Holdin & Lucy Walker	all of Groton
30th —	Jonathan Longley & Anna Bancroft	
Febru.a 6th —	Amos Holdin & Prudence Holdin	

Entred in Groton Town Book of Records THO.s TARBELL

Groton June 11th 1752. To Mr. Thos. Tarbell Town Clerk for said Town, I do hereby certifie that the following Couples were joyned in marriage to each other at the Several Times Set against their Names, by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of the first Church in Groton, — Viz.t

March 6: 1750/1.	Jonathan Gilson & Susannah Peirce both of Groton
13th.	Jonas Prescott Junr. of Westford & the Widw. Rebekah Parker of Groton.
Septr. 4: 1751.	Moses Haskel of Harvard & Anna Tarbel of Groton
Octor. 14. —	Floyd Pratt of Malden & Lydia Coffin of Groton
Novr. 14: —	Abel Lawrence & Mary Buckley (all of Groton)
20 —	Joseph Longley & Esther Paterson
Decr. 17: —	Bezaleel Sawyer of Lancaster & Lois Lawrence of Groton.
Janu.a 16: 1752.	Ambrose Lakin & Dorothy Gillson of Groton
22.	Benj.a Brooks Junr. of Townshend & Elisabeth Green of Groton.
March 4: —	Jerem.h Hobart & Hannah Green (all of Groton)
5th —	Elnathan Sawtell & Mary Stone
April 1st.	David Stone & Lydia Pratt
April 30: —	Jonathan Adams of Concord & Submit Farwell of Groton.
May 19: —	Joseph Parkhurst & Deborah Spaulding (all of Groton)
26: —	Joseph Bennit & Margaret Shattuck
June 10: —	Josiah Chamberlain & Hepzibah Crecee

Entred in Groton Town Book of Records

THO.s TARBELL

Groton Febru.y 25th 1754. To Capt. Thos. Tarbell Town Clerk &c This is to certifie that I Caleb Trowbridge (Pastor of the

Church in said Town) did joyn in Marriage the following Couples at the Times set against their respective Names Viz.t

June 17 :	1752.	John Sollendine & Dorcas Whipple	of Groton
18 :	—	James Prescott & Susanna Lawrence	
Nov.r 8 :	—	Peter Hobart & Abigail Lakin	
22.	—	Jonathan Farwell & Triphena Frost	
Dec.r 20 :	—	Micah Crecee of Groton & Catharine Wetherbee of Bolton	
March 7 :	1753.	Zachariah Longley & Jemima Moors	of Groton
Sept.r 4 :	—	Samuel Sawtell & y.e Wid.w Lydia Douglas	
Oct.r 24.	—	John Tarbell & Sarah Parker	
Nov.r 1.st		Caleb Blood & Hannah Holden	
22.d	—	John Craig & the Wid.w Jemima Fisk	
Decr. 17 :	—	James Lock Jun.r of Townshend & Hannah Farnsworth of Groton.	
Janu.a 3.d	1754	David Bennit of the District of Shirley and Elisabeth Wait of Groton.	
15.th	—	David Gilson of Groton & Anna Gilson of Pepperrill District	

Entred in Groton Town Book of Records

THO.s TARBELL

Married in the year 1750.

Abel Parker to Esther Shattuck	May 10.t
Jonathan Shattuck to Elisabeth Shattuck	Ag: 16.th

In the year 1751

John Green to Susanna Wood	Jan : 3.d
Richard Adams [of Dunstable] to Lydia Phillips	Jan : 17 :
Jacob Ames to Sarah Parker	Jan.a 24.th
Amosa Turner [of Lancaster] to Eunice Sanderson	Feb : 14 :
James Green to Elisabeth Sheple	July 10.th
John Longley to Elisabeth Paterson	July 16 :
Oliver Blood to Sarah Darlin	Nov.r 8 :

In the year 1752

Samuel Gilson to Elisabeth Shed — Feb: 20.
William Elliot to Elisabeth Williams — Mar: 19.

℘ me JOSEPH EMERSON
Entred in Groton Book of Records THO^S. TARBELL

All the foregoing were rec^d. May 16th. 1754
& Recorded ℘ THAD MASON *Cler Pac^s.*

Groton Feb^ry. 24th. 1755 To Capt. Thos. Tarbell Town Clerk These are to certifie that the following Couples were joyned together in Marriage at the Time Set against their respective Names (by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of the Church in Said Town Viz^t.

March 7: 1754. Benaiah Hutson of Pepperrill District & Dorothy Lawrence of Groton
19th. — Isaac Lakin Junr. of Groton & Mary Lawrence of Pepperrill &c^a.
April 2^d. — Ebenezer Severance & y^e. Wid^w. Sarah Bacon
10. — Jonathan Morse & Sybil Tarbell
May 29. — Ephraim Nutting & Jerusha Parker
Decr. 12th. — Jonathan Tarbell & Lydia Farnsworth
} all of Groton
Janu^a. 9th. 1755 William Parker of Groton & y^e. Wid^w. Sarah Richardson of Pepperrill &c^a.
23^d. — { Joseph Bruce of Mendon & Elisabeth Farnsworth of Groton.
Nathaniel Lakin of Pepperrill & Sybil Parker of Groton
Febr^a. 20: — Eben^r. Farnsworth Junr. & Mary Nickolls both of Groton

To Thad^s. Mason Esqr. This may certifie you that the Persons above named stand recorded with me as they are above entered
THO^S. TARBELL *Town Clerk*

Groton Febru^a. 28th. 1756. To Capt. Thos. Tarbell Town Clerk This is to certifie you that the following Couples were joyned in Marriage (at the Several Times Set against their respective Names) by me CALEB TROWBRIDGE Pastor of the C^hh. in Said Town. Viz^t.

March 26th 1755. Capt Ephm Sawtell & ye Widw Hanh Gilson } all of Groton

27. Samuel Cragge & Mary Conn } all of Groton

Samuel Hobart & Ann Bradstreet } all of Groton

April 16: John Stevens of Townshend & Susanna Tarbell of Groton.

May 29: Jonas Sawtell of Groton & Elisabeth Albee of Townshend

Amos Dole of Littleton & Molly Page of Groton.

July 9: Jonathan Stone & Susannah Mores } all of Groton

Septr 9 John Sheple & Abigail Green Junr } all of Groton

Octor 3d Revd Mr Joseph Perry of Windsor [Conn.] & Mrs Sarah Lawrence of Groton

Januar 22d 1756. Joshua Nevers resident in Groton & the Widw Abigail Sawtell of Groton.

Febra 26: — Jonathan Pratt & Lucy Bradstreet } all of Groton

Febry 27: — William Lakin & Priscilla Ames } all of Groton

To Thads Mason Esqr This may certifie that the Persons above named Stand recorded upon my Book as they are entred above

THOS TARBELL *Town Clerk.*

Decembr 10. 1755. This may certifie that I married Timothy Steward & Esther Taylor both of Westford on the Day aforesaid.

JOHN STEVENS *Jus. Peace*

The above written stands entred with me as above

THOS TARBELL *Town Clerk*

All the foregoing were received March 11th 1756 & recorded

℔ THAD MASON *Cler Pacs.*

To Doctr Oliver Prescott Town Clerk,

Sir, I have Married the Persons hereafter named at the Times specified.

SAML DANA

1765. Septr 26. William Shed to Lydia Farnsworth both of Groton

Octr 9. Samuel Nutting of Waltham to Olive Ames of Groton.

Novr 26. John Peirce of Groton to Sarah Biers of Westborough

	Dec.r 5.	Samuel Reed Jun.r of Lunenburgh to Mary Tarbell of Groton.
	20.	Edward Phelps of Leominster to Martha Farnsworth of Groton.
1766.	Janu.y 30:	Joseph Rockwood to Sarah Richardson both of Groton.
	March 11:	Ephraim Peirce to Esther Stone both of Groton.
	18.	Nathan Whipple to Abigail Bowers both of Groton.
	25:	Nathan Ball of Northborough to Elisabeth Reed of Groton.
	Dec.r 23.	John Whitaker Ju.r to Thankful Peirce both of Groton.
1767	Janu.y 6.	James Adams to Susanna Jenkins both of Groton.
	15.	Simon Page Jun.r of Shirley to Elisabeth Moores of Groton.
	Febru.a 2.	Jonathan Harris of Leominster to Hannah Robbins of Groton.
	3.	Zachariah Fitch to Sybill Lakin both of Groton
	18.	Ebenezer Farnsworth to Sarah Nicholls both of Groton
	March 19.	Joseph Hartwell of Littleton to Elisabeth Peirce of Groton
	May 5.	Jonathan Farnsworth of Harvard to Hannah Farwell of Groton.
	June 16.	Aaron Farnsworth to Sarah Bennet both of Groton.
	July 23.d	David Taylor of Concord to Sarah Parker of Groton.
	Octo.r 29.	John Page to Esther Lawrence both of Groton.
	Nov.r 11	Salmon Stone to Susa Page both of Groton.
	26.	Caleb Woods of Groton to Betty Cumings of Holles.
	Decemb.r 10.	Thomas Smith of Westford to Hannah Saunders of Groton.
1768.	Febru.a 9.	Daniel Page to Abigail Johnson both of Groton

[1768. Feb.]	10.	Jonas Martial of Chelmsford to Mary Parker of Groton.
	March 9.	Joseph Korey to Catharine Perry both of Groton.
	August 1:	Jonathan Lakin to Jemima Williams both of Groton
	Octob^{r}. 6.	Thomas Farrington to Betty Woods both of Groton.
	Novemb^{r}. 10.	John Woods Junr. of Groton to Hannah Goodhue of Westford.
	17.	John Bancroft of Woodstock to Eunice Blood of Groton
	Decemb^{r}. 1.	Thomas Gragg to Eunice Lakin both of Groton
	27.	Samuel Parker Junr of Groton to Rebekah Hunt of Westford
1769.	Janu^{y}. 12.	James Blood Junr. of Groton to Elisabeth Jewett of Pepperrill.
	Febru^{a}. 2^{d}.	Phinehas Page of Shirley to Hannah Stone of Groton
	May 9.	Thomas Chamberlain to Lydia Adams both of Groton.

To Thaddeus Mason Esq Clerk for the County of Middlesex &c, Sir. the within is a List of Marriages returned to me by the Rev^{d}. Samuel Dana of Groton and they are entered upon the Town Book for Groton

Att^{t}. OLIVER PRESCOTT *Town Clerk*

Middlesex ss: March 9: 1773. Rec^{d}. & recorded

by THAD MASON *Cler Pac^{s}.*

To the Town Clerk of Groton, Sir, I have Married the following Persons at the Times here Specified.

1769.	July 6.	Capt. Joseph Sheple to Deborah Bowers both of Groton.
	Augs^{t}. 31.	Israel Hobart to Sarah Nutting both of Groton
	Septr. 28.	Levi Kemp to Rebekah Nevers both of Groton
	October 3.	Peter Fisk to Rachel Kemp both of Groton
	26.	Isaac Nutting Ju^{r}. to Mary Nutting both of Groton.

	Novemb^{r} 15.	Jonathan Boyden to Elisabeth Sawtell both of Groton.
	21.	Benjamin Lawrence of Pepperrill to Sybill Parker of Groton.
	Decemb^{r} 12.	William Dutton of New Ipswich to Martha Parker of Groton.
1770.	Febru^{a} 8.	Peter Swallow of Dunstable to Prudence Stiles of Groton.
	June 6.	Samuel Kemp, 3^{d} of Groton to Elisabeth Kezer of Shirley.
	Octo^{r} 10.	Joseph Simonds to Mitty Cummings both of Groton
	November 20.	Benjamin Hazen to Lydia Woods both of Groton.
	Decemb^{r} 6	Isaac Farwell to Lucy Page both of Groton
		Solomon Farnsworth to Lucy Farnsworth both of Groton
		Nathaniel Melvin of New Ipswich to Abigail Lakin of Groton
1770.	Decemb^{r} 27.	Nathan Korey to Molly Green both of Groton.
1771.	May 7.	Zachariah Nutting to Eunice Nutting Daughter to Nathaniel Nutting both of Groton.
	23.	Thomas White Junr to Ruth Farnsworth both of Groton.
	June 4.	Elisha Rockwood to Abigail Stone both of Groton.
		Reuben Tucker of Townshend to Relief Farnsworth of Groton.
	July 24th	Timothy Woods to Elisabeth Derumple both of Groton
	August 13.	Samuel Woods Junr of Littleton to Rebecca Brooks of Groton.
	14.	Stephen Lunn of New Ipswich to Sybill Whitney of Pepperrill.
	October. 3.	Timothy Farwell to Sarah Page both of Groton.
1772	Janu^{y} 9.	Jacob Patch to Mary Hazen both of Groton
	March 26.	Josiah Warren to Sarah Tarbell both of Groton.
	May 7.	William Beals of Westford to Anna Woods of Groton.

[1772. May] 11. Jonathan Wetherbee of Harvard to Abigail Farwell of Groton.

20. Lt. Samuel Tuttle of Littleton to Mary Lawrence of Groton.

To Thaddeus Mason Esqr. Cler. Pacs. for the County of Middlesex, Sir, The within is a Return of Marriages by the Revd. Samuel Dana of Groton & they are entered upon the Town Book for Groton.

Attst. OLIVER PRESCOTT *Town Clerk*

Middlesex ss: Recd May 19th. 1773. and recorded

by THAD MASON *Cler Pacs.*

A Return of Marriages Solemnized by the Revd. Daniel Chaplin of Groton

1786. Decr. 27. Isaac Green of Ashby to Prudence Ames of Groton

1787 Februa. 8: Eenr. Parkhurst to Elisabeth Kendall both of Dunstable.

April 12. John Bowers to Lucy Wheeler both of Groton

June 18: Ephraim Stone to Sarah Ames both of Groton.

Septr. 13. Abel Stevens to Deborah Trufant both of Groton

Septr. 20: William Sheple Junr. to Lydia Tarbell both of Groton

Octo. 11. Joseph Moores of Ringe to Emme Hubbard of Groton

Novr. 2. Jonathan Stevens to Tryphena Hobart both of Groton

Decembr. 25. Asa Shattuck of Pepperrill to Anna Wright of Groton

1788. Februa. 14: John Hadley of Gardner to Abigl. Prescott of Groton

18. John Scott to Bethia Ames both of Groton.

22d. Joseph Sawtell 3d. to Hannah Kemp both of Groton.

Februa. 28: Thomas Farwell Junr. of Washington to Sally Wait of Groton.

28. Aaron Burdo of Reading to Phebe Leu of Groton

April 8. William Tarbell to Molly Simonds both of Groton.

A true Copy tes: JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*

Groton May 23 : 1788.

Middlesex ss : May 27 : 1788, Received & Recorded by THAD MASON *Cler Pacs*

[Marriages, No. 1, pages 104–115.]

A List of Marriages returned by the Rev.d Daniel Chaplin

1788. July 10th. Benjamin Morse jun.r to Susanna Trusant both of Groton.

Sept.r 10. Samuel Blood to Sarah Bartlet both of Groton.

Novemb.r 15 : Ezekiel Nutting Jun.r to Elisabeth Holdin both of Groton.

Ditto 25. Samuel Farnsworth to Bettsy Fitch both of Groton.

Decemb.r 25 : John White of Pepperrill to Lydia Farwell of Groton

A true Copy Test JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*

A List of Marriages returned by Ebenezer Champney Esq.r

1788. June 25th. Jonathan Blood to Mary Gragg both of Groton.

1789. March 27st. Oliver Hartwell to Rachel Shattuck both of Groton

1789 Janu.a 6 : Ebenezer Pratt Jun.r to Eunice Hartwell both of Shirley

March 28 : Oliver Fletcher to Mary Parker both of Groton

A true Copy. Tes.t JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*

A List of Marriages returned by Israel Hobart Esq.r

Novemb.r 18 : 1788. Abel Patch of Groton to Rebekah Nutting of Pepperrill.

Groton May y.e 5. 1789 A true Copy Tes.t JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*

Middlesex ss : May 5 : 1789 Received & Recorded by THAD MASON *Cler Pacs*

The following is a Copy of a Return of Marriages Solemnized by the Rev.d Daniel Chaplin

April. 16 : 1789	Richard Briant to Mary Whitney.
Ditto y.e 30.th D.o	Ephraim Lawrence to Sally Sartell.
May y.e 7 : D.o	Samuel Bancroft to Abigail Child
Ditto y.e 11 : D.o	Amos Shed to Lucy Tarbell
Ditto y.e 28. D.o	Israel Shattuck to Ede Patch.
June 7 : 1789.	Imlah Parker to Anna Ames.
July 1. Ditto	Thomas Tarbell to Molly Farnsworth.
Aug.t 20. D.o	Moses Stone to Polly Hamlen.
D.o D.o D.o	Abel Dinsmore to Rachel Fisk
Sept.r 29.th D.o	Jonas Baker to Susanna Simonds.
Novemb.r 3. D.o	James Ralph to Lucy Kemp.
D.o y.e 9 : D.o	Abel Sartell to Sarah Nutting.
Janu.a 13 : 1790.	Jonathan Lawrence to Lydia Tarbell
D.o y.e 17 : D.o	Jacob Rodiman to Abigail Lawrence.
D.o y.e 25 : D.o	Reuben Rice to Susanna Craigg
Febru.a y.e 4.th D.o	Benjamin Swan to Mary Wait.

A true Copy tes.t JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*
Groton May 4.th 1790.

N. B. No return from any Justice of the Peace
Middlesex ss: May 7.th 1790 Received & recorded
by THAD MASON *Cler Pac.*

A list of the Persons returned by the Rev.d Daniel Chaplin

1790.	Apr. 12.	Oliver Kemp to Lydia Blood
	25.	Joseph Trusant Ju.r to Anna Bennett
	May 2.	Jonas Gilson to Nabby Green
	12	Eben. Wood Ju.r to Sarah Farwell
	14.	Henry Blood to Nabby Lakin
	20.th	Eleazer Davis to Betsy Parker
	June 22.	Colson Trusant to Maria Page
	July 6.	David Davis to Lucy Farwell
	Sep.t 16.	Sam.l Dodge to Polly Farnsworth
	30.	John Lawrence J.r to Esther Nutting
	Oct 17	Jotham Woods to Mary Gilson
	Nov 25	Eph. Nutting J.r to Polly Woods
	Dec. 14.	Joel Lawrence to Ruth Collier

1791 Feb. 1. Jonathan Shed to Nabby Allen
Mar. 29. Eleazer Hamlen to Sarah Bancroft
30. Oliver Page to Esther Kemp

A true Copy Attⁿ JOSEPH SHED *To Clerk*

Dec. 2ᵈ 1790 Wᵐ Blood to Elizabeth Ames, were married by Wᵐ Swan Esqʳ

A true Copy Attⁿ JOSEPH SHED *To Clerk*

Middlesex ss Groton March 26. 1793. Then was joined in marriage by me the Subscriber

Asa Bigsby Jun of Westford & Lucy Gillson of Groton which are all the persons I Have married the year past

Wᵐ SWAN *Just of the Peace*

A true Copy Test

JOSEPH SHED *Town Clerk*

[Marriages, No. 2, pages 104–106.]

The remaining records of marriages are found under the headings of the different towns where they took place.

NEWTON

Revᵈ Mʳ Samuel Dana of Groton & Miss Anna Kenrick of Newton were married May 6: 1762

[Marriages, No. 1, page 15.]

WATERTOWN

Nathaniel Harris of Groton & Anna Mead of Watertown were joyned in Marriage on the 27ᵗʰ day of Octoʳ 1748 by the Revᵈ Mʳ Seth Storer Minister of yᵉ Gospel

[Marriages, No. 1, page 31.]

Nathaniel Smith of Groton & Priscilla Harris of Watertown were joyned in marriage the 17ᵗʰ day of Decʳ 1751 ℘ the Revᵈ Mʳ Seth Storer Minister of yᵉ Gospel.

[Marriages, No. 1, page 33.]

Oliver Prescott of Groton & Lydia Baldwin of Watertown were joyned in marriage on the 19th day of Februa: 1756, ℔ Seth Storer Minister of the Gospel
[Marriages, No. 1, page 37.]

CONCORD

Ephraim Robbins of Groton & Thankful Ball of Concord Decembr 19 : 1777.
[Marriages, No. 1, page 64.]

DUNSTABLE

Peter Parker Junr of Groton & Mary Butterfield of Dunstable Januy 3 : 1769
[Marriages, No. 1, page 119.]

LITTLETON

Jonathan Lawrence of Littleton & Lydia Fletcher of Groton were joyned in marriage by the Revd Mr Danl Rogers of Littleton by his Certificate under his hand Octo 10 : 1754.
[Marriages, No. 1, page 133.]

Littleton December ye 18th 1760 Then Joseph Hoar of Littleton & Mary Farwell of Groton were joyned in Marriage by the Revd Mr Daniel Rogers as by Certificate under his hand.
[Marriages, No. 1, page 138.]

BEDFORD

Octobr 25 : 1774. Nehemiah Lawrence of Groton and Esther Fitch of Bedford married.
[Marriages, No. 1, page 190.]

TOWNSHEND

On December 13th 1750 William Stevens of Townshend and Sybill Farnsworth of Groton were lawfully married by Phinehas Hemmenway Pastor of Townshend

SAMUEL MANNING *Town Clerk*

Townshend December 15th 1750. then was lawfully married Josiah Farwell & Lydia Farnsworth both of Groton, by John Stevens Justice of Peace

SAMUEL MANNING *Town Clerk*

On January 9th 1752. were lawfully Married Jonathan Avery of Townshend & Mary Farnsworth of Groton by the Revd Phins Hemmenway Pastor of Townshend

[Marriages, No. 1, page 198.] SAMUEL MANNING *Town Clerk*

Mr. Sawtelle, in his History of Townsend (pages 386, 387) gives the last two marriages as follows: —

1750. December 15, Jonah Farwell, Groton, Lydia Farnsworth, Groton.

1752. January 9, John Avery, Townsend, Mary Farnsworth, Groton.

LITTLETON

Daniel Stone of Groton & Martha Lawrence of Littleton on the 24th day of Janury 1769 were joyned in marriage by me

DANIEL ROGERS *Clerk.*

Matthias Farnsworth of Groton & Sarah Farnsworth of Harvard on the 16th day of Februa 1769 were joyned in Marriage, by me

J. D. ROGERS *Just. Pacs*

[Marriages, No. 1, page 273.]

Littleton February 15: 1770 Then Mr Ephraim Kimball of Littleton & Mrs Mary Sartell of Groton were joyned in marriage by the Revd Mr Daniel Rogers, as by a certificate under his hand

[Marriages, No. 1, page 274.]

January ye 5th 1773 Then Mr Isaac Stone of Groton & Mrs Hannah Leighton of Littleton were joyned in marriage by the Revd Mr Daniel Rogers, as appears by his Certificate

[Marriages, No. 1, page 277.]

BILLERICA

Jonas Priest of Groton & Martha Durant of Billerica were married by Mr Cumings Janua 17: 1769

[Marriages, No. 1, page 343.]

DUNSTABLE

David Woods of Groton & Deborah Swallow of Dunstable Decemb.r y.e 14.th 1769.

Solomon Woods of Groton & Mary Taylor of Dunstable April y.e 19. 1770.

[Marriages, No. 1, page 418.]

WESTFORD

September 26 : [1784.] Isaac Fletcher of Westford to Ruth Peirce of Groton

[Marriages, No. 1, page 422.]

Joseph Rockwood Jun.r of Groton & Lucy Fletcher of Westford Nov.r 26 : 1789

[Marriages, No. 1, page 424.]

Amos Read of Westford & Rachael Prescott of Groton Feb.r 22 : 1790.

Enoch Cook of Groton & Abigail Butterfield of Westford Sept.r 26 : 1790

[Marriages, No. 1, page 425.]

LITTLETON

This may certify that Henry Davis of Groton & Mary Tuttle of Littleton were joined in marriage by

EDMIND FOSTER *C.*

Littleton 12 Febru.a 1782

[Marriages, No. 2, page 51.]

This may certify that James Pool of Hollis & Mary Richardson of Groton were joined in marriage by

EDMUND FOSTER *C.*

Littleton 24. Nov.r 1784

[Marriages, No. 2, page 52.]

SHIRLEY

Febru.a 5 : [1789.] Abijah Nutting of Groton & Eunice Page of Shirley.

[Marriages, No. 2, page 91.]

TOWNSHEND

Oct 14. [1773.] Phinehas Hemenway with Elizabeth Taylor, both of Groton

Ap.l [1776.] Abel Shattuck of Pepperrell with Hannah Hobart of Groton

[Dec.] 19 [1776.] Nehemiah Tarbell with Martha Dodge, both of Groton

[April] 29. [1777.] Mr Robert Ames with Mrs Susanna Warren both of Groton

July, [1778.] Benjn Lawrence Junr with Rebeccah Woods, both of Groton.

[Marriages, No. 2, page 178.]

AD. 1779. Jan 21. } Benj Hobart of Groton with Eliz. Brooks of Townshend

June. 17. [1779.] Isaac Warren with Eunice Farnsworth, both of Groton

Mar. 22. [1781.] Caleb Blood 3d of Groton, with Hepzibah Jewett of Pepperrell

[Marriages, No. 2, page 179.]

II.

A LIST OF MARRIAGES SENT TO THE TOWN CLERK OF GROTON, UNDER CHAPTER LXXXIV. SECTION 4, OF THE ACTS OF 1857, AND SOME FROM OTHER SOURCES.

AN Act was passed by the General Court of Massachusetts on April 24, 1857, which required every town clerk in the Commonwealth to make a certified copy of the record of all marriages occurring before the year 1800 in his town, whenever either of the contracting parties lived in any other town, and to send such copy to the clerk of that town to be duly recorded in a book kept for the purpose. The following list of marriages is taken from the book (pages 128–163) kept by the town clerk of Groton in accordance with the requirements of this law, and marked on the back, "Births & Deaths." It is by no means complete, as many marriages not recorded here are entered in the county records during the same period, and *vice versa*. Whenever the record is duplicated, I have omitted the entry found in the town book, for the reason that this copy was made at a much later date, and consequently is more liable to error. In a few instances, where the names or dates differ, I have given both forms; but in such cases I have mentioned the fact. For the sake of convenience I have arranged the names of the towns alphabetically.

ANDOVER.

1713, Feb. 12. Samuel Kemp of Groton and Sarah Lacey of Andover were married.

1739, July 3d. Daniel Farwell of Groton and Mary More of Andover, by Rev. Samuel Phillips.

1758, March 28. William Benit of Groton and Mrs. Hannah Perrey of Andover, by Rev. Samuel Phillips.

ASHBURNHAM.

Abel Prescott of Groton and Hannah Spaulding of Ashburnham were married Oct. 7, 1794, by Rev. John Cushing.

BEDFORD.

Nehemiah Lawrence of Groton & Elizebeth Fitch of Bedford were Married by the Rev. Joseph Penniman, October 25th, 1774.

The county records give her name as Esther.

BILLERICA.

Joseph Jewell of Groton and Mary Saunders of Billerica, Joined in marriage before Mr. Samuel Ruggles, Sept. 25, 1738.

BOXFORD.

Stephen Holden of Groton and Sarah Wheeler of Lunenburg were joined in marriage before David Wood, Esq., March 21, 1739.

CAMBRIDGE.

Mr. Benj. Prescott of Grouten & Mrs. Abigail Oliver of Cambridge were married 12 June, 1718, per Jonathan Pool, Esq.

1785, Oct. 13. Dr. Ephm Ware of Groton & Mrs. Abigail Gamage, By Rev. Timothy Willard.

CHARLESTOWN.

William Green & Mary Barron of Groton, joyned in marriage befor the Hon. James Russell, Esq., Justice of the peace, June the 20th, 1705.

Samuel Comings & Elizabeth Shed, both of Groton, married before Edward Emerson, Esq., Justice of the peace, January 14th, 1708/9.

Jonathan Nuttin and Mary Green, both of Groton, joyned in marriage before Mr. Justice Emerson, June 1st, 1710.

Stephen Holden of Groton & Sarah Cressy of this Town were joyned in marriage by the Rev. Mr. Hull Abbot, July 4th 1749.

CHELMSFORD.

Daniel Cadye and Mary Green, both of Groton, entered a covenant of Marriage the : 6th : day of July : 1683, before Samuel Adams, Commissioner.

John Parise of Groton and Mary the daughter of John Wattel of Chelmsford were married the : 29 : December : 1685, as witness Samuel Adams, Commissioner.

Samuel the son of Samuel Wood of Groton and Hannah the daughter [of] Joseph Farwell were married the 30 day of December, 1685, as witness Samuel Adams, Commissioner.

William Lakin of Groton and Elizebeth the daughter of James Robinson of Groton were married the 4 January, 1685, before Samuel Adams, Commissioner.

Nicolas Cady, the son of Nicolas of Groton, entered a covenant of Marriage with Porcine the daughter of William Redland of Groton, the 20 of March, 1685, before Samuel Adams, Commissioner.

Thomas Blodget of Chelmsford and Mary Druse of Groton entered into a covenant of marriage the 8 of July, 1696, before Mr. Thomas Clark.

Robert Robbins and Mary Dill entered into a covenant of marriage before Mr. Thomas Clark, ye 27 of March, 1697.

William Whitney of Groton and Lydia Perham of Chelmsford entered into a covenant of Marriage before Mr. Thomas Clark, March the

The rest of the date is wanting ; but it is supposed to be 1699 or 1700.

Nathan Ames [of Groton &] Lydia Goodhue was married April 10, 1788. Returned by Abisha Crossman.

Obediah Parker [of Groton] & Ruth Stevens, Oct. 17, 1752 New Style [by the Reverend Ebenezer Bridge].

Jeremiah Hobart & Rebecca Saunders, March 4, 1776 [by the Reverend Ebenezer Bridge].

CONCORD.

Dec. 7th, 1698.	John Stone.	Groton.	
	Sarah Farnsworth.	"	Justice Minot.
Aug. 16th, 1699.	Thomas Chamberlain.	Groton.	
	Abigail Nutting.	"	do.

Oct. 5, 1699.	Jonas Prescott.	Groton.	
	Thankful Wheeler.	Concord.	Rev. Jos. Easterbrook.
Feb. 8th, 1699/1700.	Samuel Scripture.	Groton.	
	Mary Green.	Watertown.	Justice Minot.
April 8th, 1702.	Moses Barrow.	Groton.	
	Sarah Power.	"	do.
April 8th, 1702.	Daniel Power.	Groton.	
	Elizebeth Whitcomb.	Lancaster.	do.
April 15th, 1706.	Joseph Blood	Groton.	
	Hannah Sawyer	Lancaster.	do.
Aug. 24th, 1706.	Thomas Porter.	Billerica.	
	Hepsibah Sawtell.	Groton.	do.
Sept. 23d, 1706.	Benjamin Lakin.	Groton.	
	Elizebeth Lakin.	"	do.
Oct. 15, 1706.	Samuel Warner.	Groton.	
	Hannah Cady.	"	do.
Sept. 4th, 1710.	Jonathan Whitcomb.	Groton.	
	Deborah Scripture.	"	do.
April 10, 1713.	Ephraim Sawtell.	Groton.	
	Abigail Farnsworth.	"	do.
Sept. 19th, 1733.	Ezra Farnsworth.	Groton.	
	Abigail Pierce.	"	do.
Nov. 27th, 1754.	Nathan Wood.	Groton.	
	Ann Parker.	"	do.
Dec. 25th, 1760.	Nathaniel Blood.	Groton.	
	Hannah Shattuck.	"	do.
May 10th, 1762.	Ebenezer Parker.	Groton.	
	Susanna Loper.	Concord.	Rev. Mr. Bliss.
Aug. 2, 1763.	John Robbins.	Groton.	
	Sarah Gilson.	"	Ths. Whiting, Esq.
Nov. 9th, 1769.	David Archibald	Groton.	Justice Whiting.
	Hannah Patch	"	
March 5th, 1777.	Thomas Bond.	Groton.	
	Esther Merriam.	Concord.	Rev. Jos. Penniman.
April 2d, 1786.	Samuel Bowers.	Groton.	
	Lucy Allen.	Concord.	J. Cummings, Esq.

DEDHAM.

Married by ye Rev. Mr. Saml Dexter

Hezekiah Sprague of Groton & Elizebeth Avery of Dedham. Oct. 30th, 1729.

DRACUT.

John Varnum of Dracut & Dorathy Prescout of Groton were lawfully married in November, in the 13th day in the year 1700.

DUNSTABLE.

David Woods of Groton & Deborah Swallow of Dunstable, April 19, 1770.

The county records give the date of this marriage as December 14, 1769.

James Pike of Groton & Ruth Ingolls of Dunstable, March 3d, 1773.

Jonathan Bancroft of Dunstable & Martha Green of Groton, May 20, 1773.

FITCHBURG.

Samuel Dowse of Fitchburg and Eunice Wentworth of Groton were married Jany. 1st, 1771, by Rev. John Payson.

HARVARD.

William Bennet of Groton, Mary Atherton of Harvard, by Rev. John Seccomb, Nov. ye 26, 1741.

John Frost, Jr., of Groton, Mindwill Bigelow of Harvard, by Rev. John Seccomb, Sept. 6, 1750.

Ephraim Read of Harvard, Elizebeth Pierce of Groton, by Rev. John Seccomb, May 4, 1757.

Thomas Farewell of Groton, Sarah Davis of Harvard, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, Jany. 3d, 1760.

Silas Rand of Harvard, Sarah Farwell of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, Feby. 22, 1763.

Paul Fletcher of Groton, Abigail Willard of Harvard, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, March 8, 1764.

William Farwell of Groton, Sybil Farwell of Harvard, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, Dec. 5, 1765.

Silas Stone of Groton, Eunice Fairbank of Harvard, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, June 1st, 1767.

Thomas Park of Groton, Rosanna Conn of Harvard, by Rev. Joseph Wheeler, May 3, 1768.

Edmund Farwell of Groton, Mary Russell of Harvard, by Rev. Dana Johnson, July 15, 1773.

Mathias Farnsworth of Groton, Azuba Farnsworth of Harvard, by Rev. Dana Johnson, Feb. 21, 1776.

Moses Hale of Harvard, Molly Farwell of Groton, by Rev. Dana Johnson, April 10, 1776.

Harbour Farnsworth of Groton, Lucy Heald of Harvard, by Joseph Wheeler, Justice of the peace, March 12, 1778.

Samuel Finney of Harvard, Rhoda Park of Groton, by Isaiah Parker, April 24, 1780.

Jonathan Stone, Jr., of Groton, Catherine Willard of Harvard, by Rev. Ebenezer Grosvenor, July 2, 1786.

John Blanchard of Sutton, Hulda Carrol of Groton, by Josiah Whitney, Esq., Sept. 26, 1786.

Joshua Davis of Groton, Sybil Patterson of Harvard, by the Reverend William Emerson, August 3, 1793.

Joseph Sawtell of Groton, Lucy Farnsworth of Harvard, by the Reverend Wm. Emerson, July 1, 1794.

HAVERHILL.

Francis Worster of Groton & Mary Simmons of Haverhill, married April 11, 1775.

LEOMINSTER.

1744, June 5. Ezra Hale of Leominster and Lydia Frost of Groton.

1757, April 6. Edward Phelps of Leominster and Martha Tarbell of Groton.

Both by the Reverend John Rodgers.

LEXINGTON.

Elisha Corey of Groton & Mary Munroe of Lexington were Married April 18, 1780.

Samuel Pierce of Groton & Sally Farmer of Lexington were joined in marriage February 12, 1794.

Both by the Reverend Jonas Clark.

LITTLETON.

Israel Hinds of Littleton & Sarah Foster of Groton, by J. Dummer Rogers, Jus. Peace, Aug. 17, 1768.

Benj. Bancroft of Groton & Mrs. Mary Tuttle of Littleton, by Rev. Edmund Foster, Oct. 18, 1785.

John Farnsworth of Groton & Nancy Baker of Littleton, by Rev. Edmund Foster, Dec. 29, 1789.

Solomon Stone of Groton & Hepsabah Treadwell of Littleton, by Rev. Edmund Foster, Nov. 20, 1790.

Jonathan Wythe of Groton & Betsey Warren of Groton, by Sampson Tuttle, Esq., Dec. 3d, 1799.

LUNENBURG.

Jonathan Bennett of Groton and Mary Going of Lunenburg were married October ye 15th, 1755, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minster of Lunenburg.

Timothy Darling of Lunenburg and Joanna Blood of Groton were married Feby. 8th, 1753, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

John Kelsey of Groton and Martha Mc Farlen of Lunenburg was married by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg, January the 10th, 1739/40.

Samuel Larrabee of Lunenburg and Anne Williams of Groton were married December 7, 1752, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

Benj. Larrabee of Lunenburg and Margaret Williams of Groton were married December 7, 1752, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

Nehemiah Lane of Lunenburg & Sarah Fletcher of Groton were Married April 17th, 1760, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

William Larkin of Lunenburg & Hannah Parce of Groton were Married May ye 7, 1761, by Edward Hartwell, Justice of the Peace.

John Larrabee of Lunenburg & Abiel Arvern of Groton were Married June ye 19th, 1760, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

Ebenezer Pratt of Lunenburg & Lydia Stone of Groton were married by Edward Hartwell, Justice of ye Peace, September ye 22d, 1761.

Silas Snow of Lunenburg & Anna Farwell of Groton were Married November ye 20th, 1760, by the Rev. Mr. David Stearns, Minister of Lunenburg.

Isaac Forster, Junr, & Rachel Fisk, Groton, Sept. 10, 1778.

Daniel Hart, Junr, of Groton & Polly Marshall, Lun., Sept. 13, 1798.

Levi Carlisle of Groton & Polly Billings, Lunen., Octo. 7, 1798.
[The last three by the Reverend Zabdiel Adams.]

MARLBOROUGH.

John Bush and Ruth Nutting of Groton were married Oct. 29th, 1712.

MEDFORD.

June 30, 1725. Jonathan Farnsworth and Mary Burt, both of Groton.

NEWBURY.

Doctor Ezekiel Chase of Groton & Priscila Merrill of Newbury were joyned together in marriage May ye 20th, 1729, by ye Rev. Mr. John Tufts.

NORTON.

June, 26 day, 1733. Thomas Cimber of Groton and Abigail Willis of Taunton were Joined together in marriage by George Leonard, Justice.

PEPPERELL.

1748. Jany. 5. William Blood & Lucy Fletcher of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

July 21. Eleazer Gilson & Mary Hall of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

July 21. Zachariah Weath & Esther Kemp of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Nov. 24. Samuel Foster of Boxford & Jane Boynton of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Dec. 22. James Parker & Rebeckah Bulkley of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1749. March 10. Abraham Parker & Lois Blood of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Aug. 10. Jeremiah Shattuck & Lidia Lakin of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1750. Aug. 16. John Shattuck & Elizebeth Shattuck of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1752. June 25. Ebenezer Woods & Eunice Boyden of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Dec. 12. Solomon Parker & Hepzibeth Longlie of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1753. Feb. 1. Simon Blood & Anna Shattuck of Groton.

Feb. 8. George Camel of Townsend & Mary White of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Feb. 15. John Wallis of Townsend & Mary White of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Sept. 13. Simon Green of Groton & Mary Shattuck of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1756. June 17. John Woods & Jerusha Smith of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1757. April 13. Edmund Parker of Pepperell & Elizebeth Green of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1758. April 25. John Chamberlain of Pepperell & Mary Patch of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

May 25. Job Shattuck & Sarah Hartwell of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1759. May 10. Josiah Boyden of Groton & Sarah Nutting of Pepperell, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

June 26. Sam[l] Kemp & Lydia Phillips of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

July 12. Ebenezer Gilson of Pepperel & Hannah Darley of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1760. Nov. 27. Isaac Baldwin of Groton & Elizebeth Shattuck of Pepperell, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Dec. 11. Ebenezer Lakin & Eunice Lakin of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1765. Mar. 14. Isaac Corey of Groton & Lydia Jewett of Pepperell, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1767. Jan[y] 22. Simeon Nutting of Pepperell & Dorothy Kemp of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Jan[y] 22. Eleazer Parker of Groton [&] Abigail Lawrence of Pepperell, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1772. June 22. William Colburn of Hollis & Anna Farnsworth of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

July 2. David Tarbell to Esther Kemp of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

July 15. Samuel Stills of Lyndboro & Susannah Lakin of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1773. Feb. 4. David Shedd & Lucy Blood of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1774. Feb. 1. Jeremiah Lawrence of Pepp.l & Anna Woods of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1775. May 4. Abel Kemp & Lucy Pratt of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Sept. 5. John Pierce & Tabatha Porter of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Sept. 5. Thadeus Bancroft & Bular Foster of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Sept. 26. John Fisk & Anna Blood of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

Oct. 5. Ezra Pierce & Rebecca Lawrence of Groton, by Rev. Joseph Emerson.

1780. Jan.y 18. Zacheus Farwell of Groton & Lydia Gilson of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

Oct. 31. Robinson Lakin of Pepperell & Hepzibeth Lakin of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1783. May 13. Amaziah Blood of Groton & Hannah Green of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

May 21. John Nutting, tertius, Pepperell, & Sarah Fisk of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1784. Nov. 17. Benjamin Woodward of Dunstable & Mary Blood of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

Nov. 23. Edward Jewett of Pepperell & Maria Blood of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1786. June 1. John Park, Jun.r, of Groton & Lydia Hamlin of Howard, by Rev. John Bullard.

1788. Sept. 25. Ezkiel Shattuck & Prudence Blood of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1789.* June 25. Caleb Woods, Jun.r, of Groton & Abig.l Woods of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

1791. Dec. 29. Sam.l Kemp of Groton & Hepz.h Shattuck of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

1792. Feb. 21. Nathaniel Flitcher of Dunstable & Submit Blood of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

June 3. Eben. Blood of Groton & Sarah Pierce of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

June 20. Henry Blood of Groton & Polly Fisk of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

1794. Mar. 5. Lieut. Benj.ª Whitney of Pepperell & Olive Farnsworth of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

Oct. 1. Jonas Lawrence of Pepperell & Betsey Hazen of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1796. March 10. Richard Sawtell, Junr, of Groton & Sally Wear of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

May 11. Corl Simon Gilson of Pepperell & Mindwell Frost of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1797. Saml Cook of Groton & Sarah Jewett of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

1798. April 10. John Kemp of Groton & Sally Shattuck of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

1798. Nov. 8. Sewell Tarbell of Pepperell & Ruth Kemp of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

Nov. 15. Timy. Blood of Groton & Sibbel Woods of Pepperell, by Rev. John Bullard.

1799. Jany. 28. Ebenezer Pierce of Pepperell & Assineth Blood of Groton, by Rev. John Bullard.

PLYMOUTH.

Joseph Croswell of Groton & Jerusha Bartlet of Plymouth were married at Plymouth March 14th, 1744.

READING.

James Benit & Hannah Baret, boath of Groaten, were married March the 23d, 1703, by John Brown, Esq., one of her Majesties' Justices of the Peace, Reading.

The Rev. Joseph Emerson of Groton & Miss Abigail Hays of Reading were married December 12th, 1750.

SHIRLEY.

Jan. 27, 1763. Samuel Nichols of Groton to Elizebeth Patterson of Shirley, by Rev. P. Whitney.

Aug. 1793. Phineas Nutting of Groton to Susa Page of Shirley.

Nov. 1796. Phineas Wait of Groton to Ruth Bicknell of Shirley.

June ye 16, 1796. Mr. Thomas Hobart, Jr., of Groton to Susanna Patterson of Shirley, by Joshua Longley, Esq.

SUTTON.

Thomas Burbank of Groton and Abigail Woodbury of [Sutton] were joined together in marriage April 5, 1780, by the Rev. David Hall, Pastor of the first Chh. in Sutton.

