

AN  
HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
HAYDENVILLE AND WILLIAMSBURG

ESTABLISHED IN  
MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY  
IN  
NEW ENGLAND

From the earliest times to 1861

WRITTEN BY RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT

Prepared expressly for the Hampshire Gazette & Northampton Courier

Edited by Henry S. Gere

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Reproduced for the Town of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Historical Society  
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WILLIAMSBURG  
1999

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IN MEMORY

**of**  
**Vivian Williams and Lewis H. Black**  
1908 - 1989                      1906 - 1997

The preparation of this reproduction is dedicated to the memory of my parents, Vivian Williams and Lewis H. Black. They were long devoted to this community. Their love of the land and knowledge of husbandry ran deep. They were both teachers for a time in their lives, professionally and domestically, with a dedication to youth and aged alike. This couple often volunteered and, when called upon, assumed the offices of the town and its institutions, applying generously an ardent energy from within themselves to further the best spirit in fellowship and society. They eagerly sought to uncover and preserve the doings and personalities, gone before, which sadly seemed to them to be the prey of dumb Forgetfulness and Time...

R J Black

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PREFACE

We think of the history of Williamsburg as beginning only a few life-times ago, yet when Abraham took his family, his goods and his flocks out of the city of Ur of the Caldeans and wandered up the valley of the Euphrates River, settling finally at Padan Aran, four thousand years ago; the sun was shining over High Ridge Pasture and woodland down onto the Mill River as it then wound between those eternal hills, serene, much as it has shown these last lengthening days this spring.

A thousand years later when David herded and sang to his harp, armed against his enemies and reigned over Israel to the glory of his God; these brooks flowed freely: the Meekins, the Unquomok, the Bradford, the Joe Wright, the Beaver-- fresh and turbulent torrents of spring or languid silver ripples and placid pools of August.

A thousand years later as Christ was born at Bethlehem of Judea, the winter snows drifted over the ledges and through the woods on the hills of Walnut, Whites and Cooper.

A thousand years later still, when the greatest-grand ancestor of perhaps all the Williamses, William the Norman Conqueror tried the inhospitable shores of Britain; deer, bear, lynx, turkey, grouse and beaver were home in the Hatfield Wood.

And here, a thousand years later, we stand privileged to be in this paradise, pouring over the sparse and spare annals of those who have passed away before us and the episodes they played out which has left us our town.

One of these annals such as has survived, as a few dog-eared scrap-books, quoted here and there and on microfilm at Forbes Library, is this collection of writings by area residents. I want to call it, "Gere's History of Williamsburg" as my family always did. The copy of the scrap-book we had at home did not include the "Historical Sketch of Haydenville" nor the whole "Historical Sketch of Williamsburg" as is presented here.

As a complete collection, this appeared in eighteen separate publications. The sketch on Haydenville covered the entire front page of the news-paper on July 17, 1860. The news was published only once a week in those times and the sketch on Williamsburg came out in seventeen successive sequels, starting on December 18, 1860, and running until April 9, 1861. In most issues the text covered most if not all of the front page that week.

*A History of Williamsburg in Massachusetts*, compiled by Phyllis Baker Deming, has come to be known as the "Deming History" although she didn't write it. Henry S. Gere advertised for contributions, collected, edited and published this Historical Sketch of

Haydenville and Williamsburg but I do not believe he wrote much if any of it, more than to give it cohesion. He was, however, very much a Burgy boy.

In 1825 his parents, Edward Gere and Arabella Williams, bought Abel Thayer's farm on Partridge Hill, known since as Gere Hill (though now mis-spelled, "Geer Hill" in records and on the map, such are the mistakes we make) There he and his two brothers were born but soon his father died in 1832, while in office as a Selectman. The young family remained on the farm until 1838 and then moved to the center village, where Arabella's father, Gross Williams, who then owned and operated the Williams House, had built for her and his grandsons a home with a long driveway now named Williams Street and known as Route 9 through Town.

It has been difficult to present this work without editorial comment or foot-note. But for the present the attempt has been to put forward, *verbatim et litteratim*, that as it was made public 140 years ago.

Ralmon Jon Black  
1999

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HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
HAYDENVILLE

One of the pleasantest and most romantic of New England villages is the subject of this sketch — Haydenville. The village is situated on Mill River, in the south-eastern part of the town of Williamsburg, two miles from Williamsburg center and six miles from Northampton. It lies on the extreme western border of the Connecticut valley, and high above it on the west and north tower the first hills of the Green Mountain range. The land comprising its territory was, in common with the entire town of Williamsburg, once a part of the town of Hatfield, and was set off from that town in 1771. Seventy-five years ago it was almost an unbroken wilderness. Manufacturing gradually sprang up, and under able and faithful management has been eminently successful. It has ever been the aim of its principal citizens to build up a community upon the most solid foundations, and hence great attention has ever been given to the moral, religious and intellectual interests of the inhabitants. In these efforts the citizens, generally, have given their hearty co-operation. Few communities of equal population have been so persistently devoted to these great objects. Public and secret haunts of vice have never had more than a temporary existence here, because the people, acting unitedly and mindful of the power of the union, were determined that they should not. Those having charge of the

introduction of strangers were cautious on this point, and, while watchful of their own pecuniary interests, never lost sight of the public good. With this management, enforced during a long series of years with an unfaltering faith in its ultimate success, it is not surprising that we find here a community enjoying an exemption from evil influences as complete as it often falls to the lot of a people to attain.

Some months since, we determined to execute a plan, formed a year or two previous, of giving a sketch of the history, rise and progress of this place. Not knowing what the material for such a sketch was, we contemplated but a brief article, but the mass of facts was found so extensive that, although we have attempted hardly more than their simple statement, our sketch occupies more than twice the space originally contemplated.

In the collection of the material, we have been greatly aided by B.S. Johnson, Esq., of Northampton, whose labors, with the view to make the sketch as complete and accurate, and hence as valuable as possible, have been unweariedly continued for a long time. Although not geographically a resident of Haydenville, Mr. Johnson lives so near it as to be practically one of its citizens, and has ever taken a deep and lively interest in its welfare and prosperity. He was in possession of more facts respecting the place than any other man. He is one of those researchers and retainers of antiquarian lore which are so scarce and of which every town and village is so much in want. To their patient and indefatigable labors the future will owe much.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT AND EARLY SETTLERS.

The first settler within the limits of Haydenville was John Miller, a native of Northampton. The precise time of his settlement here is not known, but it is believed that a clearing was made on the hill west of the village, on the farm of the present John Miller, about the year 1735, at which time a log house was erected there, on or near the site of the house now occupied by his grandson, who bears his name. John Miller was then about 23 years of age. He was the first permanent settler within the present limits of the village, and probably the first settler within the limits of the present town of Williamsburg. He was a great hunter and trapper, and in his hunting excursions he saw and admired the country, which induced him to make the place his home. He trapped many beavers, which were quite plenty in this locality at that time, and gave the name "Beaver Brook" to the stream running through the eastern part of Haydenville. This brook was a famous place for these animals, and the remains of several of their dams were to be seen a few years since and probably can be distinguished at this day. He purchased of several citizens of Hatfield about nine hundred acres of land at one dollar per acre. This land extended south to the Northampton line; north to Skinner's factory, west to South street, and east far enough to embrace nearly all the principal portion of the village. It was all heavily timbered at the time of the purchase, but clearings were made as his time admitted and his wants required. He occupied the log house two or three years, when a house of larger proportions was erected; and in the year 1775 he erected the house in which John Miller now lives. This was one of the first frame houses erected in the town of Williamsburg.

Physically, Mr. Miller was a very powerful man. His pioneer life with his huntsman's habits had rendered him capable of great endurance. The country round about was well adapted to minister to his desires. Game was plenty, and included deer, bears, wolves, catamounts, and wild turkeys, which roamed the forests and held almost undisputed sway. An elderly lady now living in Haydenville clearly remembers the time when, standing in the doorway of John Miller's house, she distinctly heard the howling of numbers of wolves in the immediate vicinity. The smaller tribes of wild game were also abundant, and the streams were literally alive with that gamiest of our fishes, the trout. Many stories are told of his exploits in hunting, of which we give the following specimens.

In the early times—more than a hundred years ago—a Mr. Day of Northampton went out to burn a coal-pit on the flat opposite the upper mill pond. Mr. Miller proposed that they should go deer-hunting, but Mr. Day objected, saying they should get nothing. Mr. Miller, however, determined to go alone, and had not proceeded far before he espied a buck and fired and killed him. On going up to the carcass he saw another buck there, which had become fastened to the one he had already shot, by an entanglement of their horns. This he dispatched also. Taking out their hearts he retraced his steps and in triumph exhibited his trophies to Mr. Day. The latter was greatly astonished and chagrined at Mr. Miller's success, and exclaimed, "The old boy! I am sorry you got either one!"

Mr. Miller usually had from nine to twelve traps set for wild animals. At one time he set several traps about the carcass of a horse near the house now occupied by Eben. Miller, on South street. Several traps were carried away by the animals, and following their trail he found a large catamount perched on a tree, with two of the missing traps attached to its legs, and also another catamount with one of its feet in another of the traps. He shot them both. There was then a bounty of \$7 per head on these animals, and also a bounty on wolves.

Mr. Miller died Sept. 7, 1792, aged 80 years. His wife, Martha, died Nov. 24, 1805, aged 87. Their son, Cyrus, succeeded his father in the occupation of the house and cultivation of the farm, and died June 17, 1825, aged 68. He also was a man of note in his day. His wife, Sarah, survived him many years, and died March 24, 1859, at the great age of 98 years and 4 months. She was the daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Finney, and was born on Cape Cod in 1760. Her father removed his family to Hardwick the same year, and in 1772 removed to Williamsburg. Mr. Finney, it is said, purchased a tract of land in Haydenville, lying east of the church, in exchange for a side-saddle. At this time those who went to the village of Williamsburg from Haydenville made their way through a dense forest, finding the road by means of marked trees. She was married in 1781. She was the mother of twelve children, ten of whom lived to be men and women, and seven of them still survive, the aggregate of whose ages is four hundred and eighty-four years. From early life she was a professor of religion and joined the First Congregational church at Williamsburg, which Rev. Joseph Strong was then the pastor. The names of her seven children are as follows:--Cyrus, John, Widow Betsey Fairfield, and Polly, wife of Quartus Kingsley, who reside in Haydenville; Widow Sarah Graves of Sunderland; Zenas, and Patty, wife of Leonard Fiske, of Scott, Courtland Co., N.Y.

Another of the early settlers of the place was Capt. Samuel Fairfield, a nephew of John Miller, and for several years a member of his family. He was born in Northampton, in a house then standing on the site of the present Edwards church edifice, and established himself in business in Haydenville in the year 1752, at which time he erected a house, which he opened a tavern, on the site of what has of late years been known as the "Hubbard place," near the brick school house. This was a famous place of resort for people in the neighborhood as well as for travelers, and during the Revolution, in which Capt. F. took a lively interest and performed a conspicuous part, it was the center of gathering throngs. This was the first frame house erected in the town of Williamsburg, and for many years was the only tavern on the route between Northampton and Pittsfield. So limited were its accommodations at first, that it was for a long time known as "Fairfield's Shelter." There was a large oak tree standing near the house, under which tables were often set. This tree was full grown when Capt. Fairfield settled in Haydenville. It was blown down in 1853, having previously exhibited evident signs of extreme old age.

In 1777, Capt. Fairfield was chosen captain of a company raised in this section for service in the war, and marched with his men to Ticonderoga and participated in the capture of Burgoyne. This company camped under this venerable oak, and for their dinner one day two saddles of venison were cooked. A company of Indians once camped under this tree, and amused themselves by throwing their tomahawks at its trunk.

Capt. Fairfield was one of the most prominent men in Williamsburg and the surrounding towns. He was moderator of the first town meeting in that town, held May 6, 1771, and presided oftener than any other man at the town meetings held during the fifteen years following. He was for several years one of the Selectmen and Assessors of the town, was the town Treasurer for one or two years, and the town records show that in various other offices of public trust, he was frequently called upon to serve the people. He was a large farmer and one of the wealthiest men in the place. His farm was a portion of the original purchase of nine hundred acres by John Miller. His form was of commanding appearance, and he was capable of great feats of physical endurance. His house was discontinued as a tavern at his death, July 12, 1803. His age was 73 years. Rev. Amos Butler, the first settled minister of Williamsburg, boarded in Capt. Fairfield's family, and probably died there.

Capt. Fairfield was twice married, and had three children by each of his wives. Ira N. Fairfield, his son by his first wife, was born Jan. 8, 1765, and was the first white male child born in Williamsburg. He died Dec. 2, 1850, aged 86, being then the oldest man in the town. He was the father of nine children— six boys and three girls. Their names are as follows:--Joseph M.; went to Illinois about 1820, where he was a prominent man. Esdres F.; lived and died in Haydenville. Royal C.; now lives in Haydenville, where he has ever been prominent as a reliable business man, and has been one of the Selectmen of the town. William E.; went to Illinois in 1833, where he is now an extensive farmer. Anna, wife of Mather Warren of Northampton. The other four children died in early life.

The old homestead, at Capt. Fairfield's death, passed into the possession of his son, Samuel, Jr., who retained it until 1822, when it passed into the control of Elisha Hubbard, Esq., who bequeathed it to his nephew, Erotus W. Hubbard, and he sold it to Major Cyrus Miller, who now retains the ownership.

#### MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

The erection of the first mill for manufacturing purposes, in Haydenville, was commenced in 1809, by Daniel and David Hayden, (uncles of Joel and Josiah Hayden,) Seth Thompson, and Meletier Everett of Foxboro. This mill was of wood, two stories high, and 32 feet square. The proprietors put in 128 spindles, and commenced manufacturing cotton yarn. The building stood on the site of the present brass works. The mill was run from 1812 to 1818. At the time the mill was opened, cotton yarn was selling No. 16 at \$1 a pound, varying 4 cents a number. The present price is 25 cents for No. 16. During the war with Great

Britain, the business was very flourishing, but on the conclusion of peace it gradually failed and the mill was in consequence closed, and remained in that condition from about 1818 to 1822, when Joel Hayden and James Congdon purchased the property, rebuilt the dam, made a new canal, repaired the building, and commenced the manufacture of power looms for weaving broadcloth. They continued that business until 1828. The style of the firm was Congdon & Hayden. In 1825, Guy Trumbull was admitted as a partner, and the name of the firm was changed to Congdon, Hayden & Co. Mr. Trumbull died in 1828. Mr. Congdon withdrew in 1827, and was succeeded by Josiah Hayden, Jr., the style of the firm being Hayden, Trumbull & Co. At the time Mr. Trumbull was admitted to the business, the mill was enlarged to twice its original size, and various kinds of machinery were manufactured. In 1831 Joel and Josiah Hayden commenced manufacturing Japanned buttons, tin buttons, button molds, and metal shanked lasting buttons, having previously manufactured door locks and harness trimmings. Early on Sunday morning, Nov. 4, 1832, the mill was entirely consumed by fire. It was insured for \$2500.