SWANSEA.

Joshua Chatman of Groton and Jemima Slade of Swanzey was married, January ye 27, 1783, by me, Russell Mason, Pastor of a church of christ in Swanzey.

Jacob Avery of Groton, Sylva Eddy of Swanzey, was married June the 4, 1753, by me, Russell Mason, Elder of a church of christ in Swanzey.

TOWNSEND.

Jan. 4th, 1737. John Wheeler of Townsend & Mehitable Hadley of Groton.

March 1, 1737. Jonathan Stearns of Townsend & Anna Sawtell of Groton.

Mr. Sawtelle, in his History of Townsend (page 386), has this marriage as follows: "1738· March 1, Jonathan Stevens, Townsend, Sarah Sartell, Groton."

May 24, 1738. Timothy Whitney of Townsend & Submit Parker, Groton.

April 12, 1762. Ephraim Warner of Townsend & Sarah Keazer of Groton.

June 13, 1765. David Brown of Groton & Lydia Stevens of Townsend, by Rev. Saml Dix.

Oct. 14, 1773. Phineas Hemingway with Elizebeth Taylor, both of Groton, by Rev. Saml Dix.

April 19, 1776. Abel Shattuck of Pepperell & Hannah Hobart of Groton, by Rev. S. Dix.

Dec. 3, 1776. Nehemiah Tarbell & Martha Dodge, both of Groton, by Rev. S. Dix.

The County records do not give the date of the last two marriages recorded on the previous page.

April 29, 1777. Robert Ames & Susanna Warren, both of Groton, by Rev. S. Dix.

April 29, 1778. Benj. Lawrence, Jr., with Rebeckah Woods, both of Groton, by Rev. Saml Dix.

June 7, 1779. Isaac Warren & Eunice Farnsworth, both of Groton, by Rev. Saml Dix.

March 22, 1792. Reuben Stevens of Groton with Thankfull Rumrill of Townsend, by Rev. Saml Dix.

Aug. 15, 1792. Parker Wetherbee of Townsend with Roda Adams of Groton.

Jany 5, 1797. Uzriel Withee, resident in Groton, & Elizebeth Stevens of this Town, by Rev. Saml Dix.

WATERTOWN.

1711, Decr 5. Eben^{r} Prescott of Lancaster & Ruth Hobart of Groton, by Jonas Bond, Jus. of Peace.

1712, Oct. 24. John Thatcher of Groton & Elizebeth Morse of Watertown, by Rev. Samuel Angier.

WESTFORD.

1733, September 11th Zecheriah Sartel of Groton to Abigail Bigsby of Westford by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1741, May 20. Lenard Parker to Abigail Parker, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1741, October 8. Simon Page to Hannah Gilson, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1742, February 18. Isaac Green to Marthy Boyden, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1743, January 11. Gershom Huboard and Mary Townsend, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1744, March 22^{d} Mr. David Hubbard and Mrs. Sarah Parker, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1744, May 30. John Cowdry of Billerica and Hannah Davis of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1744, June 27. Joseph Shepley and Eunice Parker, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1745, June 13. William Preson of Groton and Ann Camble of Winham, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1745, August 13th. Robert Parker and Deborah Hubbard, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1746, February 19. Ebenezer Prescott of Westford to Elizebeth Sprague of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1746, May 29th. Clement Blood and Eunice Gilson, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the piece.

1746, June 4. Ebenezer Patch of Groton to Sarah Wright of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1747, September 22. Samuel Wood, Jr., and Tabitha Wheeler, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1747, October 20. John Gilson, Jr., and Hannah Green, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1748, May 26. Isaac Patch of Groton and Mary Hastin of Dunstable, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1748, June 29. Col. John Bulkley of Groton and Mrs. Mary Underwood of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1749, February 16. Jacob Ames and Olive Davise, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1749, April 12. Josiah Boyden of Groton to Jane Read of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1749, October 31. Ebenezer Kemp and Marah Broadstreet, both of Groton, by Jonas Prescott, Justice of the peace.

1760, November 27. Daniel Gilson of Groton, and Apphia Kent of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1765, May 23. Jonas Stone of Groton to Rebecca Fletcher of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1769, July 11. Gershom Hubbart of Groton to Phebe Patch of Westford, by Willard Hall, Pastor.

1784, January 20. Lieut. Thomas Reed of Westford to Widw. Phebe Proctor of Groton, by Mathew Scribner, Minister.

1786, May 18. Elijah Nutting of Groton to Susanna Foster of Westford, by Mathew Scribner, Minister.

1786, April 28. James Snow of Westford to Sukey Gilson of Groton, by Caleb Blake, Pastor.

1788, March 18. Jonathan Swallow of Groton to Jemima Wilson of Westford, by Mathew Scribner, Minister.

1788, May 12. Isaiah Hall of Groton to Hannah Keep of Westford, by Mathew Scribner, Minister.

1797, August 24. Thaddeus Carter of Sandy Streem, County of Lincoln, and Betsy Derumple of Groton, by Zac^s Wright, Justice of the peace.

1799, September 22. Bulkley Ames of Groton to Lydia Prescott of Westford, by Caleb Blake, Pastor.

WOBURN.

Phineas Parker of Groton and Elizebeth Bowers of Lancaster were Married June 14, 1722.

Mousall Wright of Woburn and Susanna Spaulding of Groton were married April 5th, 1733.

Joseph Lakin [of Groton] was married to Jerusha Simonds Oct. 23^d 1770.

WORCESTER.

Aaron Farnsworth of Groton & Abigail Johnson of Worcester were joyned in marriage by me, Thaddeus Maccarty, minister of Worcester. Sept. 17, 1767.

APPENDIX.

On page 33 of No. X. of this Historical Series, a query was raised in regard to the meaning of the following entry among the marriages, under the date of February 5, 1750–51, "Bode to By;" and it was suggested that they were negro servants. This is probably the true explanation, as a short time previously — according to John B. Hill's History of Mason, New Hampshire — there was a negro slave in Groton by the name of Boad. See "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (page 37).

In No. XII. of this Series (page 21), an article appears on the Reverend Samuel Carter of Groton; and akin to him and Captain James Parker, who is also mentioned in the same number (page 5), the following extract is made from "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (XXX. 236) for April, 1876. It was written by the late Thomas Bellows Wyman, and is given in a note on Captain Parker.

After the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Long, who long continued with him till about the golden period of wedded life, he married Eunice Carter, formerly Brooks, the widow of Samuel Carter, son of Rev. Thomas Carter, of Woburn. This fact is developed by a clause in the will of Sarah Mousal, her relative, widow of John Mousal, Jr., in 1702. Soon after this date, Capt. Parker having died in 1701, she became the third wife of John Kendall and was surviving him in 1706.

Thursday last [August 3] died at his Seat in *Groton*, after three or four Days Illness, the Hon. *Benjamin Prescot*, Esq; Representative for that Town, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, and a Special Justice of the Superiour Court of Judicature; a Gentleman greatly lamented by all that knew him.

"The Boston Evening-Post," August 7, 1738.

BOSTON, Dec. 14.

On Monday the 27th ult died at Groton, after a few days illness, in the 42d year of his age, WILLIAM BANT, Esq; formerly an inhabitant of this town. In this gentleman were united an uncommon assemblage of amiable qualities. — In his family, he was a most affectionate and tender husband — the kindest master, and most affable and obliging friend. He possessed that share of good-nature and ease of manners, which rendered him agreeable at the very first acquaintance; and by a sincerity — a frankness, and generosity of mind, he in an unusual degree, won the hearts of those who more particularly knew him. — His actions were regulated by the strictest rules of honor & integrity. He used not to turn aside from beholding the sorrows of those around him. From his table, the poor were often supplied with bread, and by his purse, the wants of the distressed were relieved. — He was a firm and zealous friend to the liberties and independence of America; and was much respected in that part of the country, where for the last eighteen months of his life, he has resided.

His death is a momento [memento?] of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and should teach us who are the living, "so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." He was taken away suddenly & in the prime of life. There is this consolation left his friends, that he did not live unmindful of another state; but to those who were connected with him he made the concerns of his immortal part, the subject of much conversation. —

His remains were intered the 29th ult. and followed to the grave by a large concourse of people who appeared to be deeply affected on the melancholy occasion. It may indeed be said, that as in life he was beloved, so at his death, he is lamented by all who knew him. — He has left behind him an amiable widow, whose loss is inexpressible, & can only be made up by a participation of that good which religion affords.

O thou! whose sovereign balm, heals ev'ry smart,
Pity the achings of a widow's heart;
And to thy mercies so direct her mind,
That what she wants on earth, she may in heaven find.

"The Continental Journal, and Weekly Advertiser," December 14, 1780.

MARRIED — At Groton, on Wednesday the 20th ult. the Hon. Caleb Davis, Esq; to Mrs. Mary Anne Bant, Widow of the late Mr. Wm. Bant, and Daughter of Ezekiel Lewis, Esq; of this Town.

"The Boston Gazette, and the Country Journal," September 1, 1783.

DIED] — In this town, on Friday last [January 12], Mrs. *Mary-Anna Davis*, Consort of the Hon. Caleb Davis, Esq.

"The Massachusetts Gazette" (Boston), January 16, 1787.

The following death is found, according to "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (XIII. 56) for January, 1859, in the Danvers Church Records: —

Oct. 11, 1694. Eliz: wife to Timothy Allen of Groton [aged] 70 odd

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At Concord, in the Province of New-Hampshire, Mrs. ELIZABETH GREEN, aged 22 Years, Wife of PETER GREEN, Esq; of that Place, and Youngest Daughter of the late Col. JOHN BULKLEY, of Groton.

"The Massachusetts Gazette: and the Boston Weekly News-Letter," September 8, 1774.

The following item is recorded under "Deaths" in the "Columbian Centinel," March 16, 1793, though perhaps it refers to Groton, Connecticut: —

At Groton, Mrs. *Smith*, Æt. 88 — her offspring are, 10 children, 84 grand do. 222 great-grand do. and 14 of the fifth generation — in all, 330.

At Sudbury, Lieutenant David How, to Miss Sibbil Rockwood, of Groton.

"The Independent Chronicle: and the Universal Advertiser" (Boston), March 14, 1796.

The following record of marriages is taken from the Reverend Edwin R. Hodgman's History of Westford (Lowell, 1883), and found between pages 385 and 401 of that book.

By Caleb Blake, Pastor.

1800. May 18, David Patch, Groton, Sally Heald, Westford.
1805. March 3, Theophilus Bixby, Westford, Anna Fisk, Groton.
1817. July 3, Asa Bixby, Jr., Mary Gilson, Groton.
1821. August 19, Nathaniel S. Gilson, Groton, Nancy B. Hildreth, Westford.
1822. February 11, Luther Gilson, Groton, Patty Blake, Westford.

By Leonard Luce, Pastor.

1832. December 20, Henry L. Lawrence, Groton, Martha H. Leighton, Westford.
1841. July 15, John H. Spalter, Groton, Martha Ann Hildreth, Westford.

By Benjamin Osgood, Justice of the Peace.

1822. December 9, Henry Mier, Westford, Elizabeth Nutting, Groton.

By Ephraim Abbot, as Justice of the Peace.

1841. October 31, Amos Bancroft, M.D., Groton, Mary Kneeland, Westford.

Dr. Bancroft's first marriage also is recorded (page 402), as he was at that time a resident of Westford, as follows: "1796. August 29, Dr. Amos Bancroft, Westford, Abigail Whiting, Hollis; by Oliver Prescott, Jr., Esq."

By the Reverend Daniel Chaplin, of Groton.

1780. January 29, Ezra Prescott, Groton, Dolly Wright, Westford.
1786. April 19, Joseph Keyes, Westford, Sarah Derumple, Groton.
1792. November 22, Philip Robbins, Westford, Ruth Pierce, Groton.
1795. February 16, Robert Wilkinson, Westford, Lydia Sawtell, Groton.
March 10, Abel Wright, Westford, Lefe Trowbridge, Groton.
December 29, Samuel Reed, Jr., Westford, Polly Fitch, resident in Groton.

The following list of marriage intentions is found on pages 406–413, though the marriages are not entered in the town records as having taken place at Westford. The first two couples certainly were married at Groton, and presumably some of the others were.

1750. February 16, Jonas Prescott, Jr., and Rebecca Parker, Groton.
1762. April 10, Lieut. Joseph Boynton and Sarah Tarbel, Groton.
1766. June 21, Benjamin Green, Groton, and Ruth Keep.
July 25, Ezekiel Fletcher, Groton, and Bridget Parker.
1779. April 8, Stephen Read and Mary Derumple, Groton.
1780. April 24, Ezra Jewett, Groton, and Wid. Rebecca Dutton.
1792. April 4, Phillip Robins and Wid. Ruth Peirce, Groton.
1804. December 22, Timothy Cummings, Jr., and Betsey Whitman, Groton.
1806. January 2, John Blodgett and Mary Prescott, Groton.
1808. April 22, Ephraim Heald, Jr., and Lydia Patch, Groton.
1813. June 24, Roswell Read and Sybil Gilson, Groton.

The following record of marriages is taken from Samuel T. Worcester's History of Hollis, New Hampshire (Boston, 1879), scattered along between pages 343 and 361.

1756, Apr. 20, Nehemiah Woods of Hollis and Sarah Lakin of Groton.
1772, Dec. 24, John Phelps, Jun., of Hollis and Mary Lakin of Groton.
1776, Sept. 10, Josiah Hobart of Groton and Lucy Kendall of Hollis.
1790, July 28, Shubael Hobart of Hollis and Wid. Prudence Parker of Groton.
1791, Feb. 22, Oliver Prescott, Jun., of Groton and Nancy Whiting of Hollis.
1824, May 13, Samuel Colburn of Groton and Sarah Woods of Hollis.
1827, July 13, Leonard Chafin of Groton and Mary Wright of Hollis.
1828, Apr. 8, Henry Woods of Groton and Hannah M. Thayer of Hollis.
1837, Oct. 12, Rev. Dudley Phelps of Groton and Lucretia G. Farley of Hollis.
1871, June 14, Norman F. Blood of Groton and Helen A. Smith of Hollis.
1877, Sept. 3, Albert Kemp of Groton and Clara M. Truell of Hollis.

The following list of marriages, taken from John Boynton Hill's History of Mason, New Hampshire (Boston, 1858), is found between pages 166 and 171 of that book.

By the Reverend Ebenezer Hill.

1792. Feb. 16. Jonas Tarbell, Groton, Abigail Hodgman.
1817. Nov. 25. Amos Davis, Groton, Hannah Barrett.
1822. May 6. Curtis Lawrence, Groton, Lucy Merriam.

Also, on page 212 of the same History, the following one is given: "May 1841. Oliver H. Pratt. Catharine Warner, at Groton, Ms." by the Reverend Joseph Bancroft Hill.

The following record of marriages is taken from Ithamar Bard Sawtelle's History of Townsend, scattered along between pages 385 and 427; and they do not appear either in the County records or the Groton records.

1737. January 4, Joshua Wheeler, Townsend, Mehitabel Hadley, Groton. [By the Reverend Phinehas Hemenway.]
1777. May 6, Joseph Cummings, Swansea, N. H., Lucy Warren, Groton. [By the Reverend Samuel Dix.]
1792. August 15, Parker Weatherbee, Townsend, Rhoda Adams, Groton. [By the Reverend Samuel Dix.]
1808. May 25, David Hazen, Groton, Jane Turner. [By the Reverend David Palmer.]
1818. November 12, John Adams, Groton, Sally Searle. [By the Reverend David Palmer.]
1830. October 14, Luther Boutelle, Groton, Hannah Conant. [By the Reverend David Palmer.]

1798. Andrew Dodge, Groton, Sally Bowers, Townsend.
1798. James Giles, Jr., Townsend, Nabby Fitch, Groton.
[The last two by the Reverend Daniel Chaplin.]

1753. George Campbell, Townsend, Mary Wheeler, Groton.
John Wallis, Jr., Townsend, Mary White, Groton.
[The last two by the Reverend Joseph Emerson.]

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XIV.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS:

BOSTON PORT BILL, MINUTE-MEN, &C. POWDER-MILL AT PEPPERELL. REV. SAMUEL DANA. ABRAHAM CHILDS, A REVOLUTIONARY OFFICER. A SINGULAR PETITION. ABSENTEES. AN EXCEPTION.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONTROVERSY IN GROTON.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT'S DESCRIPTION OF GROTON.

MEMORANDA BY JOSEPH FARWELL.

THE FIRST OPERATION UNDER ETHER.

A JANUARY THAW.

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN A BALE OF COTTON.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XIV.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS.

BOSTON PORT BILL, MINUTE-MEN, &c.

AFTER the passage of the bill, in the spring of 1774, which shut up the port of Boston, the eyes of all New England were turned toward that town, and in her needs she received the warm sympathy of the whole country. Material aid came to her relief in many forms; and the following letter from the town clerk shows what the people of Groton did. The letter and answer are found in the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, fourth series, IV. 7–10.

GROTON, June 28th, 1774.

GENTLEMEN, — The inhabitants of the Town of Groton, in general, are deeply affected with a sense of our public calamities, and more especially the distresses of our brethren in the Capital of the Province, as we esteem the act of blocking up the harbor of Boston replete with injustice and cruelty, and evidently designed to compel the inhabitants thereof to submission of taxes imposed upon them without their consent, and threatens the total destruction of the liberties of all British America. We ardently desire a happy union with Great Britain and the Colonies, and shall gladly adopt every measure consistent with the dignity and safety of British subjects for that purpose.

In full confidence that the inhabitants of the Town of Boston will, in general, exhibit examples of patience, fortitude and perseverance, while they are called to endure this oppression for the preservation of the liberties of their country, and in token of our

willingness to afford all suitable relief to them in our power, a number of the inhabitants of this Town have subscribed, and this day sent forty bushels of grain, part rye and part Indian corn, to be delivered to the Overseers of the Poor of said Town of Boston, not doubting but the same will be suitably applied for that purpose; and we earnestly desire you will use your utmost endeavor to prevent and avoid all mobs, riots, and tumults, and the insulting of private persons and property. And while the farmers are cheerfully resigning part of their substance for your relief, we trust the merchants will not oppress them by raising upon the goods which they have now on hand and heretofore purchased. And may God prosper every undertaking which tends to the salvation of the people.

We are, Gentlemen, your friends and fellow-countrymen. In the name and by order of the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Groton.

OLIVER PRESCOTT, *Clerk.*

TO THE OVERSEERS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON.

The reply is as follows: —

BOSTON, July 5th, 1774.

SIR, — Your obliging letter directed to the Overseers of the Poor of this Town, together with a generous present from a number of the inhabitants of the Town of Groton, for the relief of such inhabitants of this Town as may be sufferers by the Port Bill, is come to hand. In behalf of the Committee of this Town, appointed for the reception of such kind donations, I am now to return to you and the rest of our benefactors the most sincere thanks. The gentlemen may be assured their donations will be applied to the purpose they intend. We are much obliged to you for the wise cautions given in your letter, and we shall use our best endeavors that the inhabitants of this Town may endure their sufferings with dignity, that the glorious cause for which they suffer may not be reproached. We trust that the non-consumption agreement, which we hear is making progress in the country, will put it out of the power of any of the merchants to take unreasonable advantage of raising the prices of their goods. You will, however, remember, that many heavy articles, such as nails, &c., will be attended with considerable charge in transporting them from Salem. As the bearer is in haste, I must conclude with

great regard for your Committee of Correspondence and the inhabitants of the Town of Groton.

Sir, your friend and fellow-countryman,

Signed by order of the Overseers of the Poor,

SAM. PARTRIDGE.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF GROTON,
IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Before the beginning of actual hostilities during the Revolution, two companies of minute-men had been organized in Groton; and, at the desire of the officers, the Reverend Samuel Webster, of Temple, New Hampshire, preached a sermon before them, which was afterward printed. Its title runs thus:—

Rabshakeh's Proposals | Considered, | in a | SERMON, | Delivered at *Groton* | February 21, 1775. | At the Desire of the Officers of the | Companies of Minute Men in that | Town. | BY | SAMUEL WEBSTER, A. M. | PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT TEMPLE, | in NEW-HAMPSHIRE. || BOSTON: Printed and Sold by EDES | and GILL, in *Queen-Street.* 1775. 8vo. pp. 30.

The sermon is singularly meagre in details, and made up largely of theological opinion, perhaps as valuable now as then, but not so highly prized. It is there said that a large majority of the town, agreeably to the plan of the Provincial Council, had promised to hold themselves in prompt readiness to act in the service of their country.

The Reverend Dr. Jeremy Belknap, of Boston, makes the following entry in his note-book, which is printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society (XIV. 93) for June, 1875:—

A negro man belonging to Groton, took aim at Major Pitcairne, as he was rallying the dispersed British Troops, & shot him thro' the head, he was brought over to Boston & died as he was landing on the ferry ways.

According to the Proceedings of the same Society (XV. 101) for October, 1876, the parole at the camp in Cambridge

on the night of May 21, 1775, was "Groton," and the countersign, "Pepperell." This was, undoubtedly, in compliment to Colonel William Prescott, a native of Groton and a resident of Pepperell, who was then commanding a regiment in the Provincial Army.

POWDER-MILL AT PEPPERELL.

THE following letters, written during the Revolution by the Honorable James Prescott, of Groton, are found among the Massachusetts Archives at the State House, and have some local interest. At that period Mr. Prescott was a prominent character in the affairs of the town, and, whatever may have been his accomplishments in the way of spelling, he exerted a wide influence in all public matters. He filled many important offices; and at the beginning of the Revolution he was a member of the Provincial Congress and of the Board of War. His dwelling stood on the knoll, perhaps half a mile southeast of the village, on the Boston road, near the house of the late Phineas Gilman Prescott.

GROTON Apriel 2d 1778.

DEAR SIR

Yesterday I received yours of the 26: of March, There is now in the House 159 bbls of Powder, it will hold about 100 bbls more, the Powder you mentiond is not yet arived, the Snow fell this week with us 8 Inches Deep, which makes it Exceding Bad Carting.

I have Got 50 or 60 Shirts on hand, Several webbs out in Doing, but when they will be Done is Very uncertain, also about thirty pr of Shoes — labour is so Dear now I have Come to a Stand untill I have further Directions from ye Board, I will Send what is on hand if ye Board think Best, But it will be Very Expencive to Send on purpose, therefore Should Chuse to wait for a Convenient oppertunity.

I am Still lame, But Gitting Better, (Very unhappy night to me) the Bisness of the Board is Very Extencive & Important, I know your unwearied pains & Labour by night & Day to Serve both Publick & private, without Even the prospeck of reward,

hope I shall Soon be able to attend the Board, it would Give me Grate Pleasuer, if by any thing I Can Do, it would Contribet to the Publick Good, or in any measuer Serve to liten your heavy Burden

I am Gen^t with Sincear regard
your most obediant Hum^l Ser^t

JAMES PRESCOTT

[Superscribed] Hon^le Presedent of the Board of War
Boston

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 324.]

GROTON 24 : of July 1778

SIR Abner Whitney a young Gent^n Brought up by Mr Lewis [1] in his Shop & Counting room applied to me for Some Imployment & mentioned that he had heard there was a Vacancy at the Board — he is Desireous of making tryal — I Can recommend him as Very Honest faithfull young man may be Depended upon in anything he undertaks if it is agreeable to the Board to take him into there Service upon tryal they will oblige him & I hope he may Serve them to acceptance

I am very lame again the old wound is Broke out — when I shall be able to ride to Boston is uncertain

I am with respect your most
obediant Ser^t

JAMES PRESCOTT

Hon^l Sam: Phil: Savage Esqr

[Superscribed] The Hon^l Presedent of the Board of War

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 407.]

GROTON 16 : of Octo^r 1778

SIR

I have Sent 15 Barrils Powder that Quantity I Judged a full load for the Horses — I beleve they will meet with Difficulty to git along with it —

agreeable to your Desire have Cautioned the Gard not to leave one momint hope it will arrive safe —

[1] Mr. Lewis was a trader of Groton, whose shop was situated a short distance north of the site of the Town House. See No. VII. of this Historical Series (page 8).

you have Sent me a wag.n But no tacklin to Draw with therefore it will be useless till I am furnisht no Such tackin Can be got here —

There is about 90 barls of forrain powder left & 40 of Andover no news here, am Very lame, unable to ride or walk, have set still almost ye whole of ye time since I Came home

my Complets to the Board

I am with respect your Humle Sert

JAMES PRESCOTT

The Hon. Sam. Phps Savage Esqr.

[Superscribed] Honl. Sam. Phips Savage Esqr.
Presedent of the Board War
Boston

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 422.]

GROTON 5: of June 1779.

DEAR SIR

I recd. yours this morning at three o'Clock by Mr. Wendel wherein you request me to Send one Hundred Barrils of powder — I have procuerd. most of the teems, you may Expect the Powder in next Wensday morning very Early, the teemsters will Expect their money paid them on Delivering the powder as they turn out at such Season & no warning.

I am with Grate respect your most

Obediant Sert.

JAMES PRESCOTT

Sam. P: Savage Esqr.

[Superscribed] Sam. P. Savage Esqr.
Presedent of the Board of War
Boston

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 473.]

GROTON 5: of June 1779

SIR

I Send you 100 Barrils of powder — the teemsters will Expect their money if it will be Conveniant for the Board to pay them as they turn out in this Extraordinry Bissey Season — the lowest Sum I Could agree for the Jorney is twenty Shillings pr mile the amount is 40£ Each —

I have Exerted myself & hope it will acceptable — in Grate hast am your

most Obediant Sert

JAMES PRESCOTT

N B: I have given in Charge if it rains to Secure ye powed in ye Best manner they Can & if they are Detained a Day on their Jorney by reason of rain they are to have the addition of their Expenses while they are Detained

The Presedent of the Board of War

pray ye Board to give order for my Bag of Coffee & Caug of Rum

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 480.]

GROTON 14: of July 1779

GEN^T

You write me that one Barril in Bartlets Cart was Broke, and was one thurd out when it arived, and Chuse to know the State of facts before you pay him — I was present when the powder was loaded, & took all the Care I Could in that Hurry there was one Barril put into the Cart that was tender, Bartlet was Sum Consernd about it when it was put into the Cart, it was well Stowed, I was not apprized of its Being so week, the Barrils have Stood So long that the hoops want Driveing, But at that time Could not Git a Cooper to assist, I have Sent by him all the powder heretofore, know him to be an Honest faithfull man. I Do not think he was Negligent or Carless, as to the Barrils not being full, is no rule to Judge by, for when I opened & Shifted the powder, some of the Barrils wanted about 1-3^d & 1-4 of being full, I am Informed the Sittuation of the Bar^l in the Cart was Such, that the Bar^l Did not Burst, but one head Sprung out on one Side, So that the loss of the powder was not very Considerable, I shall not be at Boston Soon is accation of my Giveing you the trouble of this letter, the man is poor & wants his money, if you Gentlemen are Satisfied that he was not in fault hope you will Send him the money by the Barer hereof — Doc^r Prescott —

I am with real Regard your Frind
& very Hum^l Ser^t

JAMES PRESCOTT

The Board of War

[Superscribed] The Presedent of the Board of War Boston

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 484.]

GROTON 20: of July 1779

GENTLE^N

I Rec^d your favour of the 19th Instant at Nine o'Clock in the Evening, agreeable to your Desire Send you a return of the powder

in the magasine[1] at Groton, there is 33 Barrels of foreign & 16 of american powder, in the whole 49, it is very rainny this morning; Shall Dispatch the messenger as soon as he Can ride, am much obliged to you for the Newspaper,

I Rejoyce to here the fleet have Sail^d. Sincerely hope they will meet with the Desired Suckcess

I am with Gratest respect

Gen^t. your most obliged Hum^l Ser^t.

JAMES PRESCOTT

The Board of War

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 485.]

GROTON 9: of August 1779

SIR

You wrote me to Send you a load of powder in the Cover^d. Wagon now with me, which I Cant Complie with, for I have no tacklin Sent with it to Draw by, therefore if I Send the powder as you propose I must Git Some Horse tackin fitted for that purpose only which will be an Expence I wish to avoide, I suppose you may Send two of Co^l Revers Soldiers with 4: or 5 of your Horses, let them ride two & lead the others with Sutable tackin to Draw by in a bagg &c. I have Got the Sadle for the Horse that Goes behind only Bring the tackin for the other Horses, this I think will be the Best way & most Saving to the publick, But you are Good Judges of this matter & will Direct as you think proper, if you think Best not to Send for it in the way I have propose^d. Give me a line & I will Send you the powder without delay — Doc^r. Lawrence has Deliver^d the fifteen Barr^ls you mention^d. in your last Shall send your letter now re^d. Immediatly agreeable to your request —

I hope with you we Shall Soon hear Good news from Penobscot, I sincerely wish Suckcess to American Arms which way So ever they are turn^d.

I am with real resp^t.

Your most obediant Ser^t

JAMES PRESCOTT

Sam. P. Savage Esqr.

[Superscribed] Saml P. Savage Esqr.
Presedent of the Board War
Boston

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 493.]

[1] For an account of the magazine, see No. V. of this Historical Series (pages 16–18)

State of the powder mill at Pepperrell is as follows Built on a Large Stream, a full Supply of Water — goes with sixty Pestles — said mill is thirty Eight feet in length & twenty Eight feet in wedth well Covered: now fitt for use with a little repairing of the Sives &c and some other of its Utenciles; A Drying House built near by; prepaired for Clarifying ye Nitre & Drying & Stoaring ye Powder &c. Have made only about two Tuns of powder for this State 15^c of which I deposited in the Magaziene last Week at Groton according to order of Board of War. about 25^c now at ye mill not proof. by reason of ye Nitre & Sulpher not being pure, as Colo: Burbeck Certifies: (tho well made & dryed) For further Information See General Prescotts Letter.

Gentm. Your most Obed^t hum^le Servt
to Serve You in what I may

EPHM LAWRENCE

PEPPERRELL Augt 12. 1779.

To Hourab^e Sam^ll Phil: Savage Prest. to Communicate

[Massachusetts Archives, CCV. 501.]

This powder-mill was situated near the west end of the upper bridge over the Nashua River in the village of East Pepperell. It stood close to the present site of the brick counting-house of the paper-mills, and the water power was afterward used for a fulling-mill. The drying-house was on the opposite side of the road. Ephraim Lawrence, who signs the statement, was a physician at Pepperell, and probably in charge of the mill. He was a son of Deacon Peleg and Ruth Lawrence; and at his death he left a large family of children, among whom was the late Dr. Ebenezer Lawrence, of Hampton, New Hampshire.

When the Revolution broke out, Dr. Oliver Prescott, the youngest brother of James, who wrote the preceding letters, and of William, the hero of Bunker Hill, was perhaps the most noted as well as the most influential man in Groton. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1750, and a member of various scientific societies. The following suggestion made by him to the Committee of Safety is found in Peter Force's "American Archives," fourth series (II. 385): —

GROTON, April 24, 1775.

GENTLEMEN: I think if an order should pass for the establishment of a Town Guard, to be kept in a prudent manner, in every Town in this Province, it would have a great tendency to deter and detect villains and their accomplices. The passes that people bring this way are generally without date, or assignment to any person or place, so that a man may pass to *Africa* with the same order. Pardon my freedom, and allow me to subscribe, gentlemen, your most obedient, very humble servant,

OLIVER PRESCOTT.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Another letter written by Dr. Prescott, who at this time was a Brigadier General, is preserved among the Shattuck Manuscripts of the New England Historic, Genealogical Society. It gives some interesting facts concerning the Middlesex militia, and is as follows:—

SIR,

In persuance of your orders Rec^{d} the 14th I have caused the militia of the County of Middlesex to be mustered and have caused to be Drafted therefrom every fifth able bodied man under fifty years of age &c agreeable to the Resolves of the Genl Assembly of this State of the 12th instant, and formed the s^{d} men into Companies and appointed their Respective Officers in the following manner, viz.

N° 1.	Cambridge	33 men	Capt John Walton of Cambridge
	Charlestown	7	1st L^{t}
	Malden	9	2^{d} D^{o}
	Medford	13	
		62.	
N° 2.	Watertown	15	Capt Edward Fuller of Newton
	Newton	19	1st Lt Josiah Capen of Watertown
	Waltham	13	2^{d} D^{o} Isaac Hager of Waltham
	Weston	18	
		65.	

N°. 3.	Woburn	20	Capt. Samuel Belnap of Woburn
	Reading	26	1st Lt.
	Wilmington	13	2d. D°.
	Stoneham	4	
		63.	
N°. 4.	Concord	23	Capt. Simon Hunt of Acton
	Lexington	16	1st Lt. Samuel Heald of Concord
	Acton	15	2d. D°. Ebenr White of Lexington
	Lincoln	12	
		66.	
N°. 5.	Sudbury	35	Capt. Amasa Cranson of Marlborô
	Marlboro	31	1st Lt. Nathll. Sergeant of Stow
	Stow	16	2d. D°. Nathll. Smith of Sudbury
		82.	
N°. 6.	Framingham	27	Capt. Aaron Gardner of Sherburn
	Sherburn	15	1st Lt. Lawssen Buckminister of Framingham
	Hopkinston	20	2d. D°. Isaac Clark of Hopkinton.
	Holliston	15	
	Natick	9	
		86.	
N°. 7.	Groton	27	Capt. Thomas Warren of Townshend
	Pepperrell	17	1st Lt. James Lawrance of Pepperrell
	Townshend	15	2d. D°. Joseph Rockwood of Groton
	Ashby	8	
		69.	
N°. 8.	Chelmsford	21	Capt. Zach. Wright of Westford
	Dunstable	12	1st Lt. Nathll. Holden of Dunstable
	Dracutt	18	2d. D°. Robt. Spaulding of Chelmsford
	Westford	18	
		69.	

N°. 9.	Billerica	22	Capt Solomon Kidder of Billerica
	Tukesbury	12	1st Lt Daniel Kimball of Littleton
	Bedford	10	2^{d} D° Tim°. Rogers of Tukesbury
	Littleton	12	
	Shirley	9	
		65.	

I have also formed the afores^{d} Companies into one Reg^{t} and appointed

Eleazer Brooks Esqr of Lincoln to be the Col°
Micah Stone Esqr of Framingham Lt Col°
Eben^{r} Bancroft Esqr of Dunstable Major
Mr Moses Adams of Framingham Chaplain
Mr Joseph Hunt of Acton Surgeon Mate
Daniel Loring of Sudbury Adjut.
Samuel Hartwell of Lincoln Quartermaster

I have directed the s^{d} Col° Brooks to order the several Captains afores^{d} to march their Respective Companies, as soon as possible, in the best & most proper Road, to Horse Neck [West Greenwich, Connecticut], according to the Resolves of the Genl Assembly of this State, & agreeable to the Directions and for the purposes therein Expressed. Col° Brooks informs me this day that he hath given marching orders for Saturday next for the whole Reg^{t}

I am, Sir, with the greatest Respect, your most obedient and very hbl. Ser^{t}

OLIVER PRESCOTT

GROTON Septr 26th 1776.

N. B. Col° Thatcher & Col° Fox Engaged to fill up their Companies and Return the Names of the Lieut^{s} before the Time appointed to march.

[To] Generall [James] Warren

REV. SAMUEL DANA.

It is well known that the Reverend Samuel Dana, minister of Groton from the year 1761 to 1775, at the outbreak of the Revolution, was in sympathy with the Crown. His political views made him unpopular, and caused his dismissal from the parish. An account of the difficulties is given in Mr. Butler's History (pages 179–181). The following notice, by no means clearly expressed, is found in "The New-England Chronicle: or, the Essex Gazette," June 8, 1775:—

Groton, May 15th, 1775.

The Inhabitants of Groton in Town-Meeting assembled, the Rev. Samuel Dana offered that to the Town with Regard to his political Principles and Conduct, with which the Town voted themselves fully satisfied, and that he ought to enjoy the Privileges of Society in common with other Members, and we hope this, with the following by him subscribed, will be fully satisfactory to the Publick.

Oliver Prescott,
James Prescott,
Josiah Sartell,
Isaac Farnsworth,
Moses Child,
} *Committee of Correspondence for* Groton.

I The Subscriber, being deeply affected with the Miseries bro't on this Country, by a horrid Thirst for ill-got Wealth and unconstitutional Power — and lamenting my Unhappiness, in being left to adopt Principles in Politics different from the Generality of my Countrymen; and thence to conduct in a Manner that has but too justly excited the Jealousy and Resentment of the true Sons of Liberty against me, earnestly desirous, at the same Time, to give them all the Satisfaction in my Power; do hereby sincerely ask Forgiveness of all such for whatever I have said or done, that had the least Tendency to the Injury of my Country, assuring them that it is my full Purpose, in my proper Sphere, to unite with them, in all those laudable and fit Measures, that have been recommended by the Continental and Provincial Congresses, for the Salvation of

this Country, hoping my future Conversation and Conduct will fully prove the Uprightness of my present Professions.

SAMUEL DANA.

Groton, May 22, 1775.

"The Essex Gazette" newspaper, at the beginning of the Revolution, was removed from Salem to Cambridge, where it was published under the name of "The New-England Chronicle: or, the Essex Gazette." It was printed in Stoughton Hall, Harvard College, and the first number under its new title appeared on May 12, 1775.

The following paper is found in Peter Force's "American Archives," fourth series (II. 1109):—

To the Honourable Gentlemen of the Provincial Congress of NEW-HAMPSHIRE:

That whereas, *Jason Russell* and *John Tarbell*, both of *Mason*, in said Province, did, in a felonious manner, on or about the 20th of *May* last, retire to a pasture in said Town belonging to *Samuel Dana*, of *Groton*, and took from thence a three year heifer, and killed and converted it to their own use; whereupon, early notice being given to the Committee for said Town, they met, and required of the offenders full satisfaction therefor, but each of them peremptorily refusing to comply therewith: The advice of Committees from the neighbouring Towns being called in, viz: *New-Ipswich* and *Temple*, and the criminals being cited to appear before said Committees, not only neglected to make their appearance before us, but, as we learn, have fled to the Army; and finding ourselves unable to settle the unhappy difficulty by reason of their escape, came into the following Resolution, viz:

Resolved, To refer the matter to your judicious consideration, begging that you will, in your wisdom, take cognizance of the offence, and deal with them in this and in such like case for the future.

EPHRAIM ADAMS, *Chairman.*
DAVID BLODGETT, *Scribe.*

MASON, June 26, 1775.

It is probable that Mr. Dana's tory proclivities at this period had some connection with the affair; John Tarbell, who is mentioned in the preamble, was of Groton descent.

ABRAHAM CHILDS, A REVOLUTIONARY OFFICER.

THE following notice of an old citizen appeared in the "Columbian Centinel," January 11, 1834. Captain Childs built during the last century and occupied the house in Groton where Charles Woolley, now of Waltham, lived for so long a time, situated on School Street, near Hollis Street. He bought the parcel of land of Jephtha Richardson, a tavern-keeper and son of Converse Richardson, a blacksmith, who before this time had a shop on it, nearly opposite to the site of Nathaniel Livermore's house. Captain Childs's eldest son, David, married Mrs. Susanna (Bentley) Woolley, widow of the late Captain Charles Woolley, as her second husband.

There are still a few persons in town who remember the subject of this article, which was written by the late George Fowle, a schoolmaster of Boston, from facts furnished by the present Mr. Woolley. Such biographical sketches of Revolutionary characters are always of value, inasmuch as they have an interest for the inhabitants of the town as well as for the local historian. Captain Childs's wife was Rebecca Stowell, of Waltham, who died on November 14, 1830. He spelled his surname with a final "s," but the children dropped it.

The following very interesting sketch of one of our Revolutionary heroes, from a correspondent, will be read with great interest. Such characters add a degree of romance to the history of the Revolution.

Biographical Sketch of Capt. Abraham Child.

Died, at Groton, (Mass) on Friday, the 3d inst., after a short indisposition, Capt. ABRAHAM CHILD, aged 92. The remnant of our revolutionary worthies is fast disappearing, and it is useful to collect their testimony of the 'heroic age' of our fathers, as each assists in bringing the struggle more home to our bosoms. The subject of this sketch was born at Waltham, August 12, 1741. The estate on which he was born, has been in the possession of the

same family for more than a century — a fact worthy of notice, as evincing the sound judgment and untiring industry, which are peculiar traits of their character.

At the age of fifteen, Abraham was apprenticed to a blacksmith, with whom he continued 2 years; when, no longer controlling his patriotic ardor, he joined the company of Capt. William Jones, of Medford, in the regiment of Col. Saltonstall, of Haverhill, and marched to join the army under General Amherst, appointed to invade Canada. After aiding in the captures of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and being engaged in several skirmishes, he wintered with the army at Crown Point, 1760. Marching in the spring upon Montreal, they were compelled, after a severe action at Silsery, to fall back upon Quebec; from whence, finally concentrating their forces under Amherst, upon Montreal, the reduction of Canada was effected, and our soldier enabled to resume his trade, at which he continued until 1762, when he again entered the service under Capt. William Baldwin, of Chelmsford, of Col. Hoar's regiment, marched to Boston, took shipping to Halifax, and thence sailed to aid in the reduction of some French posts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Upon the accomplishment of which, returning to Halifax, he there spent the winter, working at his trade. At the peace of '63, he returned home. In 1767, he married one, whose subsequent conduct proved her a fit partner for a "Son of Liberty." In 1774, when the Provincial Congress deemed it necessary to organize more thoroughly a military force, he was appointed Lieutenant of Capt. Abijah's Child's company of 'Minute Men.' In the following year he warmly engaged in the pursuit of the English at the battle of Lexington. Then entering the States' service for 8 months, as Lieutenant of Captain J. Williams's company, in Col. Baldwin's regiment, he assisted in proving "Yankee Cowardice" upon Bunker's Hill. At the expiration of his time he enlisted for one year. After the evacuation of Boston he marched to New York, and suffered at the defeat of Long Island, in the summer of '76. Retreating with the main army through the Jerseys, into Pennsylvania, he was one of that determined band, which, headed by Washington, resolved to turn the current of success, or perish ere their country's chains were rivetted. Victory at Trenton crowning the endeavor, our soldier returned home with the rank of Captain in Colonel Western's regiment. In 1777 he took command of 300 men, whom he had assisted in recruiting, and joined General Gates in time to aid

at the capture of Burgoyne. Returning to the main army, he passed the winter at Valley Forge, where he endured hardships, compared with which, his former sufferings were pleasures. But the following summer, as he stated, he thoroughly warmed himself at Monmouth. Water not being attainable, his soldiers stove in a hogshead of brandy, and madly assuaged their overpowering thirst, without more effect arising therefrom, than if it had been so much water.

In 1779 he was appointed to the command of a company of Light Infantry, under Major William Hull; and on the 15th July, as senior Captain of the Infantry, he headed the assault at the storming of Stoney Point. General Wayne, to prevent the possibility of early discovery, ordered the muskets to be unloaded, and the flints withdrawn. Advancing thus in solid columns to the assault, they suddenly displayed [deployed?] to the right and left, sprang boldly to the walls, under a murderous fire of grape and musketry from the now aroused Britons, and gained the ramparts with the exulting shout of "Hurrah! the fort is ours!" We have the authority of the late General Hull, to state, that the first man who gained the rampart and raised the cry of victory, was our enthusiastic Captain. In the act of parrying a thrust from a British officer, Captain Child received a slight wound in the hand, which was the only injury he received through all his campaigns.

Soon after this, domestic affairs imperiously calling for his presence, he bade a final adieu to the army. His wife, meanwhile, had nobly proved herself the virtuous and patriotic matron. She had almost, through her own exertions, (her husband's pay being almost nominal,) clothed and maintained her children comfortably — had educated them as well as the times admitted, (several of them in after years taught our country schools,) and indeed, to the time of her death, in 1831, proved herself worthy of those times of closest trial. After residing several years in Wendall, he removed in 1795, to Groton, Mass. In 1818 he applied for, and received, the half-pay pension. During the remainder of his eventful life, beloved and respected, he calmly pursued his course, retaining all his faculties and strength to the last, and finally expired —

"Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
"About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

A SINGULAR PETITION.

THE following paper is found among the manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society:—

COLONEL READ—

SIR

Whereas we your unworthy Petitioners, having Sometime since made choice of a Number of Persons for officers in this 2d Company in your Honrs Rigemênt; and having Since, been more fully acquainted with Said Persons conduct, & capacities for Such offices; we beg Leave to Inform your Honr that it is our oppinion, that Some of Said men who have been unadvisedly chosen by this company, are men of Such Low, and week capacities, that they are neither capable of doing Service to your Honour, or of diseplining of us, (their Soldiers,) Neither of advancing the Noble cause of Liberty, (in which we voluntarily & chearfully engage;) we therefore humbly confess, we have chosen men to Stand in offices, in your Honrs Regiment, which (upon further consideration) we think, are not Suitable Persons for Such offices:—Therefore, may it Please your Honnour, to grant this company the liberty of a New choice of officers in this company: (viz) the North-end company of Groton)—For in So doing your Honr will much Gratifie us your unworthy Petitioners of Sd Company; and Shall have our best endeavours to Promote & advance your Honour; and the Noble Cause of Liberty in which we chearfully Engage—

JACOB PARKER	JACOB WILLIAMS
NATHANIEL SHATTUCK	LEVI PARKER
JOHN HAZEN	DAUID WOODS
WILLIAM FARWELL	WILLIAM DERUMPLE
BENJA HAZEN	JONATHAN WOODS
DAUID HAZEN	REUBEN CUMINGS
EZEKIEL NUTTING	SAMUEL BOYDEN
EZEKIEL NUTTING Jur	BEJAMIN SIMSON
ASA PORTER	

GROTEN may ye 1st 1776

ABSENTEES.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on Monday the 27th day of March next, at 1 o'clock afternoon, will be leased at public auction, by the committee of safety, &c. for the town of Groton, to the highest bidder, for one year, from the 1st day of April next, all the real estate of Mr. —— Martin, an absentee, lying in the said town of Groton; the vendu to be at the dwelling house on the premises.

GROTON, Feb. 23d, 1780.

"The Boston Gazette, and the Country Journal," February 28, 1780.

This farm is advertised again in the same newspaper of February 26, 1781, to be leased for one year; and Martin's Christian name is given as William.

Charles Ward Apthorp, of New York, was another absentee, who owned real estate in Groton, which is advertised in the same journal of December 24, 1781. It is described as "A messuage and tract of land situate in Groton, in said [Middlesex] County, containing about one hundred and seven acres, with the houses, barns, and buildings thereon, being bounded southwesterly on Samuel Farwell's land, northerly on land of Matthias Farnsworth, easterly on Little Pond, southerly by Common Land."

AN EXCEPTION.

THE record of Groton men who enlisted during the Revolution was highly creditable to the town, and there is no reason why the exceptions should be kept back. Her soldiers served throughout the war with honor and distinction; and the following item from "The Independent Chronicle. and the Universal Advertiser" (Boston), May 22, 1777, does not materially affect their good name and reputation: —

At a General Court Martial, held in this Town last Week, by Order of General Heath, Lieut. Col. Thomas Farrington, of Groton,

State of Massachusetts, being found guilty of receiving and passing counterfeit Money, knowing it to be such, was unanimously adjudged to be discharged from the Army, and rendered incapable of acting any more as an Officer in the Continental Service. He was committed to Goal on Monday last, to be dealt with by the Civil Law, according to his atrocious Crime.

Farrington, I fear, was a man of bad reputation; and the following declaration, found in "The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," July 7, 1777, does not add to his character:

BOSTON, July 5, 1777.

I THOMAS FARRINGTON, of Groton, in the County of Middlesex, and State of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, Esquire, of lawful age, testify and declare, That whereas it hath been publicly, and by many persons reported, that William Smith, of Fish-Kills, in the State of New-York, Esquire, lately employed in the Continental service as an engineer, hath been concerned, either in counterfeiting, altering, or passing bills in imitation of bills of the Continental currency, and that I know him to be, in some way or other, concerned as aforesaid. I hereby publish to the world, that I never knew the said William Smith concerned either in counterfeiting, altering, or passing any such bills, or any other, but such as he might lawfully pass to any person whatsoever; and that I never had any reason to think that he hath been concerned in any such mal-practices, either directly or indirectly: And I further declare, that I cannot account for the forementioned report, concerning said Smith's being any way concerned with counterfeit money than this, viz. I was once in company with said Smith at a public house in Medford, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, and when the said Smith there opened his pocket-book to pay his reckoning, I thought I saw one or more bills therein of the Continental currency, which at the distance I stood from him appeared to me to have a pale complexion, which made me suspect them to be counterfeits; but I have no reason to think that the said Smith knew them to be so, or that the said Smith was ever concerned either directly or indirectly, in counterfeiting, altering or passing any bill or bills in imitation of any bill or bills of public credit whatsoever, as before by me declared,

THO. FARRINGTON.

MASS. State, Suffolk County. } THomas Farrington personally
Boston, July 5, 1777. } appeared, and made oath to the truth of the within written declaration by him subscribed: Taken at the request of the within-named William Smith, Esq; in perpetuam rei meroriam [memoriam?].

Cor'm. SAM. PEMBERTON, } Justices of the Peace
JOSEPH GARDNER, } and of the Quorum.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONTROVERSY IN GROTON.

AN attempt was made more than a century ago to form a second religious society in Groton. A considerable number of persons who had become dissatisfied with Dr. Chaplin's preaching wished to establish a society of the Presbyterian denomination. The movement naturally met with a good deal of opposition on the part of the First Parish, but in due time the seceders were incorporated by the General Court as a distinct society. In the Act of incorporation fifty-eight persons are mentioned by name, who probably represented nearly as many families, from which fact it may be inferred that they constituted no mere faction of the First Parish, but were highly respectable in numbers.

A few years ago Mr. Jeremiah Colburn, of Boston, kindly gave me some papers connected with this controversy, which have since been placed in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Among them is a fragment of a petition addressed to the "Revd Nat^ll Whittaker D.D. Pastor of a Church in Salem and Moderator of the Salem Presbytery. To be communicated," and ending in these words: —

We therefore humbly request the candid attention of the Presbitery, of which you are Moderator, to our circumstances; that we may be received, (if we have done nothing to bar our admission)

under their Care and be directed in the ways of Peace, and harmony and enabled: henceforward to walk, not only in the faith, but in the Order of the gospel; till we shall happily arrive to that blessed place where all will live and all love thro' the Influence of the Spirit of that dread being who is the God of Order and not of Confusion and the Merit of that divine person who is the Prince of peace and head over all things to the Church. and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

JOSIAH SARTELL (and others.)

Mr. Butler, in his History (page 187), gives the copy of a paper, dated Salem, September 11, 1783, which is without doubt the answer to this petition.

Another document among these manuscripts is an attested extract from the minutes of the Presbytery. The resolution and vote, given in the History of Groton (pages 190, 191), were passed without doubt in consequence of the action taken by that body. The following is a copy: —

The Presbytery Commonly Called the Salem Presbytery being met at the Presbyterian Meeting house in Groton June 9th 1784 Took into Consideration the request of a Society in Groton according to appointment at a former Meeting, and upon a review of the Minutes made at said former meeting find that there is an Error inadvertently made in Sd Minute as it may import that the Presbytery Recieved Said Society under their Care and Patronage When the Whole Society was Confessed under the Censure of the Chh in Groton at the time of there being recived by the Presbytery. Whereas the fact was that *Three* only of Sd Society were at that time under the Censure of Said Chh, and now the Presbytery after Mature Consideration of the Circumstances and Situation of Sd Society Do adjudge them a regular Presbyterian Society, Confirm them as part of this Body and Recommend them as Such to all our Presbyterian Brethren with Whom they may in the Course of Providence have Concern.

And with Regard to the Three members who were under Censure of the Sd Chh in Groton The Presbytery Considered their Case and the Said Chh altho Desird thereto by Letter to them addressed from the Presbytery haueing declined to give the Presbytery any light respecting the Ground of their Censure and the Presbytery

not being able to Discover any Ground Pretended for the Same Except their having Used their Christian Liberty in joining Said Society Do Judge that the Said Censured Members ought to be Considered by Said Society as in Good Standing in the Church of Christ and Treated by them and all other Christian Professors accordingly.

And as the Said Society will have a right to Admit members of their Communion in future according to the rules of the Gospel We recommend to them to Cultivate a harmony with our Congregational Brethren to be Cautious of Recieving any unless to occasioual Commuinion Who are not of the Presbyterian Perswasion and Espacially to reject all Whose moral Charactor is Such as to bring Discredit on Religion in General or to the Presbyterian Interest in Particular.

order that the Revd Mr Chaplin be Served with a Copy of this Minute as Soon as may be.

Extracted from the Minutes
a true Copy Test JN^o STRICKLAND, *Pres^y Clk*

GROTON June 25th 1784

The following is a copy of the enactment previously alluded to: —

An Act for incorporating a Number of the Inhabitants of the Town of *Groton*, in the County of *Middlesex*, of the Presbyterian Denomination, into a separate Parish.

WHEREAS a number of the inhabitants of the town of Groton, *have petitioned this Court to be incorporated, for the reasons expressed in their petition, and it appearing to this Court reasonable that the prayer be granted:*

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That *Joseph Sheple, Jason Williams, Daniel Williams, Lemuel Blood, Moses Child, Amasa Gillson, David Hazen, Ezekiel Nutting, jun. Solomon Gillson, Thomas Gragg, Levi Lakin, David Lakin, Job Shattuck, jun. Isaac Lakin, Isaac Lakin, jun. Ezekiel Nutting, Benjamin Lawrence, Andrew Dodge, Samuel Gragg, Caleb A. Willard, Oliver Fletcher, John Nutting, Amos Woods, Levi Parker, Silas Blood, Oliver Patch, John Lawrence, John Gragg, Jonathan Pratt, Oliver Lakin, Benjamin Hazen, Nehemiah Gillson, John Hazen, Nathaniel Green, Jonas Green, John Woods, Jacob Lakin Parker,*

Oliver Fletcher, jun. Jacob Gragg, James Sheple, Wilder Sheple, John Trowbridge, Isaac Lawrence, Elisha Hoit, Thomas Trowbridge, John Johnson, Simeon Williams, Ezra Farnsworth, Royal Blood, James Woods, Ebenezer Stacy, Sadoc Fletcher, Jonathan Sheple, Nathaniel Sartell, Thomas Nutting, Oliver Lakin, jun. Salmon Lawrence and *Benjamin Parker* petitioners, and inhabitants of the said town of *Groton*, together with their polls and estates, be, and hereby are incorporated into a seperate parish, or society, by the name of the presbyterian parish or society, in the said town of *Groton*, with all the priviledges, powers and immunities which other parishes in this Commonwealth, are intitled to by law; they the said parish or society making provision for, and maintaining the public worship of God, in the said parish or society, according to the presbyterian rules and discipline.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when any person or persons in either parish of the said town of *Groton*, shall be inclined to join with his or their families, to the other parish in said town, he or they shall have full liberty so to do: Provided he or they signify the same in writing, lodged with the Town Clerk, three months before he or they, and their estates, shall be considered as belonging to such parish as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the members of each respective parish, and their families, shall be deemed and considered as continuing members of their respective parishes, until they shall signify their determination to the contrary in manner as above expressed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That *Israel Hobart*, Esq. be, and hereby is authorized to issue his warrant directed to some principal member of the said presbyterian parish or society, requiring him to warn the members of the said parish or society, qualified to vote in parish affairs, to assemble at some suitable time and place in the said town, to choose such officers as parishes are by law required to choose in the month of *March* or *April*, annually, and to transact all matters and things necessary to be done in the said parish.

[This act passed *November* 19, 1788.]

In the earlier days of the Presbyterian Society, the Reverend Samuel Dana, who had previously been settled over the First Parish, was the minister for a year and a half.

After he gave up the charge, the Society does not appear to have had any regular preacher. During its existence the treasurers were Captain Joseph Sheple, Oliver Fletcher, Samuel Gragg, and Jacob Lakin Parker. As late as April 27, 1799, a committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the last-named treasurer, and probably soon afterward the parish dissolved. Their place of worship was situated at the fork of the roads, opposite to the entrance of the Cemetery.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT'S DESCRIPTION OF GROTON.

In the autumn of 1797 President Timothy Dwight of Yale College made a journey to the White Mountains, which at that time was a considerable undertaking. Some years later an account of the trip was published in his "Travels in New-England and New-York" (London, 1823), a work of four volumes. On his return from the White Mountains he passed through Groton, and the following is his account of the town: —

After dinner, we rode through a part of Dunstable (Mass.), and arrived at Groton in the beginning of the evening [October 12].

Dunstable is a small town, near the north-west corner of Middlesex County, which contained, in 1790, 59 houses, and 380 inhabitants; in 1800, 75 houses, and 485 inhabitants; and, in 1810, 475 inhabitants. The surface here began to swell, and to be covered with oak, walnut, and chestnut. A better husbandry soon appeared, exhibiting proofs of thrift and prosperity. These appearances increased till we arrived at Groton, where we found again the good land, and the substantial farming character, so remarkable in the county of Worcester.

Groton, in the early periods of its settlement, experienced its share of Indian depredations. It was incorporated in 1655. In 1676, a body of savages entered it on the 2d of March, plundered several houses, and carried off a number of cattle. On the 9th

they ambushed four men, who were driving their carts, killed one, and took a second; but, while they were disputing about the manner of putting him to death, he escaped. On the 13th about four hundred of these people assaulted Groton again. The inhabitants, alarmed by the recent destruction of Lancaster, had retreated into five garrisoned houses. Four of these were within musket shot of each other. The fifth stood at a distance of a mile. Between the four neighbouring ones were gathered all the cattle belonging to the inhabitants.

In the morning two of the Indians showed themselves behind a hill, near one of the four garrisons, with an intention to decoy the inhabitants out of their fortifications. The alarm was immediately given. A considerable part of the men in this garrison, and several from the next, imprudently went out to surprise them; when a large body, who had been lying in ambush for this purpose, arose instantaneously, and fired upon them. The English fled. Another party of the Indians, at the same time, came upon the rear of the nearest garrison, thus deprived of its defence, and began to pull down the palisades. The flying English retreated to the next garrison; and the women and children, forsaken as they were, escaped, under the protection of Providence, to the same place of safety. The ungarrisoned houses in the town were then set on fire by the savages.

In a similar manner they attempted to surprise the solitary garrison; one of their people being employed to decoy the English out of it into an ambush in the neighbourhood. The watch, however, discovering the ambush, gave the alarm, and prevented the mischief intended. The next day the Indians withdrew, having burnt about forty dwelling houses, and the church, together with barns and out-houses. John Monoco, their leader, during the preceding day, with the same spirit, which is exhibited with so much vanity and haughtiness in the proclamations of General Burgoyne, the Duke of Brunswick when entering France, and General Le Clerc when attacking St. Domingo, insulted the inhabitants of Groton with his former exploits in burning Lancaster and Medfield; threatened that he would burn Groton, Chelmsford, Concord, and Boston; and declared, amid many taunts and blasphemies, that he could do whatever he pleased. His threatening against Groton he executed; but, instead of burning the other towns, he was taken a prisoner a few months afterwards, led through the streets of Boston with a

halter about his neck, and hanged. His three compeers in haughtiness met with a fate, differing in form from his; but, by the inglorious and miserable end of their efforts, are exhibited to mankind as solemn monitions of the madness, as well as impiety, of arrogating to a human arm that disposal of events, which belongs only to God. One would think, that Sennacherib and Rabshakeh had long since taught this lesson effectually. For Monoco ignorance may be pleaded; for the Christian boasters there is no excuse.

As we arrived at Groton in the evening, and left it early in the morning, and as our road passed by the body of the town at some distance on the right, we had no opportunity of observing it particularly. As we saw it, it appeared to be a very pretty village, pleasantly situated on an easy slope, and containing a considerable number of good houses, a church, and an academy. The country around it was apparently fertile. In 1790, the number of inhabitants was 1,840; in 1800, 1,802; and, in 1810, 1,886. The number of houses, in 1800, was 230. It includes two congregations; one of them a Presbyterian proper. (II. 237–239.)

President Dwight left Groton on the morning of October 13, and journeyed through Shirley, Lancaster, Sterling, and Princeton to Rutland in Worcester County, where he passed the night; and he writes that he "found much less agreeable fare in our inn, than we had met with at Groton the preceding evening." While in this town he probably tarried at Richardson's tavern,[1] a noted public house of that day, situated where the Baptist Meeting-house now stands, and on leaving the village he passed along Pleasant Street and Farmers' Row; and this would agree with his description of the road that it went to the right of "the body of the town." A brief account of the Presbyterian congregation, alluded to in President Dwight's last paragraph, is given in the present Number of this Series (pages 21–25).

[1] See No. VIII. of this Historical Series (pages 5, 6), for an account of the tavern.

MEMORANDA BY JOSEPH FARWELL.

THE following memoranda are taken from a note-book kept by Joseph Farwell, of Groton, and now in the possession of one of his descendants, Deacon Joseph Farwell, of Hyde Park, Massachusetts. They have previously been copied by me and printed in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (XXXV. 275, 276), for July, 1881. The first entries were made in the year 1710, and relate to work done by Farwell. On the fly-leaf is written, "Joseph ffarwell his book if I it luse and you it find giuc it me for it is mine." The next leaf contains "An acompt of ye Berth of Joseph farwells Childeren," as follows:—

Joseph farwell Born August: 5: 1696
Thomas farwell Born October: 11: 1698
Hannah farwell Born May: 6: 1701
Elisabeth farwell Born December: 31: 1704
Edward farwell Born July: 12: 1706
Mary farwell Born Feb^ry: 1: 1709
John farwell Born June: 23: 1711

Sarah farwell born feb^ry the 26th and died July the 4th 1721

Joseph Farwell the son of Joseph and Hannah Farwell was born the: 24: 5: 1670

Near the middle of the book the following record is found, in another handwriting:—

The Birth of the Children of Joseph Farwell and Mary Farwell who wear Married Dece^m ye 24: 1719.

Anna Farwell Born February ye 19th 1721
Isaac Farwell Born March ye 6th 1723
Joseph Farwell Born September ye 20th 1725
Jonathan Farwell Born May ye 15th 1730
Thomas Farwell Born July ye 31th 1733
Olive Farwell Born June ye 24th 1735
Mary Farwell Born September ye 4th 1738
Susannah Farwell Born August ye 8th 1742

Jon^{t} Farwell Departed Life Nou^{m} ye 29 1761 being 30 years & 14 Days old

Isaac Farwell son of Joseph and Mary Farwell Dep^{d} May ye 18th 1740 Being 17 year two months and 12 Days old

Joseph Farwell Juner son of Jo^{s} & Mary Dep^{t} August. ye 27. 1758 being 32 years 11 months and 7 Days old

The following notes are found on different leaves, scattered throughout the book, as they were left blank by the original writer: —

Joseph Farwell his Book 1745

March ye 10th 1745 Our men went out of Groton for Cap Prtoon and the City was taken ye 18 day of june 1745

August ye 4th 1745 We Began to sing the psalms in the meeting house by Course [*subsequently the following was written underneath*] and sang them throw August ye 30th 1752 and began and sung the first psalm the first Sabbath in September 1752 [*and in another place*] And sung the Last psalm the Last Sabbath in March 1760 and began and sang the first psalm ye first Sabbath in April 1760

May 10th 1749 pece was proclam^{d} in Boston in New England

Groton June ye 29 1750 I was c[h]ose in^{to} the office of a deacon in the first Church in Groton a for said and on the first Sabath july 1750 waited on that Duty

in Groton January the 22, 1750–1 their was a grate storm of Rain and wind to that Degree that it Blew down 4 Barns and one house and Rent a Grate Number of Barns and other Buldings to that Degree that the oldest person Now Living Cant Rember the Like

May the 22^{d} 1754 we Began to Rais our New meeting House and finished it on Satterday the 25th

May ye 30th 1754 Our Solders went out of Groton to Boston in order forts Cumber Land

August ye 18 1754 vpon the Lords Day mrs Sarah Dicxinson was taken into our Church the first person that was taken into the Church in the New meeting House

November ye 15 1754 the first Sacrement of the Lords supper was Administred in the New meeting House

November: ye 18th 1755. their was a tearable Earth quake about 20 minets after 4 in the morning.

on Munday the 26 of july 1756 my house was burnt down and the most of my house hold s[t]uff burnt up [*subsequently the following*

was written] and on Wedensday the 24 of Nouember we mov^d into the New house

May ye 24 1758 Capt thomas Lawrance went out of groton in order for Canada and was slain in battle the 20. Day of July 1758

August. ye 10 1763 peace was proclaimed in Boston with the French.

March ye 28. 1766 Zachariah Longley was chosen a Deacon in ye first Church in Groton.

December ye 30. 1773 Isaac Farnsworth and Ben^a Bancroft wear chosen Deacons in the Church of Groton.

Apriel ye 19th 1775, the Reggulars Came to Concord & kil^d two men & our men followed them to Charlstown & kil^d and wounded and took Captive Betwen three & 400

THE FIRST OPERATION UNDER ETHER.

A LIFE of Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, the discoverer of the anæsthetic properties of sulphuric ether, was published at New York in the year 1859. It was written by Dr. Nathan Payson Rice, and is entitled "Trials of a Public Benefactor, as illustrated in the Discovery of Etherization." In this book is given an account of the first operation ever performed on a patient, while under the influence of ether, which was the extraction of a tooth. The subject was Ebenezer Hopkins Frost, a native of Groton now dead, who is still remembered by many persons. He was a son of Solomon and Dorcas (Hopkins) Frost, and born on December 7, 1824. He became quite noted as a singer and teacher of music, and was a member of the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston.

Dr. Morton tried first on himself the experiment of inhaling ether, and after describing the effect it produced, he goes on to say: —

Delighted with the success of this experiment, I immediately announced the result to the persons employed in my establishment, and waited impatiently for some one upon whom I could make a

fuller trial. Toward evening, a man, residing in Boston, came in, suffering great pain, and wishing to have a tooth extracted. He was afraid of the operation, and asked if he could be mesmerized. I told him I had something better, and saturating my handkerchief, gave it to him to inhale. He became unconscious almost immediately. It was dark, and Dr. Hayden held the lamp, while I extracted a firmly-rooted bicuspid tooth. There was not much alteration in the pulse, and no relaxation of the muscles. He recovered in a minute, and knew nothing of what had been done to him. He remained for some time talking about the experiment. This was on the 30th of September, 1846. This I consider to be the first demonstration of this new fact in science. I have heard of no one who can prove an earlier demonstration. If any one can do so, I yield to him the point of priority of time (pages 62, 63).

Immediately after the operation Frost gave a certificate corroborating these statements, which is printed in the book, and signed by him as then living at No. 42 Prince Street, Boston. Nearly twenty years afterward he died at Fitchburg, on September 7, 1865.

A JANUARY THAW.

SINCE our last we have receiv'd further Accounts of the Damges sustain'd in the last Storm,

Particularly from Westerly in Rhode Island Colony, we hear a house was blown down, and one Man kill'd; and from Lancaster, that a Barn there was blown down, and a Horse and six Sheep kill'd.

Also from Groton in the County of Middlesex, that on [Wednesday] the 16th Instant, there was a very great Flood, such as not been known for several Years past, and that many Hundred Pounds Damage has been done thereby to the Bridges, &c. it took the Bridge which stood a cross Lancaster-River, so called, intirely off; which is the fourth Bridge the Town of Groton has built in about 28 Years last past.

"The Boston Weekly News-Letter," January 31, 1751.

It is highly probable that it was during this freshet that the "neck" on the Nashua River was broken through. See No. V. of this Historical Series (page 20), for an account of the disaster; and see also page 29 of the present Number for a contemporary reference to the storm, where the date is given as January 22, but this perhaps was the time of entry in the note-book. The island made by the cutting contains not far from twenty acres of land; and it is now owned by Colonel Daniel Needham, who bought it, on August 10, 1885, of John McKeen Gilson, who in his turn bought it, on June 1, 1855, of the late Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth, who had inherited it from her father, Major Amos Farnsworth.

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN A BALE OF COTTON.

I HAVE lately seen a copy of the New Testament that was published at Groton in the year 1846, by Alpheus Richardson. It was found, during the summer of 1860, in a bale of cotton at the Penacook Mills in Fisherville (now Penacook), New Hampshire. The question naturally arises, How did the book get there? Slavery then prevailed at the South where the cotton was grown; and perhaps some poor negro left it in his basket, — but this is all conjecture. The little volume now belongs to Miss Lilian Lawrence Richardson, of Jamaica Plain, a daughter of the late William Henry Richardson, who was a son of the publisher. The following is a copy of the titlepage: THE | NEW TESTAMENT | OF OUR | LORD AND SAVIOUR | JESUS CHRIST, | TRANSLATED OUT OF | THE ORIGINAL GREEK; | AND WITH | THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY | COMPARED AND REVISED. || *Stereotyped by Luther Roby, Concord, N. H.* | GROTON, MS. PUBLISHED BY A. RICHARDSON. 1846. 16mo, pp. 254.

A letter from Fisherville on the fourth page of the "Boston Daily Journal," September 3, 1860, mentions the finding of this stray volume.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XV.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GROTON.

A LIST OF THE TOWN-CLERKS OF GROTON.

STATION-MASTERS.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. XV.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GROTON.

[The following paper was prepared for the use of the members of The Appalachian Mountain Club, on their visit to Groton, Saturday, September 18, 1886.]

RIVERS.

IN early times, before the original Plantation had been cut up in order to form other towns, the Nashua River flowed through the township of Groton for a distance of ten miles or more, and nearly bisected its territory; while to-day its course within the town's limits is hardly more than three miles. This river is formed by the union of two branches, known respectively as the North Branch and the South Branch, which come together at Lancaster. The former has its source in Ashburnham, near the foot of the Watatuck Mountain, and in Westminster, and passes through Fitchburg and Leominster; while the latter rises, in the neighborhood of the Wachusett Mountain, at Princeton, and among the hills of Rutland and Holden, and passes through West Boylston and Clinton. Both these branches for a considerable distance above their confluence are known also as the Nashua. The stream at Groton is about one hundred feet above tide-water.

At a very early period the Nashua River was sometimes called the Penacook, and at other times the Groton River. In Thomas Noyes's survey of the grant of Major Simon Willard's farm in the autumn of 1659, the land is described as "lying and being for the most part on the east side of

Groaten Riuer." And, again, at the session beginning on September 6, 1676, the approval of the General Court was given to Jonathan Danforth's survey of lands laid out to William Hauthorne, " lying in the wilderness ; on the North of Groaten Riuer at a place called by the Indians Wistequassuck," now within the limits of Townsend. At a later period it was more frequently referred to as the Lancaster River ; and it is likely that the stream bore different names at different places along its course even at the same time. In the record of " The lands of Mr. Samuell Willard, which is layd out to him in the towne of Grotten," on September 29, 1680, reference is made to the Nashawag River, — another form of spelling.

The Squannacook River forms the divisional line with Shirley for perhaps four miles, which is the whole distance of contact with that town. This stream rises in Ashby and flows through Townsend and by West Groton, emptying into the Nashua. The name is found in the Proprietors' records as early as the spring of 1684.

PONDS.

BADDACOOK POND — lies about two miles from the village near the Lowell road. It covers an area of 103 acres, and is the largest pond in the town. It is mentioned in the record of James Parker's land under the date of July 6, 1666.

Outlet : Baddacook Brook, which flows into Cow Pond.

CADY POND — a small and deep pond, covering perhaps two acres, lying less than a mile from the village in a southeasterly direction, near the Boston road. It was named after Nicolas Cady, one of the early settlers, who owned land in the neighborhood. This pond and Flat Pond, both very small, are the only ones in the town whose waters ultimately reach the Nashua River.

Outlet : a small unnamed brook running southwesterly into James's Brook.

COW POND — sometimes called Whitney's Pond, in the easterly part of the town, covering an area of 71 acres. Cow

Pond Meadow is mentioned in the record of Ralph Reed's land before the year 1664.

Outlet: Cow Pond Brook, which flows into Massapoag Pond.

DUCK POND — near the Ridges, east of Knop's Pond, and separated from it by a ridge only — lies perhaps half a mile south of Cow Pond. It covers 55 acres, and has no outlet.

FLAT POND — a small sheet of water near the Throne, in the west part of the town.

Outlet: a small unnamed brook into the Squannacook River.

FORGE POND — in Westford, covering an area of 143 acres. In very early times it was called Stony Brook Pond.

Outlet: Stony Brook, which empties into the Merrimack River at North Chelmsford.

HALF-MOON POND — a small pond in the upper part of the meadow, which lies south of the Hillside Road.

KNOP'S POND — near the Ridges, west of Duck Pond, and is of the same size as that pond, covering 55 acres. So called from James Knapp, or Knop, an early settler who owned land in the neighborhood.

Outlet: a brook into Cow Pond.

LONG POND — lies on the southern border of the town, partly in Groton, but mostly in Ayer, covering 45 acres.

Outlet: a brook into Sandy Pond.

MARTIN'S POND — near the foot of Gibbet Hill, on its northerly side — covers 16⅔ acres; it was named after William Martin, an early settler. In the record of James Parker's land, on July 6, 1666, "the pond called Goodman Martin's Pond" is mentioned. The following Article, found in the warrant for the town-meeting held on September 17, 1792, seems to show that the outlet of the pond was formerly through Hog Swamp and Half-Moon Meadow into James's Brook, though there is now no other evidence to confirm this view.

Art. 8. To see if the Town will order the water running from Martin's Pond to be turned into the old Channel as it formerly used to run, through the Town, and appoint some proper person or persons to remove the obstructions and Effect the Business.

In the proceedings of the meeting, it is recorded that this Article was " Past in the Negative." A measurement of the pond was lately made, when frozen over, which proves it to be much smaller than it was a half century ago.

Outlet: Martin's Pond Brook into the outlet of Knop's Pond, half way between that pond and Cow Pond.

MASSAPOAG POND — on the eastern border of the town, but lies mostly in Dunstable and Tyngsborough, covering an area of 56 acres. It is now used as a storage basin of water by the Vale Mills Manufacturing Company of Nashua, New Hampshire, and in dry seasons it is drawn upon for a supply.

Outlet: Salmon Brook, which empties into the Merrimack River at Nashua.

SANDY POND — lying wholly in Ayer, and covering 80 acres. A large quantity of ice is taken from its surface in the winter, the ice-houses on its borders being connected with the Fitchburg Railroad by a branch road.

Outlet: Sandy Pond Brook, which flows into Nonacoicus Brook.

SPRINGY POND — a small sheet of water connected with Knop's Pond by a brook.

WATTLE'S POND — three miles north of the village, on the road to East Pepperell, with no outlet. The origin of the name is unknown.

In this list of ponds I have included two or three which now lie wholly in other towns, inasmuch as they are frequently mentioned in the Groton records. The area of the ponds, with the exception of Martin's Pond, is taken from the

Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts (January, 1873), as given on pages 124 and 125.

A story is told relative to Massapoag Pond, based on tradition, which probably has no real foundation. It is said that —

Its outlet was on the easterly side, and as it was the reservoir into which Cowpond brook poured its waters, a considerable mill-stream issued from it. The waters passed without any rapids for a considerable distance, affording no favorable site for a mill. The north end of the pond was bounded by a ridge of loose sand, rising but little above the surface of the water, and being about six rods only in width; on the opposite side of which was a descent of about forty feet. Here then, was an eligible spot for an overshot mill. At a town meeting held May 21, 1688, a grant was made to Samuel Adams of a small pond near Buck meadow, and leave given to drain it by a brook running into "Tyng's cove." At the same meeting, for the encouragement of any who would set up iron-works at Massapoag, a grant was offered of the wood on the easterly side of Unquetenassett brook. It is said that Adams, who is supposed to have accepted the grant, erected a grist-mill at the site above-mentioned, conducting the water across the sand-bank to the flume of his mill. At the time of a flood about the year 1700, (the precise time is not known,) a breach was made across the sand-bank, and it being very loose and moveable, the whole bank was soon torn down by the water to the depth of more than thirty feet: and consequently a sheet of water of that depth, where the pond was so deep, and where of less depth the whole water upon the surface, flowed suddenly off (all in one night,) with irresistible violence. The mill of course was demolished, and the stones, though diligently sought for, and even the skill of the famous Moll Pitcher, of Lynn, employed in the search, have never yet been found. The bottom of the pond being uneven, fish in abundance were left in the cavities, which were easily taken, and the inhabitants of the neighboring towns, as well as of Groton, came and carried off loads of them. Where the water formerly issued from the pond, a small brook now runs in, and the outlet is, at the place of disruption, called the "gulf." The water finds its way into the old channel, two or three miles from the pond, in a north-westerly direction from Dunstable meeting-house.

[Butler's History of Groton, pages 246, 247.]

The name of Buck Meadow, which has been in use for more than two centuries, is firmly established, and the site well known. The meadow lies near Lovewell's Pond, formerly within the limits of Groton, but now in Nashua; and Adams's mill stood undoubtedly at the outlet of this pond, where there is a small water-power. This theory would tally with the town-records; and furthermore a tradition is still extant that there was once a mill in the neighborhood. Lovewell's Pond is much smaller than Massapoag, and at that time probably had no designation. It was named after Captain John Lovewell, who was killed by the Indians on May 8, 1725. The following is the entry in the records:—

May: 21. 1688 The inhabitants of Groton Granted to Samull Adams ye pond that lyes neare buck medow which hath its outlet into the medow known by ye name of Tyngs Couee and the swampy land adioyeng ther to prouided ye sd land do not exceed fifteen accers;

atest; JOSIAH PARKER *Clarke*

and sd adams hath liberty to drean the s^d^ pond at ye small brook that unes in to Tyng's Coue prouided sd Adames macks good all dameges that shall be don ther by

There are now three small brooks running into Massapoag Pond on the easterly side, and their fall is too great for any one of them ever to have been the old outlet of the pond. Furthermore, it would have been impossible by any of these brooks to drain the pond (which even at the present time covers 56 acres) without causing too great damage for Adams to make good. There is no indication along their banks that they have been much larger streams than they are to-day. While the formation of the banks at the mouth of the pond, or the "gulf," so called, is peculiar, there are no signs that the water-line was ever any higher than it is at the present time. None of the local antiquaries are able to identify Tyng's Cove, which is a name undoubtedly derived from Jonathan Tyng, one of the earliest settlers of Dunstable.

At the same town-meeting, held on May 21, 1688, the inhabitants of Groton—

Deed then by the maior uoat grant for the incoregment of such men as will set up Ioran works at masabog pond; that thay shall haue ye ues & improument of the woods and timbr y^t^ is now common one the est sid of uncuttanaset brook and so to nashua riuer and groton line est ward & south ward to good man greens' masabog medow. . . .

I give this extract from the town-records in order to show that the inhabitants at that period knew the pond by its present name; and if they had seen fit then to grant Adams any special privilege connected with it, they would have called it "Massapoag," and would not have said "ye pond that lyes neare buck medow."

HILLS.

Barralock Hill — is mentioned in the record of Samuel Woods's lands; but I am unable to identify it. Perhaps it is the hill due north of Baddacook Pond.

Brown Loaf Hill — commonly called Brown Loaf — is a handsome, symmetrical hill standing alone, more than a mile from the village, near the Lowell road. Brown Loaf Hill Meadow is mentioned in the description of Joseph Parker's lands, December 2, 1664, which would imply that the hill was so named before that time. Brown Loaf Hill is also mentioned in the record of James Parker's lands made on July 6, 1666; and Brownloafe Playne and Brownloaf Hill are given in the record of James Fisk's lands in John Morse's handwriting, of which the date is absent, but which was certainly made at a very early period.

Chestnut Hills — the range lying northerly of Martin's Pond; so called from the abundant growth of chestnut-trees on its sides.

Clay-Pit Hill — the small hill at the corner of the East Pepperell road and Break Neck.

GIBBET HILL — a noted landmark, overlooking the village on its easterly side. It is mentioned in the land-grant of Sergeant James Parker, which was entered in the town-records by Richard Sawtell, the first town-clerk who filled the office, from June, 1662, to January, 1664–65. The tradition is that the hill was so called from the fact that once an Indian was gibbeted on its top. If this ever occurred, it must have happened before Sawtell's term of office. The town was incorporated by the General Court on May 25, 1655, but no public records are known to have been kept before June 23, 1662.

HORSE HILL — in the eastern part of the town, near Massapoag Pond. It lies partly in Dunstable, and is covered with woods.

INDIAN HILL, or HILLS — the range beginning near James's Brook, a mile south of the village, and running in an easterly direction on the south side of the Great Road to Boston.

NAUMOX — a low hill or ridge a short distance west of the road to East Pepperell, near the Longley monument, and running parallel with the road. The name is also used in connection with the neighborhood.

PROSPECT HILL — very near Cady Pond, and east of it; perhaps 250 feet or more above the Nashua, and said to be the highest elevation in the town.

RIDGE HILL, or THE RIDGES — the name of a peculiar ridge, three miles southeasterly from the village, along which the Great Road runs. It also gave the name to a tavern formerly kept in the immediate neighborhood.

ROCKY HILL — there are two hills of this name, one lying northeasterly of Baddacook Pond, near the old District School-house No. VIII. (now the Trowbridge School), which is also known as the Rocky Hill School; and the other situated in he southeast part of the town, between Long Pond and the

Ridges. A visit to either of these hills will show why it was so called.

SAND HILL — a small elevation on the road to East Pepperell, below the Longley monument, near the place where the Nashua road branches off.

SHEPLEY HILL — lies west of the East Pepperell road, near Naumox. The name is rarely heard now, though it was in use as far back as February 28, 1670, — evidently so called from the Shepley family.

SNAKE HILL — in the south part of the town, but lies mostly in Ayer. Rattlesnakes have been killed on it within the memory of the present generation.

THE THRONE — a high hill in the western part of the town, — on the summit of which is a level field of perhaps sixty acres, containing a small pond, — near the Townsend line. A map of Groton resembles a tea-kettle, the portion west of the Nashua River forming the spout ; and the Throne comes in the spout.

MEADOWS.

The early settlers of Groton, according to the town-records, had many parcels of meadow allotted to them in the assignment of land. Sergeant James Parker owned in twenty different meadows, and the other settlers also were large owners. It is probable that they did not attach the same signification to the word "meadow" which now belongs to it in New England, where it means low, swampy land, without regard to the mowing. They called by this name all grass-land that was annually mown for hay, and especially that by the side of a river or brook; and this meaning of the word was and still is the common one in England, whence they brought their language. They sometimes spoke of a "swamp," meaning by it what we call a "bog;" but much of this kind of land has since been reclaimed, and is known with us as "meadow." As a mat-

ter of fact it happened that the lands which could be mown for the fodder were low lands, and it would require perhaps less than a generation to transfer the meaning of mowing lands to the low lands, which were nearly the only ones that could be mown in the early days of the Colony. This explanation will make clear the following vote of the town, passed on February 18, 1680–81: —

At the same meeting it was agreed vpon and voted that Mr Hubberd should haue all the comon which was capable to mak medow in swan pond medow vp to the vpland for seauen acre and a halfe for to mak vp his fifteen acres of medow

The following names of meadows are found in the town-records, and in a few instances I have indicated their locality: Accident; Angle, in the northerly part of the town; Big Spring, in the neighborhood of Hawtree Brook; Broad, immediately west of the village; Brook; Brown Loaf, east of the hill; Buck, now lying within the limits of Nashua, New Hampshire; Burnt, in the vicinity of Baddacook Pond; Cow Pond, near the pond of that name; East; Ferney, near Brown Loaf; Flaggy, to the southward of the Baddacook road, near the pond; Flax; Great Flaggy, presumably near Flaggy, and perhaps the same; Great Half-Moon, the same as Half-Moon, which lies east of the village; Little Buck, probably a part of Buck Meadow; Little Half-Moon, a part of Half-Moon, being an offshoot from it; Lodge; Long; Maple; Massapoag, evidently near Massapoag Pond; New Angle; Pine; Plain; Pretty; Providence; Quasoponagon, "on the other sid of the riuer," near the Red Bridge, through which Wrangling Brook runs; Reedy, known by this name to-day, lying north of the Reedy Meadow Road; Rock, south of Snake Hill; Sallo, perhaps Sallow, a kind of willow; Sedge; Skull, through which Unquetenassett Brook runs, near the Dunstable line; Sledge, north of Reedy Meadow, near the Sledges; South; South Brook; Spang; Spot; Spring; Spruce; Swamp; Swan Pond; and Weavers.

In the record of Daniel Pearse's land, by William Longley, town-clerk, on July 6, 1666, reference is made to "the iland

lying within the meadow called Litle Halfe Moone Meadow." This land now belongs to Governor Boutwell; and I am informed by his son, Francis M. Boutwell, Esq., that there is upon it a small elevation, which is always spoken of as the island,— undoubtedly a survival of the expression applied to it when more or less surrounded by water.

BROOKS.

Cold Spring Brook — a small brook, rising in Cold Spring "on ye Left hand of the high way that goe to Reedy medow." It runs across the Nashua road, the East Pepperell road, through Hazen Swamp and Libby Lobby Moat, into the Nashua River.

Cow Pond Brook — has its source in Cow Pond Meadows and Cow Pond, and empties into Massapoag Pond. Formerly there was a dam between the meadows and the pond, where there was a saw-mill; and later on the same site a paper-mill, which disappeared about thirty-five years ago.

James's Brook — one of the longest brooks within the limits of the town. It takes its rise in Half-Moon Meadow, crosses Main Street in the village, and runs southerly and westerly for three or four miles into the Nashua River. At its mouth is the beginning of the line separating the town of Ayer from Groton. Formerly there was a tannery on the banks of the brook, near Indian Hill, known as Dix's tannery; and a mile below, on land of the late Benjamin Moors, east of the road, at one time there was a mill, — but now no traces of either are left. The stream took its name from Captain James Parker, one of the early settlers. It empties into the Nashua River, nearly opposite to the mouth of the Squannacook.

Hawtree Brook — in the northerly part of the town, near Chicopee Row; after it unites with Walnut Run and two or three other small streams, it forms Unquetenassett Brook.

In the early records of the town the Hawtrees are frequently spoken of, which refer to the neighborhood of this brook.

NONACOICUS BROOK — frequently contracted into Coicus — was formerly a noted stream in Groton; but now no part of it comes within the limits of the town. It has its source in Harvard, and runs northerly and then westerly, passing through the village of Ayer, and emptying into the Nashua. It receives as a tributary, Sandy Pond Brook. On this stream John Prescott, about the year 1667, built his mill for grinding and sawing, of which the site was originally in Groton, but is now in Harvard. The neighborhood is still called the Old Mill.

REEDY MEADOW BROOK — rises in Reedy Meadow and flows northerly, emptying into the Nashua River below East Pepperell. It is sometimes called Johnson's Brook.

SANDY POND BROOK — wholly in Ayer, the outlet of Sandy Pond, flowing into Nonacoicus Brook.

SEDGE BROOK — a small brook from Sedge Meadow, running into Reedy Meadow Brook.

STONY BROOK — in Westford, the outlet of Forge Pond. It was on this stream that John Prescott built a mill about the year 1683. See "The Early Records of Groton" under the dates of June 15, 1680, June 13, 1681, and April 25, 1682; also the agreement following the record of the meeting held on June 25, 1683.