In the spring of 1833, the work of rebuilding was commenced. The building then erected is now the main portion of the present brick factory. It was 64 by 32 feet, three stories high. Two wings, two stories high, were added several years ago, which make the present length of the building 104 feet. On opening the new factory the Messrs. Hayden separated their business, both continuing. The manufacture of machinery was wholly given up at this time, and the button business was continued. Joel Hayden now commenced experimenting with pruned or lasting buttons by machinery—the same buttons as those now manufactured and called flexible shanked lasting buttons. The first of these buttons manufactured in this country were made at this factory at this time.

The flexible buttons took the place of the sewed buttons then manufactured by Samuel Williston of Easthampton, and Messrs. Hayden and Williston made an arrangement by which the manufacture of buttons was carried on by them together. They employed about 200 hands, mostly females. This arrangement was continued until 1848, when Mr. Williston purchased Mr. Hayden's interest and removed the business to Easthampton.

In August, 1846, Joel Hayden and A.D. Sanders commenced erecting a stone dam near the old saw-mill dam, about a third of a mile below the dam at the button factory; and in 1847 erected the present cotton factory. This mill is one of the finest in this section. It is four stories high, 132 feet long, 46 wide, and contains 4000 spindles. It turns out from eighteen to twenty thousand yards of sheeting a week. From 75 to 80 hands are employed. Stephen M. Crosby, Esq., (son-in-law of Joel Hayden,) is the active superintendent of the mill. Messrs. Hayden and Sanders retained the proprietorship until 1857, when an act of incorporation was obtained, under the name of the Hayden Manufacturing Company. Joel Hayden, Jr. took a portion of the stock, and the three persons here named now hold the entire stock. The goods sent from this mill have always ranked of the best quality in market.

In 1858, the saw-mill erected by Messrs. Hayden & Sanders was converted into a factory for the manufacture of glazed sewing thread. This business is also carried on by the Hayden Manufacturing Company. Britton Richardson is the superintendent of this department. The thread here made is a decidedly superior article and has always been highly estimated in the markets.

In January, 1851, Hayden & Sanders commenced the manufacture of plumber's goods on a small scale, occupying the button factory, which until this time had been unoccupied since the removal of the button business. This business, under judicious management, has greatly increased, and there are now employed in the establishment about 100 hands, all of whom are males. The firm consists of Messrs. Hayden and Sanders, Sereno Kingsley and Edward W. Gere, its name being Hayden, Sanders & Co. They have a warehouse in New York, where the bulk of their goods are sent, and orders received, at the head of which is Mr. Gere. Connected with the warehouse in New York is an establishment for the manufacture and repair of the same kind of goods, where about 30 hands are employed. The growth of this business has been very rapid, and now this establishment is the largest and most extensive of its kind in the country. Its goods are beyond the reach of competition, and find their market in all sections of the United States as well as in Cuba and Canada.

The principal proprietors are men of large experience and well trained business faculties. Mr. Hayden has worked his way up from a boy in the cotton mill and an apprentice in a machine shop, to a position of wealth and influence. He served with Lemuel Pomeroy, gunsmith, in Pittsfield, from 1816 to 1821. He then worked as a journeyman machinist at Middletown, CT., and in 1822 commenced business for himself in Haydenville, with a cash capital of \$1500. He has ever been foremost in works of public improvement in the village and town; has served three years as Selectman of the town; was chosen in 1843 and 1844, at sharply contested elections, to represent the town in the Legislature; served two terms (six years) as a County Commissioner; has been a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College; a Bank Director, a Railroad Director, and often the candidate of his party (then in a minority) for Congress and the State Senate, and invariably received more votes than his associates. In all the positions in which he has been placed, he

has discharged his duties in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to the public. He has numerous friends and wherever known is highly respected.

Mr. Sanders, a native of Whately, was for several years a clerk in the drug store of J.P. Williston, in Northampton. He went to Haydenville in January, 1838, and on the opening of the store of J. & J. Hayden in November of that year, he took charge of their mercantile business. In the meantime he was employed as a clerk by Joel Hayden. He remained as principal manager of the mercantile business, several years, when he was transferred to the head of the financial department of the button works, and in 1846 joined Mr. Hayden in the manufacturing. In 1858, he was chosen to the Legislature from the 2d Representative District, but resigned that position at the close of the regular session, on account of pressing business engagements. He is accounted one of the most prudent and successful financial managers in Hampshire county.

In 1833, on the erection of the brick factory, Josiah Hayden commenced business alone, manufacturing Japanned buttons and button molds, using a part of this factory, and employing from 8 to 12 hands. This branch of business he continued until 1849. In 1839, he commenced manufacturing steel pens, with Andrew Adams of Middletown, Ct., as foreman. Mr. Adams remained with him about three years and then removed to Waterbury, Ct. His place as foreman was held by a Mr. Burke about two years, and in 1845 Mr. Hayden sold his interest in the business to Williston and Wm. E. Thayer of Williamsburg, who transferred the manufacture to that place. In the autumn of 1845, Rollin L. Dawson of Syracuse, N.Y., commenced with Mr. Hayden the manufacture of gold pens, and continued the business until March, 1848. In 1844, Mr. Hayden commenced the manufacture of horn buttons, erecting for this business the building now known as the "Pen Factory." Mr. Hayden visited England in 1843 for the purpose of acquiring information respecting this business, and engaged there the services of a number of men having experience in this branch, among whom were A.P. Critchlow and John Tonnicliff, now of Leeds, and Joseph B. Whitehouse of Florence. This business, although promising much at first, did not prove so successful as was anticipated. It was continued until 1849, at which time Mr. Hayden removed to South Boston, where he manufactured buttons and various hardwood goods. He afterwards was in the iron and lumber business at Clinton, N.Y., about a year and a half, and in 1852 returned to Haydenville. Soon afterwards he commenced the manufacture of hardware at Columbus, Ohio, and in 1858 returned again to Haydenville. In 1859 he re-commenced business at Columbus, where he now resides. Mr. Hayden has ever been an active, industrious business man. As a local Methodist preacher he has been somewhat prominent, and for a long time was a leading and influential man in that denomination.

Joel and Josiah Hayden are names that have been and will long be familiar to the people of Haydenville. From its earliest prosperity they have been closely identified with its interests and have given to it much of its present wealth and good fame. As they sprang from among the laboring class, they have ever been in sympathy with those in their employ, and hence there has always existed among the residents of the village—employers and employees, farmers and laborers in all departments—the utmost cordiality of feeling. The interests of one class have ever been the interests of the whole.

Dawson, Warren & Hyde have been engaged in the manufacture of gold pens, gold and silver pen and pencil cases, pen holders, &tc., &tc., since 1848, succeeding Josiah Hayden. Recently they have added to their business the manufacture of fine jewelry, and now employ about sixty hands. Mr. Dawson died Aug. 24, 1847, but in accordance with a provision of his will, the name of the firm remains unchanged. One of the partners, Mr. Warren, resides in New York, where the company have a warehouse. Their business has greatly increased, and under their judicious management has proved very lucrative. Mr. Hyde was formerly for many years a clerk for Josiah Hayden, and Mr. Warren, (a native of Townsend, Mass.,) was an apprentice clerk in the store of J. & J. Hayden.

In 1832, Joseph J. Lewis and J.J. Goodell built a small factory where Skinner's silk factory now stands, and commenced the manufacture of bits and bit stocks. Goodell remained about two years, after which Mr. Lewis manufactured brittania spoons, harness trimmings, and faucets, and in 1842 removed to Sing Sing, N.Y. Simeon P. Graves and Charles Hayden succeeded Mr. Lewis, and manufactured hoes, and they were succeeded in 1845 by Col. Reed, who manufactured tacks. Mr. Josiah Hayden was also interested in the business. In 1851, Samuel S. Wells enlarged the factory building and commenced the manufacture of portmennaie frames, and remained there in that business two years, when he removed the business to South Boston. In March, 1854, Wm. Skinner of Northampton, purchased the property and commenced the manufacture of sewing silks and twists, and in 1857 erected a new factory, three stories high, 80 feet long and 30 feet wide. His business has steadily increased. When he commenced he employed 15 or 16 hands; now he employs from 40 to 50, and uses from 200 to 300 lbs. of raw silk per week. His silks are noted for their excellence, and have always found a ready demand in market. Mr. Skinner is one of those go-ahead men who yield to no difficulty, knowing no such word as fail. Under his management quite a little village has sprung up about his factory, and the place is now known as Skinnerville.

In April, 1846, Wm. I. Johnson commenced manufacturing machinery, in the old foundry building; and in November of that year, formed a copartnership with Charles B. Johnson, under the name of W.I. Johnson

& Co. This copartnership was continued until January, 1848, when Mr. C.B. Johnson retired on account of failing health. Mr. W.I. Johnson conducted the business alone for a few months, and then relinquished it to John A. Root, proprietor of the foundry.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

At a town meeting held in Williamsburg, Dec. 3, 1810, it was "voted to set off from the City School District the following persons hereafter named:--James Clark, Ira N. Fairfield, Josiah Hayden, Daniel Hayden, Aaron Hemmenway, Jesse Wilde, Beriah Shepherd, Samuel Wails, Joshua Thayer, Jr., Lt. Joshua Thayer, Daniel Truesdell, Pliny Kingsley, Cyrus Miller, Simeon Guilford, and the widow Parsons, providing they will build their own school house at their own expense and not request any of the money for this year's schooling." These names were probably those of all the legal families then living within the limits of the school district, with the exception of Samuel Fairfield, (son of Capt. Samuel Fairfield,) and Elias Root, who declined to be set off.

The first school house erected in the district was located at the foot of what is now known as school-house hill, at the southern end of the "dug-way," so called. This building was erected in 1811, and the number of scholars was from 30 to 40. Previous to the erection of this school house, the children in the district attended school at Williamsburg village, two miles distant, and the citizens took turns in carrying them to and from the school. There was, however, a school kept in the village previous to the erection of the school house. In 1790, Eunice Mather of Northampton taught a school, occupying a room in Capt. Fairfield's house, and this was the first public school taught in the village.

The growth of the village having been such as to require larger accommodations, in 1839 the brick school-house was erected, on the hill near the old Fairfield tavern-stand. In 1859, the wants of the district requiring yet greater room, there was erected a still larger and more commodious building. The building is west of the meeting-house. The building is 60 by 30 feet, two stories. It was designed for the purposes of a district high school and a public hall. The lower floor is occupied by the school and the upper story by the hall. The school usually numbers from 38 to 40 scholars, and is now kept by Mr. H.A. Pratt, a graduate of Yale College. The hall is capable of seating 300 persons. Its cost, including the land, was \$5,500, of which the district paid \$2,500, and the balance was paid by individuals. The building was erected by Wm. K. Searls of Easthampton, and the plan designed by W.F. Pratt of Northampton. It presents a very fine appearance and is quite an ornament to the village.

#### OLD SAW AND GRIST MILLS.

A grist-mill—the first and only one ever in operation in Haydenville—was erected about 1800, by Lieut. Joshua Thayer, and stood near the old Cornelius Tileston place. Lieut. Thayer was employed by the town to blow the conch-shell for notifying the people of the time for attending church services. Soon after this mill was in operation, a freshet swept away the dam and turned the mill partly over. The current of the river was turned into the highway, and completely took possession of it as far down as the dugway hill; a large hole was made in the road in front of the mill, and the public travel was compelled to pass around it for several years. The hole was finally filled so as to be possible for teams, but it can now be distinguished. The highway along the river at this point, in consequence of its having been frequently washed in times of high water, is several feet lower than the adjacent land. The dam was never rebuilt, and all vestiges of the mill have been swept away.

About 1770, a saw-mill was erected on Beaver Brook, a short distance above Mather Warren's present saw-mill, which was built in 1822. This old mill was burnt by the Indians. The lumber for the meeting-house in Hatfield is said to have come from this mill.

In 1837, Esdres F. Fairfield and Cyrus Miller built a saw-mill nearly opposite the present thread factory. Its water power was lost by the construction of the dam for the cotton factory, and the mill was burnt in 1847.

In 1785, Samuel Fairfield and John Miller built a saw-mill where the pen-shop now stands. This mill stood there until 1825.

#### THE OLD HOUSES

The house now occupied by Dexter Tower was built in 1783, by Ezra Clark, who opened it about that time as a tavern, and continued it as such until his death, about the year 1800. His son, James Clark, kept the tavern until 1813, when he sold to Caleb Johnson and Son, who kept it until 1821, at which time it was closed as a public house. This inn was a noted place of resort, and during the war of 1812 was a great stopping place for soldiers, travelers and party men.



The "Sherwood House," formerly known as the "Hemmenway House," now owned by Eli Sherwood, was erected in 1795, by James Ludden. It was afterwards owned by Nathan Finney, who died there in 1805; then by Abner Williams, who also died there; then by Aaron Hemmenway, who died there in 1828. The homestead, comprising from 50 to 60 acres, and including the land on which the church and school house now stand, then fell to the heirs of Hemmenway, and was divided among them in 1838. This farm was a part of the 900 acres owned by John Miller, senior.

The house now occupied by Royal C. Fairfield, was erected by his father, Ira N. Fairfield, in 1793.

The house of the late Spencer Root, Esq., was built by his father, Elias Root, about 1802.