SWAN BROOK — mentioned in the early records, but I cannot identify it beyond a doubt. Perhaps it was the brook near the divisional line between Groton and Westford, which flows into Forge Pond. See the record of James Knop's lands, made on January 3, 1669.

TUITY BROOK — contracted from Gratuity — a very small stream which rises near the head of Farmers' Row and runs

through Hazle Grove into the Nashua River below Fitch's Bridge.

UNQUETENASSETT BROOK — often called Unkety — a stream formed by the union of Walnut Run, Hawtree Brook, and one or two small tributaries, and running northerly through Skull Meadow and that part of Dunstable formerly Groton into the Nashua.

WALNUT RUN — a brook issuing from the sides of the Chestnut Hills, and uniting with Hawtree Brook and one or two other streams, forms the Unquetenassett.

Also the name of a place — perhaps it was the mouth of a stream — on the Nashua River where in olden times there was a bridge. It stood farther up the river than Fitch's Bridge.

WRANGLING BROOK — in West Groton, a mile and a half in length — meanders through Quasoponagon Meadow, and then empties into the Nashua a short distance below the Red Bridge.

ROADS.

BADDACOOK POND ROAD — a continuation of the Martin's Pond Road to the neighborhood of the pond.

BREAK NECK — the short strip of road from the East Pepperell road to Common Street, south of the soapstone quarry.

CHICOPEE ROW, or ROAD — running north for three miles from the Cemetery. This district is known as Chicopee, a name given long ago.

FARMERS' ROW — applied to the road on the height of land west of the village. It begins at the west end of Pleasant Street and runs in a southerly direction for two miles, passing by the Groton School.

GREAT ROAD — one of the principal thoroughfares between Boston and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The section of the road through the village is known as Main Street.

HILLSIDE ROAD — the highway along the southern slope of the Indian Hills.

LOVE LANE — the highway from the Lowell road, near the First Parish Meeting-house, to the Great Road near Cady Pond.

MARTIN'S POND ROAD — the highway from the site of the first meeting-house to the neighborhood of the pond, where it becomes the Baddacook Pond Road.

REEDY MEADOW ROAD — from the Nashua road to Chicopee Row, immediately south of Reedy Meadow.

SQUASH PATH — through the woods from the East Pepperell road to the Nashua road — a short distance beyond Cold Spring Brook.

TUITY ROAD — a contraction of Gratuity Road — the road leading to Fitch's Bridge from the Great Road near the Railroad Bridge, half a mile north of the village. The name had its origin in the early history of the town, when grants of land were made to the inhabitants as gratuities. Tuity Brook, a very small stream, crosses this road and empties into the Nashua River, below Fitch's Bridge.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BLOOD'S FORDWAY — near the covered bridge in East Pepperell, which is often called Jewett's Bridge.

BRICKYARD — on the north side of the Great Road, about a mile from the First Parish Meeting-house. It was much

used during the last century; and probably was the place where the bricks were made for the parsonage, as mentioned in the town-records, June 20, 1706. Only a few traces of it are now left, though a clump of elms by the roadside is a good guide to the site.

BROWN LOAF PLAIN — to the west of Brown Loaf.

COMMUNITY — the name of a district or neighborhood beyond the Groton School, where many of the residents formerly held similar religious views. It had its origin about forty years ago, when the Second Adventists, or "Millerites," gave up their regular services in the village.

DEAD RIVER — the old course of the Nashua River, around the island which was formed by the cutting through of the "neck." See No. V. of this Historical Series (page 20), also No. XIV (page 31).

DEEP SOIL — in the neighborhood of the race-course, in Hazle Grove; so called on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle.

FITCH'S BRIDGE — over the Nashua River, a mile and a quarter below the Red Bridge.

GENERAL FIELD — often mentioned in the early town-records, refers to land owned in severalty by the proprietors of Groton, who kept it as one field, for reasons not now understood. It was upland, and lay in the southwest part of the town, near the river. It appears to have been allotted to the proprietors, according to the number of acre-rights which each one owned. Perhaps it was land already cleared when the first settlers came.

THE GIFT — a parcel of land near Reedy Meadow, not accurately identified.

THE HAWTREES — mentioned several times in the early records, and referring, doubtless, to some native shrubs or

trees; for instance, Zachery Sawtell had meadow-land "Neare the hawtrees" confirmed to him on November 18, 1670. It evidently became the name of a limited district or neighborhood in the north part of the town, and from it undoubtedly Hawtree Brook was named. Professor Asa Gray, the distinguished botanist, writes me that there are three or four species of wild hawthorn in Massachusetts. He says: "One of the forms of the Black or Pear Thorn (*Cratægus tomentosa*) would be the likeliest for Groton, or perhaps the Cockspur Thorn. The former has the more edible fruit, and would be sure to attract attention."

HAZEN SWAMP — near the mouth of Cold Spring Brook.

HAZLE GROVE — the neighborhood of the east bank of the Nashua River above Fitch's Bridge.

HICKS'S HOLE — a small piece of meadow, lying north of Reedy Meadow.

HIGH PLAIN — on the north side of the Baddacook road, in the neighborhood of the pond. It lies in the angle of the roads, west of the house of John Johnson, Jr., as laid down on the map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829.

HOG SWAMP — lying between the westerly side of Martin's Pond and Martin's Pond Road. Governor Boutwell's private way to the Chestnut Hills passes through it.

HOYT'S WHARF — the name of a place on Cow Pond Brook where one Hoyt formerly kept his boat. It was near the house of Samuel Hazen, — as laid down on Mr. Butler's map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829, — nearly a mile north of Cow Pond.

THE ISLAND — a small, though prominent, hill in the meadow south of Hillside Road; undoubtedly once surrounded by water.

JAMAICA — the name of a small patch of meadow behind the hills on the west side of Chicopee Row.

LIBBY LOBBY MOAT — below the Ox Bow, opening into the Nashua River. This word is probably another form of Loblolly, in use at the South, and denoting wet land.

LILY MOAT — on the east side of the Nashua and south of the road, near the Red Bridge.

MADAGASCAR — the name of the district where the paper-mill formerly stood on the brook, between Cow Pond and Knop's Pond.

NOD — the district lying in the neighborhood of the four corners, below the soapstone quarry. The road from the Hollingsworth Paper-mills to this place is called the Nod Road.

OX BOW — the bend of the Nashua River, in the northerly part of the town, below the Lawrence pasture.

PAUGUS HOLE — in Paugus Brook, on the west side of Brown Loaf, where, it is said, the body of Paugus's descendant, who came to kill Chamberlain, was sunk, after he himself was killed.

PINE PLAIN — probably near the Nashua River, and perhaps on the westerly side. In December, 1673, Joseph Morse had meadow-lands on the Pine Plain, "neare the fordway."

PUNCH BOWL — one of several natural depressions near the Lowell road, below Brown Loaf. The name is also applied to the neighborhood.

RED BRIDGE — over the Nashua River, on the road to West Groton.

SLEDGES — the name of a meadow northeast of Reedy Meadow, mentioned in the early records, where John Lakin owned land. Mr. Butler, in his History (page 273), says that "this word seems to signify strips of meadow or parcels of low lands abounding in iron ore." Bog-iron is found in that quarter of the town, and in old times was worked by a company formed for that purpose.

SODOM — the district in the northeast part of the town, near the Townsend line. The name refers to the quality of the soil, and not to the character of the inhabitants.

SQUANNACOOK — an Indian word, the old name of West Groton.

STONY FORDWAY, or WADING-PLACE — near the site of the Hollingsworth Paper-mills, on the Nashua River, a mile and a half northwesterly of the village.

SWILL BRIDGE — was between the homesteads of Eber Woods, Jr., and Joel Davis, — as given on Mr. Butler's map of Groton, from a survey made in the years 1828 and 1829, — a short distance west of the present railroad bridge. Originally it was a causeway, perhaps twenty rods in length, over the southerly end of Broad Meadow, though now it is a solid road.

THOMAS TARBELL'S FORDWAY — was between where the Red Bridge now stands, and Fitch's Bridge, which is a mile and a quarter below.

TOBACCO PIPE PLAIN — on both sides of the road from the Ridges to Sandy Pond, near Rocky Hill. It is mentioned in the "Bye-Laws of Groton relative to Schools; and Instructions of the School Committee, 1805," and in old deeds.

A LIST OF THE TOWN-CLERKS OF GROTON,

FROM THE YEAR 1662 TO THE PRESENT TIME, WITH THE DATES OF THEIR ELECTION AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

In this list the years are given according to the new style of reckoning, and in specifying dates, small fractions of years are overlooked. The town was attacked by the Indians in the spring of 1676, and abandoned by the inhabitants until March, 1678.

The earliest records of the town were written by Richard Sawtell, and begin on June 23, 1662, though his election as town-clerk was not recorded until December 24, 1662. During the period since that date, there have been thirty-four town-clerks, of whom four, namely, Jonathan Morse, William Longley, Jr., James Blanchard, and Samuel Rockwood, died while in office, — Longley being killed by the Indians, on July 27, 1694. During the early part of 1682 Captain James Parker, Richard Blood, and Jonas Prescott made entries in the records, though no one of them appears to have been at the time town-clerk. Jonathan Morse was the first who signed the records with his name, though the practice with him was not constant. William Longley, William Longley, Jr., and John Longley were representatives of three successive generations in the same family, being father, son, and grandson. On December 9, 1687, William Longley, Jr., was chosen clerk, but he acted as such during only a part of the next town-meeting on May 21, 1688, when he was followed by Josiah Parker, who made the entry for so much of that meeting as occurred after his election. Mr. Brigham, the present occupant, has

filled the position for more than thirty-one years continuously, — by far the longest term of service of any town-clerk. Joseph Lakin, with a record of seventeen years, comes next to him in length of time. Of all the persons mentioned in the list, only the last three are now living, namely, Mr. Boutwell, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Brigham; and their combined term of service covers just forty years. Since the death of Mr. Park, which took place on September 23, 1875, these three have been the only survivors. Mr. Butler died on October 7, 1854, and Mr. Boynton on November 30, 1854, — less than eight weeks apart.

December 24, 1662	Richard Sawtell	1662–1664.
January 27, 1665	James Fisk	1665.
December 2, 1665	William Longley	1666, 1667.
" 11, 1667	John Page	1668.
November 11, 1668	Richard Blood	1669.
" 10, 1669	John Morse	1670–1676.
	(Town abandoned during two years.)	
1678	James Parker	1678, 1679.
December 23, 1679	John Morse	1680, 1681.
1682	Jonathan Morse (died July 31, 1686)	1682–1686.
December 10, 1686	Josiah Parker	1686, 1687.
" 9, 1687	William Longley, Jr., 1688 (a short time only).	
May 21, 1688	Josiah Parker	1688–1691.
December 10, 1691	Jonas Prescott	1692.
" 12, 1692	William Longley, Jr. (killed July 27, 1694)	1693, 1694.
March 4, 1695	James Blanchard	1695.
" 3, 1696	Jonas Prescott	1696.
December 10, 1696	James Blanchard (died Feb., 1704)	1697–1704.
March 8, 1704	Thomas Tarbell	1704, 1705.
" 5, 1706	Joseph Lakin	1706–1722.
" 5, 1723	John Longley	1723–1726.
" 7, 1727	Joseph Lakin	1727.
" 5, 1728	John Longley	1728, 1729.
" 3, 1730	Jonathan Sheple	1730.
" 2, 1731	Thomas Tarbell, Jr.	1731–1733.
" 5, 1734	Jonathan Sheple	1734–1744.
" 5, 1745	Thomas Tarbell, Jr.	1745–1756.
" 1, 1757	Abel Lawrence	1757–1764.
" 5, 1765	Oliver Prescott	1765–1777.
" 3, 1778	Isaac Farnsworth	1778–1781.

March 5, 1782	Abel Bancroft	1782, 1783.
" 2, 1784	Jonathan Keep	1784.
" 1, 1785	Abel Bancroft was chosen, but declined.	
" 1, 1785	Isaac Farnsworth	1785–1787.
" 4, 1788	Nathaniel Sartel was chosen, but declined.	
" 10, 1788	Joseph Shed	1788–1794.
" 3, 1795	Samuel Lawrence	1795–1798.
" 5, 1799	Samuel Rockwood (died May 29, 1804)	1799–1804.
June 18, 1804	Oliver Prescott, Jr.	1804–1810.
March 5, 1811	Joseph Mansfield	1811–1814.
" 7, 1815	Caleb Butler	1815–1817.
" 3, 1818	Joseph Mansfield	1818.
" 2, 1819	Noah Shattuck	1819–1822.
" 3, 1823	Caleb Butler	1823–1831.
" 6, 1832	John Boynton	1832, 1833.
" 4, 1834	John Gray Park	1834–1836.
" 6, 1837	John Boynton	1837–1845.
" 3, 1846	George Sewall Boutwell	1846–1850.
" 4, 1851	John Warren Parker	1851–1854.
" 5, 1855	George Dexter Brigham	1855–

An Alphabetical List of the Town-Clerks, with the Dates of their First Election and their Terms of Service.

March 5, 1782	Bancroft, Abel	1782, 1783.
" 4, 1695	Blanchard, James	1695, 1697–1704.
November 11, 1668	Blood, Richard	1669.
March 3, 1846	Boutwell, George Sewall	1846–1850.
" 6, 1832	Boynton, John	1832, 1833, 1837–1845.
" 5, 1855	Brigham, George Dexter	1855–
" 7, 1815	Butler, Caleb	1815–1817, 1823–1831.
" 3, 1778	Farnsworth, Isaac	1778–1781, 1785–1787.
January 27, 1665	Fisk, James	1665.
March 2, 1784	Keep, Jonathan	1784.
" 5, 1706	Lakin, Joseph	1706–1722, 1727.
" 1, 1757	Lawrence, Abel	1757–1764.
" 3, 1795	Lawrence, Samuel	1795–1798.
" 5, 1723	Longley, John	1723–1726, 1728, 1729.
December 2, 1665	Longley, William	1666, 1667.
" 9, 1687	Longley, William, Jr.	1688, 1693, 1694.
March 5, 1811	Mansfield, Joseph	1811–1814, 1818.
November 10, 1669	Morse, John	1670–1676, 1680, 1681.
1682	Morse, Jonathan	1682–1686.

December 11, 1667	Page, John	1668.
March 4, 1834	Park, John Gray	1834–1836.
1678	Parker, James	1678, 1679.
March 4, 1851	Parker, John Warren	1851–1854.
December 10, 1686	Parker, Josiah	1686–1691.
" 10, 1691	Prescott, Jonas	1692, 1696.
March 5, 1765	Prescott, Oliver	1765–1777.
June 18, 1804	Prescott, Oliver, Jr.	1804–1810
March 5, 1799	Rockwood, Samuel	1799–1804.
" 4, 1788	Sartel, Nathaniel	Declined to serve.
December 24, 1662	Sawtell, Richard	1662–1664.
March 2, 1819	Shattuck, Noah	1819–1822.
" 10, 1788	Shed, Joseph	1788–1794.
" 3, 1730	Sheple, Jonathan	1730, 1734–1744.
" 8, 1704	Tarbell, Thomas	1704, 1705.
" 2, 1731	Tarbell, Thomas, Jr.	1731–1733, 1745–1756.

STATION-MASTERS.

THE first station-master of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad, in the village of Groton, was Artemas Wood, who served in that capacity from the opening of the road on December 18, 1848, till September 1, 1862, when he was succeeded by John Warren Parker, who held the position until August 16, 1886, — a period of nearly twenty-four years.

ERRATA IN NO. XIII. OF THIS SERIES.

Page 8, line 17 from the bottom, for "9 : yeares" read "91. yeares."
Page 46, line 15 from the top, for "Porcine" read "Parcime."

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XVI.

NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE CONCORD FIGHT.

LIST OF GROTON SUBSCRIBERS TO IMPORTANT BOOKS, ETC.

PEPPERELL FEVER.

NAOMI FARWELL, THE HERMITESS.

THE GILSON FAMILY.

THE TOWN-CLOCK.

LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS.

A STRAY COW.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. XVI.

NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE CONCORD FIGHT:

GROTON MINUTE-MEN AT THE NORTH BRIDGE, APRIL 19, 1775.

[The following paper, by WILLIAM WILLDER WHEILDON, Esq., of Concord, was read at a meeting of The Bostonian Society, on April 14, 1885. It is now, with his permission, reprinted in this Historical Series.
S. A. G.]

IT is not very remarkable, perhaps, that the centennial period since the beginning of the Revolutionary War should be the occasion of bringing to light some new matter in relation to its early incidents, in regard to which more or less secrecy was preserved and names withheld at the time. It seems, from evidence which has lately come to the knowledge of the writer, by a casually dropped remark concerning the Concord fight, that the alarm of the movement of General Gage to seize the cannon, stores, and ammunition in Concord was more widely known in Middlesex County than heretofore supposed. It appears, from the testimony of Mr. Artemas Wright, of Ayer, who is a grandson of Mr. Nathan Corey, of Groton, that there were several members of the Groton company of minute-men at Concord, on the morning of the 19th of April, who were in the fight at the North Bridge, and joined in the pursuit of the British troops in the retreat to Lexington.

MR. WRIGHT'S STORY.

Mr. Wright says, his grandfather repeatedly told him the story, and often talked of the scenes of that day. A part of his narration was, that on the day before the Concord fight, April 18, while he was ploughing in his field, some distance from the middle of the town, he received notice of a meeting of the minute-men, which, of course, demanded immediate attention. It was in the afternoon, toward evening, when he received the notification. He at once unhitched his plough, drove his oxen home, took down his gun and belt, told his wife Molly, as he called her, that he was going away and could not tell when he should come back, and that she must take care of the oxen. He then hastened to the middle of the town and joined his comrades who had assembled there.

The circumstance which had induced them to call the meeting was the arrival of some brass cannon from Concord. Of course the presence of these immediately gave rise to discussion and speculation as to the cause and the reason of their being sent to Groton from Concord. Various suggestions were made, the most prominent of which was a proposition that the company should proceed at once to Concord; but this, when put to vote, was determined in the negative, most of the members preferring to wait for further intelligence.

This conclusion, it seems, was not entirely satisfactory to all the members of the company, and some of them determined to go at once; so that, as the story is related to the writer, nine of them, with young Corey among the number, started for Concord the same evening. They travelled all night, carrying lighted pine torches a part of the way, and reached Concord at an early hour in the morning, entering one side of the town some hours before the British troops entered upon the other. Mr. Corey said they all went and got some breakfast at the house of Colonel Barrett, which was afterwards visited by the British troops in search of the cannon, ammunition, and stores, most of which had been fortunately removed, the day before, to places of safety. After getting something to eat they proceeded toward the centre of the town, and soon

joined the men of Concord, and finally were in the ranks of the minute-men, at or near the North Bridge, where the fight with the British troops occurred. They continued with the minute-men, and followed the retreating troops to Lexington, or beyond.

This is the story related by Mr. Wright, as often repeated to him by his grandfather Corey; and this, according to the accepted history of the time, and as at present understood, appeared to the writer, on the instant, as wholly improbable. It must still remain so, unless it can be explained and accounted for in the transactions and events of the period.

The objection to be met and answered is, How could the people of Groton, thirty miles from Boston, at about the time the British troops were moving toward their boats, on the evening of the 18th, know anything of General Gage's purpose or design to visit Concord? Of course they knew nothing, excepting such information as the presence of the brass cannon, which had arrived among them, indicated. Probably the men who conveyed the cannon from Concord could not explain the matter, and yet it may possibly be true that they had learned before they left Concord, or suspected, the reason why they were sent; and, if so, would be sure to communicate it to the people of Groton. This, when we come to think of it, is not very improbable, although no reason is given in the votes of the Committee for their action. However this may be, the improbable story of Mr. Wright may possibly be explained and accounted for by the action of the Committee of Safety in the matter, by showing that the cannon were sent to Groton, and why they came to be sent there at that particular time.

EXPLANATION OF THE STORY.

Almost every person familiar with the history of this period would, on the instant, reject the story as a fiction, and nothing but entire confidence in the truthfulness of the party referred to, and the little probability there is of his being able to invent such a relation, induced the writer to give it a moment's consideration. Turning the history of

the period over in our mind, the points of which were very familiar, we thought we could see a possible explanation of the matter, as a consequence of the cautionary action of Warren, and the important services rendered at this time by Paul Revere.

It is well known to most readers and students, who are familiar with the history of this period, that Doctor Warren, so far as is known by his own inclination, remained in Boston while the Provincial Congress was in session at Concord, expressly to observe the action and movements of General Gage in this trying period. In consequence of some of these movements, especially that of launching the transport boats preparatory for use, and taking the Grenadiers and Light Infantry off duty, Warren determined to send notice of them, and of the preparations being made, as he believed, to capture the stores at Concord, to Hancock and Adams, then at Lexington.

This message was sent by Paul Revere, on Sunday, the 16th of April, 1775, to the effect that the British were preparing for an excursion into the country, and it was at once understood that the stores and ammunition collected at Concord were the object. Revere delivered his message promptly at Lexington, and returned in the afternoon, when, before going across the river from Charlestown, he made his arrangements about the signal-lanterns with Colonel Conant,— a matter which, no doubt, he had determined and arranged in his own mind during his solitary ride from Lexington.

ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

The Provincial Congress, which had been in session at Concord, adjourned on Saturday, the 15th of April, but the Committees of Safety and Supplies, who had control of the military, and other public matters pertaining thereto, did not adjourn finally on that day. They remained at Concord, and held an important meeting on Monday morning, the 17th, and, no doubt, commenced their proceedings without waiting for the arrival of Hancock from Lexington, where he had

gone with Sam Adams each night during the session of Congress.

The first votes which the Committees passed, according to the record of their meetings, were as follows: —

Voted, that two four-pounders, now at Concord, be mounted by the Committee of Supplies, and that Colonel Barrett be desired to raise an Artillery Company, to join the Army when raised, etc.; and, also, that an instructor for the use of the cannon be appointed, to be put directly in pay.

Voted, unanimously, that £6, lawful money, be a Captain's pay in an Artillery Company; that the 1st and 2d Lieutenants have £4 5s.; that the Sergeants have 42s. per month, etc.

Voted, that when these Committees adjourn, it be to Mr. Wetherby's, at the Black Horse, Menotomy, on Wednesday, at 10 o'clock.

After these votes were passed, it is supposed and believed John Hancock arrived from Lexington and joined the Committee in their meeting. Of course he immediately communicated to them the important intelligence which he had received from Dr. Warren the day before, so that, without any reconsideration of the votes just passed, any adjournment or recess, the record shows that they continued the meeting and passed the following votes: —

Voted, that the four six-pounders be transported to Groton, and put under the care of Colonel Prescott.

Voted, that two seven-inch brass mortars be transported to Acton.

Voted, that the two Committees adjourn to Mr. Wetherby's, at Menotomy, [at] ten o'clock. [Not Wednesday, as first voted.]

The next day (Tuesday) a meeting was held, and it was voted that "the two brass two-pounders, and two brass three-pounders, be under the care of the Boston Company of Artillery, and of Captain Robinson's (Company)."

What finally was the disposition of these cannon we have no means of knowing; but, when the approach of the British

troops became known, Dr. Ripley, in his "History of the Fight at Concord," says: —

A considerable number of them (Concord minute-men) were ordered to assist the citizens who were actively engaged in removing and secreting cannon, military stores, and provisions. The cannon were nearly all conveyed to a distance, some to adjacent towns, and some were buried in the ground, and some under heaps of manure.

Numerous other votes were passed for the removal and secretion of ammunition, provisions, etc., and the Committee adjourned to the next day.

On Wednesday (19th) the Committee continued its session, at Menotomy (West Cambridge, now Arlington), and passed additional votes on the same subject.

Thus were the votes first passed, before the arrival of John Hancock, rescinded; and, of course, the cannon were not mounted, no Artillery Company was formed, nor teacher employed for their instruction.

All this was the result of the information from Dr. Warren, brought to Lexington by Paul Revere; to Concord by John Hancock, and, we may almost say, carried to Groton by the cannon! It is believed that no other explanation can be given of the discrepancies in these votes, so entirely different and adverse to each other, than that which has been suggested; namely, the arrival of Mr. Hancock after the passage of the first-named votes, and the intelligence brought by him of General Gage's movements at Boston.

SENDING THE CANNON TO GROTON.

In accordance with the final votes of the Committee, the next morning (Tuesday 18th) the cannon were promptly on their way to Groton, and arrived there late in the afternoon, while at Boston the British troops were getting ready to embark in their boats for the opposite side of the river, on their way to Concord.

In view of what has been said, it may now be pretty confidently asked, What information did the appearance of these

cannon at Groton communicate to the people, and especially the minute-men of that town? It will be recollected that only a short time before this (26th of February), General Gage had sent Colonel Leslie to Salem to seize some pieces of cannon there, which he failed to secure, and this was probably known to the people of Groton at this time. There cannot be a doubt, therefore, putting these two things together, as to the story the presence of these cannon told, even if the men who carried them had been speechless.

ACTION OF THE GROTON MEN.

The proceedings and action which followed, on the part of the Groton minute-men, were both natural and reasonable, and fully authorized the action of the volunteers, even supposing they were moved by curiosity alone, — a mere desire to see British soldiers. The minute-men, as we have stated, were promptly called together, and some of them determined to go to Concord that night; and, while Colonel Smith was moving his troops over the Cambridge marshes and swamps, these patriots were on their way to meet them at Concord bridge, without knowing who they were to meet or what was in store for them. What followed has been stated. The Groton minute-men arrived, and were among their brethren of Concord, Acton, Carlisle, Lincoln, and Bedford, in following and harassing the retreating troops; and it would seem, from the relation which we have given, that the improbability of Mr. Wright's story has been removed: the cannon certainly went to Groton, and almost as certainly the Groton minute-men came to Concord. The minute-men of the other towns named were notified of the coming of the British troops by special messengers. The cannon sent to Acton, no doubt, upon their arrival there on Tuesday (18th), told the same story as did the cannon at Groton; but, being so near to Concord, the citizens very naturally concluded that if they were wanted word would be sent to them at the earliest moment, as was the case; but the Groton men, though few in number, were the first to arrive.

Mr. Corey, who used to tell his story in relation to the Concord fight to his grandchildren in his talk about the war, continued in the service of his country, and prior to his death a pension was granted to him (or afterwards to his widow); but nothing was ever received by either of them.

CONFIRMATORY EVIDENCE.

Since the first mention of this subject by the writer, Dr. Samuel A. Green, a native of Groton, has published a handsome volume, entitled "Epitaphs from the Old Burying Ground in Groton, Mass." One of the inscriptions, found upon the monument to the memory of Captain Abraham Child, contains the following sentence: "He was a Lieutenant among the minute men, and AIDED IN THE CONCORD FIGHT and the battle of Bunker Hill, 1775." The remainder of the inscription shows that Captain Child went through the war with Washington, and was the oldest Captain in the service at the capture of Stony Point, in 1779. He was just the man for a night expedition to Concord.

Mr. George William Curtis, in speaking of this incident in the history of the Concord fight, in a letter to the writer, says: "Your new chapter throws light upon the tradition of the horsemen at Acton rousing the house with the news after midnight on the 18th. The whole legend is very interesting." And, we may add, seems to be confirmed most unexpectedly from various quarters. The Groton men, of course, came down through Acton, probably after midnight, and no doubt, with or without their burning torches, produced some excitement on the road.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICE OF WARREN AND REVERE.

One result of this story is particularly worthy of notice, since it shows very clearly what has scarcely ever been considered, or, in fact, alluded to, and that is the importance of the service rendered by Paul Revere in his journey to Lexington, on Sunday prior to the much more celebrated midnight ride

which followed it. The story of this ride, quiet and peaceful as it was, has never been immortalized in the lines of the poet; yet it shows very clearly that the preservation of the cannon, — nearly all that the Colony possessed at that time, — and probably the largest portion of the ammunition and stores at Concord, were saved, as we have seen, by the cautionary measures of Dr. Warren, and the essential service of Paul Revere, on the Sunday previous to the fight at Concord bridge.

Revere himself makes but very slight mention of this Sunday ride. He simply says :—

The Sunday before, by desire of Dr. Warren, I had been to Lexington, to Messrs. Hancock and Adams, who were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's. I returned at night through Charlestown; there I agreed with a Colonel Conant, and other gentlemen, that if the British went out by water, we would show two lanterns in the North Church Steeple, and if by land, one, as a signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to cross the Charles River, or get over Boston Neck.

[Revere's letter to Dr. Belknap.]

We see now more clearly than ever before, the importance of Paul Revere's first ride to Lexington.

NOTE.

Since this paper was read before the Bostonian Society, Mr. Wright has informed the writer that his grandfather, after he had told him the story about the Concord fight, gave to him an old powder-horn which he had used during the war. This powder-horn, he said, he took from a British soldier who had been shot on the retreat to Lexington, and whose body was lying by the roadside in Lincoln. Some of the other men, he said, took off his boots and some of his clothes. The powder-horn, Mr. Wright says, was quite a nice piece of work, and held just one pound of powder. It had a peculiar stopper (probably a spring snapper, like some now known), and at the larger end, on the under side (when hung over the shoulder), was engraved the English coat of arms, and on the upper

side, what Mr. Wright says they call the British Ensign. The bottom of the horn was made of brass, saucer-shaped, with a hole half an inch in diameter, in the centre, serving as a tunnel to pour in the powder, with a wooden stopper. The horn had been used by Mr. Wright and his brother, in their hunting excursions, for many years, and they agree perfectly in the description of it. It was finally lost, by the brother who owned it, in the burning of his house some years ago.

After having written the above, the writer was informed by Mr. Winsor, librarian of Harvard College, that there was a powder-horn somewhat answering the above description in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The next day (June 11, 1885) the writer visited the rooms of the Society, in Boston, and was shown by Dr. Green, the librarian, several old powder-horns of a similar character, all of them quite elaborately engraved and similar in many respects apparently to that described by Mr. Wright, with the exception that these all appeared to be American powder-horns, as one of them seemed to say, "To be used in the cause of liberty." Mr. Wright's story of this old powder-horn which he had, and the way his grandfather came into possession of it, and its distinct resemblance to those in use at the time, give additional weight and interest to the original story that the Groton men were in the Concord fight on the 19th of April, 1775. The dead soldier was probably one of those buried in the Lincoln graveyard.

LIST OF GROTON SUBSCRIBERS TO IMPORTANT BOOKS, ETC.

PRINCE'S ANNALS.

In the year 1736 the Reverend Thomas Prince, of Boston, published "A Chronological History of New-England in the Form of Annals:" to which the Introduction alone, "Containing a brief *Epitome* of the most remarkable *Transactions* and *Events* Abroad, from the Creation:" comprises more than a third of the volume. This book was followed by three thin numbers, which form a second volume. The work began with Adam; but so much space was devoted to the Greek and Roman empires and to Great Britain that the Annals come down only to the year 1733. It was evidently the intention of the author to give some account of the older New England towns. In an advertisement on the last page of Number 2, Volume II., he says:—

> Having no Accounts from those ancient Towns, viz. *Newtown*, *Groton*, *Chelmsford*, *Billerica*, *Woburn*, *Dunstable* and *Manchester*, in the Massachusetts; nor of *Saybrook*, *New-Haven*, *Fairfield* nor *Stamford* in Connecticut; nor of *Bristol* in the ancient *Plimouth Patent;* The Rev. *Ministers* of those Towns are earnestly intreated to Enquire of their *Records*, *Grave-Stones* and *ancient People*, and send the *Remarkables* of their *History* from the Beginning in a *Cronological* Order; to the *Compiler* of these *Annals* with all convenient Expedition.

Mr. Prince was eminent as a preacher and a man of learning, and for many years the minister of the Old South Church. A list of the subscribers is printed at the beginning of the book; and these names may justly be regarded as representing at that period the literary class of New England. Among them are those of "Benjamin Prescot *of* Groton, *Esq;*" and "Nathanael Sartle *of* Groton, *Esq;*."

Brief notices of some of these subscribers appeared many years ago in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register;" and I copy from Volume VI. (July, 1852) of that periodical the following sketches then given of Mr. Prescott and Mr. Sartle:—

PRESCOTT, Hon. Benjamin, born in Groton, 4 Jan. 1695–6, mar. 11 June, 1718, Abigail, dau. of Hon. Thomas Oliver of Cambridge, and died 3 Aug. 1738, aged 43 years. He was the third son (twelfth child) of Jonas Prescott of Groton, who, born in Lancaster, Mass. June, 1648 — was the third son (seventh child) of John Prescott of Lancashire, England, who married in England, Mary Platts of Yorkshire, and in England several of their children were born. John Prescott went first to Barbadoes, (it is said) and owned lands there in 1638. About 1640 he came to New England, and after remaining some time in Charlestown and Watertown, settled in Lancaster, where he had a good estate. He was one of the first settlers of Lancaster, which is said to have been so named in compliment to him.

Benjamin Prescott, the subject of this sketch was in 1717 appointed a lieutenant of the first company of foot; in 1723, being then 27 years of age, he first represented the town of Groton in the General Court, where he remained eight years. In 1724, he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace, and afterward *Quorum unus;* in 1732 a Lieutenant Colonel in a Middlesex and Worcester regiment; in 1735 a Justice of the Superior Court, and in 1738, the year of his death, he was chosen to represent the Province at the Court of Great Britain, which office he declined, giving as a reason, that he had never had the small pox. The Hon. Edmund Quincy was chosen in his stead, and died on his Mission, of the disease which Mr. Prescott feared would prove fatal to himself.

Hon. Benjamin P. was father of the Hon. James, Col. William, and the Hon. Oliver Prescott, M. D. He was grandfather of the late Judge William Prescott of Boston, and great-grandfather of W. H. P., the historian.

F. W. P.

Another notice of Benjamin Prescott, Esq., has been received, and though a very good one, this is considered as preferable, the principal early fact[s] being from original MSS. preserved in that branch of the family represented by the above subscriber (page 274).

D.

The initials F. W. P. are those of Frederick William Prescott, a grandson of Dr. Oliver Prescott, Senior, and D. is the signature of Samuel G. Drake.

SARTLE, (properly SARTELL) Nathaniel, of Groton, Esq. — was born in Scotland or England. He came over, with his wife Sarah and several children, about 1720. He was probably master and owner of his vessel. By his will, made in 1710, at Gosport, Eng., in favor of his wife, it appears that he was then about to proceed on one of his trips to America. In his will, he is called of Gosport, sometime of Charlestown in the Colony of N. E. The notary wrote his name Nathaniel Sattle, and he so signed it, perhaps to avoid a new copy, or thinking the will would probably never be used. When offered for probate it was opposed by his son Josiah, on account of its signature and old date; but he finally withdrew his objections. On a voyage in 1718, he was shipwrecked, and wrote the following memorandum in his Bible: — "Feb. ye 14, 1718, I was cast on the rocks of Quibberone, near Bellisle, in the bay of Resimea, all my men lost. N. Sartell." — Expecting that all hands would be lost, and wishing to inform his family of his fate, he headed up the Bible in a cask, and threw it overboard. When the vessel went in pieces, he took the cabin boy on his back, and swam to a rock. The boy perished in the night, but *he* was taken the next morning, nearly exhausted, from the rock, by some fishermen. The Bible also was saved, and is now in the possession of Charles J. F. Binney, Esq. It is a large Bible, with oak covers half an inch thick, covered with embossed leather, and having thick wrought brass clasps. His wife sent a vessel in search of him. Mr. Sartell was wealthy, and seems to have been a leading man in the town of Groton. He d. Jan. 16th, 1741, æ. 60. Though he lost large quantities of silver and merchandize by the wreck, he left at his death a valuable property. He left warehouses, houses, lands and other property at Charlestown, valued at £1120; property in Groton £3848; silver £47; 14 gilt leather chair bottoms; books; surveying instruments etc.

There was early at Watertown a Richard Sa*w*tell. His will, dated 1692, mentions lands in Watertown and Groton. He was probably related to the Groton Sa*w*tells, who are said to have been a distinct family from the Sa*r*tells of that place.

Nathaniel and Sarah Sartell had ch.: — I. *Nathaniel*, who was lost at sea before 1742, leaving 2 children, viz: 1. Nathaniel,

whose descendants reside in Groton and Pepperell, and 2, Hannah, who m. Hercules Bacon of Charlestown; II. *Josiah*, who m. Mary Green, and lived in Groton; his children, two sons and two daughters, died young, and he left a considerable estate to the church and town of Groton; III. *Margaret*, m. —— Gibbs, of Charlestown; IV. *Sarah*, m. Rev. Solomon Prentice, of Grafton, and afterwards of Hull, and had ten children. — *Compiled from memoranda, by C. J. F. Binney, Esq. and Miss* [*Clarissa*] *Butler of Groton.*

Nathaniel Sartle, Esq., of Groton, was very probably a grandson of *Richard Sawtell*, an early settler of Watertown, and probably a son of *Zachariah Sawtel* of Groton. [*Dr. H. Bond's Ms. Letter.*] He was a representative in the Gen. Court in 1733, 1739, and 1741, and is often mentioned in the journals of that body (pages 274, 275). D.

WILLARD'S BODY OF DIVINITY.

The Rev. Samuel Willard, minister of Groton before its destruction by the Indians in March, 1676, wrote a book, which was not published until the year 1726, long after the author's death. It is a heavy theological work entitled "A Compleat Body of Divinity" (Boston), which no one of the present century, probably, ever read. It is a folio (pp. 914), and the largest volume which at that time had been printed in America. In the list of subscribers at the beginning of the book appears the name of the "*Rev.* Mr. Caleb Trowbridge, of *Groton*," one of Mr. Willard's successors in the ministry.

BELKNAP'S HISTORY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND BELKNAP'S AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

In "A Catalogue of Subscribers" to Belknap's History, as printed at the end of the third volume of that work (Boston, 1792), Oliver Prescott's name appears; and in a manuscript list, made by Belknap and now in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of the subscribers to his "American Biography," are given the following: —

Timothy Bigelow, Groton. Samuel Dana, Groton.

The name of S. Jackson Prescott, Harvard College (class of 1795), a native of Groton and a son of Dr. Oliver Prescott (H. C. 1750), also appears in the list.

SHAKESPEARE'S DRAMATIC WORKS.

In the year 1804 the first Boston edition of Shakespeare's "Dramatic Works" was completed, in eight volumes, of which Volume I. appeared in 1802. At the end of the last one is printed a list of the subscribers to the work, in which are the following names: —

Caleb Butler, Precept. *Groton Acad.*
Martin Jenison, *Groton.*
Luther Lawrence, *Groton.*
Stephen Minott, *Groton.*
Dr. Oliver Prescott, jun. Esq. *Groton.*
Alpheus Richardson, *Groton.*

AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

At the end of the second volume of Dr. James Thacher's American Medical Biography (Boston, 1828) are printed the names of the subscribers; and among them are the following Groton physicians: Amos Bancroft, Micah Eldredge, and Joshua Green.

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.

In the year 1824 the Bunker Hill Monument Association issued an address to the different towns of the Commonwealth, calling for subscriptions in aid of their undertaking. It set forth the fact that all persons who subscribed five dollars or more would become members of the Society, and receive a certificate containing an engraved sketch of the Battle of Bunker Hill. In a pamphlet entitled an "Act of Incorporation, By-laws, and a List of the Original Members of the Bunker Hill Monument Association: with a statement, shewing the magnitude and progress of the work, and a copy of the original estimate. Compiled for the use of the Members" (Boston: 1830), — a list is printed of all who subscribed, with the amount given. The Groton names are found on pages 49 and 50, as follows: —

Bancroft, Amos	$5	Lewis, James	$5
Butler, Caleb	5	Moors, Benjamin	5
Chase, William	5	Prescott, Susan	5
Dickson, Walter	5	Peabody, John	5
Dana, Samuel	9	Park, Stuart J.	10
Dana, Rebecca	5	Park, John, jr.	5
Farnsworth, James	10	Russell, Bradford	5
Farnsworth, Ezra	5	Richardson, Alpheus	5
Farnsworth, Thomas	5	Rockwood, Samuel	5
Farnsworth, Amos	5	Rockwood, Sewall	5
Jacobs, Sylvester	5	Seaver, Norman	5
Lawrence, L.	5	Shattuck, Noah	5
Lawrence, Luther	13	Shaw, Mary B.	5
Lawrence, Lucy	5	Tarbel, Abel	5
Lawrence, Rufus B.	5	Woods, Henry	5
Lawrence, Samuel	5	Woods, Samson	5
Lawrence, Susanna	5		

Amos Farnsworth and Samuel Lawrence were in the battle as soldiers; and Samson Woods was also present, as a boy of fourteen years, in attendance on his father, Henry Woods, who was the major of Colonel Prescott's regiment. Samson died on February 8, 1826, — which, perhaps, gives an approximation to the time when these subscriptions were made.

PEPPERELL FEVER.

MANY years ago there prevailed in Pepperell an intermittent fever which was exceedingly fatal. Mr. Butler in his History (pages 349–351) refers to the sickness, and gives some facts concerning it. The disease broke out in the year 1755, and raged during the summer and autumn for several years. It seemed to baffle the skill of the physicians, and all attempts to subdue it were fruitless. It was caused, probably, by a dam built across the Nissitissett River in order to overflow a swamp and kill some dogwood; the water being afterward drawn off, the vegetable matter was left to decompose under

the hot rays of the sun, and to taint the air with malaria. It is said that during the four years while the epidemic prevailed, no fewer than 540 persons were taken down with the disease, of whom 103 died, including 64 adults.

In the year 1838 there was published at Boston a volume entitled "Boylston Prize Dissertations for the Years 1836 and 1837," by Oliver Wendell Holmes, M. D. One of these dissertations related to indigenous intermittent fever in New England, — a disease known popularly as fever and ague, — concerning which the author had collected many interesting facts and traditions. Among them is the following account by Dr. Samuel Emerson, of Kennebunk, Maine, which was furnished one of Dr. Holmes's correspondents, in consequence of inquiries relating to the subject.

Your request brings to my recollection an important historical fact, which ought not to be suffered to go down to the shades of oblivion. When I was a pupil of old Doctor Oliver Prescott, in Groton, in the county of Middlesex, when visiting a patient in Pepperell, the next town to Groton, and bordering on the State line, we passed a small river, called Nissitisset by the Indians, and which still keeps the name. This beautiful stream has its rise in a pond on the northern side of the above-mentioned State line, in the town of Brookline, in N. H., called Mosquatannipus, meanders through a very rich valley seven or eight miles, and pours its limpid waters into the Nashua. This short description of the geography of that little stream, though apparently irrelevant to the answer to your letter, yet will be explained in the sequel as necessary and important. In the course of our professional ride, the Doctor entertained me highly by the following account: — When I was a young man, and but just commenced practice, I visited an old and highly respectable physician, then living in Concord. Being a distant relative, by the name of Abel Prescott, he was kind enough to take a deep interest in my success in acquiring medical eminence and prosperity. He says to me, "Kinsman, a great proportion of my practice has been in intermittent fevers, for thirty or forty years; one third part of your business, at least, is the same; but the time is not far distant when this section of the country will be visited by a very fatal malignant fever, after which, the fever and ague will quit this part, and probably all New

England, for ever." The event proved the prediction to be history. A man lived upon Nissitisset river, about the central point from its source in the pond, and its exit in the Nashua. He owned a rich tract of intervale land covered with a poisonous shrub called dogwood, or white sumach (the Linnæan name I do not recollect). The proprietor being subject to eruptions, from working among ivy or dogwood, built a dam across the river, in order to flow this intervale, and clear it from the deleterious vegetable he so much feared. The flowing was continued long enough to effect his purpose, and then drawn off early in summer. The dead brush was cleared away, and the sun let in upon the rich soil. In a short time after this, the man, his wife, and several children were attacked by a disease which the Doctor called a *putrid malignant nervous fever;* the vulgar name was the Pepperell fever, from the place of its origin. This horrid distemper began its attack with a high degree of inflammation of the brain, and raving delirium, which made short work of every member of the above family, spread rapidly in the vicinity with equal fatality, and extended through a great part of Middlesex [County] in Mass. and Hillsborough [County] in N. H. The Doctor informed me that he had lost every patient for some time, and nothing that he could oppose to the progress of the deadly ravager had any effect, till, being called to a girl about fourteen, he applied a large epispastic to the back of her neck; her tossing and struggling through the night, notwithstanding the best exertions of faithful watchers, kept a constant motion from evening, when it was applied, till near morning, when she lay still and fell asleep. Upon examining the blister in the morning, the Doctor found a complete vesication the whole length of the spine. This was the first patient that recovered. From this the Doctor shaped his course, and lost few or none afterwards. My father's house is only three miles from the spot where this disease originated, and I have his testimony to the above facts, which took place in the year 1760, which was four years before my birth; and from that period the object of our inquiry has never appeared, and I can truly assert that I have never seen a case of pure intermittent except those which have been imported from a warmer climate.

I urged Dr. Prescott to write and preserve a faithful detail of this interesting piece of medical history before his death; but he never did. After his death, I repeatedly requested his son [Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr.], who was two years my senior, but never

could induce him to undertake the work, though he felt the importance of it as much as I did. After the death of my very dear friend and fellow student, there remained no one but myself; and I am very glad that you, my dear sir, have put me up to my duty, and I wish it was done in a better style, though not much ought to be expected from an old man of seventy-two. There is nothing to recommend this relation of facts but truth, which I have as carefully adhered to as the strong impressions upon my memory would enable me to do (pages 112–115).

The following statement is found in a letter written to Dr. Holmes by Dr. James Jackson, of Boston:—

The late Judge Samuel Dana, of Groton, stated to me about five years ago, that he had received from his father,[1] or possibly his grandfather, who, as I understood, was formerly a clergyman in that place, the following information. He stated that when he first settled in Groton, intermittent fevers prevailed in a certain part of the town, which was described as being at that time wet, but subsequently drained and cultivated. Judge Dana entered into some particulars on this point, and he evidently understood the subject of which he was speaking, so that it left no doubt in my mind as to the nature of the disease (pages 115, 116).

On January 3, 1760, a day of thanksgiving was set apart at Pepperell by the Reverend Joseph Emerson and his church "to commemorate the goodness of God to them the year past, especially in the removal of sickness and the return of so many soldiers from the army." In the sermon preached on this occasion Mr. Emerson says: "It pleased God, in the summer of 1755, to visit us with that grievous fever, by which we have suffered so much, and which hath, from its beginning with us, obtained the name of *the Pepperell fever.*" After enumerating its ravages, he sums up the whole in these words:

In the four years above mentioned, there were about 540 persons sick; 103 died, of whom 16 were soldiers from home, or just after their return; no less than 48 heads of families; 64 grown persons. How great was our distress for two years, especially in the height of the sickness, and we, notwithstanding, obliged to find our quota for

[1] The Reverend Samuel Dana, of Groton, was the father, and not the grandfather, of Judge Samuel Dana.

the war! I know not that we were eased more than a single man, excepting the time of the general alarm, when fort William Henry was besieged, in 1757, when our proportion was above twenty men, at which time there were not so many able to bear arms in the place, besides those who were necessarily taken up in attending on the sick in their own families, the field officers were so good as not to call for any. One of the years, there were near 200 confined at the same time. Your pastor at the point of death, and then confined from the house of God for four months. And of this large number who have been sick, I know not of ten persons who have been visited with the same distemper twice. Nor should we forget the bounty we received by order of authority, namely, fifty pounds, to be distributed amongst the greatest sufferers. (History of Groton, page 350.)

It is now difficult to appreciate fully all the hardships of the early settlers; besides other dangers, they were exposed to certain forms of insidious disease, happily little known to the present generation of this neighborhood.

NAOMI FARWELL, THE HERMITESS.

FIFTY years ago Naomi Farwell lived on the farm now adjoining the south side of the Groton Cemetery. The mere mention of her name will call up many associations in the minds of a few survivors who long since used to go "a-chestnutting" on her grounds. She was a daughter of William and Esther (Woods) Farwell, and born on August 16, 1769. Mr. Butler, referring to her in his History (page 269), says that she "sustained a character somewhat noted, on account of her solitary and unsocial habits and manners, which gave her the title of *hermitess*. She lived with her father and mother, while they lived, in a poor small house, about a mile north of the village, and after their decease entirely alone, in the same place. She inherited from her father, of whom she was the sole heir, a farm of about eighty acres of good land, upon and at the foot of 'Chestnut Hills,'

a large portion of which had never been stripped of its native forest trees." Her death took place on Monday, January 1, 1838, and, owing to the peculiar circumstances attending it, caused considerable excitement in town. The following obituary notice in the Saturday "Evening Gazette" (Boston), January 20, 1838, gives a few facts concerning her life that have long been forgotten by most persons, though the statement there made, that her house was half a mile distant from any other dwelling, is somewhat inaccurate.

MISS NAOMI FARWELL, the celebrated Hermitess, died at Groton, (Mass.) on the 1st instant, aged 68 years. Since the death of her father, William Farwell, in 1819, this eccentric woman had lived entirely secluded from the world; no other human being dwelt beneath her roof, for her cold and decided reply to a female who offered the services of a companion, put to flight even the affection of friendship—"I 'll keep no one for their pretty looks," drily adding, "friends have large mouths!" The estate which she inherited consists of about seventy acres of excellent land in the bosom of "Chestnut Hills," together with fifteen acres of meadow in the vicinity of "Half Moon." She has kept usually about ten head of neat cattle, and other stock in proportion, of all which and other domestic concerns she had the sole care. Her agricultural labors were constant and unremitting, hiring no aid but at the season of ploughing and mowing. The seclusion of her abode, being half a mile distant from any other dwelling, her eccentric habits, and the romantic beauty of the walks over her domain, altogether rendered a stroll through harmonious grounds the favorite promenade of all the sentimental lads and lasses of Groton Academy. It was seldom she noticed any one, farther than by a cold glance from beneath her brows.

The writer of this sketch well remembers the first visit which he paid her. In an unwonted fit of kindness, she invited him into her kitchen, and as an inestimable favor, bestowed upon him a handful of chestnuts! Long did the writer's grinders give twinges of keen remembrance of that gift, for the nuts were "veterans of half a century!" Still, down they must go, and down they went, though "with many a dreary pause between." She would hardly be considered as miserly in her disposition, but rather strictly economical, by which means she soon cleared her estate from the mortgages

with which it was embarrassed at the death of her father. She seldom left her own premises, having never been out of Groton but once, when she was persuaded to visit a cousin in Harvard; and but once only had she seen the Nashua river, although within two miles of her cottage. Her reverence for the memory of her father almost approached the superstitious. By her desire, his remains were buried under a favorite peach tree, within a rod of her dwelling; yet still, as if in strict keeping with her odd character, the fragrance of her pig-stye breathed forth from the one side, while the odors of her cow-yard were wafted from the other — both in immediate contiguity with her hallowed spot! Thus she lived until the last severe winter, when not having been seen for many days, her cottage was forcibly entered, and she was found to be ill and helpless; and in this condition her extremities were so frozen, that she would have died, had not aid arrived. From this exposure she never fully recovered. Her broken constitution yielded to a late attack of cold, and her days of cheerless solitude are ended. — Poor Naomi! You rejoiced many young hearts with fancied views into futurity; — may your now actual view be the fullness of rejoicing!

GROTON.

THE GILSON FAMILY.

MICHAEL GILSON, mentioned in the paragraph below, a son of Michael and Susannah (Sawtell) Gilson, of Groton, was born on February 24, 1730–31. His father removed to the Connecticut Valley, now the neighborhood of Charlestown, New Hampshire, probably during the period when several Groton families, including the Farnsworths, the Parkers, and the Sawtells, went to that remote frontier, — which was about the year 1740. It is a curious fact to note that the name of Sawtell has there since become Sartwell. On May 9, 1750, young Michael chose his mother for a guardian, when, according to the Hampshire County Probate Records, he was living in the Province of New Hampshire, above Northfield; and presumably at that time his father was dead. See David Jillson's "Genealogy of the Gillson and Jillson Family" (page 246).

Fort Dummer was situated on the west bank of the Connecticut River, now within the limits of Brattleborough, Vermont. The four townships in this neighborhood, on the east bank of the river, before they received their names, were numbered in their geographical order, and known by their numbers alone. They come now within the State of New Hampshire, — Township No. 1 being known as Chesterfield; No. 2, as Westmoreland; No. 3, as Walpole; and No. 4, as Charlestown.

Last Monday Se'nnight [March 6], as one Michael Gilson was going from Fort-Dummer to Numb. 2 [Westmoreland], when he came to the House of Mr. Moore, at a Place called West-River, about three Miles above Fort-Dummer, he found Capt. Fairbanks Moore and his Son Benjamin dead, and saw the House near where they lay, on Fire; when the said Gilson immediately returned back to the Fort to acquaint them of the Affair; upon which two Men went with him to the Place where the said Moore lay, to see if they could discover the Enemy, but the Snow being hard, they could not track them. The Wife and Children of the said Benjamin are missing, and suppos'd either to be burnt in the House, or carried off by the Enemy.

[The Boston News-Letter, March 16, 1758.]

THE TOWN-CLOCK.

THE old town-clock on the First Parish Meeting-house, so familiar to every man, woman, and child in Groton, was made by James Ridgway, and placed in the tower some time during the spring of 1809. Mr. Ridgway was a silversmith and clockmaker, who during the period of the War with England carried on a large business in this neighborhood. His shop was situated on Main Street, nearly opposite to the present tavern; but it has long since disappeared. He subsequently removed to Keene, New Hampshire, where he lived for many years.

Article VII. in the warrant for the March town meeting, dated February 20, 1809, is:

To grant so much money as the town shall think fit towards providing a Clock to be put up in the Meeting-house, in addition to what has already been subscribed for that purpose, & to order a suitable room to be prepared for it, & to act thereon as the town shall think proper.

The action taken on this Article at the town-meeting held on March 7, was:

Voted that a sum not exceeding seventy Dollars be granted for the purpose of erecting a Town Clock, to be paid after the s^d^ Clock is Compleated to the satisfaction of the Selectmen. The latter part of this Article was passed over, it being considered more proper for the Parish to prepare a suitable room for s^d^ Clock, and an Article having been Inserted in their Warrant for this purpose.

The bell on the same church was made in the year 1819 by Revere and Son, Boston, and, according to an inscription cast on its surface, the weight is 1128 pounds.

LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS.

THE late John Langdon Sibley, for many years the Librarian of Harvard College, wrote a History of Union, Maine, his native town; and, in it, he thus refers to a Groton family:

There was also engaged in the business [of making shingles] a family named Lakin, from Groton, Mass. The husband and the wife, in the winter season, would go into the woods, and, one at each handle of a long saw, work hard through the day, cutting trees into blocks. It may be doubted which of the two was the most expert in splitting and finishing them. And often has the wife come to the Common — eight miles — on horseback, with a child in her arms, and a heavy bunch of shingles on each side of her horse, balanced by means of ropes and withes across the beast's

back. Under the ropes and withes, to prevent them from cutting the horse, was a bag of hay. To all these was superadded a meal-bag, containing a jug for rum or molasses, or some other articles then deemed necessary for a family (pages 100, 101).

A STRAY COW.

THE customs and habits of the last century are well depicted in the newspapers of that period. The following advertisement in "The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal," March 18, 1746, shows that the owner of a stray cow had some hopes of finding her, nine months after she was lost, — which to the present generation would seem a rather futile chance. The two persons mentioned in the notice were brothers probably, and sons of Joseph Priest, of Waltham. See Dr. Henry Bond's History of Watertown (page 408). In December, 1747, Joseph Priest appears to have been living at Groton, according to a "covenant" printed in "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (pages 82–84).

Stray'd last *July* from Mr. *John Priest* of *Groton*, a large brindle Cow, with some white Spots about her, having the Letter W mark'd with an hot Iron on one Horn, about 7 Years old. Whoever shall give Information of her, either to *John Priest* aforesaid, or to *Jonas Priest* of Waltham shall be well rewarded.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XVII.

AN OLD HOUSE, AND SOME OF ITS OCCUPANTS.
TWO BALLOON DESCENTS IN GROTON.
TUNES CALLED "GROTON."
JOHN BULKLEY'S DEATH.
DR. WM. DOUGLASS'S SUMMARY.
THE SOUTH MILITARY COMPANY.
A PROVINCIAL NOTE-FORGER.
COMMODORE BAINBRIDGE AND THE LAKIN FARM.
MISS CLARISSA BUTLER.
REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.
THE INDIAN ATTACK OF JULY 27, 1694.

GROTON, MASS.
1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XVII.

AN OLD HOUSE, AND SOME OF ITS OCCUPANTS.

DURING the summer of 1876 there was printed for private circulation a book entitled "Journal of a Tour to Niagara Falls in the year 1805," by Timothy Bigelow. (Boston: octavo, pp. xx, 121.) It is an interesting volume, with an introduction by Abbott Lawrence, a grandson of Mr. Bigelow. The writer of the Journal was a distinguished lawyer, living in Groton at the time, and he tells how he set out from Boston, on July 8, 1805, with four companions, and travelled through the interior of the State of New York, then almost a wilderness, but now teeming with thrifty towns and cities. The party returned by the way of Montreal, having been absent just six weeks and having travelled 1355 miles during the trip. Mr. Bigelow makes the following entry near the end of the Journal: —

To Batchelder's in New Ipswich [New Hampshire], a very good house, to sleep, ten miles. We arrived here between four and five o'clock; and, as we were now within twenty miles of Groton, we had sufficient time to have gone there this afternoon. But this was the place established for the stage to stop at over night; and, as the horses were tired, we could not persuade the driver to proceed. Not being able to procure any other conveyance, we submitted to the necessity of passing the night here.

Sunday, August 18th. Regularly, the stage does not go from this place till Monday morning; but, impatient of being longer detained

here, we prevailed on the driver for some additional fare to proceed with us this morning, and we arrived at my house in Groton in convenient season to dine. Here we adjusted our money concerns, which we effected with great facility, in consequence of the simple method which we had adopted at first. This was no other than to take an account of the sum which each one had, deducting from that the sum each now had left, and adding all the balances together gave the whole expense, and enabled us to complete a settlement in a few minutes. The expense to each one was short of one hundred and seventy dollars (pages 120, 121).

Timothy Bigelow was the eldest son of Timothy and Anna (Andrews) Bigelow,[1] and born at Worcester, on April 30, 1767. He was fitted for Harvard College under the tuition of Benjamin Lincoln and of the celebrated Samuel Dexter, then a law-student at Worcester. He graduated with high rank at Cambridge in the class of 1786, and entered at once upon the study of his profession, in the office of Levi Lincoln, the elder. Admitted to the bar in the year 1789, he began the practice of law at Groton, living in the house then occupied by Mrs. Converse Richardson, where he also had his office. The dwelling was situated on the south side of what is now Elm Street, near the corner of Pleasant Street, though it was moved away in the autumn of 1860, to a lot near the head of the old Jenkins road, recently discontinued. It is said that he sat in his office six weeks without taking a fee, and then he received a pistareen! He was married on September 3, 1791, to Lucy, daughter of Dr. Oliver and Lydia (Baldwin) Prescott, who was born on March 13, 1771. After his marriage he removed to the house standing, until the summer of 1875, between Governor Boutwell's dwelling and Mr. Graves's. Mr. Bigelow soon acquired a wide reputation and a large practice, by no means confined to Middlesex County. Many young men came to Groton, in order to study law under his tuition, and not a few of them afterward became eminent in their profession. Among them were the following: John Harris, Judge of the Supreme

[1] Mr. Bigelow's father died at Worcester on March 31, 1790, aged 50 years; his mother died at Groton on August 2, 1809, aged 69, and lies buried in the Lawrence lot at the Groton Cemetery.

Court of New Hampshire; Thomas Rice, of Winslow, Maine, Member of Congress; John Locke, of Ashby, Member of Congress; Joseph Locke, Judge of the Police Court of Lowell for thirteen years; John Leighton Tuttle; Asahel Stearns, University Professor of Law in the Harvard Law School; John Varnum, of Haverhill, Member of Congress; Loammi Baldwin, who afterward became a distinguished civil engineer; John Park Little, of Gorham, Maine; Tyler Bigelow, of Watertown; Luther Lawrence, of Groton, and afterward of Lowell, where he died as Mayor of the city April 17, 1839; John Stuart and Augustus Peabody, both of the Suffolk Bar; and Abraham Moore, of Groton.

Mr. Bigelow took an active part in politics, and for many years was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, chosen first by the town of Groton, and afterward the town of Medford, where he was then living. During eleven years at different times, he was Speaker of this branch of the Legislature, the longest term of service in that capacity ever held by one person.

Amid the engrossing duties of his profession Mr. Bigelow found time for occasional literary work. While living at Groton he delivered the Oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Cambridge, July 21, 1796; a Funeral Oration on Samuel Dana, at one time minister of Groton, before the Benevolent Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at Amherst, New Hampshire, April 4, 1798; and a Eulogy on Washington before the Columbian Lodge of Masons, at Boston, February 11, 1800, — all which addresses have been printed. In the year 1806 he removed to Medford, where he died on May 18, 1821.

The house at Groton, in which Mr. Bigelow lived after his marriage, was built probably before the Revolution, and moved from its old site during the summer of 1875, when it was made into two dwellings, now standing on the southerly side of Court Street, near its western end, though one is around the corner. It was known to the present generation as the Dr. Amos Bancroft house; and I remember distinctly, as a boy more than forty years ago, that it took fire very early one

morning, and came near being burnt to the ground. Nothing but the active and intelligent service of the two engine companies and the Groton Fire Club saved it from utter destruction. It has been occupied by so many notable families, that a few facts concerning them may be deemed worthy of record.

The first occupant of this historical building, of whom I can find any trace, was Ebenezer Champney, a descendant of Richard, who came from Lancashire in England during the early days of the Colony, and settled at Cambridge. Ebenezer was born at Cambridge in April, 1744, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1762. He at first thought of entering the ministry, and to that end studied under the direction of Parson Trowbridge, of Groton, whose daughter he subsequently married. Soon afterward leaving this profession he took up the study of law, and in the year 1764 was admitted to the bar at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He then opened an office at New Ipswich, where he began to practise; and in the year 1775 he was appointed Judge of Probate for Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. In the spring of 1783 he came back to Groton and remained until 1789, when he again returned to New Ipswich.

During the excitement of Shays's Rebellion in the year 1786, owing to some spite which the insurgents had against Judge Champney, an attempt was made to burn his office. Combustibles ready for use were found concealed under the building; but fortunately the plot was discovered in time to defeat its object. The office stood on the south side of the house, and was afterward used by Mr. Bigelow and Mr. Lawrence, and later by Dr. Amos Bancroft. Subsequently it was moved across the street, and placed in a corner of Dr. Amos B. Bancroft's garden, a short distance north of the present Town House; after which it was again moved to the rear of his dwelling, and still later to the neighborhood of the railroad station, where it now stands.

According to the town-records, Mr. Champney was married on October 9, 1764, to Abigail, daughter of the Reverend Caleb and Hannah (Walter) Trowbridge; and they had seven children, of whom three died during infancy. By this mar-

riage he became connected with the distinguished families of the Cottons and the Mathers. His wife was born on November 30, 1740, and died on October 23, 1775. In November, 1778, he was married, secondly, to Abigail Parker, a daughter of Samuel Parker, who had gone from Groton to New Ipswich as early as the year 1760; and by this marriage he had four children. The second wife died in the year 1790; and in March, 1796, he was married, thirdly, to Susan Wyman, who died in the following September. Hannah, a daughter by the first wife, married the Honorable James Prescott, Jr. Benjamin, Judge Champney's eldest child, — who was born on August 20, 1764, according to the History of New Ipswich (page 347), — studied law with his father, and after his admission to the bar opened an office with him at Groton, during the year 1786. Here the son remained until 1792, when he joined his father at New Ipswich, who had removed there three years previously.

Judge Champney had a large practice and exercised a wide influence in this neighborhood. During the earlier years of his professional life, while living at New Ipswich, he was the only lawyer between Groton and Keene. He died on September 10, 1810, at the age of 66 years.

The house was next occupied by Mr. Bigelow; and here his children were born, including the late Reverend Andrew Bigelow, D.D., and the late Honorable John Prescott Bigelow, both graduates of Harvard College, and distinguished men in their respective callings. The latter son was the Secretary of the Commonwealth during seven years from 1836 to 1843 inclusive, and the Mayor of Boston during three years from 1849 to 1851 inclusive. Two of the former Mayors of Boston have been natives of Groton, and their birthplaces were within a few rods of each other.

Mr. Bigelow was followed by Luther Lawrence, Esq., who lived in the house until November, 1811, when his new dwelling was completed, which is the one now owned and occupied by Eliel Shumway. Mr. Lawrence was a native of Groton, where he was born on September 28, 1778, and a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1801. He studied law

with Mr. Bigelow, and afterward, on June 2, 1805, married Mr. Bigelow's younger sister, Lucy, who was born at Worcester, on May 13, 1774, and died in Boston, on October 6, 1856. For many years he was a member of the Legislature, and at one time Speaker of the House of Representatives.

It is somewhat remarkable that two Speakers of the Massachusetts House should have been residents of Groton, and still more so that both should have lived here in the same dwelling. The coincidence is by no means weakened by the fact that Governor Boutwell, the present owner of the place, was once the democratic candidate for the same office, when the Legislature met on January 6, 1847, and he also was a resident of the town at that time. It may be worthy of note that another Speaker, the Honorable Timothy Fuller, the father of Margaret, who is known as the Countess d' Ossoli, was a citizen of Groton for some years before his death, which took place on October 1, 1835.

Mr. Lawrence had a large and successful practice in Groton, and among the students who read law in his office may be mentioned: Henry Adams Bullard, and his brother Royal, — sons of the Reverend John Bullard, of Pepperell, — Jonathan Porter, George Frederick Farley, Augustus Thorndike, Edward St. Loe Livermore, Jr., Norman Seaver, and William Amory. Subsequently, during the spring of 1831, he removed to Lowell, then recently incorporated, where seven years later he became the Mayor of the city. He was killed on April 17, 1839, by falling into a wheel-pit, while showing the large mill of the Middlesex Company to his friend and kinsman, Tyler Bigelow, Esq., of Watertown.

The next occupant of the house was Dr. Amos Bancroft, a physician widely known in Middlesex County. He was the son of Edmund and Rachel (Howard | Barron) Bancroft, of Pepperell, where he was born on May 23, 1767. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1791, and studied medicine with Dr. Isaac Hurd, of Concord, and Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., of Groton. He began the practice of his profession at Westford, but soon afterward went to Weston, where he remained until the year 1811, when he removed to Groton.

He was married on August 29, 1796, to Abigail Whiting, of Hollis, New Hampshire. After her death which occurred at Weston, on December 4, 1799, when she was 28 years old, he was married, secondly, on October 7, 1800, to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Faith (Savage) Bass, of Boston, who was born on April 21, 1768, and died on April 30, 1837.

He was married, thirdly, on October 17, 1839, to Eliza Doane, of Boston, who died on November 11, 1840; and on October 31, 1841, he was married, fourthly, to Mary Kneeland, of Westford, a cousin of his first wife, who survived him many years. She was born at Westford on February 25, 1789, and died at Groton on April 22, 1862, aged 73 years.

Dr. Bancroft had a large practice and at various times a considerable number of medical students under his charge, including among them James Freeman Dana and Samuel Luther Dana, grandsons of the Reverend Samuel Dana, a former minister of the town. He was frequently called in consultation, sometimes at a long distance from home. In those days there were no railroads, and travelling was attended with many difficulties. During the winter, when the roads were blocked up with snow, sometimes he was obliged to travel on snow-shoes; and often, his patients living many miles apart, he would be absent from home several days at a time. To add to his discomfort on such occasions, it was difficult to obtain proper food, though there were at that period but few dwellings where he could not procure some New England rum or other spirit to help restore exhausted nature.

His intimacy with some of the physicians of Boston and its neighborhood, and his punctual attendance at the meetings of the Massachusetts Medical Society, of which association he was a Councillor, obliged him to make frequent journeys to that city, which were always taken with his own horse and chaise or sulky.

A story is told of him that he stopped late one evening at the Ridge Hill tavern, in order to see a patient. Passing through the bar-room he noticed two evil-looking men, who

eyed him suspiciously, and when going out, after his visit was made, he looked for them, but they were gone. The road from the tavern was lonely, and the village three miles away. As he had considerable money about him, he felt some misgivings, which proved not to be groundless, for he had no sooner reached a particularly secluded spot, when these very men stepped out of the undergrowth by the roadside and tried to stop his horse. One of them snatched at the bridle, but missed it, as the horse threw up his head at the time; and Dr. Bancroft, whipping the animal, left the men far behind, but not before a bullet had pierced the back of the sulky, and whizzed close by his ear.

Dr. Bancroft rarely left home for pleasure, but in the year 1829 his health demanded a change, and in company with a brother he went West in order to visit a half-sister, Mrs. Mary (Bancroft) Dana, then living at Marietta, Ohio. It was a long and tedious journey, but the trip benefited him.

Dr. Bancroft was a member of the First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Groton, and one of the eight mentioned in Mr. Butler's History (page 197), who received a note of pretended excommunication from the seceders. He was a constant attendant on the Sunday exercises until his hearing became much impaired. His health was never strong; but the severe attacks of illness to which he was subject decreased in frequency as his years advanced. On July 12, 1848, while walking down State Street in Boston, he stepped from the sidewalk in order to cross the way, when a wagon coming rapidly knocked him down, and injured him so severely that he died a few hours later. The following account of the mishap appears in the "Daily Evening Transcript" of that day.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. As the venerable Dr. Amos Bancroft, of Groton, was crossing State street this morning at 11 o'clock, he was struck in the head by the shaft of a wagon driven through the street by D. Lawrence, Dover, N. H., knocked down, and rendered senseless by the shock. He was taken up and carried to the apothecary shop of Dr. Brown by police officer Whiting, and Dr. Shattuck and other physicians who happened to be near were

promptly on hand to render aid and assistance. He was taken to No. 1 Crescent Place, where every aid possible for his relief will be administered. He bled profusely from the ear, and it is feared he is fatally injured. Dr. Bancroft is 77 years of age, and partially deaf, and of defective eye sight. The last information we had, Dr. B. had partially recovered his senses, but was very weak from the great loss of blood.

The homestead passed next into the hands of Dr. Bancroft's eldest son, Charles, who lived there until his death, which took place on July 22, 1873. Charles was the father of Colonel William Amos Bancroft, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1878, who a few years ago was somewhat noted in college circles as an oarsman, and who at the present time is the Superintendent of the Cambridge Railroad Company.

Amos Bigelow Bancroft was another son of Dr. Amos; he was born at Groton, on April 3, 1811, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1831. He studied medicine with Dr. George Cheyne Shattuck, of Boston, and in the year 1834 began the practice of his profession at Groton. Here he remained until the spring of 1853, when he removed to Charlestown, and became associated with Dr. Jonathan Wheeler Bemis. While living in Charlestown he was physician to the State Prison during more than ten years. Under the administration of General Grant he was appointed Superintendent and Surgeon in charge of the Marine Hospital at Chelsea, which position he held from August 1, 1869, to June 30, 1877, when he took up his residence in Boston. While travelling abroad with his family, he died in Florence, Italy, on November 8, 1879, much lamented by a wide circle of friends and patients at home, — leaving a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss.

The estate was then bought by the Honorable George S. Boutwell, in whose possession it now remains, though the house was moved away, as before stated, during the summer of 1875. The large barn on the place was burned in the afternoon of May 8, 1876, and thus disappeared the last vestige of an interesting old landmark of Groton.

TWO BALLOON DESCENTS IN GROTON.

It is said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place; but from the following it seems that balloons sometimes come down in the same neighborhood.

On July 4, 1860, as a part of the usual city celebration on that day, a balloon ascension was made from Boston Common by Samuel King, in company with his sister Mrs. Porter, and Edwin Bradbury Haskell, of "The Boston Herald" newspaper. The party left the Common, shortly after six o'clock in the afternoon, in the balloon known as "The Queen of the Air;" and the descent was made a little after one o'clock in the morning, on the hill, immediately south of Snake Hill and contiguous to it, in the open field behind Sumner Graves's house, in the south part of Groton. The "Boston Daily Advertiser," July 6, 1860, gives the following account of the trip:—

"The Queen of the Air" went over the harbor, Charlestown, Cambridge, through the valley of Charles river, touching a ledge in Waltham, and finally landed in Groton, at one o'clock yesterday morning. At the time they landed, it was rainy and uncomfortable. The aeronauts were unfortunate in getting shelter. After applying to several of the residents, finally they found a good Samaritan in the person of Mr. Valencourt Stone, who came out with a lantern, and piloted the balloonists to his house, and paid them great attention.

Eleven years later, the same aeronaut made an ascent from Fitchburg, on September 27, 1871, under the patronage of the Worcester North Agricultural Society, and came down on this identical hill. The landing was made near Mr. Graves's house, on the west side of the road to Harvard, while the previous landing was on the east side of the road, nearer the summit. His descent at this particular spot was not influenced by design, any further than that it was a cleared field, and a good place to alight. On the first occasion Mr. King came down in the night time, and, of course, received no clear

impressions of the neighborhood. Approaching the hill during the second trip, he did not recognize it as the place of his former landing; nor was he aware of the fact, until told by one of the bystanders, after the descent.

I remember seeing the balloon, on the afternoon in question, floating along through the air, just before the descent, at which time Mr. King was busily engaged in waving the American flag, distinctly visible to a large number of beholders gazing at the novel sight.

"The Fitchburg Reveille," September 28, 1871, has the following account of the start: —

The Balloon Ascension, which had been announced for Tuesday [September 26], but failed to come off, took place at a quarter to five o'clock [on Wednesday]. The airship, with its solitary passenger, rose gracefully and sailed rapidly away in an easterly direction, wafted by the light, west wind, which was blowing at the time. We learn by telegraph, that Prof. King landed safely near Groton Junction.

"The Fitchburg Sentinel," September 30, gives this version: —

The balloon ascension which had been postponed from the previous day [Tuesday] on account of the rain, took place at a quarter to five [on Wednesday]. Prof. King, the aeronaut, after leaving *terra firma* in his Air-ship "Aurora," rose to the height of about half a mile, and then borne by a slight breeze, floated slowly off to the eastward, and after an hour's sail, landed in the town of Ayer, without mishap.

It is certainly a singular coincidence that an aeronaut, going up from Boston Common, and sailing westward, in a circuitous direction, should make a descent on a hill thirty miles away; and that the same man, some years later, going up from Fitchburg and sailing eastward, should come down on that identical hill, twelve miles away from the starting-point, — and this without any design or intention on his part. It seems to have been one of those accidents, which illustrate the French proverb that "Nothing is more probable than the improbable."

TUNES CALLED "GROTON."

A SINGING-BOOK, entitled "Indian Melodies," was published at New York, in the year 1845, containing a tune called "Groton." The compiler of the work was Thomas Commock, a Narragansett Indian, then living at Manchester, Wisconsin Territory; and, in a note after the Preface, he says that all the tunes mentioned in the book, as well as their names, are Indian, which is a mistake. Groton is an old English word, in use more than eight hundred years ago, and its Latin form is found in Domesday Book.

There are several tunes called "Groton," given in different singing-books, but the earliest one that I can find is in "The Rural Harmony," by Jacob Kimball, Jr., published at Boston, in the year 1793. It is in common metre; and I am inclined to think that the author of the work wrote it himself. Mr. Kimball was born at Topsfield, Massachusetts, on February 15, 1761, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1780. He read law with Judge William Wetmore, of Salem, and was admitted to the bar in the year 1795. Before studying his profession he was a school-master and a somewhat noted composer of music. He wrote quite a number of tunes, and a few of them were named after the towns where he taught singing. At one time he lived in Amherst, New Hampshire; and perhaps while there he named this tune after the town of Groton. He died at Topsfield, on July 24, 1826.

In Andrew Law's "Harmonic Companion" (Philadelphia, copyrighted 1807) is a long metre tune called "Groton." In "The Choir" (Boston, 1833), second edition, by Lowell Mason, another one, in particular metre, is given; and in "The Massachusetts Collection of Psalmody" (Boston, 1840), second edition, by George James Webb, is still another, in long metre.

JOHN BULKLEY'S DEATH.

On Thursday the 3d Instant died, of the Strangury, Colonel John Bulkley of Groton, Æt. 69, — having suffered with surprizing Fortitude that most painful Disease upwards of eleven Days.

"The Massachusetts Gazette: and the Boston Weekly News-Letter," December 17, 1772.

DR. WM. DOUGLASS'S SUMMARY.

Many plants were brought originally to New England from other countries for their medical virtues, and many were introduced by chance. Some have multiplied so rapidly and grown so plentifully in the fields and by the roadside, that they are now considered common weeds. Wormwood, tansy, chamomile, yarrow, dandelion, burdock, plantain, catnip, and mint, all came here by importation. These foreign plants made their way into the interior, as fast as civilization extended in that direction. Dr. William Douglass, in "A Summary, Historical and Political, Of the first Planting, progressive Improvements, and present State of the *British* Settlements in North-America," first published at Boston, — Volume I. in the year 1749, and Volume II. in 1753, — says: —

Near *Boston* and other great Towns, some Field Plants which accidentally have been imported from *Europe*, spread much, and are a great Nusance in Pastures, . . . at present they have spread Inland from *Boston*, about 30 Miles (II. 207).

According to this statement, the pioneers of some of these foreign weeds had reached Groton near the middle of the last century. Dr. Douglass gives another fact about the town, which is worth preserving. He says: —

There are some actual Surveys of Extents which ought not to be lost in Oblivion; as for Instance, from *Merrimack* River due West

to *Groton* Meeting-House are 12 miles; from *Groton* Meeting House (as surveyed by Col. *Stoddard*, Major *Fulham*, and Mr. *Dwight*, by Order of the General Assembly) to *Northfield* Meeting-House W. 16 d. N. by Compass, are 41 Miles and half; from *Deerfield* Meeting-House near *Connecticut* River, a little higher [lower?], to *Albany* Church upon the West Side of *Hudson*'s river, W. 12 and half d. N. are 57 Miles 20 Rod. From such actual Surveys the publick Roads may be laid out to better Advantage than at present: For Instance, the present Road from *Boston* to *Albany* (this is the Road to *Monreal* in *Canada*) by Way of *Springfield*, the *Housatonicks*, and *Kinderhook* is about 200 miles; a new and better Road, but not as yet well improv'd, is via *Lancaster* and *Nichawog* [Petersham] to *Sunderland* upon *Connecticut* River 84 Miles, and from *Deerfield* a little higher to *Albany* are 57 Miles, being in all only about 150 Miles (I. 425 *note*).

Such surveys, as those mentioned in this extract, were of more value to the public, before the days of railroads, than they are now; but, as the author says, they "ought not to be lost in Oblivion."

THE SOUTH MILITARY COMPANY.

THE following copies of original papers were given me, some years ago, by Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of South Boston, in whose possession they were at that time. They relate to the South Company of Groton, then commanded by Captain Timothy Bigelow, who afterward became Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, as also did Luther Lawrence, to whom one of the warrants is addressed. Tyler Bigelow, one of the private soldiers, was a cousin and subsequently a brother-in-law of Captain Timothy, and the father of the late Honorable George Tyler Bigelow, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. Loammi Baldwin, Jr., another private, was afterward a distinguished civil engineer, who built the Government dry docks at Charlestown and at Norfolk, Virginia. For many years there were

three military companies in the town, known respectively as the North Company, the South Company, and the Groton Artillery; and occasionally they would parade together through the village streets, and drill as a battalion.

MIDDLESEX SS. To John Reed sergeant. *Greeting.*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn

Joseph Stone sergeant.	Ezra Farnsworth.	Jonathan Nutting
Saml Reed sergeant.	Abel Farnesworth.	Moses Nutting
Saml. Paine sergeant.	David Fletcher.	Hezekiah Spaulding
Rufus Moors corporal.	Eli Flint.	Thomas Bennett Jr.
Thomas Mead corporal	Benjn Farnsworth	Simon Page Jr.
Peter Chase corporal.	Stephen Farrar.	John Parke.
Jonas Trowbridge fifer	Henry Farwell Jr.	Elijah Paine.
John Fitch fifer.	Silas Farwell.	John Robbins Jr.
Josiah Hazen fifer	Saml Farnsworth	John Rockwood
John Kemp drummer	Zachariah Fitch Jr.	Alpheus Richardson.
Amos Davis Jr. drummer	Thomas Gass.	Amos Stone Jr.
John Adams Jr. drummer	Phineas Gould	Caleb Symmes
Benjn Buttrick	Nathan Hubbard Jr.	Phineas Stone.
Thaddeus Bailey	Daniel Hart	Sylvanus Smith.
Timothy Blood	Elias Hart	Abraham Symonds.
Oliver Blood 3^{d}	Joseph Hemenway	William Symonds.
Jonathan Bennet	Amos Harris.	Abel Swallow.
Edward Bolton	Noah Humphreys	Joseph Sawtell 3^{d}
Johnathan Cooper	James Kendall	Peter Tarbell
Samuel Cooke	Ebenezer Lampson.	John Trufant.
Moses Chase.	Amos Lampson Jr.	Amos Tarbell
Samuel Dodge	Abel Morse	Joseph Wright
Abel Davis	Abijah Nutting	Asa Wheeler
Ephraim Farnsworth.	Phinehas Nutting.	Parker Wetherbee.

All belonging to the South Company in Groton, in said County commanded by me of which Company you are the first sergeant and clerk, to appear on the publick parade, or training field, in said Groton on Thursday the 4th day of July next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, with their arms and equipments compleat, for the purpose of military instruction and exercise. And in case you cannot conveniently notify and warn the said persons as aforesaid yourself you are to cause the same to be done by some other non-commissioned officer belonging to said company, by giving them, or some of them, orders for that purpose in my name. Hereof fail not, and

make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to myself at or before said day. Given under my hand & seal this 4th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

TIMOTHY BIGELOW *Captain.*

GROTON, June 25th 1799.

In obedience to the within warrant I have notified and warned all the within named persons (or caused the same to be done by a sergeant) to appear at the time and place.

JOHN REED.

MIDDLESEX SS. To Luther Lawrence *Greeting.*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn

Amos Davis Drummer	James Farnsworth.
David Darling	Jonas Phillips
Joseph Bullard	Isaac Hall
William Shiple	Eli Faulkner
Timothy H. Newman	Samuel Phips
Benjamin Page Junr	Daniel Swallow
Phinehas Gould	William Stearns
Aaron Jewett.	Abel Holden
James Kendall	Jabez Parker
Lommi Baldwin Junr	Asa Jinneson
Tyler Bigelow	Stephen Kemp.
William Lawrence	John Wright.
Ezra Farnsworth	Daniel Richardson
David Fletcher	

All belonging to the South company in Groton in said County commanded by me of which you are also a member to appear on the public parade or training field in said Groton on Tuesday the third day of May next at one of the clock in the afternoon with their arms and equipments compleat for the purpose of examination and view of arms, and for military instruction and exercise. Hereof fail not and make due return of this order to myself or the commanding officer at said time and place. Given under my hand and seal this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three

TIMOTHY BIGELOW *Captain*

MIDDLESEX SS. GROTON April 28. 1803.

In obedience to the within warrant I have given legal notice to all the persons within mentioned (except Amos Davis, Tyler Bigelow, and Daniel Richardson who are out of town) to appear at the time and place within mentioned for the purposes within mentioned.

LUTHER LAWRENCE.

A PROVINCIAL NOTE-FORGER.

LAST Friday a Man who calls himself Shebuel Hubbard, and says he belongs to Groton, was apprehended and sent to Goal; he having in a different Dress, and by different Names, viz. Parker, Parks and Fairbanks, four Times receiv'd Warrants or Orders from the Committee appointed by the General Court for receiving and burning the Bills of Credit of this Province, to the Treasurer, for Nineteen Pounds and some odd Shillings, old Tenor each, which he wickedly alter'd into Ninety Pounds, letting the odd Sum stand; three of which being paid in Silver, a Discovery of the Fraud was made; and notwithstanding Enquiry was made after him, having got a fourth Order just before by a different Name and in a different Habit, he had the Confidence to go to the Treasury to get it exchang'd, where he was immediately siez'd. Upon his Examination he made many trifling Excuses; but the Cheat appearing so very plain, he at last confess'd the whole, and that the Money was at his Lodgings, to which he directed the Sheriff, where was found Ninety Dollars, besides Coppers, and sundry other Things.

"The Boston Weekly News-Letter," September 13, 1750.

This Day Shebuel Hubbard of Groton is to stand two Hours in the Pillory, pursuant to a Sentence of the Superiour Court, for altering and forgeing several Warrants from the Committee, to the Treasurer, for exchanging Bills of this Province for Dollars, as mention'd in the public Prints some Time since: He is likewise to suffer three Months Imprisonment.

"The Boston Weekly News-Letter," December 13, 1750.

COMMODORE BAINBRIDGE AND THE LAKIN FARM.

MANY years ago Commodore William Bainbridge, one of the heroes of the American navy during the last war with England, owned an undivided third of a farm of 220 acres in Groton, which was used for sheep raising. It has since been known as the David Lakin place, and is situated on the road leading from the beginning of Farmers' Row to the Great Road, just below the railroad bridge, half a mile north of the Baptist Meeting-House. It extended from the Jenkins road on its southerly border to the Great Road on its northerly; and on this farm Mr. Lakin took care of the paupers before the town had an alms-house. The Jenkins road was so called from a man who lived in that neighborhood, previous to the Revolution; but, by a recent vote of the town on April 6, 1885, it has been closed to the public travel on account of its proximity to the Nashua River, and the consequent danger arising therefrom.

According to the record in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (Book CCXXIII. page 115) at East Cambridge, Commodore Bainbridge sold his interest in the place, on July 2, 1817, to John Lakin. During four years before this time, in connection with Robert C. Ludlow, of Charlestown, and Charles W. Green, of Boston, Bainbridge had owned several parcels of land in the vicinity, which, presumably, were used for sheep-raising purposes, and perhaps made up this farm. John Lakin died on August 6, 1817, at the age of 34 years; and the place was then carried on by a brother, David Lakin, Jr., who subsequently married John's widow.

This family of Lakins was descended from William, an original settler of the town, who died here on December 10, 1672, aged 91 years. I have seen a deed, now in the possession of Charles Gerrish, dated 1696 and signed by John Lakin, a grandson of William, giving to his son Benjamin, land lying "nigh the River at Nod." This deed, which is

duly recorded at East Cambridge, mentions "Nommucks," and also speaks of the "Lower sledge" and "Smith's sledge," different parcels of land in the same neighborhood. These patches, and perhaps others, probably comprised what was known then as "the sledges." Nod and Naumox are names of places used at a very early period in the annals of the town. See No. XV. (pages 8, 17, 18) of this Historical Series, for a reference to these localities.

Theodore Bainbridge, of Philadelphia, was attending school at Groton Academy in the year 1815; and I am told that he was a nephew of the Commodore.