#### MERCANTILE.

In 1838, Joel and Josiah Hayden erected a store building, and in November opened a general store. For some time previous, goods were sold by them, mainly to the hands employed in their factory, a room in the factory building being used for this purpose. They continued in the trade five years, and did an average yearly business of \$25,000. Hayden, Wells & Co. (Josiah Hayden, Sam'l S. Wells and Dorman T. Warren,) succeeded J. & J. Hayden, from March, 1845, till March, 1848, and did an average business of \$28,000 a year. Wells, Hyde & Co. (S.S. Wells, Ellsworth H. Hyde, D.T. Warren, and Rollin L. Dawson,) succeeded Hayden, Wells & Co. from March, 1848, till March, 1851, their business averaging \$30,000 a year. Hyde, Warren & Co. (E.H. Hyde, D.T. Warren and R.L. Dawson,) succeeded Wells, Hyde & Co. from March, 1851, till March, 1853, and their yearly business averaged \$35,000. Hayden & Kingsley (Josiah Hayden and Capt. Sereno Kingsley,) succeeded Hyde, Warren Co. from March, 1853, till March, 1854, doing an average business of \$30,000 per annum. Josiah Hayden succeeded Hayden & Kingsley, from March, 1854, to May, 1855, doing a yearly business of \$28,000. Shaw & White (James B. Shaw and Stephen D. White,) succeeded Mr. Hayden from May, 1855, till May, 1859, doing an average business of \$20,000 a year. Tileston & Smith (Henry L. Tileston and Warner S. Smith,) succeeded Shaw & White from May, 1859, till May, 1860. W.S. Smith & Co. (O. Conner,) succeeded Tileston & Smith from May, 1, 1860, and now have a thriving trade. The business at this stand, as will be seen by the figures here given, has always been quite extensive; the store early attracted a large patronage from the adjacent towns, and still maintains its honorable position.

Previous to engaging in the mercantile business, Mr. Tileston kept a livery stable one year, closing it in the spring of 1852. In October, 1857, he opened a store in a building near Dea. T.H. Ives' house, and after continuing business there one year, associated with him his recent partner, Mr. Smith.

Morton & Waite (Daniel F. Morton and Charles D. Waite,) keep a variety store. Their store was built in the fall of 1853, by D.G. Littlefield and D.F. Morton, who opened it to the public in April, 1854. The copartnership between Littlefield & Morton was formed Jan. 1, 1853. Mr. Littlefield retired from the business in January, 1855, and Mr. Morton continued it alone until July, 1, 1855, at which time the present copartnership between Messrs. Morton & Waite was formed. In 1850, Shaw & Gardner (Henry Shaw and Wm. W. Gardner,) opened a store in the building now occupied by Graves & Boland, which was built at that time by Mr. Shaw. This was the second store opened in Haydenville. They continued in business there until about January, 1851, when on their failure, the business was for a short time continued by Mr. Gardner. In that year, Mr. Littlefield and two of his brothers purchased the concern, and conducted the business until Jan. 1, 1853. Morton & Waite do a large and prosperous business.

James W. Pittsinger keeps a refreshment saloon and variety store. He commenced in 1849, succeeding George Way, who succeeded Wm. Lewis. Mr. Pittsinger previously worked in the button factory 13 years. He attends to his customers with promptness and a keen appreciation of their wants.

Purrington & Hosford, (Morris P. Purrington and Chester B. Hosford,) opened a grocery and provision store in May, 1860, in the building formerly owned by T.H. Ives and occupied by Tileston & Smith, where they do a flourishing business.

#### PHYSICIANS.

The following have been resident practicing physicians in Haydenville:--Isaac Johnson; studied medicine with Dr. Daniel Collins in Williamsburg, and died of consumption, Sept. 8, 1818, soon after commencing practice.

Washington Shaw; a native of Plainfield, graduated at the Berkshire Medical Institute, and commenced practice in Haydenville in 1841, continuing until his death, August 22, 1854. Dr. Shaw was a man of many sterling qualities. He attained a position of eminence in his profession, and died greatly lamented as a citizen and a physician. He married a daughter of the late Spencer Root, Esq., and she died in about a year after their union.

W.M. Trow; a native of Windsor, Mass.; graduated at Berkshire Medical Institute; studied medicine with his brothers in Buckland and Sunderland, and commenced practice in Haydenville in 1854, soon after the

death of Mr. Shaw. He was in practice at Deerfield before removing to Haydenville. He is still in practice in Haydenville, where he is highly esteemed for his professional ability and personal worth. He has an extensive patronage.

Roswell S. Hillman, Botanic physician; a native of Williamsburg, commenced practice in Haydenville in 1853, where he still continues. Dr. Hillman has attained a highly respectable position as a practitioner, and has a numerous class of patrons, scattered over a wide range of country.

#### THE POST OFFICE.

A Post Office was established in Haydenville, in 1839, and a daily mail to and from Northampton and Williamsburg has been sent and received to the present time. Josiah Hayden was the first postmaster and has been succeeded by Ellsworth H. Hyde, Major Lewis Warner, Stephen W. White, Spencer Root, and Frederick L. Hayden. The number of letters sent from the office in one quarter in 1859 was 3,300. The office has been kept at the store of J. & J. Hayden and their successors, since its establishment.

#### THE HOTEL.

From 1821 to 1844 there was no public house in Haydenville. In the fall of 1844, the present hotel, erected by Spencer Root, was opened to the public, by E.G. Brown, who kept it until the spring of 1855. Hiram Bagg then kept it one year, when Mr. Brown returned and kept the house until the spring of 1857. He was succeeded by Shaw & Belcher, who kept it until Sept. 1858, when Mr. Brown again took charge of it, where he still remains. During most of the time since the opening of this hotel, a livery stable has been kept in connection with it.

#### THE INSTITUTE.

In January, 1860, a Young Men's Institute was organized, as follows:--President —Albert D. Sanders. Vice Presidents —Daniel F. Morton, Chauncey Rice. Secretary —Britton Richardson. Treasurer —Joel Hayden, Jr. Directors —S.M. Crosby, L.K. Baker, M.P. Burly, Calvin Fisher, Wm. O'Brien, Phillip Ryan. The objects of the Institute are the moral and intellectual culture of the members. The members above 16 years of age pay \$2 per annum, those under 16 pay \$1. The present number of members is 50.

#### THE BAND.

The Haydenville Cornet Band was organized in 1857, under the lead of A.V. Shannon. It was composed of 16 members from the first. E.D. Ingraham succeeded Mr. Shannon as leader, and remained in that position two and a half years, being succeeded in 1860 by Thos. Gill, from Worcester. Chester Hosford is assistant leader; Wm. O'Brien, 2d assistant; and James H. Chamberlain, clerk and treasurer. The Band holds regular meetings twice a week, for practice. From the outset, this Band has held a high rank, and was never in a more flourishing condition than at this time.

#### THE CEMETERY.

The land now occupied by the Haydenville Cemetery Association was conveyed to the town of Williamsburg by Joel and Josiah Hayden, May 2, 1853, and transferred to the Association by the Selectmen of Williamsburg, March 22, 1859. A portion of the grounds was graded under the direction of a committee of the town of Williamsburg in 1856. The Haydenville Cemetery Association was formed at a meeting held Nov. 3, 1858. At this meeting the following officers were chosen: Moderator —L.K. Baker. Clerk and Treasurer —Albert D. Sanders. Directors —Joel Hayden, Sereno Kingsley, B.S. Johnson. The present officers, elected March 1, 1860, are as follows: Clerk and Treasurer —Joel Hayden, Jr. Directors —Joel Hayden, Sereno Kingsley, B.S. Johnson. The first person buried in the grounds was Josiah Hayden, the father of Joel and Josiah Hayden, who died July 26, 1847, aged 79. The whole number of interments up to July 10th; 1860, was 101.

#### THE ENGINE COMPANY.

The first and only fire engine company ever organized in Haydenville was formed in 1848. An engine having been purchased at a cost of \$500, (the town paying \$250 and individuals the balance,) a meeting for the organization of a company was held Feb. 22d, at which bye-laws were adopted and the following officers elected:--Foreman, Samuel S. Wells; assistant foreman, J.A. Root; clerk, H.L. Tileston. It was voted to call

the company the "Hope Engine Company." J.B. Hayden was subsequently chosen 2d assistant foreman. The following persons have been successively chosen foremen of the company:--Sam'l S. Wells, Major Lewis Warner, T.H. Ives, Capt. Sereno Kingsley, Ansel Packard, D.G. Littlefield, E.H. Luce, George Hunter, and E.H. Luce. In October, 1852, the company was disbanded and in February following was re-organized. In July, 1858, the company was again dissolved. An effort has recently been made to organize anew.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Graves & Boland (Elam Graves and Thomas Boland,) keep a stove store and tin-shop, and do a large business. They employ 6 hands and keep 10 teams out peddling tin and glass ware. They also keep a blacksmith shop, in which two hands are employed. Mr. Boland commenced the business in Haydenville, in 1850, and Dea. Graves became connected with him in 1857.

Graves & Boland also carry on the foundry business. There has been a foundry in operation in Haydenville since 1824. David Hyde, George W. Holmes, Wm. Lewis, Lyman Litchfield, Josiah Hayden and John A. Root have at different times been the proprietors. Mr. Root commenced in 1839, and used a building on the site of the present pen-shop, which was the business place of his predecessors. In 1844 he erected the buildings now in use, east of the hotel. He did a large business and kept 15 or 16 hands employed. Graves & Boland now employ 10 or 12 hands. Connected with the foundry is a steam engine of six horse power.

Chauncey Rice commenced manufacturing and repairing boots and shoes in Haydenville in 1844, and has continued the business to this time. In 1852 he commenced purchasing ready-made boots and shoes and has since kept a regular boot and shoe store. He employs five hands. His father, the late Luther Rice, was in the business of boot and shoe making and repairing in Brookfield, Williamsburg, Haydenville and Leeds, 60 years.—The first shoemaker in Haydenville was Elijah Carlton. He was succeeded in the business by J. Boyden, who in 1844 was succeeded by Chauncey Rice.

Luther Loomis & Son (Byron W.) keep a livery stable, at Major Miller's barns, near the upper bridge. They keep 12 horses. Mr. Loomis in 1837 kept a single horse to let, having then nothing but a thorough-brace wagon. This was the first team kept for public use in the village. He afterwards added two more horses, keeping them at his barn on the Mountain Street road. In 1847, he opened his livery at his present stand, with six horses. He also kept the livery at the hotel barn three years (1851-2-3) in company with E.M. Fuller. His son became connected with him in the business, April 1, 1858. They have the reputation of keeping one of the best liverys in the county.

Levi Morton, from Hatfield, opened a livery stable in Haydenville in 1843, keeping at one time six horses, and continued there about three years, when he removed to Williamsburg.

Major Lewis Warner, of Mountain Street, commenced peddling meats in Haydenville about 1837. Major Warner sold his business to Dea. Thomas H. Ives in January, 1853, who conducted it until 1857, when he sold out to Nathan C. Wrisley. Mr. Wrisley now supplies the people of the village.

Dr. J.M. Davenport, the first, last and only resident dentist in Haydenville, commenced business there in April, 1855, and still attends to those desiring his aid.

G.F. Miller, teamster, carries freight to and from Northampton, going and coming nearly every day. He has pursued this business since 1851. Albert Cross also carries freight over the same route. These teams do nearly all the freighting business for the village. Two freight teams have been on this route during the past ten years.

Capt. Pliny Kingsley, now of Williamsburg, commenced making and repairing wagons about 1807, and had a shop where the barn on Spencer Root's estate now stands. The business was afterwards conducted by Spencer Root and Stephen Miller. Several hands were at one time employed. The business was closed in 1833.

Miss A.R. Cranston has kept a Millinery shop in Haydenville since April, 1859. She occupies a room in the wing of Morton & Waite's store.

C.C. Hosford keeps a tailor's shop near the upper bridge, in the building formerly used by H.L. Tileston for copper-plate printing.

The following persons have done business in Haydenville as carpenters and joiners:--Beriah Shepherd, Pliny Kingsley, Esdres F. Fairfield, Neuman R. White, Ezra C. White, Dexter Tower, Thomas Conner, Wm. J. Warner, Patrick Trumbull, and Quartus Kingsley—the latter commencing in 1823, and still continuing in the business.

Samuel G. Bagg commenced the Blacksmith business in Haydenville, in 1841, and continued until 1847, when he was succeeded by Walter B. Rose, who continued it until 1853, when he sold the business to Benjamin Upton, and he in 1857 transferred it to Boland & Graves, who have continued it to the present time.

Copper-plate printing was carried on in Haydenville, from 1840, when it was commenced by Allen Beeman; until the spring of 1852. Henry L. Tileston was connected with Mr. Beeman in 1842, one year, and afterwards conducted the business alone. The principal portion of the printing done was for the button works.

J. Reese & Son have a machine shop near Skinner's factory, and employ three hands on miscellaneous work. They commenced in 1858.

#### VARIOUS MATTERS.

It is a notable fact, that there is not a man in business in Haydenville, who has not worked his way up from an apprentice in a factory or shop, a clerk in a store, a boy employed on a farm, or some other humble station. All are practical, self-made men. Hence the secret of their success.

The village was first known by its present name, on the establishment of the post office in 1839.

The school district, comprising the whole of Haydenville, contains 134 houses and a population of 850; thirty years ago there were but 14 houses. The valuation of the district for 1860 is —Real estate \$152,313; personal estate \$106,569 —total \$258,882. Number of polls 218. Number of voters 170. Number of scholars between the ages of five and fifteen years, 126.

The following persons living in Haydenville have represented the town of Williamsburg in the Legislature:--Elisha Tileston, elected in 1837; Joel Hayden, elected in 1843 and 1844; Samuel S. Wells, elected in 1851; Albert D. Sanders, elected in 1859.

The following residents of Haydenville have held the office of Selectman of Williamsburg:--Samuel Fairfield, seven years—1773 to 1777, 1780 and 1783; Spencer Root, 1838, 1839 and 1840; Joel Hayden, 1841, 1842 and 1843; Robert H. Fairchild, 1849 and 1850; Samuel S. Wells, 1851 and 1852; Thomas H. Ives, 1855; Royal C. Fairfield, 1856 and 1857; Daniel F. Morton 1858, 1859, and 1860.

The following residents were Revolutionary soldiers:--Andrew Gates, Lieut. Joshua Thayer, Capt. Sam'l. Fairfield, Simeon Guilford, Cyrus Miller, Jesse Wilde, Caleb Johnson, Cornelius Tileston, Elias Root, John Miller, Nathan Eames, and probably others.

The new road to Leeds was constructed in 1848; the new road running near the church, to Mountain Street, in 1849; and the "dugway" in 1829.

Over Morton & Waite's store is a public hall, 44 by 26 feet, where public gatherings are frequently held.

The present dam at the upper factory was built in 1842. It is of stone, and was built in the most thorough manner and at a heavy cost.

The two oldest persons who have died in Haydenville, were Sarah Miller, aged 98 years and 4 mos., and Nathan Eames, aged 91. The oldest person now living in the place is Mrs. Esther Hayden, the mother of Joel and Josiah Hayden, aged 89, who is also the oldest person now living in the town of Williamsburg.