Mrs. William Gragg Blood (formerly Mrs. John Lawrence), of East Pepperell, a daughter of John Lakin, tells me that she remembers distinctly the time when Commodore Bainbridge owned an interest in the farm, which he would visit occasionally, and give general directions in regard to its management. At certain seasons there were, according to her recollection, as many as 2000 sheep and lambs on the place, which were raised more for the fleece than the mutton. At that period every farmer's wife had a loom, and homespun fabric was used in every household; but, independently of this, large mills were then projected, and manufactures were slowly creeping into New England, at Waltham and elsewhere, thus creating a demand for wool. It was thought that merino sheep-raising was to be a great industry, which the actual result did not bear out.

In former times many wild pigeons were caught in this neighborhood, during the harvest season, by means of nets; and in other country towns generally, until the whistle of the locomotive, and the growing settlements, drove away these birds from their old haunts. To such an extent was the business carried on in Massachusetts that as late as March 13, 1849, the General Court passed "An Act for the protection of Pigeon Beds," as the places were called to which the birds were tolled. During my boyhood there were on this farm a pigeon stand or roost, and a pigeon bed, near the Tuity Road, where David Lakin, Jr., in the season used to catch large numbers and sell them in the village.

MISS CLARISSA BUTLER.

GROTON was one of the earliest towns in the Commonwealth to choose a woman as a member of the school committee. When the legality of the measure was first discussed in the State, it met with considerable opposition, which the General Court promptly decided on June 30, 1874, by the following brief enactment: —

No person shall be deemed to be ineligible to serve upon a school committee by reason of sex.

Before the passage of this Act, however, the town had chosen, on March 3, 1873, Miss Clarissa Butler and Mrs. Mary T. Shumway as members of the school board. Miss Butler's labors in this new capacity were cut short by her untimely death on December 22, 1875. The following tribute to her memory was paid by the writer of these lines, who remembers her with the pleasantest recollections as the teacher of the first school which he ever attended: —

Miss Clarissa Butler of Groton died in this city last Wednesday, after a long illness. She was a native of Groton and a daughter of the late Caleb Butler, esq., the historian of the town. She will be greatly missed by her neighbors and townfolks, as she occupied a position of remarkable usefulness. For the last forty years she has been closely connected with the local charities and the questions of public education, and she has been so capable in whatever duties she has undertaken that it will be difficult for any one to fill her place. She inherited her father's antiquarian taste, and was more familiar with the history of the town than any other person. At one time she was the preceptress of Lawrence Academy, and of late years has served as a member of the school committee, where her opinions were always justly treated with great deference. She took an active interest in the Groton public library, and made her influence tell in various directions for the benefit of the town. Her loss will be felt in many different walks of life. Apart, however, from her cultivation and strength of mind, she will be remembered best for her conscientious and Christian life.

"Boston Daily Advertiser," December 27, 1875.

The school committee, of which body she was the secretary, passed a resolution on January 8, 1876, commemorating her worth, which is printed in their Report for the school year 1875–6 (page 19).

For many years her father, Caleb Butler, was associated in many ways with the history of Groton, and his name is now identified with three schools kept in the High School building, known respectively as the Butler Grammar, the Butler Intermediate, and the Butler Primary. It was given by a vote of the town, on March 2, 1874; and since the daughter's death the name has an increased claim to be remembered by all who value the cause of public education.

The building, known as the High School, was erected in the year 1870, at a cost of $32,000, and now forms a conspicuous feature in the appearance of the village. It is constructed of brick and trimmed with freestone. A view of the building, with a plan and a full description, is given in the "Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Education" (January, 1873), where it appears on pages 120–122 of the General Agent's report.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

In Hawley, Mr. Joseph Longley, born in Groton, Mass., Aug. 17, 1744. He was great grandson to William Longley, who, with a part of his family, were killed at Groton, by the Indians, in 1684 [1694?] — grandson to John Longley, who was Captain five years in Canada — and son to Joseph Longley, who was mortally wounded in the battle and defeat of Fort William Henry, 1758. When 16, he was in the French war one year and helped to build the stone barracks at Crown Point, 1760. He was five years in the revolutionary war for Independence. In the first eight months' service, 1775. At Ticonderoga in '76. At the capture of Burgoyne, '77. In December following, while in the van of 100 volunteers, under Maj. Hull, pursuing a foraging party, 32 were cut off by the British cavalry, near Derby, deprived of their blankets, and put in prison at Philadelphia, where more than half died of cold, hunger, and disease. In April, '78, he, with others, were put on board a prison

ship for New York, where he was exchanged in July, and soon after joined his regiment, and was in the battle in Rhode Island, and in that signal retreat, under Gen. Sullivan.

"The Massachusetts Spy" (Worcester), August 24, 1836.

According to the genealogical tables in the Appendix to Mr. Butler's History (page 417), Joseph Longley was born on August 6, 1744. The date of his death was July 8, 1836, according to the American Almanac for the year 1837, where the following notice of him appears under the head of "American Obituary," though his Christian name is erroneously given as William: —

July 8. — At Hawley, Mass., aged 92, *William* [*Joseph?*] *Longley*, who was one year in the French war, and 5 years in the revolutionary war (page 304).

William was an elder brother of Edmund Longley, who was born at Groton, on October 31, 1746, of whom a biographical sketch appears in the American Almanac for the year 1844, under the head of "American Obituary for 1842," as follows: —

Nov. 29. — In Hawley, Ms., *Edmund Longley, Esq.*, aged 96. He erected the first framed house in H. (then called No. 7,) and removed his family into it in 1781. He was sent for many years to the General Court; was the first Plantation and Town Clerk; held the offices of Town Clerk, Selectman, and Treasurer; was a Justice of the Peace for nearly 50 years, and was both a soldier and an officer in the revolutionary war (page 313).

At Groton 15th inst, William Blodgett, formerly of Tyngsboro', a revolutionary pensioner, at the age of 90 years and 8 months. His descendants were 6 children, 37 grand-children, 23 great-grand-children, and one of the fifth generation. He entered the army at the age of 16 years, and was one of the number to guard Burgoyne's Troops at Winter Hill; he afterwards shipped on board a Letter of Marque on a trading voyage in 1782. On his return home in the brig Iris, of Boston, they captured at the mouth of James river, in Virginia, an English brig mounting 16 guns, with about 100 prisoners, among whom were 30 Americans in irons. On the 2d day after the battle, they encountered a storm which drove the American brig and the prize both on shore, and dashed

them in pieces, and all was lost except the crews, which were saved by the inhabitants. He next entered the service of his Savior, and remained in his service about 60 years, and as he entered the threshhold of eternity, he repeated the following lines:

"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend his cause,
Maintain the honor of his word,
The glory of his cross."

"The Boston Daily Atlas," November 22, 1852.

Died in Groton, August 2d [1851], Mr. William Tarbell, one of the last of the Revolutionary patriots, aged 87. Mr. Tarbell joined the army when quite young, and was with General Washington during the last three years of the war, but having been appointed to draw plans and paint sketches of the various battle fields and encampments, by the commander-in-chief, he was never in any action during that time. He was with the army during its encampment at Valley Forge, and his picture of this camp ground, which was painted in the log house then occupied by Gen. Washington, is now in possession of his son in Boston, and though much faded, is still an object of great interest.

"Springfield Daily Republican," exact date uncertain.

STEVENS, Maj. Thomas, Brooksville, Me., 7 May; in his 90th year. He was a native of Groton, Mass., and a soldier of the Revolution.

"The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (VII. 295), for July, 1853.

THE INDIAN ATTACK OF JULY 27, 1694.

THE following extract is taken from Captain Lawrence Hammond's diary, which was given to the Massachusetts Historical Society with the Belknap Collection, on March 11, 1858. The entry is found under the date of July 27, 1694, and furnishes some details, hitherto unknown, of the attack made at that time.

The Indians Set upon Groton burnt 2 Houses, kild 22 persons — found dead, 13 more missing, they were pursued by about 100 Horse but they returned without finding them.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XVIII.

THE GROTON BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

A COMMEMORATION, JULY 4, 1876.

GROTON BURNED BY THE INDIANS, 1676.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776.

SAMUEL LAWRENCE'S RECOLLECTIONS.

TAX ON UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS.

JOHN DERBYSHIRE.

CHAISES AND "CHAIRS" IN GROTON.

SLAVERY IN GROTON.

ITEMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

DEATHS.

GROTON, MASS.

1886.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1886.

HISTORICAL SERIES, NO. XVIII.

THE GROTON BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

OCTOBER 31, 1855.

THE two-hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Groton was duly celebrated on Wednesday, October 31, 1855, when an historical address was delivered by the Reverend Arthur Buckminster Fuller, of Manchester, New Hampshire. The town was incorporated by the General Court, on May 25, 1655; but it was not intended that the exact date of the first settlement should be commemorated, only so far as the year was concerned. The day, finally selected, came just after the harvest season, when the convenience of the inhabitants was best suited, and in the middle of a week, which was another element in the decision.

The first meeting to consider the subject was held in Liberty Hall, on May 21, 1855; and the call was signed by nineteen persons, who very largely represented, by name and direct descent, the original settlers of the town. Of these signers three are still living, namely, Asa Stillman Lawrence, William Livermore, and Zara Patch. Further action in the matter was deferred until the autumn. At that time Liberty Hall stood on the northerly corner of Main and Court Streets, but the building was burned to the ground on Sunday, March 31, 1878.

The following is a copy of the notice: —

ANNIVERSARY

OF THE SETTLEMENT OF

GROTON!

The citizens of Groton, who desire to notice by appropriate ceremonies, the second Centennial Anniversary of the settlement of the Town, are invited to meet at LIBERTY HALL, on MONDAY the 21st inst., at 7 1-2 o'clock P. M.

Stuart J. Park,	Abel Farnsworth,	Joshua Gilson,
Ezra Farnsworth,	Asa Lawrence,	Wm. Livermore,
Luther Gilson,	George Shattuck,	Calvin Childs,
Noah Shattuck,	William Shattuck,	Zara Patch,
Asa Shipley,	A. S. Lawrence,	P. G. Prescott,
Geo. Farnsworth,	Sam'l W. Rowe,	Charles Prescott,
	Nathaniel Stone.	

MAY 19, 1855.

— Brown's Press, Groton Junction. —

No further action in regard to the matter appears to have been taken until September 27, the date of a subscription paper, which was circulated in order to raise money for meeting the necessary expenses. It was headed by Walter Shattuck, who put down the sum of twenty-five dollars ($25.00); and he was followed by others with smaller amounts.

A meeting of the citizens was held, agreeably to public notice, at Mr. Hoar's tavern, on October 6, — with Walter Shattuck as Chairman, and George Henry Brown as Secretary, — when it was definitely voted to have a celebration; and two committees were also appointed. Another meeting was held, according to adjournment, on October 9, when reports were heard, and a Committee of Arrangements appointed. As an outcome of this meeting the following circular, now reprinted in fac-simile, was sent to all persons supposed to have an interest in the town: —

BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF THE SETTLEMENT OF GROTON.

PETAPAWAG, OCT. 31, 1655.

GROTON, OCT. 31, 1855.

AT a meeting of the citizens of Groton, held on the 9th inst., it was unanimously voted to commemorate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the settlement of the Town, by appropriate festivities, and the undersigned were chosen a Committee to carry out the wishes of the people. We would therefore, cordially invite all natives, former residents, and others interested, to meet and participate with us in a JUBILEE GATHERING, on *Wednesday, Oct. 31st inst.*

A Procession will be formed at 10 o'clock A. M., at *Liberty Hall*, under the direction of E. S. CLARK, Esq., Chief Marshal, and proceed, escorted by a Band, Cavalcade, Military, &c., to the Orthodox Meeting House, where an Address will be given by Rev. ARTHUR B. FULLER, of Boston. After the exercises at the Church the procession will repair to one of Yale's Tents, where a suitable Dinner will be provided at One Dollar a ticket.

HON. GEO. S. BOUTWELL will preside on the occasion, and Speeches, Sentiments, &c. may be expected from distinguished gentlemen.

It is desirable that this Jubilee be a social family greeting of the sons and daughters of old Groton ;—a day that may be kept long in remembrance, so that when future generations behold the *Third Centennial* return of the memorable event, they may see that *we* held dear in our hearts, the foundations of the town of our birth or adoption.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS;

WALTER SHATTUCK, CHAIRMAN.
GEORGE H. BROWN, SECRETARY.
ALDEN WARREN, TREASURER.
SAMUEL W. ROWE,
WILLIAM LIVERMORE,
EUSIBIUS S. CLARK,
CURTIS LAWRENCE,
JOHN W. PARKER,
ISAIAH L. CRAGIN,
ELIEL SHUMWAY,
EBENEZER SAWTELL.

☞ Tickets will remain on sale until Saturday previous to the celebration, in all towns whose present domain or any part thereof, was included in the original Groton Grant. Persons at a distance, and all others, wishing for tickets, must make application to the Chairman or Secretary, before the 27th inst.

Other meetings of the citizens and of the Committee of Arrangements were subsequently held, but the business transacted was of a routine character.

The Reverend Arthur B. Fuller, the orator of the day, was a son of the Honorable Timothy Fuller, who passed the latter days of his life at Groton. The son spent his boyhood in the town, attending school at Groton Academy, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1843. He was born at Cambridgeport on August 10, 1822, and killed in the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 11, 1862. It was the intention of the Committee of Arrangements to publish Mr. Fuller's Address, as well as the other proceedings of the celebration, but for some reason this was not carried out. A copy of the Address was furnished Mr. Brown, the Secretary of the Committee, and other papers relating to the occasion were collected by him with reference to their publication. After his death[1] on May 3, 1865, these papers were given to me by his widow; and subsequently, at my request, the Address was printed in "The Weekly Public Spirit" (Groton Junction), beginning with the issue of March 31, 1870, and running through three other numbers. These various manuscripts have since been carefully arranged and bound, and they are now placed in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The following is a copy of the Order of Exercises at the celebration: —

[1] A biographical sketch of Mr. Brown appears in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (XX. 84, 85) for January, 1866, where a reference is made to these papers.

BI-CENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT OF

GROTON,

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31, 1855.

PRESIDENT OF THE DAY,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Stuart J. Park, Noah Shattuck, Abel Tarbell, Ezra Farnsworth, Asa Lawrence, John H. Loring, Nathaniel Stone, P. G. Prescott, Joshua Green, Rufus Moors, John Rockwood, Nathaniel Sawtell, Joseph F. Hall, Jr., Harvey A. Woods, Peter Nutting, Calvin Blood.

MARSHALS.

E. S. CLARK, *Chief Marshal.*

Aids.

Norman Smith,	Samuel A. Green,
Alden Warren,	Geo. W. Bancroft,
Geo. H. Brown,	John W. Parker.

The morning will be ushered in by the firing of salutes.

At 10 o'clock the Procession will be formed at Liberty Hall, and escorted to the Orthodox Meeting House, in the following order.

Chief Marshal.
Cavalcade.
Lowell Cornet Band.
Groton Artillery.
Prescott Guards.
Continentals.
Shirley Fire Company.
Committee of Arrangements.
President, Orator and Chaplain.
Invited Guests.
Vice Presidents and Toast Master.
Clergymen of the Town.
The Singers.
Masonic Lodge.
Citizens of Pepperell, Shirley, Harvard, Westford, Dunstable, Nashua, Groton.
Citizens from other towns.

EXERCISES AT THE CHURCH.

Voluntary on the Organ.
Anthem — O Praise ye the Lord!
Prayer.

ODE.

BY MISS EMILY E. POOR.

Tune — Benevento.

Roll ye back O! stormy Past!
O! for one brief hour roll back!
Sound aloud the bugle note,
The call to arms from cannon's throat,
The war-whoop's wild terrific sound,
The battle thundering o'er the ground,
So gloomily, so fearfully,
From mount to mount rebound!

And return O! Freedom's dawn,
As ye gleamed from out the cloud!
Reddening faint the sea girt town,
Gilding bright its triple crown!
And widening, spread your golden rays,
Till every hill-top catch the blaze
And gloriously, and dazzlingly,
Thy sun, light all our days!

Shades of our immortal sires!
Come and dwell with us to day;
Hear the thanks thy children raise,
As brave liberty they praise;
Bought by wounds and blood and tears,
Shed in far off vanished years,
So bravely and so manfully,
Mid hostile and savage jeers!

No bright gleam of steel is here,
Flashing fearfully to day!
Indian's hate is buried deep,
In death's embrace their warriors sleep,
With peace and love our homes are blest,
We rise in joy, and sink to rest,
As quietly, as peacefully,
As light fades in the West!

God's best blessings on thy race,
  Rest O ! Pilgrim Sire of Old !
Where the red man used to roam
Smiles the village and the home ;
  Where once rang the war whoop fell,
  Sounds the peaceful, Sabbath bell,
    Plaintively or merrily
The christian's chime or knell !

Fare ye well O ! Stormy hours,
  Of two hundred years ago !
We now hail the time so grand,
In store for this our native land,
  If you, sons, be true and brave,
  Restoring freedom to the slave,
    And loyally and faithfully,
Your country's honor save !

We to the dim past belong ;
  Let its grand immortal song
Sound along time's flowing wave,
All the words of true and brave ;
  Genius fold o'er them its wing,
  And entranced sit and sing,
    And lovingly and faithfully
The world its tribute bring !

Address by Rev. A. B. FULLER.

ORIGINAL HYMN.

Tune Old Hundred.

To thee, our God, we come this day,
  Our vows of gratitude to pay ;
To praise thy name for mercies past
  And at thy feet our offering cast.

Thou wast our fathers' guard and guide ;
  Thou led'st them safe through storm and tide ;
And here midst wild and savage foes,
  Their choral song of faith arose.

A small and feeble band they came ;
  Thou wast their shield in cloud and flame ;
Those true, brave hearts made thee their stay ;
  Thy care preserved them day by day.

A mighty nation now we stand,
  Upheld by thy protecting hand ;
Our empire spreads from sea to sea,
  A glorious gift O Lord from thee !

Oppression may it cast away,
  Mild and benignant be its sway ;
To the wide world thy blessings spread,
  And gospel light and freedom shed !

Benediction.

After the exercises in the Church the procession will repair to Yale's Mammoth Tent, where a Banquet will be provided.

After the removal of the cloth, speeches sentiments, vocal and instrumental music, &c., may be expected ; the festivities closing with the following, to be sung by the people.

SONG.

BY MISS EMILY E. POOR.

Tune Auld Lang Syne.

The hunter's moon shone down last night
  Upon Wachusett's brow,
Just as it shed its silver light
  Two Hundred years ago.
But then it gleamed on armed men,
  In battle's fierce array ;
On Indian hosts by stream and glen —
  How changed the scene to day.

The leaves are rustling as we tread
  Within the forest's bound ;
A gold and crimson shroud they spread
  O'er many a lowly mound —
Where sleep the foemen side by side,
  As they in battle fell —
And o'er them flows time's silent tide,
  And tolls its mystic bell !

The red man here had hunted wild
  For many a circling year ;
And on these plains had taught his child
  To chase the flying deer.
What wonder that he prized these hills
  Which girdled round his home ;
The forests and the gushing rills,
  By which he loved to roam.

O ! Fierce and deadly was his hate,
  For white men brave and bold ;
As dimly he foresaw his fate
  To fade like autumn gold.
A generous heart will mourn the fall
  E'en of a foeman brave,
And gaze with sorrow at the pall
  Which hides a nation's grave.

The hunter's moon shone down last night
  On peaceful happy homes;
No war fires dim its golden light,
  No steel clad warrior roams.
Silent as death the scene so fair,
  All sunk in deep repose,
And nought disturbs the midnight air,
  But streamlet as it flows.

And when this morn awoke to life
  The landscape sleeping dim;
Instead of sounds of war and strife,
  Arose the morning hymn.
And autumn's breeze will bear to day,
  To our fathers listening ears,
The song of praise and grateful lay,
  For all their toils and tears!

Of those who acted as Vice-Presidents Joseph F. Hall and Harvey A. Woods alone survive; and of the Aids to the Chief Marshal all, with the exception of Mr. Brown, are alive at the present time.

The following account of the celebration appeared in the evening edition of the "Boston Daily Journal," November 3, 1855; and another account, somewhat fuller, was printed in the "Worcester Transcript," November 2, 1855:—

THE JUBILEE AT GROTON.

To the Editor of the Boston Journal:

There was a great gathering at Groton on Wednesday, of the sons and daughters of that noted and ancient town. It was the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the town, and the people of all the neighboring villages came flocking in at an early hour to see and hear. The day was a charming one, and at sunrise was ushered in by the firing of salutes and ringing of bells.

The procession was one of the great features of the occasion. It consisted, besides the officers, singers, &c., of the day, of a cavalcade of young men, Groton Artillery, with their heavy field pieces, (the oldest company, save one, in the State,) Prescott Guards, the Continentals, dressed in old Continental fashion, and a company representing the Indians of olden times, with bows and arrows, tomahawks, and other warlike implements — the best imitation of a tribe of Indians we ever saw. Next came the Shirley Fire Company, with their beautiful machine decorated with flags, flowers, &c., and the citizens of Shirley, Pepperell, Westford, Littleton, Dunstable and Nashua, towns comprising a large portion of what was once Groton.

The exercises at the church were very interesting. The house was completely filled, and many were disappointed, not being able to

gain entrance. The address by Rev. A. B. Fuller of this city, was a beautiful production, and abounded with interesting facts connected with the early history of Groton. The beautiful and approprlate ode and hymn, written by Miss Emily E. Poor, was sung by the different choirs of the village with much taste and effect. Seated on the floor around the pulpit of the church were the chief and braves of the tribe of Indians, which added much interest to the scene.

Yale's mammoth tent, in which the tables were set, was tastefully trimmed with national colors, flowers, &c., and the sides adorned with various mottos and names of the early settlers. Upwards of eleven hundred people sat down to the repast, which was acknowledged to be the most sumptuous and substantial dinner ever got up for a country celebration, and one that reflects great credit on Messrs. Fuller and Gill who provided it.

Ex-Governor Boutwell presided on the occasion, assisted by sixteen Vice Presidents, and Rev. James Means as toast master. Mr. B. welcomed the guests, in an exceedingly neat and pertinent address. Speeches followed from Rev. Mr. Barry, author of the able History of Massachusetts, Mr. Fuller, the orator of the day, Rev. Messrs. Chandler of Shirley, Nightingale and Bulkley of Groton, and Anderson of Brooklyn, N. Y. Highly interesting letters were read from Messrs. Edward Everett, Robert C. Winthrop, Wm. H. Prescott, Judge Hoar, John P. Bigelow and others, and among the sentiments was one to the memory of Mr. Butler, the historian of Groton, which was most beautifully responded to by the Band, who played Mr. Butler's favorite tune — "old Brattle Street."

Owing to the lateness of the hour, and departure of the cars, several gentlemen, among whom were Richard Frothingham, Jr., Esq. of Charlestown, Gen. Jas. Dana and others, were prevented from speaking, and so the continuance of "friendly greetings" was concluded by singing an original song to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" by all the people. The meeting was then adjourned for one hundred years! We learn that the address, speeches, &c., are to be published in pamphlet form.

A COMMEMORATION, JULY 4, 1876.

GROTON BURNED BY THE INDIANS, 1676.
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776.

THE town of Groton celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1876, when an historical address by Dr. Samuel A. Green, and a poem by the Reverend J. M. L. Babcock, were delivered. The address was published in the Proceedings of the celebration, but the poem was omitted, as Mr. Babcock then declined to furnish a copy. During the last year, at my request, the author, who is a practical printer, kindly struck off fifty copies himself, which have since been placed in various public libraries. With his permission I now re-print the poem in this Series ; and without his knowledge I add the following biographical sketch.

JOHN MARTIN LUTHER BABCOCK, a son of James and Hannah (Rice) Babcock, was born at Andover, Oxford County, Maine, on September 29, 1822. His father's family removed to Boston in the year 1825, where he remained until 1846. He then passed two years at Plaistow, New Hampshire, after which he went to Wilmot in the same State, where he studied for the Baptist ministry. He entered the clerical profession in 1852, though not ordained until January, 1854. He held pastorates at Strafford, Vermont, at Farmington and Effingham, both in New Hampshire, and at Buxton, Maine. He now changed his denominational relations, and entered the Unitarian pulpit, being settled, successively, at Lancaster, New Hampshire, and at Groton. He was installed over the First Parish in Groton, on April 26, 1871, and received his dismission on August 31, 1874, since which time he has given up preaching. In the year 1875 he founded "The New Age," a newpaper devoted to the interests of labor and social reform, which was continued for two years.

Mr. Babcock was married on November 30, 1843, to Martha Day Ayer, of Plaistow, New Hampshire, who died on January

26, 1846, leaving a daughter, Martha Anna, now Mrs. Cyrus Sanborn Langley, of Wilmot. He was married, secondly, on April 5, 1849, to Miriam Clement Tewksbury, of Wilmot, by whom he has had seven children, five girls and two boys. Two of the daughters by the last marriage died in infancy, and the others are now Mrs. William Wilson Moore, of Bedford, New Hampshire, Mrs. Ellis Boyden McKenzie, of Boston, and Mrs. Joseph Dillaway Sawyer, of New York. Since leaving Groton Mr. Babcock has resided in Cambridge and Boston.

POEM.

Down through the ages ran the stream of Time,
Through many an ancient and historic clime;
But where its earlier currents darkling passed,
One baleful spectre all the world o'ercast.
On every shore Time's turbid waters lave
Man droops and dies — a victim and a slave!
In every land the deadly altars rise,
That Power may feast on human sacrifice!
Yet not a ruin of that olden day
That does not whisper, through its dark decay, —
"Where'er the slaughtered human victim lies,
The Power that crushed him fades and wastes and dies!"
On waves of carnage see Assyria ride,
Only to sink beneath its crimson tide!
Thebes' power, once symbolled by its hundred gates,
Fell pitiless before the maddened fates!
Palmyra's gorgeous splendors blazed afar;
And yet, despite its triumphs won in war,
And all the glories of Zenobia's fame,
It sank into its grave, without a name!
And Rome and Athens but repeat the tale, —
Vain Art and Force, where Justice, Freedom, fail!
Out of their mouldering graves to us they call, —
"Grandeur without Humanity must fall!"

The Age of Matter! crushing human hearts
Beneath the empire of its marble marts!
Dooming its millions in despair to die
To lift Rhodes' mute Colossus to the sky!

Building its gloomy pyramids, which stand
As monuments to mark a wasted land,
And tell to after times what withering blight
Falls on the Power which quenches Freedom's light!

And when, from Nature's sacred depths profound,
Did Manhood rise, erect, with glory crowned?
'T was not when life was wildly but to roam,
And man, the savage, made the caves his home;
'T was not when one might over millions reign,
And deal his curse of bondage, woe, and pain;
'T was not when men, untouched by Freedom's flame,
Were tyrants' counters in Ambition's game, —
But when a new sun burst the shades of night,
Flooding the hemispheres with golden light,
In the redeeming truth that man alone
Is sovereign and divine, — not crosier, sword, or throne!

'T was but a word, breathed on this Western shore, —
A sound prophetic, and unheard before, —
But the winds bore it o'er the Atlantic surge,
And human hearts rejoiced to earth's remotest verge.
The toiling peasant on the banks of Seine
Felt a new passion thrilling every vein;
And the warm heart of brave and chivalrous France
Hailed it the signal of a new advance!
Sclavonic forests echoed with the word,
The old Teutonic blood anew was stirred!
The magic strain was heard by Tiber's stream,
Sounding more glories than the Gracchi's dream!
At Valley Forge, through blood-tracked winter snows,
  It bore the soldier, victor yet to be!
That prophet-word has baffled Freedom's foes,
  And broke a sceptre — set a people free!
'T was but a word the millions leaped to hear, —
"ALL MEN ARE EQUAL!" — but it carried cheer
To every heart oppressed by cruel power,
And promised for the race a happier hour.
A thrill of joy through all the nations ran, —
The Age of Matter passed, and dawned the Age of Man!

Since that bright morning came, an hundred years
Have rolled away; and now to us appears
The ripening fruit of that wind-wafted seed,
In thought inspiring and in noble deed.
A nation finds in Liberty its trust, —
Slaves now are men, and thrones are in the dust!

We lay our tributes on our Fathers' graves;
But, while the flag they bore yet freely waves,
A nobler height than theirs 't is yours to gain, —
New trophies of the heart, new conquests of the brain.
What higher honor have you power to give
Than prove that still their truth and spirit live?
Save that their purpose in your lives is seen,
What do these offerings to their memory mean?
Would you be like them? Squander not your day
In traversing for nought their beaten way;
Their sacred footprints! — let them only stand
To mark your progress in our wide-spread land.
Tell me of one was not iconoclast —
Breaking forever with the murky Past!
What time their flag was on these shores unfurled,
When they a New Age gave a waiting world;
What time the MAYFLOWER wedded PLYMOUTH ROCK, —
Whose infant struggled, in this new-found clime,
For fifteen decades, in the womb of Time;
Then, like Jove's daughter, to the astonished earth
Sprang forth a nation, full-grown at its birth! —
What was their key, the Future to unlock?
What but the legend, — urgent now to you, —
"The Old must pass away, and all be New!"

Here on this spot, where we have loved to dwell, —
Where every verdant field, and hill, and vale,
Glows in the light of some heroic tale, —
With grateful hearts our Fathers' deeds we tell.
The pioneers, whose courage cleared the way
Which leaves smooth paths for tender feet to-day!
The perils of the wilderness embraced,
The horrors of a savage warfare faced;

Defied the bloody torrent when it came ;
Saw their homes sink in one wild gulf of flame !
Then gathered round the blackened ruins — still
With heart undaunted and unyielding will ;
Once more the roof-tree raised, the walls upreared,
On the fair soil even danger had endeared.
For ancient forests gave us fruitful fields ;
Garnered for us the treasures Nature yields ;
Planted the trees beneath whose shade we rest ;
Prepared the heritage which makes us blest!
These deeds, recounted on this festal day,
Live in bright fame ; and, when we pass away,
Happy for us if at our setting sun
The work they left us be as truly done.

OUR FATHERS ! — not the votive wreath alone
Shall crown their merit ; not the chiselled stone
Alone record their worth, — in every heart
Their virtues live, of our own lives a part.
Their fame immortal — though their forms unseen —
We 'll cherish still, — we 'll keep their memory green !

SAMUEL LAWRENCE'S RECOLLECTIONS.

THE following reminiscences were written at my request, nearly ten years ago, by the late Samuel Lawrence, who was born at Groton on January 15, 1801, and died at Stockbridge on March 18, 1880. He was the youngest child of Major Samuel and Susanna (Parker) Lawrence, and the last survivor of his generation.

My earliest recollection of Groton is the death of Capt. Henry Farwell in the year 1804. Dr. Chaplin was the only minister. Hon. Timothy Bigelow, one of the most prominent lawyers of the State, resided there, and being a graduate of Harvard College, as was Dr. Chaplin, our winter district schoolmasters were all from Cambridge. Dr. Oliver Prescott was the oldest physician. There were

three stores; their owners were called merchants with great propriety, for the number of articles they dealt in was never dreamed of by the merchants of Tyre or Venice. Squire Brazer was the richest and most important; he was quite old and corpulent, with reddish face, and wore a blue broad-tail dress-coat, with bright brass buttons two inches in diameter, white vest and cravat, and deep ruffled shirt, with black trousers, a high-crowned hat with very broad brim. In the course of my life I have seen some of the mercantile magnates of Europe and this country, such as the Barings and Rothschilds, Stephen Girard and Astor, but I have never been so impressed as when in the presence of Squire Brazer. My most painful early memories are with the bitterly cold church, where there was no stove or furnace in winter.

There were two grist and saw mills, Capell's on the Nashua and Tarbell's on the Squannacook; on the last named river was also a carding and clothing mill of the three brothers Rockwood. At that time all farmers kept sheep for food, but mainly for clothing. The wool was scoured in the family, carded into rolls about eighteen inches long and two inches in diameter by the Rockwoods, spun in the family on a stand-up wheel, backward and forward movement of the spinner, and generally woven into flannel by the same person, milled into cloth, dyed and finished by the Rockwoods. Sometimes a portion of wool was dyed a dark color, and mixed with white wool to get a pepper and salt color. The flannels for both sexes were made in the family, as well as sheets for winter. Flax was universally raised, rotted (stiff covering over the fibre), broken and hetchelled, and spun on the small wheel with power from the foot, making linen thread, which was woven into fabrics for domestic use. The tow from the flax after hetchelling was made into a coarse fabric for men's frocks and trousers. Men's and women's underclothing, beyond the linen alluded to, was from the East Indies. A cotton fabric from China, called nankeen (nankin), was much used in summer by gentlemen. Carpets made from rags were very common. I do not think there was any other kind in Groton, and not one piano.

The habit then was for all who could get it to use spirits, and drink some before dinner, — even the most temperate. The better class drank West India rum, and the poorer class New England rum. French brandy was seldom taken. Cider was universally used till the temperance movement was started about the year 1817. Dr.

Woods, of Andover, one of the leaders in this cause, told me forty years afterward the reason he engaged in it so actively was that he saw such abuse of ardent spirits among ministers; for he knew forty-four who drank so much as to affect their brains, and he had assisted in putting four to bed on occasions like ordinations.

At the period above mentioned there was neither a woollen or cotton mill in the State, and but few turnpikes; the Middlesex canal had just been opened from Chelmsford to Charlestown.

The mode of living in Groton was economical in the extreme. Books were rare indeed, few were published in the State, and Paternoster Row was on the titlepage of all the juvenile literature of that period.

In my earliest years my father's house was thronged by Revolutionary officers and soldiers, and I heard so much that I almost thought I was at Bunker Hill on the glorious Seventeenth. My father was an orderly to Col. Prescott, and knew all about the doings at Cambridge after the troops arrived there till they went to Bunker Hill. These soldiers acted like veterans in consequence of their two months' daily drilling. Enough has not been said on this point. The claim of Gen. Putnam's admirers never was dreamed of till long after both generals had been dead.

S. L.

STOCKBRIDGE, Sept. 5th, 1877.

TAX ON UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS.

THE following advertisement appears in "The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal," April 23, 1745. It shows how much the tax was at that time on unappropriated land in the west Precinct or Parish of Groton, which is now known as Pepperell:—

NOtice is hereby given to the Proprietors of *Groton* in the County of *Middlesex*, that they shew Cause, if any they have, on the second Wednesday of the next *May* Sessions of the Great and General Court, why all the unappropriated Lands in the West Precinct in said Town, should not be rated at *two Pence* per Annum per Acre for three Years next coming.

JOHN DERBYSHIRE.

MR. BUTLER, in the genealogical Appendix to his History (page 394), mentions the family of "John Darby and Mary," and in the next page gives that of "John Derbyshire and Mary," as if they were different families. They were, however, undoubtedly one and the same. This view is confirmed by the name of the wife, the dates of the birth of the children, and the tendency in former times to cut words short. Before coming to Groton, John lived at Dunstable, where other children had been born (Fox's History of Dunstable, page 242). I have seen a deed given by him to John Shipley, dated March 25, 1710, which was signed John Darbeysher, to which he affixed his mark; and in the text of the deed the name is written Darbeyshaer.

The following petition, found among the Massachusetts Archives (IX. 164), shows that John and Mary were not happy in their marriage relations, and furthermore it shows how domestic affairs, during the last century, were sometimes brought before the Governor and Council. If family quarrels were now passed upon by the same authorities, there would be but little time left for public business.

To his Excellency the Governour and the Honourable the Council of her Majestyes Province of the Massachusetts Bay in N. England

The humble Petition of John Derbyshire of Groton Sheweth

That whereas yor petitioners wife hath for the Space of Two years Last past Seperated herself from yor petition^r, living Sometimes out of the Towne, but at p^rsent in it, yet wholly refusing to take care of her family or to returne to yor petition^r, after ye Utmost Endeavours and perswasions of her Neighbours to returne to her Charge which is to the almost Utter Undoing of your Poor petitioner and his Family.

Wherefore yor humble petitioner intreats the Honourable Board would be pleased to take cognisance of his Cause, and that if possible his wife might be reduced to her duty, and your petitioner shall as in duty bound forever pray &c.

JOHN his marke D DERBYSHIRE

GROTON Oct° 12 1710

Nathaniel Woods was married to the widow Mary Derbeshere, according to the County records, on June 5, 1725, but according to the church records, on September 14, 1725.

Here are two other instances of domestic infelicity, where the husbands for redress had recourse to the public prints, which is more in accordance with modern customs:—

WHereas Ann *the wife of me* William Preston *of* Groton *in the County of* Middlesex, *hath unjustly eloped from me and my Family, and by the bad Advice of evil-minded Persons hath threatned to injure me by running me in Debt, &c.*

THESE are therefore to caution all Persons against trusting or giving any Credit whatsoever to her the said *Ann* upon my Accompt, for I hereby signify that I will not pay any Debt she shall contract from the Date hereof, unless she speedily returns, and will be a loving and dutiful Wife; if so she will be kindly receiv'd,

As witness my Hand,

Sept. 26, 1745. *William Preston:*

"The Boston Weekly News Letter," September 26, 1745.

Groton, December 20th, 1748.

NOtice is hereby given to all Persons, That whereas *Ruth Woods*, the Wife of *Nathaniel Woods*, of said *Groton*, Yeoman, has greatly misbehaved her self, and run him in Debt without his Order, and so behaves her self, that he cant live with her, therefore all Persons are hereby forbid to trade any Thing with her, for if they do, I will not pay one Penny

Nath. Woods.

"The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal," December 27, 1748.

CHAISES AND "CHAIRS" IN GROTON.

DURING the last century there was a vehicle, which long since passed out of use, known as a "chair." It resembled a chaise with the top taken off, and was generally wide enough to carry two persons. References to these vehicles may be found in "Groton during the Indian Wars" (pages 158–160).

On June 15, 1753, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an Act for granting the sum of £1,500 to encourage the manufacture of linen; and in order to raise this amount a tax was levied "on every coach, chariot, chaise, calash and chair" within the province. The tax on a coach was ten shillings; a chariot, five shillings; a chaise, three shillings; a calash and a chair, two shillings each. For the purpose of carrying out this law returns were made, during several years, of all the carriages in the several towns; and according to a table prepared from these returns, there was one chair at Groton in the year 1753; none in 1754 and 1755; and three in 1756 and 1757. At this period there was no other carriage, besides these chairs, kept in the town. (Massachusetts Archives, CXXI. 326, 329, 340.)

The Reverend Nathaniel Bouton, D.D., in his History of Concord, New Hampshire (page 513), mentions among the earliest chaises owned in that town one that had belonged, just before the Revolution, to Colonel Peter Green. It had come to him from the estate of his father-in-law Colonel John Bulkley, of Groton, who died on December 3, 1772. This was, probably, also one of the earliest chaises in Groton. For a reference to Mrs. Peter Green, as well as to her father, Colonel Bulkley, see No. XIII. (page 61) and No. XVII. (page 13) of this Historical Series.

SLAVERY IN GROTON.

During a long period before the Revolution, Groton had one element in her population which does not now exist, and which to-day has disappeared from almost the whole civilized world. At the beginning of the year 1755 there were fourteen negro slaves in town, seven men and seven women, who were sixteen years old or upwards. At that time Townsend had three slaves, two men and one woman; Shirley had one, a man; and Pepperell made no return of having any. West-

ford had five, but the sex is not given. These facts are gathered from a census of negro slaves in Massachusetts, ordered by the Province, which is published in the third volume, second series, of the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society (pages 95–97).

William Banks, a negro or mulatto, was married at Groton on December 21, 1719, by Francis Fullam, a Justice of Peace, to Hannah Wansamug. See No. XIII. of this Historical Series (page 17). William appears to have been a slave belonging to Eleazer Robbins, of Groton, and Hannah was an Indian, who is called in the records "late of Lancaster;" but unfortunately the marriage was not a happy one. With all confidence in her husband, the wife bought his freedom, when he proved false to his plight and promise, and deserted her. The story, told in her own words, is found in the Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, June 13, 1724 (page 39).

A Petition of *Hannah Banks* Indian, shewing that she bought of *Eleazer Robbins* of *Groton* his Servant Man's Time, and gave a Bond of *l.* 15 for Payment of the same, that afterwards she married the said Servant Man, who is since absconded, and the said *Robbins* hath put the said Bond in Suit, and cast the Petitioner into Prison in *Boston*, that the Principal Debt with the Charges hath arisen to *l.* 25 which Mr. *Edward Ruggles* of *Roxbury* hath paid for her, praying this Court would please to enable the said *Edward Ruggles* to Sell such a part of her Land in *Natick*, as will satisfy him for his advance of said *Twenty Five Pounds*.

Read and committed to the Committee for Petitions.

The following advertisement, not an unusual one for that period, appears in "The Boston Evening-Post," July 30, 1739:—

R*AN away from his Master, Mr.* John Woods *of* Groton, *on Thursday the* 12*th of this Instant* July, *a Negro Man Servant named* Caesar, *about* 22 *Years of Age, a pretty short well sett Fellow. He carried with him a Blue Coat and Jacket, a pair of Tow Breeches, a Castor Hat, Stockings and Shoes of* his own, *and a Blue*

Cloth Coat with flower'd Metal Buttons, a white flower'd Jacket, a good Bever Hat, a Gray Wigg, and a pair of new Shoes of his Master's, *with some other Things. It is suspected there is some white Person that may be with him, or design to make Use of his* Master's Apparel *above described.*

Whoever shall take up the said Servant, and bring him to his above-said Master in Groton, *or be a Means of convicting any Person or Confederate with said Servant as above suspected, shall have* Five Pounds *Reward for each of them, and all necessary Charges paid.*

The following marriage is entered in the church records under the date December 28, 1742: "Priamus (Capt Boydens Negro man servant[)] to Margrt Molatto formerly servant to S. S. both of Groton". It is also recorded that Margaret, the servant of Samuel Scripture, Jr., was baptized on January 30, 1733–4, and that she owned the church covenant at the same time. See No. X. of this Historical Series (pages 14, 20, and 30). The last entry shows that the initials "S. S." mentioned above stand for Samuel Scripture, Jr. This negro couple was afterward blessed with a family of children, and they lived on the west side of the Nashua River, a short distance north of the county road to Townsend. His surname was Lew or Lue, and his given name became contracted into Primus; and to this day the rise of ground, near the place where the Pepperell road leaves the main road, is known as Primus Hill, so called after him. Mr. Butler thinks that perhaps Margaret's name was Lew. See his History (page 454). Their oldest child, — Zelah, a corruption of Barzillai, — born at Groton on November 5, 1743, was a famous musician, who lived at Dracut, and the father of numerous children who were also musicians. He was a fifer in Captain John Ford's company of the 27th Massachusetts Regiment in service at the siege of Boston, and was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

About the year 1740 there was a negro slave in Groton by the name of Boad, who used to look after the cattle sent up to Groton Gore in the spring to be pastured during the summer. See "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (page 37), and No. XIII. of this Historical Series (page 59). In the year 1761 Abraham Moors owned a slave named Zebina.

Akin to the subject of slavery in Groton is this item from "The Groton Landmark," November 14, 1885:—

Gov. Boutwell has in an old scrap-book the following interesting Memorandum:

August, 1856.

Noah Shattuck, esq., informs me that there were eleven slaves in Groton when slavery was abolished, and he mentioned the following names: Chloe Williams, Phillis Cutler, Phillis Sartell,[1] Ichabod Davis, Fanny Borden and William Case. Phineas Wait also owned one slave.

Noah Shattuck, a son of Job and Sarah (Hartwell) Shattuck, was born on August 30, 1772, and died on September 28, 1858.

Slavery was never formally abolished in Massachusetts, but it was held by the courts that the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution, which was adopted in the year 1780, swept away this last vestige of feudalism.

ITEMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

We hear from Dunstable, That a sorrowful Accident happen'd there as they were raising the Frame for a new Meeting-House in that Town Yesterday was sev'night — Two Men, assisting in the Work fell, from a Spar, and one of them (Abiel Richardson of Groton) had his Brains dash'd out, his Head in the Fall striking upon a Rock, so that he expir'd immediately; the other was much bruis'd, but 'tis tho't will recover.