#### THE POLITICAL HISTORY.

The political history of Haydenville is deserving of a brief notice. The Federalists were predominant, though a number of prominent Democrats resided there. Of the five votes cast in Williamsburg in 1828 for the Jackson electoral ticket, three were cast by residents of Haydenville. The Adams men or National Republicans were a large majority of the place. Anti-masonry never attained a very strong hold there, notwithstanding the town of Williamsburg, under the lead of the late Dr. Daniel Collins, was strongly Anti-Masonic. During the early years of the Whig party, a large majority of the voters were of that party. In 1840, the Liberty party obtained a strong support, and enlisted the active and earnest efforts of the Messrs. Hayden. It is said that Haydenville gave that party and its candidates a larger proportionate vote than any other section of the country. The Free Soil party were in a majority in the village, and on the formation of the Republican party, the sentiment was almost unanimous in its favor, and has so continued until the present time. The truth of history would not be vindicated did we fail to state that the Know Nothing party flourished here with much vigor in 1854.

#### PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

The village has been remarkably free from accidents and disasters of more than temporary interest. In July, 1809, Simeon Parsons committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. He was in comfortable pecuniary circumstances and committed the act while under a temporary depression of spirits. He lived three or four days after its commission, and expressed much regret at the course he had taken.

On the 14th of January, 1837, Amanda, aged 5 years, daughter of Wm. Lewis, while in attendance at school, at the old school house, was burnt to death by her clothes taking fire.

Dec. 14th, 1850, Sarah Ann, daughter of Luther Loomis, aged 10 years, met with a similar accident. She was playing in the upper room of the brick school house, previous to the commencement of the school in the morning, when her clothes took fire, burning her so badly that she lived only eight hours.

The fires which destroyed the old cotton factory, and the barn of Spencer Root (in the winter of 1843) and the barns of Major Cyrus Miller (in April, 1860,) are the principal losses from this element.

#### THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY.

In the winter of 1849, the question of forming a Church and Society in Haydenville was first seriously discussed, and several meetings of the citizens were held to consider the matter. The people of the village had attended religious services at Williamsburg, but the increase in population, consequent upon the increase of the manufacturing interests there, rendered it necessary to provide for public worship in the village. In this movement the citizens of Haydenville entered with almost entire unanimity and with much zeal. The difficulties to surmount were great, as the population was about equally divided between Congregationalists and Methodists. But so urgent was the demand for a house of worship in their village, that all seemed willing to unite for the common good, and with this excellent spirit the experiment of a Union Church was entered upon.

On the 12th of March, 1849, the first step was taken. A petition for the issuing of a warrant calling a meeting of the citizens forming a Society, was presented to Lewis Bodman, Esq., of Williamsburg, a Justice of the Peace. This petition was signed by the following persons:--Joel Hayden, Thomas H. Ives, Quartus Kingsley, Elbridge G. Brown, John P. Wilson, Martin Hathaway, John A. Root, E.F. Fairfield, Albert D. Sanders, Lewis Warner, Samuel S. Wells, Robert H. Fairchild, Josiah Shaw, Lyman Ames, Cyrus Miller, Royal C. Fairchild, Ezra Carpenter, Ansel Packard, William Loomis, I.N. Fairfield, Ezra C. White, Sereno Kingsley, Dr. Washington Shaw, and Spencer Root. A warrant was issued, and the meeting was held March 19, 1849. Lewis Warner was chosen Moderator. It was, after prayer and discussion, voted to form the "Haydenville Church And Society." The following officers of the Society were chosen at this meeting:-- Robert H. Fairchild, Clerk and Treasurer; Dr. Washington Shaw, Joel Hayden, and Thomas H. Ives, Prudential Committee.

The Society having been thus formed, the question of erecting a house of worship was next considered, and measures were taken to procure the necessary pecuniary means. This being accomplished during the ensuing summer, a building committee was appointed, consisting of Joel Hayden, R.H. Fairchild, and Spencer Root. The "Longley place" was purchased for the site of the edifice, and during the fall the foundation work of the house was laid under the direction of Warham Pomeroy of Easthampton. The frame of the building was raised May 13, 1850, and in February, 1851, the edifice was completed. The architect was a Mr. Bond of Boston. Colton & Harris of Springfield contracted to do the work, which was done under the active supervision of Chauncey Shepard of Springfield. The edifice is 48 feet wide by 75 feet long, including a recess for the pulpit, 6 feet deep. The spire is 150 feet in height. The appearance of the edifice, both inside and out, is tasty and ever pleasing to the eye. It was finished in a superior manner, and cost, originally, between ten and twelve thousand dollars, over two-thirds of which was paid by Joel Hayden, Esq. Several other gentlemen contributed, proportionately, with equal liberality. Mr. Hayden also furnished a beautiful church organ. During the year 1858, the inside of the house was repaired and greatly improved, at an expense of \$550.

Previous to the completion of the meeting-house, weekly meetings for the public worship were held in the brick button factory, now known as the brass works factory. The first of these meetings was held on the first Sabbath of November, 1850.

The Church was organized March 4, 1851, and consisted of the following members, 29 in number:--

The Original Members of the Church.—Joel Hayden, Braddock Davol, Silas Warner\*, Albert D. Sanders, Thomas H. Ives, Quartus L. Dickinson, Robert H. Fairchild\*, Washington Shaw\*, Elam Graves, Quartus Kingsley, John Miller, Spencer Root\*, Jonathan Dickinson, Elisha Tileston, Samuel S. Wells, Isabella Hayden\*, Harriet C. Graves, Caroline Fairfield, Jane Sanders, Relief S. Ives, Mary F. Johnson, Emily Fairchild, Patty Graves, Eunice B. Graves, Polly Kingsley, Sarah Miller\*, Sally Root, Lucretia Dickinson, Sabrah Tileston.

\*Since deceased.

The meeting house was dedicated on the evening of March 4th, 1851, by appropriate public services. Rev. R.H. Seeley of Springfield, preached a sermon, from Psalms 84, 10. On the following day, REV. EDWARD SWEET, a graduate of Yale college and a licentiate of Andover Theological Seminary, was ordained as pastor. The ordaining council, which met March, 4, consisted of the following pastors and delegates:--Rev. Samuel Osgood of Springfield; Rev. Dr. Edward Hitchcock, and Rev. W.S. Tyler, delegate, of Amherst College; Rev. A.C. Pierce, and Wm. I. Johnson, delegate, of Holyoke; Asahel S. Abells, delegate, from Edwards Church, Northampton; Rev. R.S. Stone, and Dea. Samuel Williston, delegate, of Easthampton; Rev. David Coggin, and Dea. Zenas S. Clarke, delegate, of Westhampton; Samuel C. Pomeroy, delegate, from Congregational Church, Southampton; Rev. J.H. Temple, and Dea. James Smith, delegate, of Whately, first Church; Rev. J.S. Judd, and John White, delegate, of Whately, second Church; Rev. J.O. Knapp, and Dea. George W. Hubbard, delegate, of Hatfield; Rev. Edward W. Root, and Leonard

Strong, delegate, of Williamsburg; also, Rev. Wm. Butler of the Williamsburg M.E. Church, Rev. Thomas Marcy of Northampton, and Rev. E.S. Potter. Dr. Osgood presided over the deliberations of the Council, and Rev. Mr. Root acted as Scribe. The exercises of the ordination were as follows:--Invocation and reading of Scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Butler. Introductory prayer, by Rev. Mr. Pierce. Sermon, by Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, from Romans 9, verses 1,2 and 3. Ordaining prayer, by Rev. Dr. Osgood. Charge to the Pastor, by Rev. Mr. Stone. Fellowship of the Churches and Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Root. Address to the people, by Rev. Mr. Temple. Concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Potter. Benediction, by the pastor.

Mr. Sweet remained until March 7, 1854, when he was dismissed. The Church and Society were then without a pastor until the 14th of June following, on which day the Rev. E. W. Cook was installed. Mr. Cook went to Haydenville from New York, where he had been employed as a city missionary. He formerly preached at Chicopee Falls and at Haddam, Conn. The Council which met to install Mr. Cook consisted of the following pastors and delegates:--Rev. J.P. Cleaveland, and O.A. Hillman, delegate, of Northampton, first Church; Rev. R.S. Stone, and Wm. N. Clapp, delegate of Easthampton, Payson Church; Rev. C.N. Seymour, and Samuel Lesure, delegate, first Church, Whately; Rev. J.S. Judd, and Dea. David Sanders, delegate, of Whately, 2d Church; Rev. J.O. Knapp, Hatfield; Rev. E.W. Root, and Secostrus Warner, delegate, of Williamsburg; Rev. Simeon Putnam, and Willison Thayer, delegate, of Williamsburg, M.E. Church; also, the following delegates: Rev. Solomon Lyman, 1st Church, Easthampton; Wm. Bates, Worthington; Joel Cook, Westhampton; Jonathan Ring, Chesterfield; Rev. George Thatcher, New York City; and Rev. Mr. Rood, Goshen. The exercises of the installation were as follows:--Invocation and reading of Scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Putnam; Introductory prayer, by Rev. Mr. Lyman; Sermon, by Rev. Mr. Thatcher; Installing prayer, by Rev. Mr. Judd; Charge to the pastor, by Rev. Mr. Knapp; Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Stone; Address to the people, by Rev. Dr. Cleaveland; Concluding prayer, by Rev. Mr. Seymour; Benediction by the Pastor. Mr. Cook was dismissed April 1, 1858, and was in that month settled over the church at Townsend, Mass.

The third and present pastor of the church—Rev. CYRUS BREWSTER—was installed Aug. 18, 1858. The council was composed as follows:--From 1st church, Whately, Rev. C. N. Seymour, and Dea. Reuben H. Belden, delegate. From 1st church, Northampton, Rev. Z. Eddy, Dea. J.P. Williston, del. From Westhampton, Rev. Roswell Foster, Chester Bridgman, del. From Payson church, Easthampton, Rev. A.M. Colton, James Lyman, del. From Goshen, Rev. T.H. Rood, Milton Smith, del. From 1st church, Williamsburg, Rev. F.T. Perkins, Cornelius Tileston, del. From Hatfield, Rev. John M. Green, Wm. Allis, del. From 2d church, Whately, Rev. Charles Lord, Chester Waite, del. From Edwards church, Northampton, J.H. Lyman, del. From Wesleyan Methodist church, Williamsburg, Rev. B. Eastwood. Rev. Mr. Lord was chosen Moderator, and Rev. Mr. Green, Scribe. The installation services were conducted as follows:--Introductory services by Mr. Chester Bridgman, of Westhampton. Sermon by Rev. Z. Eddy of Northampton, from Luke 18:20, 21. Installing prayer, Rev. Charles Lord of Whately. Charge to the Pastor, Rev. C.N. Seymour of Whately. Right Hand of Fellowship, Rev. E.T. Perkins of Williamsburg. Charge to the People, Rev. Roswell Foster of Westhampton. Concluding Prayer, Rev. John M. Greene of Hatfield. Benediction, by the Pastor.

Mr. Brewster went to Haydenville from Derby, Ct., where he preached for several months in that year. He was formerly settled at Orange, Ct. His salary is \$600 with the use of the parsonage.

The Church at its organization adopted the congregational mode of government.

A.D. Sanders and R.H. Fairchild were chosen Deacons, and declined to serve. ELAM GRAVES and THOMAS H. IVES were then chosen, and they still retain the positions then assigned to them.

The number of admissions to the church during Mr. Sweet's ministry was 42. The number admitted during Mr. Cook's ministry was 91. The present number of members is 148; the average yearly increase has been 20.

The Sabbath School numbers about 150 scholars, with an average weekly attendance of about 100. Dr. W.M. Trow and Dea. Elam Graves are the Superintendents.

The first parish Assessors were Messrs. Shaw, Sanders and Ives. The present board consists of Benj. S. Johnson, Stephen M. Crosby, George Marks and Stephen Sprague. D.F. Morton is the Society's clerk and F.W. Moore, the collector. The valuation of the Society is \$205,000.

From the outset, there has been the utmost harmony among the members of the Church and Society, and also between them and their pastor. A constant and healthy increase of members, and a consequent increase of pecuniary resources, has been the result.

Appearing Dec. 18, 1860

Written for the Gazette & Courier

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAMSBURG.

### THE TOWN – SOIL, CLIMATE, PRIMITIVE CONDITION, &c.

The town of Williamsburg is beautifully situated on the eastern slope of the Green Mountains, eight miles west of Northampton. The climate is healthy and salubrious. The country is abounding with streams and waterfalls, hills, and vales, towering peaks and deep ravines, presenting to the eye a picturesque appearance. Formerly, the territory of the town was a portion of Hatfield. The western boundaries were from seven to nine miles from the Connecticut river. As originally laid out, the town was six miles long and three miles wide.

The soil is warm and fertile. The land is excellent for pasturage, meadow, tillage and fruit. The face of the land lies mostly to the south and east. One large stream, called Mill River, rising north and west, in the towns of Goshen, Ashfield and Conway, amongst the spurs of the Green Mountains, with its tributaries, collects a chain of water power more than twelve miles long. On this stream, are situated numerous factories, machine shops and foundries, and the greater portion of the population.

The surface of the township, so charmingly diversified with hill and dale, presents landscape views unequalled. From many of the high hills in the north and west portions of the town, the whole valley of the Connecticut river, with Mount Holyoke and Mount Tom, are taken in at one glance, extending more than seventy miles up and down that noble stream. The church towers of no less than eleven houses of worship may be seen at one view, besides meadows, fields, houses, forests, and villages, which, combined, make up a panorama worthy of the pencil of the most skillful artist. Let a man or woman spend but a brief period of time among the hills of this town, in the warm season, and his or her mind will be stored with abundant diversities of nature in most of her charming forms. So well appreciated have the country retreats which the many old homesteads of the substantial people of this town become, that numbers of the natives of the place, whom business interests have called to localities far distant, yearly return to the scenes of their early life, with their families and acquaintance, to recruit in the bracing air, the unequalled waters, and the unsurpassed scenery of this rural home. To them, wherever they go, there is “no place like home.”

The land originally was heavily timbered with chestnut, hickory, walnut, oak, pine, rock maple, hemlock, beech, cherry and sycamore, interlaced with grape vines and small fruits, including plums, blackberries, raspberries, whortleberries, strawberries, &c.; and now when cultivated, the apple, pear, peach, plum, grapes and berries flourish in much and abundant perfection.

Of wild animals, the forests abounded. The bear, wolf, moose, panther, deer, raccoon, beaver, otter, minx, sable ermine, muskrat, black and red fox, rabbit, hare, elk, woodchuck, black, grey, red, ground and flying squirrels, and lynx and wild cat, were numerous. Brook trout were also plenty in all the streams, and were taken with the greatest ease. Now, the trout are few and small, and the wild animals, excepting the smaller tribes, have entirely disappeared.

Prior to 1759, there were no white settlements within the present town limits, with the exception of one or two families in the southern part of the town. The early settlers of the town were not much disturbed by Indians; as it was previous to this date, that roving bands from Canada and from the glens of the Green Mountains often came into the out settlements along the Connecticut river and massacred the inhabitants in the fields.

The early settlers of Williamsburg, in common with the first settlers in all this region, located on the higher points of land. Thus the population first centered on what are now known as “Meeting House Hill” and “Petticoat Hill.” At one time the district which comprised the people of the latter place was numerically the strongest in the town, and the erection of the meeting house here was seriously contemplated. Both of these localities, which thus were rivals for the central settlement, are now among the most sparsely populated portions of the town. The effects of trade and manufacturing, together with the convenience of the people, have wholly reversed the original tide of settlement. The site of the present central village was formerly a swamp, covered with hemlock trees and alder bushes. This village at its first prosperity and for many years afterward, was called “The City,” which name was used on the town records in designating the school district comprising its territory.

The population of Williamsburg has steadily increased, and the town was never more flourishing than at this time. In 1771 the number of its inhabitants is believed to have been about 600. In 1850 it was 1,534, and in 1855, 1,831. Its present population [1860] is 2,100. Emigration to the West has decreased the population to a considerable extent. A wise man has said, “That for more reasons than he could give, New England was the place to be born and to die.”

## ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

The town was organized in 1771. On the 30th of April of that year, William Williams of Hatfield, one of the colonial officers under the British crown, issued a warrant to John Nash, "a principal inhabitant" of the "precinct of Williamsburg," for a meeting of the freeholders. This warrant was issued by authority of an act of the Legislature, entitled, "An act for the erecting the westerly part of the town of Hatfield, in the county of Hampshire, into a district by the name of Williamsburg." This meeting was warned to be held at the house of "Josiah Dwight, innholder," on Monday, May 6th, at 9 o'clock, A.M., for the choice of town officers.

The meeting was held at the time appointed, and the warrant read. Samuel Fairfield was chosen moderator, when the meeting was adjourned "over to the school house," where the town organization was completed as follows:--

Clerk and Treasurer—John Nash. Constables— Amasa Frost, Thomas Warren. Selectmen and Assessors—Joshua Warner, Josiah Dwight, John Nash. Wardens— Joshua Thayer and Jonathan Warner. Highway Surveyors— Abel Thayer, Abijah Hunt, Mather Warren, Elisha Nash. Tythingmen— Richard Church, Russell Kellogg. Fence Viewers— Jesse Wilde, Joseph Cary. Clerk of the Market— Jonathan Warner. Deer Reeves— Andrew Gates, Downer Warren. Hog-Reeves— Joshua Thayer, Joseph Torry. Field Drivers— Josiah Hayden, Amasa Graves. Surveyor of Clapboards and Shingles— Levi Ludden.

The school house here referred to was situated about twenty rods north of the old meeting house. It was a commodious building, made of hewn logs, and accommodated the people for public worship on Sundays and for the only school in the place during the week.

The second town meeting was held May 13, 1771, and Simeon White was the moderator. Steps were taken at this meeting to establish public religious worship, which will be noticed more at length in an article on the churches of the town, to be given in a few weeks.

## ORIGINS OF THE INHABITANTS

In such a town as Williamsburg, there must be a considerable diversity as to the country from whence the inhabitants came. The town being a precinct of Hatfield, originally derived many of its population from that place. The Pomeroy family, however, came from Northampton; so did Captain Samuel Fairfield. The Hyde family came from the eastern part of Massachusetts. Josiah and Cyrus Hannum came from Belchertown, and were emigrants from Hartford. The Thayers came from Braintree and the Old Plymouth Colony. The Dwights came from Northampton, and the family was originally from Northampton in England. The Nash family came from London, and are said to be originally from Lancaster. Thomas Nash, the original head of the family in America, on Connecticut river, came over with Mr. Davenport, to New Haven, as one of his congregation, in 1637. They had been residing at Leyden, in Holland. The Cleghorn family are of Scotch origin, and came from Martha's Vineyard. Indeed, at one time, just preceding and during the Revolutionary war, there were twenty families in Williamsburg that came from Martha's Vineyard. Thomas Mayhew and his brothers Constad and William, were direct descendants from the first Mayhews, father and son, who came to the Vineyard in 1651, from Southampton, in England. The Coffin families came from Nantucket; so did the Allens and the Butler family. The Bradfords came from Plymouth. The Williamses and Elisha Hubbard came from Hatfield, while Sylvanus and William Hubbard came from Sunderland. The Rodmans first came from Hatfield, but the family originally came from Devonshire, England. The Littles and Joseph Strong's family came from Simsbury, in Connecticut. William Steward, the grandfather of Senator Steward of Michigan, as well as the Bartlett family, came from Martha's Vineyard. The Warner family came from Hatfield. The Washburn family came from the southeastern part of Massachusetts. Hosea Ballou, the Universalist Divine in Boston, married a daughter of Nehemiah Washburn. The Starks family and Johnson family came from Haddam, Ct. The Ludden family, as well as Simeon Strong, came from Reboboth, Mass. The Graves families came from Hatfield. The Cleveland families are said to have come from Northampton. The Hunt families came from Nantucket. The Hill families originally came from Hatfield, but were originally from Hartford. The Clark family came from Northampton. The widow Sarah Clark, whose maiden name was Sarah Hume of Belchertown, married Deacon Elisha Nash, in 1812. There were many other families which originally settled in Williamsburg, whose birth places we have not been able to trace.

John Starks was in the battle of Saratoga, and also on Long Island, and was a soldier, stationed at Great Jones street, in New York, at the time the British came over from Newtown and landed at Kipsey's Bay. John Allen was in the hottest of the fighting at Bunker Hill, and also on Bemis' heights, at Saratoga, when General Frazer was killed. "The information that these two men gave me, when a boy, (says a friend, a native of Williamsburg,) about the incidents of the Revolutionary war, would fill a volume." Starks was in the campaign of 1776, and was sent up among the Rangers, to protect the frontiers along the western line of Lake Champlain to Canada; so was Amasa and Nehemiah Frost, who married the two daughters of Elisha Nash, that settled in Riga. This family of Frosts were from Hatfield.



At an early day, the Reverend William Hallock, the father of Gerard Hallock and William A. Hallock, New York, lived in Williamsburg. This was before William studied for the ministry. The Hallock family came from Brookhaven, Suffolk County, Long Island, and William, senior, married an accomplished lady, a Miss Allen, from Nantucket.

## NOTICES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

### The Graves Families

Among the early settlers of Williamsburg were the Graves brothers, four of them, Samuel, Perez, Elisha and Elnathan,--sons of Capt. Perez and Martha Graves of Hatfield, who had a family of eight sons and one daughter. Samuel, the oldest brother, came to Williamsburg in the year 1780; Elisha in 1781, Perez and Elnathan a year or two later. They all settled within a mile of each other, in the southern part of the town. Perez located quite on the mountain, a little to the south of Unquomok Ridge. The place is now known as the "old Guilford Farm." The others, more wisely, chose their locations at the foot of the mountain. With the exception of one or two small clearings, the whole region was a dense, unbroken forest. This tract of land was purchased by Capt. Graves of Hatfield, for a nominal sum, and about equally apportioned to the four brothers. They commenced their clearings at once; but were delayed in raising their houses, not knowing where the public road might be located. At this time there was no road to the village, except a "bridle path" through the woods across the John Miller farm to Haydenville, which was found by means of marked trees. They soon, however, marked for themselves a more convenient bridle path to the village, commencing near the old Edgerton place, running west across "Miller's Swamp," along by Almond Warner's house, thence close to the base of the mountain, terminating at the village road near the old Williams barn, which was recently burned. This they hoped would become the established highway. But the commissioners during that year laid the course of the road as it now runs. This question being settled, the Graves brothers raised their houses, which were among the first framed houses in Williamsburg. These four brothers were men of great worth and excellence, the "solid" men in the early history of Williamsburg, the promoters and sustainers of every good word and work. They were noticeable for their industry, an earnest simplicity of manner, and, perhaps, for an original quaint manner of expression. But the strong religious element in their characters was the crowning excellence of them all. The town is probably as much indebted to them, as to any of the early settlers, for the varied privileges it now enjoys. Samuel was chosen deacon of the church soon after its formation, in which office he continued till a short time before his death. He was also one of the selectmen for a number of years. He married Nelly Edgerton of Bridgewater. Perez was twice married; his first wife was Eunice Bryant of Chesterfield, his second, Experience Parsons of Westhampton. Elisha was also married twice; his first wife was Abigail Parsons, his second Katy Parsons, both of Northampton. Elnathan married Lydia Pomeroy of Williamsburg. A noble band of christian women,--women who endured hardness,--"Seeking wool and flax, working willingly with their hands." "They laid their hands to the spindle, and their hands held the distaff." "They opened their mouth with wisdom, and in their tongue was the law of kindness." All, except one, have passed away. "Their children rise up and call them blessed." Samuel died in 1822. His children were two sons and two daughters. Joseph and Samuel died out in the West a number of years ago. Martha died at home in early youth. Sally, widow of the late Mr. Hubbard of Sunderland, recently died in Williamsburg, at the residence of her son, Almond Warner. Her first husband was Ebenezer Warner of Mountain street. The old homestead of Deacon Graves has passed into other hands, and the name gone. But it is still occupied by a worthy Deacon, Eben Phillips from Peru, a man of rare piety, full of alms deeds and kindly charities.

In 1791 Elisha sold his place to Perez and moved to Northampton, where he died. He had a family of six children, three sons and three daughters. Josiah, Abigail, Polly and Edward died a number of years ago, the latter being killed in falling from a load of hay. Prudence, wife of John Clarke, died within the last year; all of whom lived and died in Northampton. Elisha, the only surviving child, is living on the place where his father died. Perez in 1791 moved down from the mountain into Elisha's house, where he afterward lived and died. His children were six sons and three daughters. Dexter died in Williamsburg in 1857. Perez died in Chesterfield, Elijah in Southampton, and Eunice, wife of Melzar Warner, in Williamsburg. The surviving children are Israel of Northampton, Eli of Easthampton, Anna, wife of Zenas Wright of Northampton; Susan, wife of Herman Smith of Northampton, and Lyman, living on the old place.

Elnathan died in 1827. He was the father of eight children, two sons and six daughters. Chester died in infancy. Fidelia, wife of Rev. Henry Lord, died in Williamsburg. Lydia, wife of Hon. Joel Hayden of Haydenville, died within the last year. The surviving children are Emily, wife of Hon Samuel Williston, Minerva, widow of the late Elenzer Coleman, Mary Ann, wife of Eli Graves, all of Easthampton; Martha, wife of Rev. E.M. Wright of Williamsburg, and Elnathan, living on the old homestead. The mother of these children is still living. She stands alone, the only survivor of the original members in the united family of the Graves brothers. She lives with her son on the old homestead. The house is gone, and a newer and better

one stands in its place. "Not better to me, (she remarked,) than the old house raised in the woods." To her belongs the origin of the Sewed Button Business in this country. The idea was suggested to her in this way: A button on her husband's coat was worn through; she took it off, examined it, covered it over, and sewed it on to the coat again; asking the question, "Why may not these buttons be made at home instead of being imported?" as all the sewed buttons were at this time. Acting upon this inquiry, she made a few for a sample and carried them to Shepperd & Pomeroy, an old mercantile firm in Northampton, one of the partners being a relative of hers. They were pleased with the suggestion, and pleased with the buttons, saying to her, "Try the experiment, Mrs. Graves, we will assist you." The first material she used for covering was of silk camlet vesting, which made a beautiful button. In about two weeks she had finished seven gross, for which they paid her fourteen dollars; the materials costing not far from fifty cents a gross. These buttons were favorably received in New York and sold there at an advanced price. All the buttons she ever made were disposed of to this one firm. But the great obstacle in the way was the want of molds, there were none to be found, save here and there a string of dingy bone molds, which had always been where they were found no call for them before. At length she applied to Mr. Jewett of Northampton, on Elm Street, a man who could do anything and everything. Nothing doubting, he undertook to supply the need, and turned for her with a foot lathe, twenty gross of hard wood button molds, for which she paid two shillings a gross; a price less than he cared to make them for, and more than she cared to give—hence he turned no more. Persevering she worked on, getting the molds as best she could, employing a few hands, the demand for the buttons constantly increasing, when sickness and change in the family inclined her to give up the business, having tried "the experiment" something more than two years. Mr. Williston, her son-in-law, taking from her the design, carried forward the business with great advantage, importing the materials for covering, turning the molds by water in untold quantities for a cent or two a gross, employing hundreds of hands for many years,—when the Button Machinery was invented. And then, with a click, on went the cover,—click again, and out rolled the "Flexible Shank Button!" And here endeth the sewed button business. We might also state that Mrs. Graves was the inventor of the circular chisel for cutting out the button covers, by which a great saving in the material was achieved. The chisel has ever since been in general use. She is now the oldest member of the Congregational Church, and nearly the oldest person in town. She lives a link to the past,—a specimen of the ladies of olden times.

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## THE EARLY SETTLERS [I]

### Genealogy of the Nash Family.

Thomas Nash of New Haven, Connecticut, came over the seas, with his family, consisting of a wife and children, to Boston, Mass., in the ship Hector, from London, and landed July 26, 1637. The Rev. John Davenport, a Puritan Divine, with his congregation, who occupied the Church at No. 22 Coleman Street, London, previous to their banishment to Leyden, in Holland, came passengers in this and another ship not named, and then emigrated to New Haven and purchased the lands of the Indians, and formed a Colony which is now New Haven, Conn.

Thomas Nash married Margery Baker, a daughter of Nicholas Baker and Mary Hodgetts, his wife, of Hertfordshire, England. Nicholas Baker died November 14, 1632. The Rev. Mr. Davenport had a congregation composed of many of the most wealthy and respectable people in London; but were broken up by Bishop Laud, because the Pastor and church were "nonconformists" to that church, then called the "High Church" in England. The Pastor and many of his Congregation were arrested and imprisoned in London, by orders of Bishop Laud. Mr. Davenport was sentenced to pay a fine of £50 sterling, and to be imprisoned during the King's pleasure; finally, however, he was released on being banished from the Realm. He and his congregation were scattered. Mr. Davenport and the Elders of his Church went to Leyden, in Holland, and joined the congregation there. On the 30th November, 1625, five of his Elders and Congregation addressed a letter to their Brethren at Plymouth, New England, and signed it as "Brothers in the Lord." This letter was signed by Francis Jessop, Thomas Nash, Thomas Blossom, Roger White and Richard Maisterston. The name of Thomas Nash appears in the New Haven Colony.