"The Boston Weekly News-Letter," July 26, 1753.

Some Days ago a young Man at Work in a new House at Groton, catching hold on a wrong Rope, fell from the Top to the Bottom, and was kill'd in a Moment.

"The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Advertiser," November 5, 1754.

We also hear, that several Persons have lately been taken up at *Groton*, on Suspicion of counterfeiting the Bills of Credit of the

[1] Owned by Joseph Sartell.

Province of *New-Hampshire.* One of the Gang is now in our Goal, for attempting to put off some of the said Counterfeits in this Town.

"The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Advertiser," February 11, 1755.

A Petition of *Jonathan Sheple* of *Groton*, in the County of *Middlesex*, setting forth, that about four Years ago, he was several Times presented by the Grand-Jury for not attending the public Worship of God, but being at that Time over-borne with Melancholly, under his then distressing Circumstances, and bereaved of the proper Exercise of his Reason, he forfeited his Recognizances, for satisfying which, and the other Costs attending the said Presentments, he has been since obliged to make Sale of his Dwelling-place; and praying that the Money paid by him, being still in the Clerk's Hands, he may be allowed to receive back again.

Read, and *Ordered*, That Col. *Lawrence*, Col. *Clap*, and Mr. *Prentice*, be a Committee to consider this Petition, and Report thereon.

Journal of the House of Representatives, January 8, 1757 (page 241).

Last Wednesday [June 3,] the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Dana* was ordained Pastor to the first Church in *Groton*: The Rev. Mr. *Rogers* of *Littleton* began with Prayer, the Rev. Mr. *Appleton* of *Cambridge* preached from *Levit.* X. 3. the Rev. Mr. *Parker* of *Dracut* gave the Charge, and the Rev. Mr. *Hall* of *Wesford* gave the Right Hand of Fellowship.

"The Boston Gazette, and Country Journal," June 8, 1761.

DEATHS.

At Amherst, N. H. Mr. John Parks, of Groton, (Mass.) He, as master workman in building the stone gaol in Amherst, was unfortunately wounded by a large stone falling on the end of a pry, which struck him on the head and stomach, and occasioned his death the third day after. He was the master workman in building the gaols in this town and Concord.

"Thomas's Massachusetts Spy: or, The Worcester Gazette," August 29, 1793.

At Groton, the 13th inst Miss Grace Whiting, Æt. 27, daughter to Capt. Leonard Whiting, of Hollis, N. H.

"The Independent Chronicle: and the Universal Advertiser" (Boston), October 31, 1796.

At Groton, on the 1st inst. Mrs. *Lovina Tarbell*, wife of Mr. *Abel Tarbell*, and daughter of Joshua Longley, Esq. of Shirley, Æt. 22 years. — Having been in good health, and without any previous complaint, fell on the floor, and expired in a few minutes. Her death is severely felt in the family, and greatly lamented by her acquaintance.

"Columbian Centinel & Massachusetts Federalist" (Boston), October 8, 1803.

In Groton [January 9], Lieut. William Parker, a revolutionary soldier, aged 71.

"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), January 24, 1833.

In Groton, Mr. David Wilson, a revolutionary soldier, aged 90. His death was occasioned by falling into the fire, supposed in a fit.

"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), February 23, 1833.

According to an advertisement in "The Continental Journal, and Weekly Advertiser" (Boston), May 29, 1777, John Williams, of Groton, was engaged at that time in recruiting for Colonel Rufus Putnam's regiment; and according to the same newspaper, three weeks later (June 19), the town of Groton was to receive ninety-eight bushels of salt out of the public stores belonging to the State.

Captain John Williams was a son of John and Elizabeth (Cutter) Williams, and born on July 4, 1746. He died on July 1, 1822.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XIX.

GENERAL GRANT'S VISIT TO GROTON.

OLD MILL-SITES IN GROTON.

BILLERICA BRIDGE.

WILLIAM NUTTING.

THE FIRST CHURCH AT WEST GROTON.

DANIEL FARMER AND ELEAZER PRIEST.

THE FARRINGTON FAMILY.

BURNING OF JUDGE DANA'S BARN.

GROTON, MASS.

1887.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1887.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XIX.

GENERAL GRANT'S VISIT TO GROTON.

THE visit of the President of the United States will long be memorable in the annals of Groton. General Grant passed the night of Wednesday, June 16, 1869, at the house of Govcruor Boutwell, where on the next day he held a public reception, which was attended by a large gathering. People poured into the village from all the neighborhood, and never before was there so great an assemblage of persons within the limits of the town. No accident occurred to mar the festivities, and everything passed off satisfactorily, thus making the occasion a complete success.

A musical festival, known as the Peace Jubilee, had begun in Boston on Tuesday, June 15, which lasted five days. It was intended to celebrate the downfall of the Rebellion and the restoration of peace and good will in all parts of the country, which at that time so recently had been rent asunder by Civil War. Several thousand voices sang in the chorus, and the audiences were correspondingly large. A building known as the Coliseum was erected for the special occasion. General Grant attended the concert in the afternoon of the second day of the Jubilee, in company with Governor Boutwell, a member of his Cabinet, and with other distinguished guests. After a dinner in the evening given by the city of Boston, a special train was despatched to Groton, which bore the President and his party.

The following accounts of his visit were published at the time in the "Boston Daily Advertiser" and the "Springfield Daily Republican."

THE PRESIDENT AT GROTON.

The President and his party left the supper room of the Revere House at a few minutes before eight o'clock last evening, and after a few minutes' conversation in the ladies' parlor, proceeded to the Fitchburg Railroad station, where a special train awaited his arrival. The party consisted of the President, U. S. Grant, jr., Secretary Boutwell, Governor Claflin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Hon. J. M. S. Williams, Dr. S. A. Green, Colonel Daniel Needham and wife, Mrs. McAfee and Mrs. Wellington of Groton, General A. B. Underwood and the Rev. William Clark, chaplain of the New Hampshire legislature. The President was loudly cheered as he entered the cars, where Mr. P. S. Gilmore had a brief interview with the President. The train made brief stops at Waltham, Concord and South Acton, and at each of these stations the President bowed his acknowledgments to the gathered crowds, and shook hands with hundreds from the car window. During a large portion of the journey to Concord the President conversed freely with Mr. Emerson, chiefly on educational matters, and the two distinguished gentlemen evidently enjoyed the interview.

At the Groton Junction station a great crowd was gathered, and great enthusiasm was manifested when the President made his appearance. After a little delay he proceeded with Secretary Boutwell and a select party to Groton Centre, where he passed the night as the Secretary's guest. A salute of guns greeted his arrival, and the whole town was in a state of excitement. A public reception is to be held at the Town Hall, at half-past nine o'clock this morning, when an immense gathering is expected.

The genial and frank conversation of the President while on the train, showed that when inclined to be communicative he has no lack of words to express his ideas. He gave many little war incidents bearing upon different officers, and in the course of some remarks made in reference to General Sherman, he said that he considered him fully capable of commanding any army that the country could raise and against any nation with which we should ever be called to fight; that he had sound judgment, great nerve,

and was always ready to do what he was ordered to do, even when against his personal wishes, and never grumbled. In a remark made to Governor Claflin concerning the election of last fall, he said that Massachusetts entered into the contest as if she had not a vote to lose — as if she was a doubtful State; and this compliment was well responded to by different gentlemen present. It may be said, in brief, that the President greatly enjoyed his visit to Boston, and that all the arrangements made for his benefit were highly satisfactory to him.

The President leaves for Worcester today at 12.30 P. M., the hospitalities of that city having been tendered him yesterday by Mayor Blake. He will remain in the city but a few hours, returning to New York by the afternoon train. He will be received by the city government, and escorted through the principal streets by the military, the Highland Cadets and the Grand Army of the Republic. He will review the public schools, and partake of a collation at the Bay State House. Secretary Boutwell will accompany the President to Worcester, but will return to Groton in the evening.

"Boston Daily Advertiser," Thursday morning, June 17, 1869.

GEN. GRANT IN MIDDLESEX.

The announcement that the president, after his holiday in Boston, was to visit the secretary of the treasury at his home in Groton, seemed at first a little surprising, especially to the Bostonians, who could hardly bear the thought of so distinguished a man sleeping anywhere but under the shadow of the state house. But the reason for it was a very good one, — to visit and pay honor to the county and the precise region which, on the opening of the rebellion, sent the first soldiers to defend the capital of the nation. It was from Acton and Groton, and the neighboring towns, that the Sixth regiment went forth on the 16th of April, 1861, and it was the farmers and mechanics of Middlesex that, on the 19th of April, shed their blood in Baltimore, as their grandfathers had at Concord and Lexington on another 19th of April eighty-six years before. When the Essex county men and the New York Seventh got to Washington on the 25th of April, they found the townsmen of Secretary Boutwell quartered in the Senate chamber, having been the first of the volunteers to reach the capital. Close behind them came the Fifth regiment, also Middlesex men, who marched

away from their homes while their neighbors of the Sixth were breaking through the Baltimore mob, and joined them on Capitol Hill before there was any chance for further fighting.

It was these men, their widows and children, their fathers, brothers and townsmen who crowded about the train that carried the great general of the war through the length of Middlesex county on Wednesday evening. As he left the Fitchburg railroad station he passed along the side of Bunker Hill; through Cambridge, where Washington encamped with his besieging army; not far from Lexington, over the meadows of Concord, and amid the hills and woods of Acton, whose "embattled farmers" fired the famous shot in 1776. In all these towns the monuments of the old war and the new might be seen standing in sight of each other, — the granite of their sides not more firm and durable than the loyalty of the people who built them to the cause of freedom and their country. It was a little after 8 o'clock when the special train carrying Gen. Grant and his son, Secretary Boutwell, Gov. Claflin, Mr. Emerson of Concord, Dr. S. A. Green of Groton, and a few others, left Boston for the old village of Groton, where Mr. Boutwell's home and farm are. The train made brief stops at Waltham, Concord and South Acton, and at each of these stations the president bowed his acknowledgments to the gathered crowds, and shook hands with hundreds from the car window. During a large portion of the journey to Concord the president conversed freely with Mr. Emerson, chiefly on educational matters, but he spoke frankly also of incidents of the war. In regard to his companion in arms, Gen. Sherman, he declared that he was fully capable of commanding any army that the country could raise, and against any nation with which we should ever be called to fight; that he had sound judgment, great nerve, and was always ready to do what he was ordered to do, even when against his personal wishes, and never grumbled. In a remark made to Gov. Claflin concerning the election of last fall, he said that Massachusetts entered into the contest as if she had not a vote to lose — as if she was a doubtful state; and in all that was said he showed that he was well aware of the part taken by Massachusetts in the war, and in the political sequel thereto.

Indeed the president had already shown his appreciation of Massachusetts and of Middlesex county by his choice of cabinet officers. In his detour of Wednesday and Thursday he visited the homes of his attorney-general and his secretary of the treasury, —

places within fifteen miles of each other, and in those rural communities of our state, where, more than in our cities and larger towns, the old fashioned spirit of Massachusetts abides and prevails. It is not often that a president of the United States visits such communities, or chooses from them his cabinet ministers, but when he does so it is a sign that he values the Puritan virtues, and takes pleasure in seeing the plain people among whom they have longest held sway. This is the way we interpret Gen. Grant's visit to Middlesex; though it may also have been intended as a mark of the special trust which he reposes in his secretary of the treasury, who well deserves it.

"Springfield Daily Republican," Friday morning, June 18, 1869.

OLD MILL-SITES IN GROTON.

THE distinct traces of an old dam on James's Brook at Groton are to be seen on the easterly side of the road to Ayer, near the extreme limits of the town. They are found on the farm, known formerly as the Benjamin Moors place, but latterly owned by Nathan F. Culver. The excavations of earth, below the dam, for the purpose of filling-in the stones, are clearly visible; and even the size of the mill-pond can be made out. None of the aged people, whose recollection goes back to the early part of the present century, could tell anything in regard to the mill that stood on this site. It is not mentioned by Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., in his survey of the town made in the year 1794, which carefully notes all the mills at that time. James's Brook was once a much larger stream than it is now, and in particular places furnished considerable water-power.

This farm was bought of John Farnsworth, by Abraham Moors, the grandfather of Benjamin; and the deed, dated February 5, 1716–17, is duly recorded in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (Book XXIII. page 47) at East Cambridge. From this record the following description of land is taken, which furnishes a clew to the desired information: —

Several parcels of upland & Swampy Low land all Situate lying & being within the Bounds and Limits of the Township of Groton in the county and province afores'd containing in all by Estimation One hundred & Sixty acres more or less Improv[d] Thirty acres more or less of *mill pond* Swamp & upland with a three quarter part of *an Old Saw mill* thereupon [the Italics are mine] now standing and it is Bound Northwardly upon a high way that leadeth to a farm that is called by the Name of Coycus ffarm Eastwardly with the Lands of Josiah Farnsworth Southerly upon Davis's Land & Westerly upon Saw mill Lands &c.

Here we have a distinct reference to this very mill, which identifies it beyond doubt; and it is interesting to note that even then, a hundred and seventy years ago, it was called "an Old Saw mill." "Coycus ffarm" is the abbreviated spelling of Nonacoicus farm, which had previously belonged to Major Simon Willard. The highway, mentioned in the description, is the present road from Groton to Ayer. A record of John Farnsworth's lands in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (XIII. 336), on May 10, 1700, refers to his "Saw Mill Land," which was without question this parcel, showing that he owned it at that time.

Going back to a still earlier date, in a description of Farnsworth's lands, on December 9, 1680, as found in "The Early Records of Groton" (page 182), reference is made to "a pece of swamp land, lyeing betwixt the pond at John Page's saw-mill and the bridg that goe to Nonicoycus, bounded round by the town's comon land." Undoubtedly Page's saw-mill, here mentioned, was the same as Farnsworth's, as the sites of the two appear to be identical; and "the bridg that goe to Nonicoycus" is still standing over James's Brook, very near the bed of the old mill-pond. Page's mill was built probably soon after the re-settlement of the town in the year 1678; and this dam furnishes, perhaps, the earliest trace of man's work that can be identified within the limits of Groton or its neighborhood.

Many years ago John Chamberlain had a saw-mill on Martin's Pond Brook, near the foot of Brown Loaf, on its northerly side. He was known about here as "Paugus John,"

from the fact of his killing the Indian chief Paugus, in Lovewell's Fight at Pequawket, on May 8, 1725. An account of this action is found in Chapter IV. of "Groton during the Indian Wars." Even now there is a deep place in Paugus Brook, known as Paugus Hole, on the west side of Brown Loaf, where, it is said, the body of Paugus's descendant, who came to kill Chamberlain, many years after the Fight, was sunk, after he himself was killed. A small elm stands on the south bank of the brook, very near the place. Chamberlain is supposed to have died about the year 1756, though no record of his death is found. The appraisal of his property was made on March 31, 1756, according to papers in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge. The old mill-race is still to be seen; and only a few weeks ago, in company with Francis M. Boutwell, Esq., I examined the site. The mill is not mentioned by Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., in his survey of 1794, and, of course, was not standing at that time. It was sold by Joseph Gilson, Jr., husbandman, to Eleazer Gilson, cooper, February 13, 1716–17, as recorded in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (XIX. 131, 132). The land is described as lying on both sides of "Brownlofe Brook," and bounded westerly by the road leading to John Chamberlain's corn-mill, which at that time was the mill mentioned in the next paragraph. There has been, however, a grist-mill on or very near the same spot in modern days, which was built by George Russell about the year 1870; but this was carried away during a freshet in March, 1877.

A grist-mill stood for a long period on Baddacook Pond Brook, about two miles and a half from the Unitarian Meeting-House, on the Lowell road. It is given by Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., on his plan of 1794, and was standing in the early part of the last century. John Chamberlain, yeoman, conveyed it to Eleazer Gilson, February 13, 1716–17, — the same day that Joseph Gilson, Jr., sold his mill to Gilson, as recorded above. The grantor afterward became the famous Indian fighter, as previously stated. The land is described as lying on the southerly side of "Battecook Medow," and from the description the road ran then as it does now.

When Mr. Butler's map was made, from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829, the mill belonged to Amelia Woods, and before that had been owned successively by her father and brother, Nahum and Nahum, Jr. It was taken down about 1860, having for several years previously fallen into disuse.

Eleazer Gilson appears to have been a large owner of mill-property at an early period in the history of Groton. He bought of Isaac Parker, December 7, 1726, a saw-mill situated on Mulpus Brook, as recorded in the Middlesex Registry of Deeds (XXVI. 336). In modern times he would have made his mark as an extensive manufacturer or a railroad magnate.

During my boyhood there was a mill for grinding and sawing at West Groton, — or Squannacook, as it was then called; but this was taken down many years since. It was first built by John Tarbell, the father of the late Colonel Abel Tarbell, who died on October 19, 1860, at the advanced age of 86 years. John died on September 9, 1802, aged 79. A mill for the manufacture of leather-board now occupies the site.

There was also another mill for grinding and sawing, where the Hollingsworth paper-mills now stand, on the Great Road north of the village. At the end of the last century it was owned by John Capell, but it disappeared a long time ago, in order to make way for the new buildings. Both these grist-mills, last mentioned, are given on Dr. Prescott's plan of 1794.

BILLERICA BRIDGE.

At an early period in our colonial history the travel from Groton to Boston went by a circuitous route through Chelmsford and Billerica, where there was a bridge over the Concord River, built by several towns, — of which Groton was one, — and supported jointly by them for many years. The Reverend Henry Allen Hazen, in his "History of Billerica" (page 98), says that the town of Groton paid toward the repairs of the

bridge in the year 1665 the sum of £3 14*s.* 7*d.* out of a total of £21 2*s.* 2*d.* — probably the first assessment paid by the town, though there is no allusion to the matter in the town-records, which are not entirely complete at this period. On March 12, 1665–6, the Selectmen of Chelmsford gave notice to the town of Billerica that they would no longer help keep the bridge in repair, whereupon it was voted by the Selectmen of Billerica that they would take up some of the planks and thus stop all travel, which was undoubtedly done. How long the bridge remained impassable, or how long the difficulty continued, there is no record; but probably the trouble was not settled until the General Court, twenty months later, interposed its power and decided the matter. At its session beginning on October 9, 1667, it is recorded:

In Answer to a motion made by the Deputjes of Billirica & chelmsford in refferenc to the bridge ouer Billirica Riuer — It is Ordered by this Court thatt according to the Agreement of the Comittee of the Generall Court & Comitte of that Countje respecting bridges bearing date Aprill 17. 1660 the sajd bridge shall be repayred & vpholden by the Tounes of Billirica chelmsford & Groaten. & all such ſſarmes as are there granted when they shall be Improoued in proportion to their Country rates. & shall be freed from the majntenanc of all other bridges excepting only in their oune Tounes.

[General Court Records, IV. Part 2, 591.]

In carrying out this order, which had reference only to the repairing of the bridge, the County Court at Charlestown, on December 17, 1667, appointed a commission of four men, — of whom Captain James Parker, of Groton, was one, — who were authorized to make a contract "with some able and honest artificer" for building it anew; and accordingly to that end they made an agreement with Job Lane, of Billerica. The written contract containing all the specifications in detail is still preserved; and it stipulated that the Groton payments, if Lane so chose, should be delivered near the bridge, while it was building, and after that in Billerica. The work was to be done before September 29, 1668.

In the year 1676, — according to Mr. Hazen's History (page 99), — the complaints about the bridge were repeated, and there was again united action of the towns in repairing it; but probably at this time Groton was relieved of all assessments, as the town was then deserted. During the next twenty years no further complaint is recorded; but at the end of this period (probably in the year 1698) the bridge was swept away by a flood. Then another controversy arose on the old subject of proportioning the expense; and in order to settle the difficulty a request was sent out at this time by the Selectmen of Chelmsford to the towns of Groton, Dunstable, and Billerica, asking them to appoint a committee, who should be authorized to meet and act in the matter. Accordingly a meeting was held, probably at Chelmsford, when Thomas Williams and James Blanchard, the town clerk, were present, representing the town of Groton. (History of Billerica, page 100.) One result of this consultation was to change the location of the bridge and place it more than a mile farther up the river. The following entries in the Groton town-records probably refer to a subsequent meeting of the committee, which soon followed the first, when there was evidently a hitch in the proceedings: —

december 21 at a town meting legely warned the town did then uote and declare that y^a^ will chuse to men for to be the towns agents for to maniadge the case a bought the brigde and for to imply a lawyer in the behalfe of the town and that y^a^ will raise money for to bare the charge of said men

JAMES BLANCHARD *town clark*

at a town meting legely warning december: 21 1698. capãn Prascott was chosen for to go to chelmsford to meett with the commety and insign farnworth was chosen for to go with him to chamesford. JAMES BLANCHARD *town Clarke*

december: 21 1698 at a town meting legelly warned the town did uote and chuse capt prescott and insign farnworth to go to Chelmsford to mete with the commete and to act in the towns be halfe acording to there best discrestion refering to billarca bridg JAMES BLANCHARD *town Clark*

December 21: 1698: at a town metinge legelly warn the town did chuse capt prescott and Insign farnworth to be the to men for to acte in the towns be halfe for to do the work Spock of in the other uot JAMES BLANCHARD *town Cla[rk]*

The bridge was built on the new site some time during the year 1699, but for one reason or another now unexplained, the town of Groton refused to pay the amount assessed as her share of the expense, and recourse was again had to the General Court. At the session beginning on May 31, 1699, and continued by several prorogations until March 13, 1699–1700, the following enactment was passed:—

An Act relating to Billerica Bridge, in the County of Middlesex.

FOR *Issuing of the Controversie between the Towns of* Groton, Billerica *and* Chelmsford, *and the Inhabitants of the Farms Adjacent, arising by reason of the refusal or neglect of the Agents for the Town of* Groton *aforesaid, to pay the Sum set and proportioned on their Town, for and towards the Erecting and Building of the Bridge in the said Town of* Billerica, *in the County of* Middlesex; *which ought in Equity to have been paid; the Sum being* Twenty Four Pounds, *and* Ten Shillings.

Be it Enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden at *Concord*, in the said County of *Middlesex*, on the Second *Tuesday* of *June* next, are hereby ordered and impowred to issue and send forth a Warrant to the Select-men or Assessors of the said Town of *Groton*, Requiring them forthwith to Levy and Assess the said Sum of *Twenty Four Pounds*, and *Ten Shillings* Money, on the Inhabitants of their Town according to Law; and with the Assessment to deliver a Warrant to the Constable of their Town, Requiring him to Collect and Gather the same; and the said Sum so Collected, to deliver and pay in unto Major *Thomas Hinksman*, Major *Jonathan Tinge*, and Mr. *John Lane*, Undertakers for the Building of the Bridge lately Erected in *Billerica* above-said; and the said Constable to pay in the said Sum, and issue and settle his Accompt with the said Undertakers, at or before the First Day of *August* next. And *Groton* shall not be liable to Contribute any

thing further toward the Repair or Rebuilding the said Bridge at any time for the future; unless the General Court or Assembly shall Order the same.

"Acts and Laws, of her Majesties Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England" (Boston, 1714), page 129.

The town's exemption from liabilities on account of the bridge, as implied in the last clause, however, did not last long, as in the course of a few years this paragraph was repealed. At the session of the General Court beginning on May 30, 1716, the following enactment was passed:—

An Act relating to the great Bridge in *Billerica*.

WHEREAS the Agents for the Towns of Billerica *and* Chelmsford, *by Direction of the said Towns in their Petition to this Court at their present Session, have shewed forth, that there is a Great Bridge erected over* Concord-River, *in the Township of* Billerica, *and that the said Bridge was built by the Towns of* Billerica, Chelmsford *and* Groton; *and according to a former Settlement made by a Committee appointed for the Settlement of the Charge of the Bridges in the County of* Middlesex. *But the Town of* Groton, *upon Application to this Court in* 1699, *did obtain a Discharge from either building or repairing for the future, without further Order from this Court. And further it was alledged in the said Petition, that the said Bridge is fallen into such Decay, that it is no Ways profitable to Repair, or safe to Improve any longer as it now is, but that the same must of Necessity be new-built; and that it is apprehended the Charge will be so great that the Burthen will be too heavy for* Billerica *and* Chelmsford *to bear, for the Reasons therein given, which, more properly ought to come under Consideration of the Justices of the Court of General Session of the Peace in the County of* Middlesex:

Be it therefore declared and enacted by the honourable the Lieutenant Governour, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Matters contained in the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex*, at their Quarter Sessions; who are hereby fully authorized and impowred to take such Order about the said Bridge from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, as shall be judged meet

and convenient, and to settle the Charge of the same, upon any, or every the Towns of the said County. And the Paragraph in the Law exempting the Town of *Groton*, from the Charge of the said Bridge, is hereby repealed, and made null and void.

"Acts and Laws, of his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England" (Boston, 1759), page 191.

How long after this time the town was called upon to help support the bridge, I am unable to say, but probably not for many years. The line of travel from Groton gradually worked its way to Boston in a straighter direction, and left the Billerica bridge eight or ten miles to the northward.

WILLIAM NUTTING.

THE following article, taken from "The Advance" (Chicago), October 23, 1884, shows some of the hardships of every-day life during the period just after the Revolution. William Nutting, the writer of the journal, was a son of William and Joan (Boynton) Nutting, and one of ten children; he was born at Groton on July 10, 1752, and died on April 18, 1832. The statement is probably incorrect that he was a minute-man at Lexington. He was a descendant of John Nutting, an original proprietor of the town, who was the common ancestor of the different families in this neighborhood bearing the name.

HOW THEY RAISED THE WIND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

BY REV. J. K. NUTTING.

Shays's Rebellion and its Causes.

We who talk about "the dollar of our daddies" can scarcely conceive with what difficulty the said daddies, or *their* daddies, managed to get a few of the said dollars into their possession.

In Groton, about thirty miles northwest of Boston, lived William N——, a "minute-man" at Lexington, and afterward more or less

in the Revolutionary army, from which he appears to have returned home in 1777, to care for his aged and widowed mother. He was at this time twenty-five years old. His diary, which is before me, records the principal events of every day for a period of more than twenty-five years longer. Besides carrying on a farm of more than two hundred acres, and clearing a smaller one in New Hampshire, he was in demand as a school teacher every winter, and turned rainy days to account by making plows (such plows! I remember some of them, — but the best then known), yokes, "slays," etc., for himself and neighbors. When such jobs gave out, he made shoes for his family and the general market. As recreations, he "exercised" with "ye matross company" (what, pray, could that be?)[1] or showed his prowess in "ye singing meeting," where he played a singular bass-viol, shaped like the longitudinal half of a dash-churn. (He made shoes to pay for it, I believe.) He even composed music, "to be sung in ye congregation," some of which occasionally still appears in modern choir-books. But the great events of his diary are the "journeys," which he usually arranged so as to combine business with pleasure. I give below the account of one of them. A few weeks previous is the following entry: —

Nov. 30, 1786. Capt. Job Shattuck was taken by a party of horsemen from Boston, &c. [really, most of the party were Groton men], sent by authority to apprehend him for opposing ye government &c. — He in attempting to kill Capt. Reed with his sword [?], who was one of ye party, rec'd a bad wound with a cutlass in his knee-joint, but was carried and committed to Boston Gaol, with Oliver Parker & Benj. Page &c. for like offences.

The offences were those committed in the so-called Shays's Rebellion, in which Shattuck was a prominent leader. The movement was caused by the terrible distress consequent upon the depreciation of paper money, and had for its purpose the prevention of the collection of debts by law. Shattuck and the rest were soon set at liberty. The record below will exemplify the financial condition of that period:

Frid. Decr. 1*st* and *Sat.* 2*d.* We made shoes. Stacie has made 4 pr men's shoes and 2 pr women's shoes and I have made 4 pr do. = 10 pr to carry into ye country to sell, &c.

[1] MATROSS. One of the soldiers in a train of artillery, who are next to the gunners, and assist them in loading, firing, and sponging the guns. — *Webster.* It is now obsolete as an English word.

In the meantime the female part of the household were busy knitting stockings. Having agreed with Lieut. Rockwood to teach ye school in that "squadron" (district) for "9 Doll per month and board myself, or 38 shillings & bee boarded," the author of the diary "fixt his slay with a lumber-box &c.," and "got Maj. Swan's horse, and borrowed some baggs &c.," "for a journey to No 4."

Tues. 9th Jany 1787. We sat out on our journey about noon. Drove to Capt. Wyman's in Ashby and put up and stabled our horses @ 2d. 1 mug cyder 4d. lodged @ 1s–2d.

Wed. 10th. We drove to Baker's 7 m before breakfast. Had left a boy with provisions &c. Hired a boy and sent back [with extra horse]. Gave sd boy 10d. * * * * Drove to Mr. Woodward's in Marlboro' 2 m beyond ye meeting house. I put up one of my horses to my hay [brought along!] and the other three were put up to Woodward's hay @ 9d. Lodging 3d.

11th. We drove to Goldsmith's to dinner. 1 mug flip. Drove to Sartell. Drank 1 mug cyder. Went to uncle Holden's to stay all night.

12th. Went to Dusten's for dinner, yn [then] to Weathersfield [Vt.] Staid at Abel's [Abel N——, a brother of the journalist].

13th. [Sales began!] Rec'd 2 bushls wheat for 1 pr. calf-skin pumps. To rec. 4 bu. corn from Abel for 1 pr thick shoes sold to Timo'y Holden. Recd 2¼ bu. wheat of Capt. Burlingam for 1 pr large shoes.

Sund. *14th.* Had no meeting.

15th. Released 3½ bu corn to Timo' Holden and took back pr thick shoes.

16th. Went to Windsor. Sold 1 pr thick shoes, rec'd 1½ bu wheat. Sold 1 pr stockings, rec'd 1½ bu flax-seed. Went to Clermont (Claremont, N. H.). Staid at Dustins. Rec'd 1½ bu wheat for 1 pr shoes.

17th. Went out to ye east of Clermont, sold *nothing!* Went to Weathersfield.

18th. Staid at brother's, mended some shoes sledded some wood, &c. Recd of brother, for shoes, 2 bu rye, 1½ bu peas @ 4 s. per bu, ½ bu flax-seed 2 s. & 1 bu corn 2 s. He paid 1 s. to a blacksmith for mending my slay, ye whole 17 s.

Frid 19th. Went to Dustins.

Sat 20th. Went to Cornish & back.

Sund 21st. To meeting in ye forenoon at Capt. Cook's [no church yet]. Heard Mr. Carpenter, concerning ye work of Electing Love, "Who shall lay anything to ye charge of God's elect &c." Afternoon heard Mr. Pickring at Mr. Higby's, on farewell, be perfect &c.

So the entries proceed. The sale of those ten pairs of shoes and "some stockings" must have involved more than two hundred miles of travel, and more than two weeks' time, with expenses averaging

about two shillings a day for the part of the time not spent with relatives. Except the first three days, it does not appear that any money was used. Provisions and even hay were carried along, and lodging was paid for in rye, wheat, flax-seed or corn — so many *quarts* of either as would satisfy the score. No money was received from the sales, either. A bushel and a half of wheat, or two of rye or corn, was the price of a pair of shoes. The "lumber-box" was the purse — into which went the grain, flaxseed, flax, pork (8 lbs. salt pork in one place, 3 lbs. fresh pork in another), and so on, and out of which came the dribbles of payment for expenses.

The final procedure was to convey the produce to Boston, where, at some price, it was at length turned into money, or once more exchanged for goods. This involved two days more of time, after which the whilom trader was ready to begin teaching, "at nine dollars a month and board myself." But let no one imagine that this immense salary was received in money. At the next town meeting after the school closed, the teacher presented his certificate, showing in what "squadron" and how long he had taught, and was paid "a part" in a town order! This order could be used in paying "rates" (taxes), or sold for what it would fetch!

In such a state of things, is it any wonder that honest but ignorant men determined that the collection of debts — most of them of long standing — should be stopped? Especially since a judgment for debt involved a lodgment in "gaol" for the impoverished debtor!

Yet there was money enough. It is part of the family tradition that on one occasion the author of this curious diary had so much of it that he lavished "a chaise box full of it" for a single cow! The slight defect in the money thus plenty consisted in the fact that it was truly "fiat money," issued by government, and having no value either in itself or as a representative of gold or silver, — simply a promise from a party known to be bankrupt.

Rochester, Mich.

THE FIRST CHURCH AT WEST GROTON.

THE following account of the gathering of a religious society at West Groton, and the dedication of their house of worship, is taken from the "Zion's Herald" (Boston), October 14, 1885: —

The editor of this paper [Reverend Bradford K. Peirce] was invited to preach the sermon at the dedication of a house of worship in West Groton, Mass., last Wednesday [October 7]. This village has been connected with Ayer Junction, and a minister from the Conference has supplied both preaching places. Worship is held in a hall in Ayer, and had a very incommodious room heretofore for its services in West Groton. This year one of our enterprising and devoted young men, Rev. H. G. Buckingham, has been the pastor of the circuit. There is no church edifice in West Groton. The church members, of various orders, are connected with distant bodies. The village is small, and there was little wealth that could be summoned in aid of a new religious enterprise. The neighbors met together and opened a subscription which proved much larger than their anticipations. And now they have a beautiful church, of the Queen Anne style, neatly furnished, seating three hundred when crowded, with a pleasant toned bell, and without debt. No separate church has been organized, but they heartily invite the Methodist ministry and enjoy its forms of service and administration of the ordinances. The ritual of the church was used as the form of dedication. The house was filled on the occasion. The Congregational, Baptist and Episcopal ministry were represented. Rev. Bros. Gould and Ichabod Marcy, with these brethren from sister churches, assisted in the exercises of the occasion. Everybody seemed to feel that the neat little chapel was a great benediction to the village. We trust a blessed revival of religion will show that the divine seal is set upon the enterprise.

DANIEL FARMER AND ELEAZER PRIEST.

THE following petitions, hitherto unprinted, are found among the Archives at the State House, and furnish a few facts relating to the military service of two Groton soldiers. The place mentioned in both papers as "No. 4" is now known as Charlestown, New Hampshire. Fort Shirley was situated within the present limits of Heath, Massachusetts; Fort Dummer within those of Brattleborough, Vermont; and Colonel Hendill's Fort — or more properly Hinsdale's — stood in the present town of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Captain Willard, mentioned in the first paper, was Josiah, a son of Henry Willard, who previously had been an inhabitant of Groton. He was during many years the commander of Fort Dummer, though for a few months in the year 1747, covering the period of this letter, he had been relieved by Lieutenant Dudley Bradstreet, a native of Groton and a son of the Reverend Dudley Bradstreet, a former minister of the town.

Province of the Massachutes Bay. } To His Exellencey William Shirley Esqr Captain Generall and Commander in Cheif in and over His majesties Province of the Massachuttes Bay to the Honble his majesties Council and house of Representatives now Setting at Boston.

The Petition of Daniel Farmer of Groton in the County of midd^{x} Husband man Humbly Shueth that your Poor Petitioner hes ben in the Service of his King and Cuntrey for the Space of four years Past. and was at the Seige of Louisburg and afterwards Inlisted him Self into the Canada Service & hes ben Boath on the Eastern and Western frontiers and in march Last Inlisted him Self as a Volinteir for three years under the Command of Captain Hobbs. and in June last was on a march with him from N° 4 to fort Shirley — and in Said march had a Smart Ingagement with a large Number of ye Indian Enemy and by Reson of Carring Some Wounded men turn^{d} Down to fort Dumer where your Petitioner

was taken Sick and So Continued for Some Days. and as Soone as he was able to travle Set oute for N° 4 where he was Posted and upon his march fell in with Sixteen of Capt Willard's men at Coll Hendills fort. and Between Said Hendills fort and fort Dumer on the forteenth Day of July last were besett by a large Number of the Enemy where I with Eight others were taken Captive where I Recived a wound in my head with a bachit from one of the Enemy. then I was Carred to Crown Point from thence to montreal and then to Quebeck and from thence Brought to Louisburge by a flag of truce and from there I Returned to Boston and So got home on the forteenth of october last.

Now your Poor Petitioner had a good Gun taken from him by the Enemy to ye Value of Eighteen Pounds old tenor and fifteen Pounds old tenor in Paper Bills which he had Newly taken and as your Petitioner was told ware Bills of this Province But whether they were or not he Cannot Say your Petitioner had allso a hachit and Sundry other things taken from him. for which Sufferings — Lose of time — Gun money & other things. your Petitioner humbly Begs your Exellencys & Honours wise Considration and Grant him Such Relif as to you Shall See meet and your Poor Petitioner as in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray.

DANIEL his O mark FARMER

GROTON January ye 2d 1748.

In the House of Repives Jany 18. 1748

Read and Ordered that the Treasurer be directed to pay to Majr Lawrence Six pounds twelve Shillings for the Use of the Petitioner.

Ordered also that the Commissary General be directed to deliver said Lawrence for said Petrs Use a Gun out of the Province Store.

Sent up for concurrence

T HUTCHINSON *Spkr*

In Council; Jan. 18. 1748; Read & Concur'd

J WILLARD *Secry*

Consented to,

W SHIRLEY

[Endorsed]
the Petition of
Daniel Farmar
Jany 4. 1748
18. 10
Enterd

[Massachusetts Archives, LXXIII. 301.]

Daniel Farmer was the son of John, and born at Billerica on October 30, 1705; he was married to Elizabeth Woods, of Groton, on November 2, 1732, at which time he is recorded as of Lunenburg. He had certainly three children, and perhaps others, born at Groton between the years 1733 and 1741. According to "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (VI. 88) for January, 1852, Farmer, who was captured at Fort Dummer, arrived with other prisoners in Boston Harbor, on October 6, 1748, in the schooner "Brittania," Aylmer Gravill, master. This statement appears to be confirmed by the following extract from "The Boston Weekly News-Letter," October 6, 1748:—

This Morning a Scooner arrived here in 18 Days from Louisbourg, —— Garling, Master, who has brought one Serj. Cooper, with above 50 People, Men, Women and Children, that have been taken by the French and Indians at sundry Times, from divers Parts of this and the neighbouring Governments, and carried Captive to Canada, and were lately brought to Louisbourg from Quebec in a French Frigate of 20 Guns [the Zephire], as mention'd in our last. — About 20 other Passengers came also in this Vessel.

Eleazer Priest, mentioned in the next petition, was probably one of the captives brought in the French frigate to Louisburg; but unfortunately he did not live to reach his home. For a reference to Joseph Priest, the father of Eleazer, see No. XVI. (page 25) of this Historical Series.

Province of the Massachusets Bay. — } To his Excelancy william sherly Esqr. to the Honble his majestys Council and house of Representiues now steting in Boston august 2^d 1749

the Petition of William Lawrance of Groton in the County of midd^x In behalf of Joseph Prest of sd Groton Husbandman: humbly shew that Eleazer Prest son to the saied Joseph was in the Saruis of this Prouince at n° 4 in the month of march 1747 & was Sent oute by his officer a littel way from the fourt to Gitt Wood where the Ennemy made an attat upon him and others and Kild one Charls Steuens and tock the sd Eleazer Prisner and Caried him

to Cannada: whare he was Detained In prison untell sum time In august following and then was sent for new england and on his Pasige was tacken sick — and Laft at Luesburg whare he Dyed aboute the midel of September wharefore your Petitinor Prays that there may be a Just and Equetable Considration made to the sd Joseph for his sd sons Eleazers. Loss of time and sufforings whilst In Captiuety as your your [*sic*] Exy: and and [*sic*] honnors shall see meet and your Petitinor as In Duty shall Euer Pray

WILLIAM LAWRENCE
In behalf of Jos Prest

In the House of Represts August 10, 1749.

Read & Ordered that there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury to the Petitionor for the Use of the Said Joseph Priest the Sum of Eight Pounds Eighteen Shillings & a penny in Consideration of the Loss of his Said Sons time & Sufferings above mentioned. The Said Joseph to be accountable to the Judge of Probt for the County of Middlesex in Case any Debts do now or may hereafter appear due from the Said Eleazer.

Sent up for Concurrence

J DWIGHT *Spkr*

In Council Aug. 10. 1749
Read & concur'd J WILLARD *Secry.*

Consented to W. SHIRLEY.

[Endorsed]
Pettn of Willm
Lawrence Esqr in behalf
of Joseph Priest.
Recd Augt 4th 1749
10. read & committed
Enter'd to ye comtte
of John Henery

[Massachusetts Archives, LXXIII. 525.]

THE FARRINGTON FAMILY.

It is stated in the sixth volume (page 49 *note*) of the "Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society" that Amos, a son of Captain Thomas Farrington, formerly of Groton, was the first white child born in Norridgewock, Maine, and furthermore that he was in October, 1775, about fourteen months old. It is given on the authority of Major Return J. Meigs's Journal, which is published in Volume II. (pages 227–247), second series, of the Massachusetts Historical Collections, where the writer, under the date of October 3, 1775, speaks of seeing the baby, but does not mention the name. In regard to this question of local primogeniture, John Wesley Hanson, in his History of Norridgewock (pages 183, 184), says: —

Much discussion has prevailed in the town, on the question, "Who was the first white child born in Norridgewock?" and tradition has mentioned several names. Rev. Obed Wilson declared, at the funeral of Dea. John Clark, that he was the oldest child living, born in Norridgewock, and from that statement people inferred that he was the first. He was born Oct. 15, 1778; John Heald was born Oct. 17, 1775; and James Waugh was born Jan. 10, 1775. Mr. Waugh's tombstone declares him to be the first white child born in Somerset county. Though unquestionably the first child born on Sandy river, there were three children born in Norridgewock before him. Sally Fletcher was born in August, 1774, Susannah Fairbrother in Sept., 1774, and Abel, son of Thomas Farrington, the surveyor, was born in the very earliest part of August, in 1774. He was, beyond all controversy, the first white child born in Somerset county. Not only will this fact be learned from Maj. Meigs's diary, in the sequel, but the family of Sylvanus Sawyer, in which he lived, endorse the declaration. He was nearly six months old, when Col. Waugh was born.

Mr. Hanson, in giving the time of Abel Farrington's birth, evidently takes the statement in Major Meigs's Journal, and then reckons backward in order to get the date, which is an uncertain method of reaching a correct result. Abel's birth

is duly recorded at Groton, although it took place at Norridgewock; and this settles the controversy, so far as it relates to him. The entry in the town-records is as follows: "Abel Farrington, son of Thomas & Betty afore[d] was born at Kennebeck April 13th, 1775." According to the same authority, the mother died three weeks later, on May 5, 1775, also at "Kennebeck," by which is meant Norridgewock, as at that time the town was just settled and hardly had a name. This term was applied at an early period to a large tract of country, known as the Kennebec Purchase, of which the present town of Norridgewock was the northern limit. Possibly it was not Abel at all that was seen by Major Meigs, for the name of the baby is nowhere mentioned in the Journal; and then perhaps the age was given wrong.

Thomas Farrington married for his second wife, on October 6, 1768, Betty Woods, of Groton; and they had four children, namely, Vassall, born at Groton, on July 20, 1769; Putnam, born at Dunstable, on December 3, 1770; Philip, born at Groton, on January 7, 1772; and Abel, born at "Kennebeck," on April 30, 1775. He had been previously married to Joanna ——, whose maiden name I have been unable to learn; and they had five children, born at Groton, of whom the two youngest died in January, 1770. The first wife died on January 24, 1767, leaving an infant two months old. Miss Sarah Loring Bailey, in her "Historical Sketches of Andover" (page 123), says: "Capt. Thomas Farrington, an officer of Andover, in the French and Indian War, removed to Groton, and there became famous." The family left town probably soon after the Revolution, as the name has not been found here since that time. He is undoubtedly the person referred to in No. XIV. (page 19) of this Historical Series, under the head of "An Exception."