The Colony of New Haven came from Boston and located at Quinnipaick, (now New Haven,) in 1638. They organized a Government, established a legislative body, and held Sessions which were called "Courts." At a general Court held at New Haven the 2d March, 1641, it was resolved in a difficult case presented to them:

“That the Judicial Law of God given by Moses and expounded in other parts of the Scripture, so far as it is a hedge and a fence to the moral Law, and neither Ceremonial nor Typical, nor had any reference to Canaan, hath an everlasting equity in it, and should be the Rule of our proceedings.”

Thomas Nash made his will August 1st, 1657, and soon after died at New Haven. His wife, Margaret, had died previously, some time in 1655. In his will he gave to his youngest son, Timothy Nash, all his goods, houses and lands, paying certain legacies, “because he had been very helpful to his father in his old age and hath done much more and what no other of my children could or would do,” and appointing Timothy sole executor of his said will, and his Brethren Matthew Gilbert and John Wakeman to be Overseers of his last will.

Mr. Thomas Nash was a gunsmith by trade and appears to have been a man of a high order of intellect, and had charge of the Armory at New Haven, and manufactured and repaired arms for the Colony. His family of children were as follows:

1. Mary, the wife of Roger Allen.
2. John, called Capt. and Major John Nash.
3. Sarah, wife of Robert Tallmadge.
4. Joseph, called Sargeant Joseph Nash of Hartford, Connecticut
5. Timothy, born at Leyden in 1626, and called Lieutenant Timothy Nash, of Hadley, Massachusetts, whither he emigrated in 1663.

John Nash above named, was chosen the Captain of Artillery at New Haven, July, 1644, and again in 1645, 1648, 1652. In the Naragansett War of 1675, he was the Chief Military officer of New Haven County. May 19th, 1683, the colony of Connecticut chose John Nash Sargeant Major of the county of New Haven, many years, and then to the Legislature of Connecticut Colony, which met in Hartford, after the Saybrook and N. Haven colonies were merged in it in 1667.

On the 1st May, 1665, it was resolved by the Town of New Haven, to chose two of their ablest men to attend the Colonial Legislature at Hartford. They chose John Nash and James Bishop. In 1674 he was chosen Recorder of New Haven, in which office he was found on the 3d day of July, 1687. When he died he left a family of five children.

Timothy Nash married Rebekah Stone, daughter of Rev. Samuel Stone of Hartford, Connecticut, in February, 1660. He lived at Hartford, Conn., but in the year 1664, he removed to Hadley, Mass. He represented the town of Hadley in the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1690, 1691, 1695, and died 13th March, 1699, in his 73d year, and possessed a large estate.

The Rev. Samuel Stone, the father of Rebekah Nash, came to Hartford, from Cambridge, with the Rev. Mr. Hooker and his Colony, in 1636, both having come out with a large colony, from Norfolk, England, the previous year, 1635. He with Mr. Hooker planted the Colony, in a wilderness at Hartford. He died July 20th, 1663. His tombstone may be seen at this day, in the rear of the “Central Congregational Church,” on which is inscribed the following memoir:--

“New England’s Glory and her radiant Crown  
Was he, who now on softest bed of down;  
Till glorious Resurrection Morn appears,  
Doth safely, sweetly sleep with Jesus here;  
In nature’s solid Art, and reasoning well,  
‘Tis known beyond compare he did excel,  
Errors, corrupt by sinewous dispute  
He did oppayne, and clearly them confute,  
Above all things, he Christ, his Lord preferred,  
Hartford, thy richest Jewel, is here interred.”

Mr. Stone had a family of five children, viz:--

1. Rebekah, who afterward married Timothy Nash of Hadley
2. Mary, married Joseph Fitch of East Windsor.
3. Sarah, married Thomas Butler of Hartford.
4. Samuel, died unmarried.
5. Elizabeth, married William Wadsworth of Hartford, July 2, 1647.

The Rev. Cotton Mather, in his history of New England called “The Magnolia American Christo,” says: “That Mr. Stone was a Theological Socrates, remarkable for his frequent fastings and quiet Sabbaths, a man of principles both of Loadstone and Flintstone.” His wife, however, was in her last days, a feeble woman, and died in the darkness of melancholy. Her health had been injured by the sea voyage from England, and the hardships of the journey through the wilderness from Cambridge to Hartford.

When Timothy Nash first went to Hadley, Mass., the town had no gunsmith. The Indians surrounded the country about Hadley. The town made Mr. Nash an offer of a large tract of meadow land, valued in those days at £100 sterling, and to be at the expense of removing his household furniture, family and effects from his home at Hartford, to Hadley, if he would become an inhabitant of their town, which offer he accepted.

Hadley, at this time, had been settled four years. It included all the meadow lands, where the present village now stands, and also the towns of Amherst, South Hadley and Granby, including a tract of more than 30,000 acres of land, and which was originally divided into 61 parts. Timothy Nash had the parts assigned to Robert Webster who declined to move from Hartford to Hadley. The family of Timothy Nash consisted of a wife and twelve children. His wife died in Hadley, April, 1703, having survived her husband 10 years. The names of their children are as follows:--

1. Rebekah, born March 12, 1657, died young.
2. Samuel, born Feb. 3, 1659, was killed by a horse.
3. Thomas, born 1661; was the grandfather of John and Elisha Nash of Williamsburg, Mass., settled at Hatfield, Mass.
4. Joseph, both January 7, 1663.
5. Timothy, born 1665.
6. John, born August 21, 1667; settled in Hadley.
7. Samuel 2d, born June 16, 1669.
8. Hope, born Nov. 26, 1670; she married Isaac Warner.
9. Ebenezer, born Nov. 26, 1678, settled at Suffield, Conn.
10. Daniel, born 1676; settled in Great Barrington, Mass.
11. Ephraim, born 1682; settled in Granby, Mass.
12. Mary, born 1684.

Mr. Timothy Nash's house was on the west side of Main street, in the village of Hadley, near the house now or formerly owned by Capt. Elijah Smith.

Thomas Nash, eldest son of Lieut. Timothy Nash, who lived to adult age, was born at Hartford, Conn., in 1661. In August, 1683, he married Hannah Coleman of Hatfield, Mass., who was born Feb. 14, 1667. He removed to Hatfield in 1688, with his family. His house and home lot, were on the hill west of the Hubbards. He died January 18, 1727, at Hatfield. His wife, Hannah, died July 4, 1722. They had a family of five children, viz:--

1. John, born Oct. 28, 1686; he settled in Hatfield.
2. Hannah, born Sept. 2, 1689; married John Arms.
3. Thomas, born Feb. 26, 1692; settled in Hatfield.
4. Rebeka, born April 20, 1699; married William Arms.
5. Sarah, born July 9, 1704.

Thomas Nash, Jr., son of Thomas Nash of Hatfield, Mass., was born Feb. 26, 1692. On the 8th of June, 1727, he married Martha Smith, daughter of Joseph Smith and Canada Waite, his wife; her mother, who was the wife of Benjamin Waite of Hatfield, derived the name of Canada, while her mother was a captive of the Indians.

Thomas Nash lived most of his life in Hatfield, but near its close he removed with his two sons, John and Elisha, to Williamsburg, Mass., where he died on the 12th of March, 1783, in the 81st year of his age. His gravestone is seen in the old burying ground and is the oldest tomb-stone in the town.

The people of Hatfield owned Williamsburg, and in early times attempted to occupy portions of it, but they were compelled to go into their fields for husbandry in parties of not less than five to fifteen or twenty, armed for attack, and until after the capture of Quebec by the English, under General Wolfe, in 1759, none ventured to settle permanently at Williamsburg. After the fall of Quebec, in 1759, the Indians became more peaceable, but still hostile, wandering tribes roamed through the Green Mountains and up and down Connecticut river, and when Williamsburg was first settled the inhabitants came there by day, armed as above stated, continued to work during the day time in clearing and fencing their farms, and at night returned again to their families at Hatfield, a distance of seven miles. This continued for more than six years, before any permanent settlement of a family could be effected in Williamsburg.

Thomas Nash and his two sons and one daughter, first settled in Williamsburg about 1766. They obtained grants of land at Williamsburg. The father, Thomas, resided with John, his son, until his death. A maiden sister, named Martha, resided with Elisha, until her death, which occurred about 1780. The remainder of Thomas' family had all died before he settled in Williamsburg.

Thomas Nash was one of the thirty members who constituted the Church in Williamsburg, July 3d, 1771. The inscription on the oldest monument in the burying ground at Williamsburg, is as follows:--

“Mr. Thomas Nash, died the 12th day of March, 1773, in the 81st year of his age.”

[The compiler of this family history has often heard Deacon Elisha Nash and William Bodman, Esq. say that when they were boys, the fishing on and in Connecticut river, at Hatfield, was, in the spring, immense; that the people would only take the salmon when drawn ashore by the nets, and that the shad were let go back into the river; that the shad were esteemed so poor eating in comparison with salmon, that the people only ate salmon; that when a man took away shad, the boys would laugh at him and say that he had got out of pork and meats, at his house. This abundance of salmon continued until the great dam was built at Montague falls, in the year 1792. A canal, three miles in length, was made to order to pass these falls. An artificial dam was erected at the falls, more than a thousand feet long, resting in the center on two small islands. Over this dam the water descended perpendicularly more than thirty feet, and for more than one half a mile below descended rapidly and foaming in its course. The very first season after this dam was put up, the salmon ran up on the apron, and would attempt to leap the sill on the top. Here they would hold themselves perpendicular, in the water, but the suck was so great that but few fish were able to pass over. The salmon, exhausted, would then fall back, and most of them be killed on the apron; great numbers of fish would then float down into an eddy, on the side of the river, and the inhabitants of the country came and took many cartloads away, of the killed fish. The next season the salmon abandoned the Connecticut river, not showing themselves even at the mouth, at Saybrook, on Long Island Sound. The story had been told to all the fish destined for Connecticut river, before the next spawning season. The dam at South Hadley Falls now stops all fish coming up further than Holyoke.

John Nash, son of Thomas Nash, above named, was born at Hatfield, Mass., on the 23d Oct., 1736. He married Martha Graves of Hatfield, December 27, 1758. He and Elisha went with their father, Thomas, to Williamsburg. He (John) received the first warrant to organize the town of Williamsburg, from William Williams, who was authorized to grant it by virtue of a vote of the "General Court" of Massachusetts Bay, in March, 1771. Mr. Williams was one of the Judges of the Hampshire and Berkshire County Courts, and a Justice of the Quorum.

In 1772, when a valuation of the property holders and their several estates was taken, Mr. John Nash was found to be the largest property holder in Williamsburg. He was a man of very religious turn of mind, and took very great interest in the religious society of Williamsburg, of which he was one of the principal supporters. He obtained the services of the Rev. Timothy Dwight, as preacher, in the infant settlement, who was afterward the President of Yale College. This was the first preaching in Williamsburg, of a Congregational minister. Mr. Nash and his wife, Martha, did much to establish the first school in Williamsburg. He died on the 31st May, 1773, aged 37 years, at Hatfield, while on a visit there. His widow, Martha, died in 1794. After her husband's death, she was employed many years in taking charge of the public school, at Williamsburg.

The family of John Nash and Martha, his wife, consisted of eight children, viz:--

1. Moses, born 17 Nov. 1758; died 1759.
2. Judith, born 23 Nov. 1760; married David Phinney of Hatfield.
3. Moses, born 24 March, 1763; settled in Williamsburg, Mass.
4. John, born Nov. 12, 1764; he also settled in Williamsburg.
5. Samuel, born 29 Oct. 1766; he also settled in Williamsburg.
6. William, born August 5, 1768; he settled at West Boylston, Mass., as a Congregational clergyman, Oct. 11, 1797, and died March 25, 1829.
7. Thomas, born 5 Nov. 1770; settled in Williamsburg, Mass.
8. Elijah, born Jun 12, 1772; settled in Conway, Mass.

Dea. Elisha Nash of Williamsburg, Mass., youngest son of Thomas Nash Jr., of Hatfield, born Oct. 1, 1744, married 13th Aug., 1767, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Moses and Hannah Smith of Amherst, Mass. She was born September, 1743. He went with his brother, John, in the company of the first settlers of Williamsburg. Elisha Nash was elected Deacon of the Congregational church in Williamsburg, June 13, 1785, and accepted, and he and his wife, were among the 30 members of this church. He was Moderator of the meeting to settle the Rev. Henry Lord pastor for life. This meeting was held 2d April, 1804.

Deacon Nash was a man of eminent virtue and respectability. By reference to the Town Records of Williamsburg, it will be seen, that he is found to have been Moderator of the Town meetings, for 18 years. Sometimes he was present and acting as such, as many as five times a year. He was Town Treasurer, Clerk, and Assessor, oftentimes, and frequently one of the committee for Town affairs, and for business with the "Courts" and Legislature of the State. He was held in high estimation for promptness, honesty, foresight and prudence, and was ever a prominent man in the town. He died September 15, 1827. He was married to four wives in succession; but his family of children, which consisted of 10, were all by Elizabeth Smith, his first wife. They were as follows:--

1. Elizabeth, born May 1, 1768, who afterward married Nehemiah Frost.
2. Rebekah, born March, 1768, married Amasa Frost.

[These two daughters and their husbands lived many years at Hinsdale, and with large families moved to Riga, Monroe County, New York, in 1839. They had lost their health by the change of climate. Rebekah was blind for more than twenty years before her death, grievously afflicted with the disease in her eyes called the Swamp Itch, an animalcula in the water that locates itself in the eye and produces blindness—a terrible disease with which great numbers of western people are scourged.]

3. Hannah, born July 14, 1771, married Seth Paine, Sept. 20, 1793.

[She and her husband with their family removed to Brecksville, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1810, and she died there in 1832. Her husband died in the same place in 1811, leaving his wife and family in a wilderness, amidst wars, rumors of wars and Indian massacres, but the country has since changed to lovely homes.]

4. Sally (Sarah,) born 16 Dec. 1772, married Joseph Meekins. This family moved to Ohio in their old age, but first settled in Williamsburg, where they raised a family of 7 children.

5. Martha, born April 9, 1774, married James Bangs, who with his wife moved to Stanstead, Lower Canada, where they had a family of 11 children; then in their old age they moved to Sandusky, Ohio, where Mrs. Bangs died about 1830.

6. Persis, born 17 Nov. 1775; married Reuben Saxton 17th Nov. 1791. They settled at Salisbury, Vermont, where Mrs. Saxton died in 1820.

7. Elisha, born March 24, 1778; married Experience Cleghorn, Nov. 25, 1799. He lived in Williamsburg, where he died 14th May, 1846, in the 69th year of his age. He had a family of 11 children, 9 of whom survived him.

8. Catherine, born 17 May, 1779; married Phineas Hubbard 22d June, 1797. They settled in Stanstead, Lower Canada, 1804. Mrs. Hubbard died at Stanstead in the year 1859, having had a family of 10 children, 8 of whom survived her.

9. Oliver, born October, 1780; married Clarissa May; the family afterward removed to Stanstead, Lower Canada, and continued to reside there for 24 years, and then returned to Williamsburg, where both died.

10. Submit, born 17th April, 1782; died 2d May, 1782.

This family of Elisha Nash were guided by an evil star when they left New England, and such has been the case with most others who have gone into the western world. The first generation met with many misfortunes. The breaking up of families is an unnatural order of things. We recollect the fable of Esop and the bundle of sticks; we also recollect the other secret, what a father told his sons when he died, which was, that in his fields lay vast quantities of gold; if they would plow deep every year they (the sons) would find the gold. They did so, and became rich by cultivating their lands.

Dea. Elisha Nash married for his second wife, Naomi Sheldon of Southampton, Mass., Oct. 8, 1783; she died Oct. 18, 1811. The Deacon afterward intermarried with the widow Sarah Clarke, (whose maiden name was Howe) of Belchertown, Mass., Feb. 22, 1812. She died Jan 19, 1827. He then married for his fourth wife, widow Mary Johnson, May 27, 1827. She died June, 1838.

Elisha Nash, Jr., son of Dea. Elisha Nash, settled in Williamsburg, and had a family by his wife, Experience Cleghorn, of 11 children, viz:--

1. Alanson, born March 1, 1801; a Councillor at Law, now living and practicing in the city of New York.

2. Alvin Smith, born Dec. 23, 1792; was a Dr. of Medicine, and died at Dunkirk, New York, on Lake Erie, Sept. 14, 1827.

3. An infant, born July 10, 1804, died July 12, 1804.

4. Henry, born May 15, 1807; a Councillor at Law, settled in New Britain, Conn.

5. Hiram, born Feb. 13, 1809; settled in Williamsburg, and now represents the Hampshire district as a Senator in the Massachusetts Legislature.

6. Joseph, born January 13, 1812; settled in Nashville, Tenn.

7. Elisha, born July 4, 1813, died Dec. 4, 1814.

8. Caroline, born Nov. 13, 1815, died July 27, 1816.

9. Elisha, 2d, born May 19, 1817; (so named after the early death of No. 7,) now settled in Williamsburg; farmer

10. Emily Caroline, born July 25, 1819; married Lewis Bodman of Williamsburg.

11. Oliver, born Feb. 22, 1821; settled in Williamsburg, on the old homestead.

#### THE NASH HOMESTEAD

John Nash, Senior, bought his farm, which was a tract of land of 250 acres, and built a house on the site of the one now occupied by William A. Nash. This tract of land was located 5 1/2 miles from Connecticut River. It was bounded west by the highway leading from Williamsburg to Conway and Whately, and on Nash Hill; east by the west line of Whately and the east line of Williamsburg; South by a lot of land which was called the "Smith Lot," running originally from Connecticut River 5 1/2 miles to the highway.

Afterward, John and Elisha bought the west end of this Lot and then added it to their farms, and then divided it, John taking the east and north half of it, and Elisha taking the south and west half of it, now called the "Smith Lot," and owned by Hiram and Oliver Nash.

Elisha located on a tract of land now occupied by Oliver Nash; it was about 150 acres on the west side of this highway. His house was in the garden, south two rods from the house where Oliver lives, and called the old homestead. The houses of the two Nashes were first log houses; afterward they built quite elegant mansions for that day—about 1771.

When John and Moses, the two oldest sons of John, senior, came on the stage of life, they divided their father's land and homestead into equal portions. This was about 1787. John took the north half and Moses took the south half of the original farm, making them each a fine farm.

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## THE EARLY SETTLERS [II]

Among the early prominent business men of Williamsburg, the name of Asa White deserves to be mentioned. He was of the fifth generation in descent, from Elder John White, and one of the first settlers of Cambridge in Massachusetts, of Hartford in Conn. and of Hadley in Mass. From his connection with the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his church, at Chelmsford, the county town of Essex county, about thirty miles northeast of London, he is supposed to have originated from that place, and from subsequent events in his history it is inferred he was born about the year 1600, but the first certain knowledge we have of him is as a passenger in the ship Lyon, Capt. Peirce, which sailed from England, about the 22d of June, 1632 and arrived at Boston on Sunday, the 16th of Sept. following; after a voyage of eight weeks. At Cambridge, John White found his first home in this western world. His homelot, with his dwelling house, was on the street then called "Cow Yard Platt," and from undoubted circumstances, it appears, "Gore Hall," the beautiful library building of Harvard University, now graces the land that was allotted him for a cow yard. He was admitted a freeman of Massachusetts, on the 4th of March, 1633. In February, 1635, the town of Cambridge made its first selection of a board of seven men, "to do the whole business of the town." He was one of the number chosen, and these officers were called Townsmen, and Selectmen. In June, 1636, he, with the main body of the company, effected their removal to the Connecticut, at Hartford. In the records of that place, John White appears as one of the original proprietors. The famous charter oak stood on the lot of Governor Wyllys, and its lengthening shadows, as the sun went down, rested on John White's dwelling. At Hartford, he was called into public service and was chosen one of the selectmen of the town. On the 18th of April, 1659, he, with several others from Hartford and Wethersfield, signed an agreement to remove to Hadley. His name, as fifth on the list, indicates that he was one of the leaders in that enterprise. Of his allotments while at Hartford there was one of one hundred and fifty acres of upland at Hockanum, east of the great river. He, with four others was chosen to go and lay out homelots. The town record of Hadley commences with a record of these transactions, and thus its foundations were laid. After the town was legally organized, he was chosen one of the selectmen several years. He also twice served the town as representative, or deputy, as it was then styled, to the General Court. About 1670, he returned to Hartford, and was elected elder of the South Church there, having been recalled for that purpose, and in the winter of 1683/4, he rested from his labors. His will is recorded and on file in the Probate office at Hartford.

Simeon White was born in Windsor, Ct., March 11, 1708. He settled in Hatfield, where he died, Sept. 6, 1779, aged 71. He married Jerusha Smith, who died in Williamsburg, Feb. 14, 1810, aged 99 years and a few months. She retained her physical and mental powers, in a good degree, almost to the close of life. She is believed to have been the oldest person that has died in Williamsburg. They had three children, viz:--

1. Simeon, born 1745, in Hatfield. He settled in Williamsburg, near the line of Whately. He was town clerk in 1773, and held various town offices. About 1812, he went to live with his son, George, in Rutland, Jefferson County, N.Y. and died there Aug. 20, 1820, aged 75. He married, Aug. 2, 1770, Hannah Hubbard of Hatfield, daughter of Elisha Hubbard and Lucy Stearns. They had eight children.
2. Asa, born in 1747.
3. Jerusha, born 1751. She married Arnold Mayhew of Williamsburg, Jan. 6, 1789, and died Dec. 1, 1839, aged 88. They had two children, Constant and Martha. The latter married Hon. Leavitt Thaxter of Edgerton, Martha's Vineyard.

Asa removed to Williamsburg about 1781, and resided there till his death, excepting a few years, from 1812 to 1816. He married, Jan. 20, 1785, Zilpah Hayes of Granby, Ct., a woman of many virtues and rare excellence of character. She died April 2, 1833, aged 72. They had eight children. One died in infancy; another, Clarissa, died at eleven years; Mary died in Chesterfield, aged 24; and Asa, who had been a

merchant, died at New York city, at the age of 57. Four children survive, viz:-- Zilpah, who married Phineas Hubbard, a merchant of Stanstead, Canada East, who died Dec. 27, 1846. She still resides there.

Asa White opened the first store on the Hill, near the center of the town, a few rods south of the old meeting house, in a small red building, a little above the house now occupied by Leonard Strong. His goods were of necessity brought from the cities in teams. Teaming then was a large business. Cornelius Tileston, Arnold Mayhew, and Jesse Wilde chiefly performed it for him. The usual time consumed in going to and returning from Boston, was about ten days. As stores were scarce, many of his customers came from the surrounding towns. His daily sales, for a considerable period after a fresh arrival of goods, were upward of one hundred dollars. He continued in business at the same stand till 1812, a period of above thirty years. Meanwhile, he had branch stores in Sunderland, Chesterfield and Cummington. In 1812, at the age of 65, he removed to Chesterfield where he continued the same business, four years. He then returned to the old homestead, now occupied by one of his sons, A. H. White, Esq., being the house which the Rev. Amos Butler, the first minister of the town, erected and in which he died. Here he spent the remainder of his days. After he removed from Chesterfield, he kept up the business there, for several years, in partnership with Oliver Edwards, then quite a young man, and who is now one of the oldest and most successful merchants in the county. During this long period, he trained several young men to the same business, who afterward became well known in the community; among whom may be mentioned Thomas Mayhew, a former postmaster of Williamsburg for a long term of years, and William E. Mayhew, a conspicuous merchant of Baltimore, who there acquired a large fortune.

In the first years of his business, there being but little money in circulation, Mr. White received in payment for goods, such productions of the country, as flax-seed, home-made cloth, and the like, that are now seldom offered to the merchant.

He also traded largely in furs, that were brought from the northern wilderness, and in lands situated in the Western Reserve, Ohio. He was Town Clerk for several years, after 1790; was a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum, and an officer of the Hampshire County Missionary Society for a long term of years. He died Sept. 15, 1829, aged 82.

Mr. White was a plain, direct, unostentatious man, of liberal and enlarged views, unquestioned integrity, and deeply religious in his sentiments and feelings. This, combined with an extensive knowledge of men, enabled him to exercise an important influence in the community in which he lived. He was not ambitious of public honors and distinctions, but as a private citizen, and in the somewhat enlarged sphere in which he moved, perhaps no man had more of the respect and confidence of his contemporaries.

It is said that three men—Asa White, Wm. Bodman, and Deacon Nash—were for many years the ruling men of the town. They were much consulted by the people and gave the direction to all matters of public concern. In town meetings, their opinions when expressed were conclusive. On one occasion, a man ventured to oppose the views they had presented, and was severely reprimanded by one of the trio of rulers, which had the effect to silence his voice for a long time afterward. He did not deem it prudent to repeat the hazardous experiment.

Great wealth was rarely to be acquired in mercantile pursuits, in a small village, in that part of New England, at that time, nor did Mr. White desire it for his children. He preferred rather to give them the best education within his means, and teach them to rely upon their own exertions and character for success in life. He had eight children, three of whom, viz., John, Chester, and Addison, received a collegiate education, the first at Williams College, the latter two, at Yale.

EBENEZER HILL came to Williamsburg from Petersham, having previously resided at Bellerica, Mass., some time between 1780 and 1790. He located on the Conway road, about two and a half miles from the present village, where he erected a house and commenced a clearing. He died at West Whately, where one of his sons (Joseph) lived. His wife died before he removed to Williamsburg. Sampson Hill, son of Ebenezer, lived at the original location, and died in 1825, aged 82. His wife died in 1810, at the age of 64. They had five children, whose names were—Tabitha, Ephraim, Sarah, Joseph and Lucinda. Tabitha married Solomon Hartwell of Conway, and died about the year 1855. Ephraim married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Samuel Bradford, and died Sept. 5, 1851, aged 87. His wife died Dec. 28, 1848, aged 80. They had ten children, all of whom lived to have families. Their names are—Calvin, Russell, Electa, Cynthia, Wealthy, Ansel, Willard, Hiram, Sarah, and Otis G. Ansel married Magdalene Prince of Staten Island, and died in Rochester in 1832, aged 32. Wealthy married Ebenezer Thayer, and died in 1834, aged 36, leaving no children. Willard married Abigail Cook of New Bedford, and died in 1843, aged 40. The others are all living, five of them in Williamsburg. Sarah married Jeremiah Ward, and now lives in West Springfield. Calvin married Sarah Crittenden of Conway, and now lives on the old homestead. They have had seven children. Russell married Lucretia, daughter of Dea. Joseph Bodman, and now lives in Williamsburg. They have had six children, three of whom are now living. Two of their children were drowned in Mill River, near



their residence. Electa has been married three times— first to Oliver Maynard of Conway, then to Asa Bullard of Dedham, and last to Erastus Knight of Chesterfield; and has been a widow since 1846. Cynthia married Minot Thayer. They have had ten children. Hiram married Roena, daughter of Zene Thayer. Otis G. married Philena L. Packard of Ashfield. They have had five children, four of whom are now living.

Sampson Hill went to Crown Point as a soldier, but arrived too late to participate in the capture of Burgoyne.

Hiram and Otis G. Hill are among the present prominent men of the town, and have held various town offices, the latter holding the office of town clerk several years. Both have represented the town in the Legislature, each one year, and the latter was chosen and served as a Special County Commissioner, previous to 1856.

At the time of the early settlement in the Hill neighborhood, an Englishman, one of Burgoyne's men, lived near the Conway line. It was the custom then for the few families in Williamsburg to send to Hatfield to get their grain ground. They made their way through the dense forests over rough foot paths, the route being designated by marked trees. This Englishman's wife, on one occasion, went to Hatfield with a bag of corn, and after getting it ground, proceeded on her return. When within a half mile of her home, darkness overtook her, and deeming it unsafe to attempt to accomplish the remainder of the journey that night, she tied her horse to a tree and encamped in the woods until morning arrived. The settlers in Williamsburg were called "Woodsmen," by the people in Hatfield with whom they dealt.

NOAH WASHBURN, from Bridgewater, Mass., settled in Williamsburg in 1765, and erected a log house near the house now occupied by Lauriston Washburn, in the southern part of the town. The prospect of the Connecticut valley, from this location, is one of the finest. His son, Stephen Washburn, who came with him, died at the age of 84. He married Sally Faxon of Bridgewater, who died at the age of 84. They had seven children, five of whom lived to mature years, and two died in early life. The names of the five who lived were Stephen, Amos, Polly, Sally and Ruth. Stephen married Rebecca Paine, and died in Cummington, soon after his marriage. He was crossing a bridge in that town, on his way from Williamsburg, having in his arms an infant child of Cyrus Miller of Williamsburg, which his wife was to nurse, when the bridge fell and he sustained injuries that caused his death in five weeks. The child, now the wife of Quartus Kingsley of Haydenville, escaped harmless.