BURNING OF JUDGE DANA'S BARN.

THE following notice of the burning of Judge Dana's barn on December 27, 1829, is found in the "Groton Herald," January 2, 1830. It fixes the date of its occurrence, which was left doubtful in the account of the Fires during the year 1829, published in No. IX. (page 24) of this Historical Series. It will be seen that this fire also took place on the last Sunday of the month. Two or three men were strongly suspected at the time of being the incendiaries, but the evidence of guilt was not strong enough to warrant their arrest.

FIRE. A barn owned by Judge DANA, was destroyed by fire on Sunday evening last [December 27]; it contained several tons of hay, and for some time the adjacent buildings were much in danger — but owing to the calm state of the wind and spirited exertions of our firemen, the flames were confined within a small space without damaging the surrounding property.

NOTE.

In No. III. (page 14) of this Historical Series a reference is made to an historical novel entitled "The Insurgents" (2 volumes), published anonymously at Philadelphia in the year 1835. Since the issue of that Number I have learned that the author of the work was Ralph Ingersoll Lockwood, a lawyer of New York, who died many years ago.

GROTON HISTORICAL SERIES.

No. XX.

TWO CHAPTERS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF GROTON.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

GROTON, MASS.

1887.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1887.

HISTORICAL SERIES, No. XX.

TWO CHAPTERS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF GROTON.

[.]

THE town of Groton lies in the northwestern part of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and is bounded on the north by Pepperell and Dunstable; on the east by Tyngsborough and Westford; on the south by Littleton and Ayer; and on the west by Shirley and Townsend. The First Parish meeting-house — or "the tall-spired church" — is situated in

Latitude 42° 36′ 21.4″ north,
Longitude 71° 34′ 4″ west of Greenwich,

according to the latest observations of the United States Coast Survey. It is distant nearly thirty-one miles in a straight line from the State House at Boston, but by the travelled road it is about thirty-four miles. The village of Groton is situated principally on one long street, known as Main Street, a section of the Great Road, which was formerly one of the principal thoroughfares between Eastern Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The Worcester, Nashua, and Rochester Railroad passes through it, and traverses the township at nearly its greatest length, running six miles or more within its limits. It is reached from Boston by trains on the Fitchburg Railroad, connecting with the Worcester, Nashua, and Rochester road at Ayer, three miles distant from the village.

The original grant of the township was made in the spring of 1655, and gave to the proprietors a tract of land eight miles square; though subsequently this was changed by the General Court, so that its shape varied somewhat from the first plan. It comprised all of what is now Groton and Ayer, nearly all of Pepperell and Shirley, large parts of Dunstable and Littleton, and smaller parts of Harvard and Westford, in Massachusetts, and small portions of Hollis and Nashua, in New Hampshire. The present shape of the town is very irregular, and all the original boundary lines have been changed except where they touch Townsend and Tyngsborough.

The earliest reference to the town on any map is found in the Reverend William Hubbard's "Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England," a work published at Boston in the spring of 1677, and in London during the same year under a different title. The map was the first one cut in New England, and of course done in a crude manner. The towns assaulted by the Indians in Philip's War are indicated by figures; and at that time these places were attracting some attention, both here and in the mother country.

There were two petitions for the plantation of Groton, of which one was headed by Mr. Deane Winthrop, and the other by Lieutenant William Martin. The first one is not known to be in existence, but a contemporaneous copy of the second is in the possession of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society. The signatures vary in the style of handwriting, but they do not appear to be autographs, and may have been written by the same person. The answer to the petition is given on the third page of the paper, and signed by Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony, which fact renders it probable that this is the petition actually presented to the General Court as the original one, after it had been copied by a skilful penman. It was found many years ago among the papers of Captain Samuel Shepley,[1] by Charles Woolley,[1] then of Groton, but who subsequently lived at Waltham; and by him given to the New-England Historic, Genea-

[1] Captain Samuel Shepley died at Groton, on February 4, 1853, and Charles Woolley, at Waltham, on October 30, 1886.

logical Society. The petition is written on the first page of a folio sheet, and the answer by the General Court appears on the third page of the paper. Near the top of the sheet are the marks of stitches, indicating that another paper at one time had been fastened to it. Perhaps the petition headed by Deane Winthrop was attached when the Secretary wrote the action of the General Court, beginning, "In Ans^r to both theise peticons." The grant of the plantation was made by the Court of Assistants on May 25, 1655 — as appears by this document — though subject to the consent of the House of Deputies, which was given, in all probability, on the same day. In the absence of other evidence, this may be considered the date of the incorporation, which is not found mentioned elsewhere.

In the early history of the Colony the proceedings of the General Court, as a rule, were not dated day by day, — though there are many exceptions, — but the beginning of the session is always given, and occasionally the days of the month are recorded. These dates in the printed edition of the Records are frequently carried along without authority, sometimes covering a period of several days or even a week; and for this reason it is often impossible to tell the exact date of any particular legislation, when there are no contemporaneous papers bearing on the subject.

The petition is as follows: —

4

To the honored Generall Courte asembled at Boston the humble petion of vs whose names ar here vnder written humbly shoeth

That where as youre petioners by a prouidence of god haue beene brought ouer in to this wildernes and liued longe here in: and being sumthing straightned for that where by subsistance in an ordinarie waie of gods prouidence is to be had, and Considdering the a lowance that god giues to the sunes of men for such an ende: youre petioners request there fore is that you would be pleased to grant vs a place for a plantation vpon the Riuer that runes from Nashaway in to merimake at a place or a boute a place Caled petaupaukett and waubansconcett and youre petioners shall pray for youre happy prosedings

WILLI^AM MARTIN
RICHARD BLOOD
JOHN WITT
WILLI^AM LAKIN
RICHARD HAUEN
TIMOTHY COOPER
JOHN LAKIN
JOHN BLOOD
MATHU FARRINGTON
ROBERT BLOOD

To the honored Generall Court assembled at Boston the humble petion of vs vnderwritten as heere vnder written gentlemen Brethren

That wherea vs your petitioners by a providence of God haue bene brought onew in to this Territorie and Citie longe here in: and being hunting straightned for that reste by subsistence in an ordinarie way of gods prouidence it to be had and Considering the a lenance that God giues to the Bees of men for Bees an onde: your petioners request then here it that you would be pleased to grant vs a place for a plantation vpon the River that runes from nashaway in to nonimake at a place or a bouts a place Called petuxpauket and moubanstonnet and your petioners shall pray for your happy prosperings

William martin
Richard Blood
John witt
William Lakin
Richard Hawen
Timothy Cooper
John Lakin
John Blood
Mathew Farrington
Robert Blood

A FAC-SIMILE OF THE PETITION, SOMEWHAT REDUCED.

In Ans^r to both theise peticons The Court Judgeth it meete to graunt the peticone^rs eight miles square in the place desired to make a Comfortable plantacõn wch henceforth shall be Called Groaten forme^rly knowne by the name of Petapawage: that Mr Damforth of Cambridge wth such as he shall Asossiate to him shall and hereby is desired to lay it out wi^th all Convenjent speede that so no Incouragement may be wanting to the Peticone^rs for a speedy procuring of a godly minister amongst them. Provided that none shall enjoy any part or porcõn of that land by guift from the selectmen of that place but such who shall build bowses on theire lotts so given them once w^thin eighteene months from the tjme of the sayd Townes laying out or Townes graunt to such persons; and for the p^rsent Mr Deane Winthrop Mr Jno Tinker Mr Tho: Hinckly Dolor Davis. W^m. Martin Mathew ffarington John Witt and Timothy Couper are Appointed the selectmen for the sayd Towne of Groaten for one two yeares from the tjme it is layd out, to lay out and dispose of particular lotts not exceeding twenty acres to each howse lott, And to Order the prudentiall affaires of the place at the end of which tjme other selectmen shall be chosen and Appointed in theire roomes: the selectmen of Groaton giving Mr Danforth such sattisfaction for his service & paines as they & he shall Agree;

The magist^s haue past this wth reference to the Consent of theire bretheren the depu^ts hereto

25 of May 1655. EDWARD RAWSON, *Secrety*

The Deputies Consent hereto

WILLIAM TORREY *Cleric.*

The entry made by Secretary Rawson in the General Court Records, at the time of the Grant, is substantially the same as his indorsement on Martin's petition, though it distinguishes between some of the names signed to each petition. It is evident that the one headed by Deane Winthrop was also signed by John Tinker and Thomas Hinckley; and probably by Dolor Davis, Richard Smith, and Amos Richardson, as is inferred from a petition, dated May 16, 1656, and given on pages 15 and 16 of this Number. The entry begins as follows:—.

In Ans^r to the peticon of Mr Deane Winthrop Mr Jno Tincker Mr Tho: Hinckly &c & of Lieu Wm Martin Timothy Cooper &c The Court Judgeth it meete to Graunt etc. (IV. 204).

An Answ.r to Your Petitions &c. Court Judges it meete to graunt liberty
to petitioners eight miles square in the place desired to make a comfortable
plantacon wch hereafter shall be called Groaton formerly known by
the name of Petapawage: that m.r Damforth of Cambridge, the gen-
tlemen shall solicite herein, and hereby is desired to lay it out, shall continue
speede that so no discouragement may be wanting to the Petitioners for a
speedy procuring of a godly minister amongst them. Provided that none
shall enjoy any part or portion of that land by guift from the Select-
men of ye place but such who shall build houses on ye lotts so
given them onto within eighteene moneths from ye time of
the said Counsl laying out & doing grant to such persons, and fore-
ye p.rticulars m.r Deane Win.r Geo: m.r Eli: Timber m.r Eze: Hinckly Joloc
Davis. W.m Martin Matthew Harrington John Swift and Timothy Cooper
are appointed ye Selectmen for ye said Counsl of Groaton forever
two yeares from ye time it is laid out, to lay out and dispose of
particular lotts not exceeding twenty acres to each house lott. And
to order ye peuds shall attend of the place at ye end of foure years
ye Selectmen shall be chosen and appointed by ye Generall Court.
the Selectmen of Groaton giving m.r Damforth sure satisfaction
for his seruice & pains as they & he shall agree. / The magistrates
have past their Assent to ye consent of their brethren ye deputy.

Edward Rawson Secretary

25. of moy 1655.

The Deputies Consent hereto
William Torrey Clerk.

A FAC-SIMILE OF THE ANSWER, SOMEWHAT REDUCED.

Charles Gerrish, of Groton, has a contemporaneous copy of this record made by Secretary Rawson, which was perhaps sent originally to the Selectmen of the town. It was found among the papers of the late Honorable John Boynton, at one time town-clerk.

The record of the House of Deputies is also practically the same, though there are a few verbal variations. It begins: —

There beinge a pet. p^r^ferd by Mr Dean Winthrop Mr Tho: Hinckley & divers others for a plantation vpon the riuer that Runs from Nashaway into Merimacke called petapawage & an other from some of the Inhabitants of Concord for a plantation in the same place to both which the Court returned this answer that the Court Thinkes meet to graunt etc. (III. 462).

The following letter from the Honorable J. Hammond Trumbull, whose authority in such matters is unquestioned, gives the meaning and derivation of the Indian name of the town:—

HARTFORD, Dec. 22, 1877.

MY DEAR DR. GREEN, — *Petaupauket* and *Petapawage* are two forms of the same name, the former having the locative postposition (*-et*), meaning "at" or "on" a place; and both are corruptions of one or the other of two Indian names found at several localities in New England. From *which* of the two your Groton name came, I cannot decide without some knowledge of the place itself. I leave you the choice, confident that one *or* the other is the true name.

"*Pootuppog*," used by Eliot for "bay," in Joshua, xv. 2, 5, literally means "spreading" or "*bulging* water," and was employed to designate either a local widening of a river making still water, or an inlet from a river expanding into something like a pond or lake. Hence the name of a part of (old) Saybrook, now Essex, Conn., which was variously written *Pautapaug*, *Poattapoge*, *Potabauge*, and, later, *Pettipaug*, &c., so designated from a spreading cove or inlet from Connecticut River. *Pottapoug* Pond, in Dana, Mass., with an outlet to, or rather an inlet from, Chicopee River, is probably a form of the same name. So is "Port Tobacco," Charles County, Md. (the "*Potopaco*" of John Smith's map), on the Potomac.

But there is another Algonkin name from which *Petaupauk* and some similar forms *may* have come, which denotes a swamp, bog, or quagmire, — literally, a place *into which the foot sinks;* represented by the Chippeway *petobeg*, a bog or soft marsh, and the Abnaki *potepaug*. There is a *Pautipaug* (otherwise, *Pootapaug*, *Fortipaug*, *Patapogue*, &c.) in the town of Sprague, Conn., on or near the Shetucket river, which seems to have this derivation.

If there was in (ancient) Groton a pond or spreading cove, connected with the Nashua, Squannicook, Nisitisset, or other stream, or a pond-like enlargement or "bulge" of a stream, this may, without much doubt, be accepted as the origin of the name. If there is none such. the name probably came from some "watery swamp," like those into which (as the "Wonder-Working Providence" relates) the first explorers of Concord "sunke, into an uncertaine bottome in water, and waded up to their knees."

Yours truly,

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL.

The last suggestion, that the name came from an Algonkin word signifying "swamp" or "bog," appears to be the correct one. There are many bog meadows, of greater or less extent, in different parts of the town. Two of the largest — one situated on the easterly side of the village, and known as Half-Moon Meadow, and the other on the westerly side, and known as Broad Meadow, each containing perhaps a hundred acres of land — are now in a state of successful cultivation. Before they were drained and improved, they would have been best described as swamps or bogs.

It is to be regretted that so many of the Indian words, which have a local significance and smack of the region, should have been crowded out of the list of geographical names in Massachusetts. However much such words may have been twisted and distorted by English pronunciation and misapplication, they furnish now one of the few links that connect the present period with prehistoric times in America. "Nashaway," mentioned in the petition, is the old name of Lancaster, though spelled in different ways. Mr. Trumbull has also given some interesting facts in regard to this Indian word, which I copy from an essay by him in the second volume of the "Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society": —

NASHAUÉ (Chip[pewa], *nássawaii* and *ashawiwi*), "mid-way," or "between," and with *ohke* or *auk* added, the "land between" or "the half-way place," — was the name of several localities. The tract on which Lancaster, in [illegible]ster county (Mass.) was settled, was "between" the branches of the [illegible], and so it was called "*Nashaway*" or "*Nashawake*" (*nashaué-ohke*); and this name was afterwards transferred from the territory to the river itself. There was another *Nashaway* in Connecticut, between Quinebaug and Five-Mile Rivers in Windham county, and here, too, the mutilated name of the *nashaue-ohke* was transferred, as *Ashawog* or *Assawog*, to the Five-Mile River. *Natchaug*, in the same county, the name of the eastern branch of Shetucket river, belonged originally to the tract "between" the eastern and western branches; and the Shetucket itself borrows a name (*nashaue-tuk-ut*) from its place "between" Yantic and Quinebaug rivers (page 33).

The town is indebted for its name to Deane Winthrop, a son of Governor John Winthrop and one of the petitioners for its incorporation. He was born at Groton in the County of Suffolk, England, on March 16, 1622–3; and the love of his native place prompted him to perpetuate its name in New England. He stands at the head of the first list of Selectmen appointed by the General Court, and for a short time was probably a resident of the town. At the age of exactly 81 years he died, on March 16, 1703–4, at Pullen Point, now within the limits of Winthrop, Massachusetts.

The following letter, written by a distinguished representative of the family, will be read with interest: —

BOSTON, 27 February, 1878.

MY DEAR DR. GREEN, — It would give me real pleasure to aid you in establishing the relations of Deane Winthrop to the town of Groton in Massachusetts. But there are only three or four letters of Deane's among the family papers in my possession, and not one of them is dated Groton. Nor can I find in any of the family papers a distinct reference to his residence there.

There are, however, two brief notes of his, both dated "the 16 of December, 1662," which I cannot help thinking may have been written at Groton. One of them is addressed to his brother John, the Governor of Connecticut, who was then in London, on business connected with the Charter of Connecticut. In this note, Deane says as follows: —

"I have some thoughts of removing from the place that I now live in, into your Colony, if I could lit of a convenient place. The place that I now live in is too little for me, my children now growing up."

We know that Deane Winthrop was at the head of the first Board of Selectmen of Groton a few years earlier, and that he went to reside at Pullen Point, now called Winthrop, not many years after.

I am strongly inclined to think with you that this note of December, 1662, was written at Groton.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M. D.

A few years before the incorporation of the town, Emanuel Downing, of Salem, who married Lucy, a sister of Governor John Winthrop, had a very large farm which he called Groton. It was situated in what was afterward South Danvers, but now Peabody, on the old road leading from Lynn to Ipswich, and thus named, says Upham in his "Salem Witchcraft," "in dear remembrance of his wife's ancestral home in 'the old country'" (I. 43). Downing subsequently sold it to his nephews John Winthrop, Jr., and Adam Winthrop, on July 23, 1644, when he speaks of it as "his farme of Groton." The sale is duly recorded in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds (I. 57).

Groton in Connecticut — younger than this town by just half a century, and during the Revolution the scene of the heroic Ledyard's death — was named in the year 1705, during the governorship of Fitz-John Winthrop, out of respect to the Suffolk home of the family.

New Hampshire has a Groton, in Grafton County, which was called Cockermouth when first settled in the year 1766. Subsequently, however, the name was changed by an act of the Legislature, in accordance with the unanimous wish of the inhabitants who approved it, on December 7, 1796. Some of its early settlers were from Hollis, New Hampshire, and others from this town.

Vermont, also, has a Groton, in Caledonia County, which received its charter on October 20, 1789, though it was settled a short time before. A History of the town, written by General A. Harleigh Hill, appeared in Miss Abby Maria Hemenway's "Vermont Historical Gazetteer" (IV. 1145–1168). Taken bodily from this work, a pamphlet edition was also published, with some slight variations but with the same paging. The author says: —

It received the name of Groton through the influence of its earliest settlers, who were born in Groton, Mass. These sterling old patriots who, mid all the stirring activity of those days, forgot not the old birthtown, but hallowed its memory by giving its name to their new settlement and town in the wilderness (page 1145).

New York, too, has a town called Groton, situated in Tompkins County; and Professor M. M. Baldwin, in an historical sketch of the place, published in the year 1868, gives the reason for so naming it. He says:—

At first, the part of Locke thus set off was called Division; but the next year [1818], it was changed to Groton, on the petition of the inhabitants of the town, some of whom had moved from Groton, Mass., and some from Groton, Ct., though a few desired the name of York (page 8).

There is also a Groton in Erie County, Ohio. It is situated in that part of the State known as the Fire Lands, and so called after the Connecticut town. The name was originally Wheatsborough, and its first settlement was made in the year 1809.

The latest place aspiring to the honor of the name is in Brown County, Dakota, which was laid out three or four years ago on land owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Company. I am informed that various New England names were selected by the Company and given to different townships, not for personal or individual reasons, but because they were short and well sounding, and unlike any others in the Territory.

In the middle of the last century — according to the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXIV. 56 *note*, and 60) for January, 1870 — there was a place in Roxbury sometimes called Groton. It was a corruption of Greaton, the name of the man who kept the "Grey Hound" tavern in that neighborhood.

Groton in England is an ancient place; it is the same as the Grotena of Domesday Book, in which there is a record of the population and wealth of the town, in some detail, at the time of William the Conqueror, and also before him, under the Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor. A nearly literal translation of this census-return of the year 1086 is as follows:—

In the time of King Edward [the Abbot of] Saint Edmund held Groton for a manor, there being one carucate and a half of land.

Always [there have been] eight villeins and five bordarii [a rather higher sort of serfs ; cotters]. Always [there has been] one plough in demesne. Always two ploughs belonging to homagers [tenants], and one acre of meadow. Woodland for ten hogs. A mill serviceable in winter. Always one work-horse, six cattle, and sixteen hogs, and thirty sheep. Two free men of half a carucate of land, and they could give away and sell their land. Six bordarii. Always one plough, and one acre of meadow [belonging to these bordarii]. It was then [*i. e.*, under King Edward] worth thirty shillings, and now valued at forty. It is seven furlongs in length and four in breadth. In the same, twelve free men, and they have one carucate ; it is worth twenty shillings. These men could give away and sell their land in the time of the reign of King Edward. [The Abbot of] Saint Edmund has the soc, protection and servitude. Its gelt is seven pence, but others hold there.

This extract is taken from the fac-simile reproduction of the part of Domesday Book relating to Suffolk (page CLVIII), which was published at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, in the year 1863. The text is in Latin, and the words are much abbreviated. The writing is peculiar and hard to decipher. The same entry is found, in printed characters, in the second volume of Domesday Book (page 359. b.), published in the year 1783.

Some idea of the condensed character of the record may be gathered from the following copy of the beginning of the description of Groton, in which the matter within the brackets is what the Norman scrivener omitted: "Grotenā.[m] t.[empore] r.[egis] e.[dvardi] teñ[uit] S.[anctus] e.[dmundus] ꝑ[ro] mañ.[erio]" etc. A carucate was a "plough land," or a farm that could be kept under tillage with one plough. It is variously estimated at from twelve acres to a hundred.

It is curious to note the different ways which the early settlers had of spelling the name ; and the same persons took little or no care to write it uniformly. Among the documents and papers that I have examined in collecting material for a history of the town, I find it spelled in twenty different ways, viz. : Groton, Grotton, Groten, Grotten, Grotin, Groaten, Groatne, Groaton, Groatton, Grooton, Grorton, Grouton,

Groughton, Growton, Growtin, Groyton, Grauton, Grawten, Grawton, and Croaton. From the old spelling of the word, it may be inferred that the pronunciation varied; but at the present time natives of the town and those "to the manner born" pronounce it *Gráw-ton.* This method appears to hold good in England, as the Reverend John W. Wayman, rector of the parent town, writes me, under date of August 13, 1879, that "The local pronunciation is decidedly Gráw-ton. The name of the parish is described in old records as Grotton, or Growton." I learn from trustworthy correspondents in all the American towns of the name, that the common pronunciation of the word in each one of them is *Gráw-ton.*

The following paragraph is taken from the "Groton Mercury" of June, 1851, a monthly newspaper edited by the late George Henry Brown, post-master at that time:—

We have noticed amongst the mass of letters received at our Post Office, the word GROTON spelled in the following different ways: Grotton, Grawton, Graton, Grotown, Groutown, Growtown, Growtan, Growten, Growton, Gratan, Grattan, Grewton, Grothan, Graten, Groten, Grouton.

II.

THE daily life of the founders of Massachusetts would be to us now full of interest, but unfortunately little is known in regard to it. The early settlers were a pious folk, and believed in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures. They worked hard during six days of the week, and kept Sunday with rigid exactness. The clearing of forests and the breaking up of land left little leisure for the use of pen and paper; and letter-writing, as we understand it, was not generally practised. They lived at a time when printing was not common and post-offices were unknown. Their lives were one ceaseless struggle for existence; and there was no time or opportunity to cultivate those graces now considered so essential. Religion was with them a living, ever-present power; and in that channel went out all those energies which

with us find outlet in many different directions. These considerations should modify the opinions commonly held in regard to the Puritan fathers.

The sources of information relating to the early history of Groton are few and scanty. It is only here and there in contemporaneous papers, that we find any allusions to the plantation; and from these we obtain but glimpses of the new settlement. The earliest document connected with the town after its incorporation is a petition now among the Shattuck Manuscripts, in the possession of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society, which contains some interesting facts not elsewhere given. All the signatures to it are in the same handwriting as the body of the document; but those of the committee signing the report on the back of the petition are autographs. The report itself is in the handwriting of Joseph Hills. The document is as follows:—

Bost': 16: 3 m°: 1656

To the Right Wo^rll the Gou^rno^r the wo^rll Deput Go^rno^r and Magistrates with the Worthy Deputies of this Hono^rd Court

The humble Peticon of Certein the intended Inhabitants of Groten,

Humbly Sheweth

That yor Peticon^rs haueing obteined theire Request of a Plantacon from this honored Court, they haue made Entranc therevppon, and do Resolue by the Gracious Assistants of the Lord to proceed in the same (though the greatest Number of Peticon^rs for the Grant haue declyned the work) yet because of the Remoteness of the place, & Considering how heavy and slowe it is like to be Carried an end and with what Charge and difficultie it willbe Attended yor Peticon^rs humble Requests are

1 That they be not nominated or included in the Country taxes vntill the full end of three years from these p,^rnts: (in which time they Account theire expenc will be great to the building a house, procureing and maintaining of a minester &c, with all other nessessary Town Charges: they being but few at present left to Carry on the whole worke) and at the end of the term, shall be redy by gods help to yeald thei^r Rates according to thei^r Number & abillitie & what shall be imposed, vppon them

2 That they may haue libertie to make Choyce of an other then Mr Danford for the Laying out their town bounds because of his desire to be excused by reason of his vrgent ocations otherwise, & that they be not strictly tyed to a square forme in theire Line Laying out

So shall yor Peticonrs be incoridged in this great work, and shall as, duty bindes pray for yor happiness and thankfully Rest

yor humble Servants

DEAN WINTHROPP
DOLOR DAVIS
WILL. MARTIN
JNo. TINKER
RICHARD SMITH
ROBERT BLOOD
JNo. LAKIN
AMOSE RICHENSON

In Ans. to this Peticon wee Conceiue it needfull that the Town of Groton be freed from Rates for three years from the time of their Grant as is desired.

2d That they may Imploy any other known Artist in the room of Mr Danfort as need shall be.

3d That the forme of the Town may A little varie from A due Square According to the discrecon of the Comitte.

21. 3d mo. (56)

DANIEL GOOKIN
JOSEPH HILLS
JOHN WISWALL

The Deputyes approue of the returne of the Comittee in answer to this petitiō & desire the Consent of or honerd magists. hereto

WILLIAM TORREY *Clerke*

Consented to by the magists

EDWARD RAWSON *Secret*

[Indorsed for filing:] Grotens Peticon | Entrd & xs secured pd 8 | 1656

To the Right Wor^ll the Gou^rnor the Wor^ll Deputy Gou^rnor and Magistrates with the Worpp^ll Deputy of the Gou^rnor & Court

The humble Petition of Certain the inhabitants of Groton,

Humbly Showeth

That wch Petition^rs having obtained their Request of a Plantation from this honored Court, they have made Entrance thereupon and do Resolve by the - Gracious Assistance of the Lord to proceed in the same Things the greatest Number of Petition^rs for the Grant, have desired the work yet because of the remotenes of the place considering how heavy and slow it is like to be carried on and with great Charge & difficultie it will be attended, yor Petition^rs humble Requests are

1 That they be not nominated or included in the Country targes untill the full end of three years from the date: (in regard time they account their Disbursement will be great to the building a house procuring and maintaining of a minister &c, with all other necessary Town Charges: they being but few at present left to carry on the whole work) and at the end of the term, shall be ready by Gods help to yeald Ministers according their Number & abilities & regard shall be made therein upon them

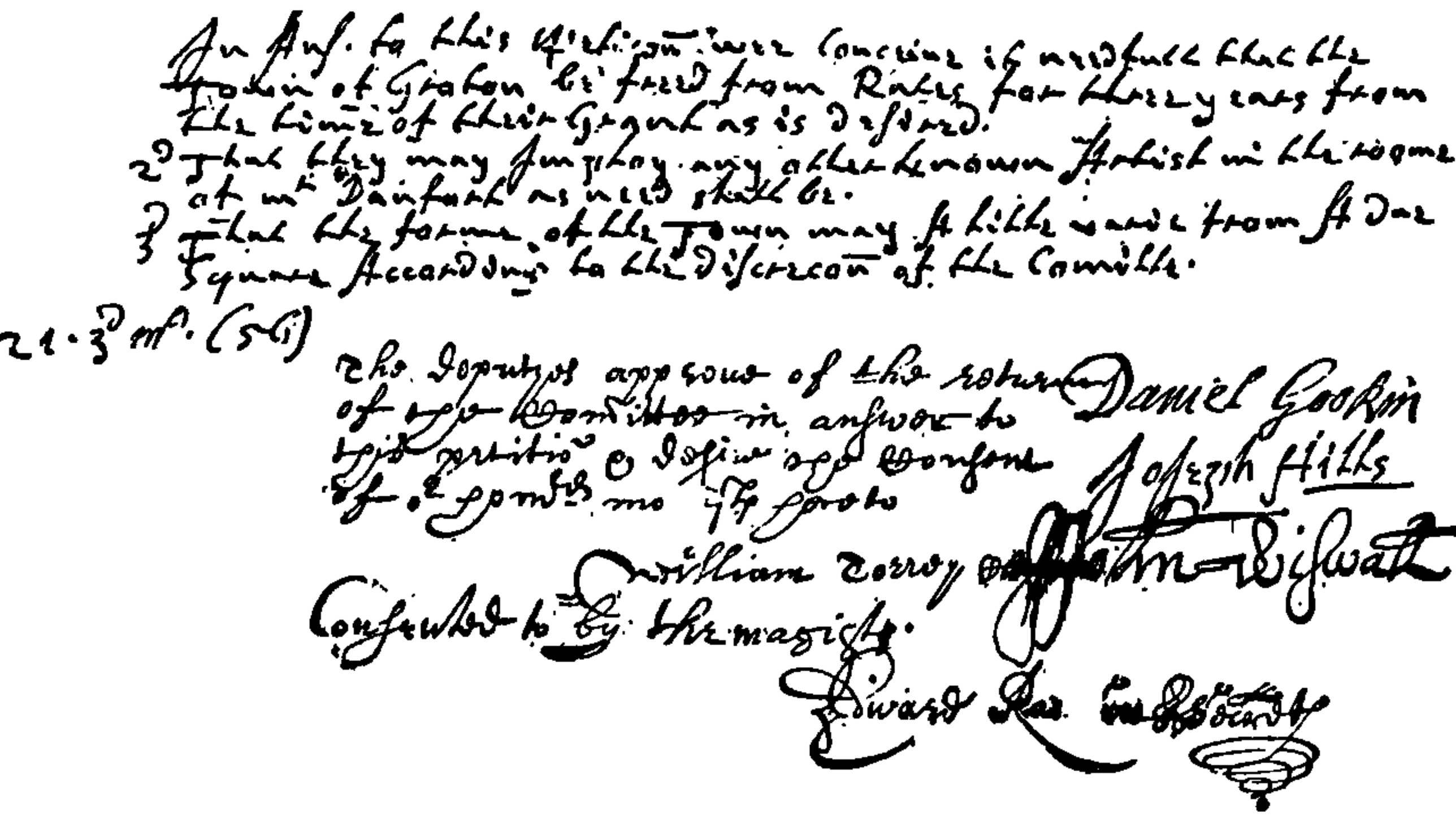
2 That they may have liberties to make choice of an other site for their Town bounds because of his Deputy^ll to be generally approved of this very great overplus otherwise & that they be not strictly tyed to a square forme in their Line laying out

So shall yor Petition^rs be incouraged in this great work, and shall as duty binds pray for yor Prosperings and thankfully Rest

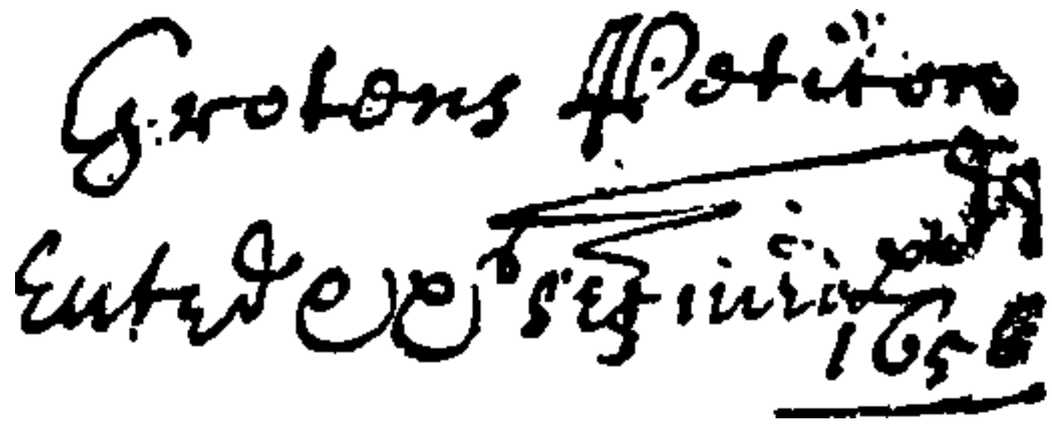
Yo^r humble Servants

Joan Winthrop
Dolor Davis
Will. Martin
Fra: Tinker
Richard Smith
Robert Blood
Fra: Lakin
Amos Richardson

A FAC-SIMILE OF THE PETITION, SOMEWHAT REDUCED.



A FAC-SIMILE OF THE ANSWER, SOMEWHAT REDUCED.



A FAC-SIMILE OF THE INDORSEMENT, FULL SIZE.

The next document, in point of time, connected with the history of Groton is a petition to the General Court from John Tinker, one of the original Selectmen of the town. It is dated October, 1659, and preserved among the Massachusetts Archives (CXII. 120) at the State House. In this petition Tinker makes some indirect charges against his townsmen, of which the real nature can now be learned only by inference. It would appear that they had taken land in an unauthorized manner, and their proceedings in other respects had obstructed the planting of the town; and that he felt aggrieved in consequence of such action. Evidently the new plantation did not prosper during the first few years of its settlement. The petition reads thus: —

Boston To the Hono^rd^ Gen^rll^ Court Assembled at Boston
8 m^o^ The humble Petition of Jno Tinker
1659 Humbly Sheweth that

With vnfained Respect to the good and welfare of Church and Comonwealth yor Petitioner hath indeauored to answer the expectation and desires of this hono^rd^ Court and the whole Countrey In erecting setling and Carying an End the Afaires of Groaton, Granted and intended by this hono^rd^ Court for a plantation, which notwithstanding (all in vaine) it Continueth vnpeopled and soe Like to remaine vnless by this hono^rd^ Court some wise and Juditious Comitte be impowered to order and dispose of all things there about, after which no doubt it will goe on and prosper, which is the humble desire and Request of yor. Petitioner that soe it may be, and that yor Petitioner be admitted and appoynted faithfully to declare vnto and informe the said Comitte, 1 what hath allredy bin done, 2 what are the Grounds and Reasons wherfore it Remaineth at the stay it doeth. being so much desired by so many and such Considerable persons as it is, and 3 what hee Conceuieth needfull to the further Confirming what is done according to Right to every person & Cause, and the setleing such due order as may incoridg the Carying on of all things to a prosperous effect, vnto which yor Petitioner shall redyly adress himselfe, as willing to submitt to the good pleasure of this hon^rd^ Court & such Authorized by them for such due satisfacon for all his Care time cost & paines in and about the said plantation as shall be thought meete and humbly begging the good fauo^r^ of god to Rest vppon you shall ever Remaine to the hono^rd^ Court and Country

Yo^r^ humble Servt JN^o^. TINKER

The comittee haveing prsed this peticcon, do Judge y^t^ it wilbe very convenient that a Comittee of 3: or more meet persons be nominated & impowred to Examine the pticulars therein mencconed. and make returne of w^t^ they find to the Court of Eleccon.

THOMAS DANFORTH
ANTHONY STODDARD
ROGER CLAP

21. (8) 59. The Depu^t^ approué of the ret. of y^e^. Comitee in answ: hereto & haue Nominated Mr Danforth Mr Ephraim Child Capt. Edw: Johnson to be their Committee desireing o^r^ Hono^rd^. magists [consent] hereto

WILLIAM TORREY *Cleric.*

Consented to by ye magists EDW RAWSON *Secrety*

It appears from the writing on it that Tinker's petition was referred to a special committee, who recommended that the whole matter be considered by another committee with larger powers, who should report to the Court of Election. In accordance with this recommendation, Mr. Thomas Danforth, Captain Edward Johnson, and Ephraim Child were appointed such a committee. I have here given their names in the order in which they are mentioned in the General Court Records (IV. 324), and not as they appear in the approval of the committee's return on the petition. The original report, made eighteen months afterward and duly signed by them, is now among the Shattuck Manuscripts of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society. It is dated May 23, 1661 ("23 (3) 1661"), and bears the official action of the House of Deputies and of the Magistrates. Edward Rawson, the Secretary, made his entry on the paper, May 29, 1661. In copying the document I have followed the General Court Records, as this version of the petition contains fewer abbreviations and contractions. The record-book has been paged differently at three separate times; and the paging marked in red ink has been taken in this copy. The "Comittees Returne ab^{t} Groaten & Courts ordr" are as follows: —

Wee whose names are subscribed being Appointed & impowred by the Generall Court in octobe^{r} 1659 for the examination of the proceedings about Groten plantation & the Intanglements that haue obstructed the planting thereof hitherto=hauing taken pajnes to travajle vnto the sajd place & examine the Records of forme^{r} proceedings in that place as also the Capacity of the s^{d} place for the enterteining of a meet noumber of persons that may Carry on the affairs of a Toune, doe App^{r}hend (according to w^{t} Information we haue had) that the place will Affoord a comfortable accomodation for sixty familjes at least that may subsist in a way of husbandry=And for such familyes as be there already planted wch are not aboue four or five acres[1] wee doe not finde theire Interest in

[1] The word "acres" occurs at the end of a line in the manuscript records, and appears to be an interpolation. The sense does not require it, and the original copy in the library of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society does not contain it, though the printed edition of the General Court Records gives it.

such lands as they claime is legall & Just nor yet consistant wth the Courts ends in their graunt of the sajd plantation.

And for the further encouragement of such as haue now a desire &c doe present themselvs as willing to plant themselves in that place,

Wee craue leaue humbly to leaue our poore app^r^hentions wth this Honōred Court as followeth

1 That the old planters & their Assignes whose names are John Tincker Rich: Smith. Wm Martjn. Ri: blood Robt Blood & Jno Lakin that they reteine & keepe as theire propriety, (of such lands as they now clajme an Interest in) each of them only twenty acres of meadow twenty acres for the house lott ten acres Intervale land & ter^l^n acres of other vplands & that the same be sett out by a Comittee so as may not vnequally prejudice such as are or may be their Neighbo^rs^.

2 That the neere lands & meadows, be so diuided as may accomodate at least sixty familjes & for that end That the first diuision of lands be made in manner following vizt such as haue one hundred & fifty pounds estate be allowed equall wth the old planters aboue & that none exceed & that none haue lesse then tenn acres for theire house lott & five acres of meadow two & a halfe acres of Intervale & two & a half of other lands for planting lotts in their first divission & that none be admitted to haue graunts of lotts there but on Condition^s^ following vizt.

1 That they Goe vp. wth theire familjes w^th^in 2 yeares after theire graunts, on penalty of forfeiting theire graunts againe to the Towne & so many tenn shillings as they had acres Graunted them for theire houselotts & that the like Injunction be putt vpon those aboue named as old planters.

2 That all towne charges both Civil & Eccleasiasticall be levyed according to each mans Graunt in this first divition of lands for seuen yeares next Ensuing Excepting only such whose stocks of Catle shall exceed one hundred & fifty pounds estates.

3 That the power of Admission of Inhabitants & Regulating the affaires of the sajd place be referred to a Comittee of meete persons Impowred by this Court thereto, Vntill the plantation be in some good measure (at least) filled wth Inhabitants & be enabled regularly & peaceably to Carry on ye same themselves

4 That this Honoured Court be pleased to graunt them Imunitjes [from] all Comon & Ordinary Country charges not exceeding

a single rate or a Rate & a half p Annū for three yeares next ensuing.

5 That in Graunting of lotts children haue theire due Consideration wth estates theire paren^ts^ giving securitje to defray y^r^ charges of the place as is before p^r^mised.

THO DANFORTH
EDWARD JOHNSON
EPHR. CHILD

The Court Approoves of & doe Confirme the returne of the Comittee & doe hereby further orde^r^ & Impower the aforesajd Comittee for the ends aboue mentioned vntill meete men shall be found amongst such as shall Inhabit there & be approoved of by a County Court

[General Court Records, IV. 371.]

The next document, in point of time, found among the Archives (I. 21) at the State House and relating to Groton, is the following request for a brandmark, which was wanted probably for marking cattle.

The Humble Request of Joseph Parker to the Honoured Governo^r^ the Honourd magistrates & deputyes, Humbly Requests in behalfe of the towne of Grawton that the letter G_R may bee Recorded as the brand mark belonging to the towne I being Chosen Counstible this year make bolde to present this, to the Honoured Court it being but my duty, in the townes behalfe thus Hopeing the Honored Court will grant my request I rest yor Humble Servant

JOSEPH PARKER

BOSTON: 31th: may: 1666

In answer to this motion the Deputies approue of the letters: G_R to be y^e^ brand marke of groaten

WILLIAM TORREY *Cleric.*

o^r^ Hono^rd^ magists consentinge hereto
Consented by the magists

EDW: RAWSON *Secrety*

Joseph Parker, before coming to Groton, had lived at Chelmsford, where his children were born. He was without doubt a brother of James, another of the early settlers of Groton.

During this period the town was paying some attention to the question of marks for trees as well as for cattle. At a general meeting held on March 5, 1665–66, it was voted that "there should be trees marked for shade for cattell in all common hy wayes:" and furthermore that "the marke should be a great T." From various expressions found in the early town records, it would seem that the country in the neighborhood was not densely wooded when the settlement was first made. At a meeting of the Selectmen held in the winter of 1669, an order was passed for the preservation of trees, but the writing is so torn that it is impossible to copy it. At another meeting held on January 13, 1673–74, it was voted that all trees of more than six inches in diameter at the butt, excepting walnut and pine, growing by the wayside, should be reserved for public works, and that the penalty for cutting them down, without authority, should be ten shillings a tree.

At a general town meeting on December 21, 1674, leave was granted to William Longley, Jr., to cut down three or four trees standing in the road near his farm and shading his corn, on condition that he give to the town the same number of trees for mending the highways.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

No. IV. page 15: sixth and seventh lines from the bottom, *dele* "Mr. Garrison."

No. V. " 15: eighth and ninth lines from the top, *read* "the business conducted by Mr. Gates, though he left ten or a dozen years ago, and afterward by Boynton and Brown."

No. VII. " 5: fifteenth line from the top, *dele* "like his father."

" " 6: Mr. Gerrish's block was moved away in July, 1885; the main part of it is now a tenement house on Hollis Street.

" ' 17: eighth line from the bottom, for "Alpheias" *read* "Alpheus."

' 18: The post-office was made a postal order office on Monday, August 16, 1886.

No. VIII. ' 5: Moses Child was an inn-holder at Groton in the year 1776, and probably kept the Richardson tavern. See an advertisement in "The Boston Gazette, and Country Journal" (Watertown), August 26, 1776.

" " 7: fifteenth line from the top, for "Boston" *read* "Winslow, Maine."

No. XII. " 18: Danforth's survey of Willard's farm, drawn on parchment, is now in the possession of Mrs. Charles C. Bennett, a daughter of the late Silas Nutting, of Ayer. It is not the one referred to in "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (page 13).

No. XIII. " 8: seventh line from the bottom, for "9: yeares" *read* "91. yeares."

" " 46: fifteenth line from the top, for "Porcine" *read* "Parcime."

No. XIV. " 27: sixth line from the bottom, *insert* "Elm Street" before "Pleasant Street."

No. XV. " 18: after Sodom, for "northeast" *read* "northwest."

No. XVII. " 6: among Mr. Lawrence's law students, *insert* the names of Caleb Butler and Asa Farnsworth Lawrence.

" " 7: twelfth line from the top, for "Groton" *read* "Westford."

No. XIX. " 22: second line from the top, for "Amos" *read* "Abel."