Amos married Amanda, daughter of Orlando Root of Northampton, and died in April, 1858, aged 87. Mrs. Washburn is now living, at the age of 84. Their children number seven, six of whom are now living. Their names are Lauriston, Nehemiah, Lyman, Edward, and Charles (twins,) and Sarah, the latter the wife of Wm. J. Lyman of Easthampton.

Polly married Gross Williams. She died Aug. 22, 1851, aged 77. They had 12 children.

Sally married Eleazer Hillman, and afterward Seth Johnson of Dana.

Ruth married Rev. Hosea Ballou of Richmond, N.H., afterward of Boston—a distinguished Universalist clergyman. They had 13 children, one of whom is Maturin M. Ballou, widely known as a newspaper editor.

The house which Mr. Washburn now occupies was built about 1791, and five generations of that family have resided in it.

Several of the Washburns have been noted as hunters, and many are the marvelous stories handed down from father to son, of encounters with the wild animals which abounded in the forests of that region. On one occasion, two bear-traps that had been set were found missing. On following the trail, one was found attached to the leg of a cub. The other trail was followed a long distance, passing around the mountain south of Mr. Washburn's house, when Mr. W., being weary, returned home for assistance. His brother started out with him, and were accompanied by dogs. They pursued the trail several hours and at night came up with the bear, which proved to be a very large one. The animal was lying beside a large log and appeared weary. Mr. W. mounted the log and leaning over the bear made passes at him with a hunting knife, as if to stab him. The animal turned its head toward him each time and growled and showed its teeth in no very agreeable manner, but so excited was the hunter that he thrust the knife into the bear's neck; but it nearly cost him his life. Infuriated by the wound the bear sprang upon the hunter and caught him by the pantaloons below the knee, tearing out a large piece. He escaped, to the astonishment of his brother at the time and subsequently to his own great amazement. The bear was so severely wounded that it died.

RUFUS HYDE, Sen., a native of Norwich, Ct., and a blacksmith by trade, was born June 20, 1744, and moved to Williamsburg in the spring of 1774. He worked at his trade, near the present residence of Eleazer Hyde and Sons, till about the year 1795, and then erected a shop with a trip-hammer, &c., near the factory of Nathaniel Sears, where he and his sons, Rufus, Jr. and Stephen, carried on the blacksmith business, 'till the death of the latter, in 1834.

Mr. Hyde, married Mary Wolcott of Mansfield, Ct., April 3, 1771, and died Jan. 19, 1807, aged 63. His wife died May 24, 1825, aged 80. He was known somewhat extensively as a manufacturer of scythes and

axes. Their children were Eleazer, Rufus, Mary, Josiah and Stephen. Of these, three only were married, viz:--

1. Eleazer married Keziah Howes in 1802, and she died Jan. 30, 1839, aged 64. Eleazer is now living at the age of 87, and is the oldest man in Williamsburg. Their children were John Wolcott, Sarah, Lyman, Ansel, Sumner, Samantha and Rufus. John W. and Sumner now live on the old homestead. The former married Mary Rogers, who died Dec. 1, 1847. They had two children. In 1856, he married Sarah Sears, a native of Hawley. Sumner married Susan Field Reed in 1841, who died June 10, 1855. They had four children.
2. Rufus married Mrs. Zerivah Taylor, in 1808. He was a manufacturer of scythes and axes. He died in Stanstead, L. I., in 1825 and she at Williamsburg. Their children were Rufus and Harriet. The former was drowned in a well, at the age of three years.
3. Stephen married Pamela Baker, a native of Chesterfield, daughter of major Thaddeus Baker. He was also a manufacturer of scythes and axes. He died at Williamsburg, Feb. 15, 1834, and she in April of the same year. Their children were Cordelia Butler, Francis Augustus, (two of the same name, the first dying in infancy,) Ellsworth Hulbert, Theresa Pamela, (two of the same name,) and Mary Isabel.

BENJAMIN POMEROY, a native of Northampton, son of Josiah Pomeroy, removed to Williamsburg in 1780, and built a barn on the present homestead of Dea. William Pomeroy, in the southerly part of the town. He occupied this barn for a dwelling until he erected a house, which he located on the site of Dea. Pomeroy's residence. Previous to this, Benjamin and Asahel Pomeroy worked on the farm during two summers, and occupied a cabin located east of the present house.

The fathers of Benjamin and Asahel purchased 220 acres of land here, which was divided between them about the time of Benjamin's settlement upon it. Asahel never occupied his farm, but soon after erected a hotel in Northampton, on the site of the present Warner House.

Benjamin married Esther, daughter of Josiah Clark of Northampton, in 1770. They had eight children, viz:--

1. Samuel, married Ama Curtis; moved to Montreal, where he died, aged 47. They had four children.
2. Lydia, married Elnathan Graves. They had eight children.
3. Selah, married Hannah, daughter of Capt. Abel Thayer. He died in 1856, aged 81. They had four children.
4. Josiah, married Ruth, daughter of Lieut. Joshua Thayer. They had six children.
5. Esther, married Gaius Searle of Southampton, and is still living.
6. Lucy, married Phineas Graves of Hatfield, and died in 1853, aged 70. They had two children.
7. William, married Rachel, daughter of Capt. Oliver Edwards of Chesterfield, who died in January, 1859, aged 74. Mr. Pomeroy was chosen a Deacon of the First Congregational Church in Williamsburg, in 1838, and is still living at the age of 75 years. They have had four children.
8. Polly, married Moses Montague of Sunderland, and is still living. They have had four children.

Of this family of eight children, five are now living, the youngest has reached the age of 73.

ICHABOD HEMMENWAY removed from Framingham to Williamsburg, and made a clearing on the old Conway road, where James and Obed Hemmenway now live. The year of his removal is not known, but it was, probably previous to 1770. While making his first clearing and before erecting a house, he boarded with the family of James Hunt, near where the old meeting house afterward stood. In 1771 he married Lucretia Southard, who came from Lyme, Ct. They had nine children, two of whom died in infancy and seven reached mature years. Their names were—Elizabeth, Lucretia, Lovina, Asa, Elijah, Aaron, and James. Elizabeth married Adonijah Thayer, and removed to Conway, where she died in 1852, aged 80. They had nine children. Lucretia married Aaron Warren, who died in April, 1856, aged 90 years and 17 days. They had five children, four of whom are now living, viz:-- Lucretia, wife of Henry Taylor; Aaron K., now in California; Harriet, wife of Job Wheeler, formerly of Conway, now in Illinois; and Quartus, now living in Williamsburg. Mrs. Warner now lives in Williamsburg at the age of nearly 87 years. She is a woman of remarkable activity. During the past year, she knit, in six months, sixty pairs of men's hose, spinning all the yarn herself.

Dea. JOSEPH CAREY settled in Williamsburg at an early day, and located near the house now occupied by John C. Williams. He came from Mansfield, Ct. On Walnut Hill, directly north of Dea. Carey's several families located, and about the year 1800 there were nine families living in that neighborhood. The last of the houses built there was destroyed by fire in 1823. These were log houses. A road leading from Dea. Carey's over Walnut Hill to the Conway line was laid by the Commissioners, but was never worked to their acceptance.

JESSE WILDE, one of the pioneer settlers of Williamsburg, resided at the top of the hill, near the new burial ground. He died about the year 1807. His wife was a woman of uncommon physical endurance. It is related of her, that on one occasion she carried a half bushel of corn on her back to Hatfield, had it ground, and carried it home in the same manner.

The house now occupied by Mr. Leonard Strong, a descendant of the Rev. Joseph Strong, the second minister of the town, (of whom mention will be made in the church history,) was built by Dea. Elisha Allis, and was the first house erected on the hill.

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2. Asa, born in 1747.
3. Jerusha, born 1751. She married Arnold Mayhew of Williamsburg, Jan. 6, 1789, and died Dec. 1, 1839, aged 88. They had two children, Constant and Martha. The latter married Hon. Leavitt Thaxter of Edgerton, Martha's Vineyard.

Asa removed to Williamsburg about 1781, and resided there till his death, excepting a few years, from 1812 to 1816. He married, Jan. 20, 1785, Zilpah Hayes of Granby, Ct., a woman of many virtues and rare excellence of character. She died April 2, 1833, aged 72. They had eight children. One died in infancy; another, Clarissa, died at eleven years; Mary died in Chesterfield, aged 24; and Asa, who had been a merchant, died at New York city, at the age of 57. Four children survive, viz:-- Zilpah, who married Phineas Hubbard, a merchant of Stanstead, Canada East, who died Dec. 27, 1846. She still resides there.

Asa White opened the first store on the Hill, near the center of the town, a few rods south of the old meeting house, in a small red building, a little above the house now occupied by Leonard Strong. His goods were of necessity brought from the cities in teams. Teaming then was a large business. Cornelius Tileston, Arnold Mayhew, and Jesse Wilde chiefly performed it for him. The usual time consumed in going to and returning from Boston, was about ten days. As stores were scarce, many of his customers came from the surrounding towns. His daily sales, for a considerable period after a fresh arrival of goods, were upward of one hundred dollars. He continued in business at the same stand till 1812, a period of above thirty years. Meanwhile, he had branch stores in Sunderland, Chesterfield and Cummington. In 1812, at the age of 65, he removed to Chesterfield where he continued the same business, four years. He then returned to the old homestead, now occupied by one of his sons, A. H. White, Esq., being the house which the Rev. Amos Butler, the first minister of the town, erected and in which he died. Here he spent the remainder of his days. After he removed from Chesterfield, he kept up the business there, for several years, in partnership with Oliver Edwards, then quite a young man, and who is now one of the oldest and most successful merchants in the county. During this long period, he trained several young men to the same business, who afterward became well known in the community; among whom may be mentioned Thomas Mayhew, a former postmaster of Williamsburg for a long term of years, and William E. Mayhew, a conspicuous merchant of Baltimore, who there acquired a large fortune.

In the first years of his business, there being but little money in circulation, Mr. White received in payment for goods, such productions of the country, as flax-seed, home-made cloth, and the like, that are now seldom offered to the merchant.

He also traded largely in furs, that were brought from the northern wilderness, and in lands situated in the Western Reserve, Ohio. He was Town Clerk for several years, after 1790; was a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum, and an officer of the Hampshire County Missionary Society for a long term of years. He died Sept. 15, 1829, aged 82.

Mr. White was a plain, direct, unostentatious man, of liberal and enlarged views, unquestioned integrity, and deeply religious in his sentiments and feelings. This, combined with an extensive knowledge of men, enabled him to exercise an important influence in the community in which he lived. He was not ambitious of public honors and distinctions, but as a private citizen, and in the somewhat enlarged sphere in which he moved, perhaps no man had more of the respect and confidence of his contemporaries.

It is said that three men—Asa White, Wm. Bodman, and Deacon Nash—were for many years the ruling men of the town. They were much consulted by the people and gave the direction to all matters of public concern. In town meetings, their opinions when expressed were conclusive. On one occasion, a man ventured to oppose the views they had presented, and was severely reprimanded by one of the trio of rulers, which had the effect to silence his voice for a long time afterward. He did not deem it prudent to repeat the hazardous experiment.

Great wealth was rarely to be acquired in mercantile pursuits, in a small village, in that part of New England, at that time, nor did Mr. White desire it for his children. He preferred rather to give them the best education within his means, and teach them to rely upon their own exertions and character for success in life. He had eight children, three of whom, viz., John, Chester, and Addison, received a collegiate education, the first at Williams College, the latter two, at Yale.

EBENEZER HILL came to Williamsburg from Petersham, having previously resided at Bellerica, Mass., some time between 1780 and 1790. He located on the Conway road, about two and a half miles from the present village, where he erected a house and commenced a clearing. He died at West Whately, where one of his sons (Joseph) lived. His wife died before he removed to Williamsburg. Sampson Hill, son of Ebenezer, lived at the original location, and died in 1825, aged 82. His wife died in 1810, at the age of 64. They had five children, whose names were—Tabitha, Ephraim, Sarah, Joseph and Lucinda. Tabitha married Solomon Hartwell of Conway, and died about the year 1855. Ephraim married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Samuel Bradford, and died Sept. 5, 1851, aged 87. His wife died Dec. 28, 1848, aged 80. They had ten children, all of whom lived to have families. Their names are—Calvin, Russell, Electa, Cynthia, Wealthy, Ansel, Willard, Hiram, Sarah, and Otis G. Ansel married Magdalene Prince of Staten Island, and died in Rochester in 1832, aged 32. Wealthy married Ebenezer Thayer, and died in 1834, aged 36, leaving no children. Willard married Abigail Cook of New Bedford, and died in 1843, aged 40. The others are all living, five of them in Williamsburg. Sarah married Jeremiah Ward, and now lives in West Springfield. Calvin married Sarah Crittenden of Conway, and now lives on the old homestead. They have had seven children. Russell married Lucretia, daughter of Dea. Joseph Bodman, and now lives in Williamsburg. They have had six children, three of whom are now living. Two of their children were drowned in Mill River, near their residence. Electa has been married three times—first to Oliver Maynard of Conway, then to Asa Bullard of Dedham, and last to Erastus Knight of Chesterfield; and has been a widow since 1846. Cynthia

married Minot Thayer. They have had ten children. Hiram married Roena, daughter of Zene Thayer. Otis G. married Philena L. Packard of Ashfield. They have had five children, four of whom are now living.

Sampson Hill went to Crown Point as a soldier, but arrived too late to participate in the capture of Burgoyne.

Hiram and Otis G. Hill are among the present prominent men of the town, and have held various town offices, the latter holding the office of town clerk several years. Both have represented the town in the Legislature, each one year, and the latter was chosen and served as a Special County Commissioner, previous to 1856.

At the time of the early settlement in the Hill neighborhood, an Englishman, one of Burgoyne's men, lived near the Conway line. It was the custom then for the few families in Williamsburg to send to Hatfield to get their grain ground. They made their way through the dense forests over rough foot paths, the route being designated by marked trees. This Englishman's wife, on one occasion, went to Hatfield with a bag of corn, and after getting it ground, proceeded on her return. When within a half mile of her home, darkness overtook her, and deeming it unsafe to attempt to accomplish the remainder of the journey that night, she tied her horse to a tree and encamped in the woods until morning arrived. The settlers in Williamsburg were called "Woodsmen," by the people in Hatfield with whom they dealt.

NOAH WASHBURN, from Bridgewater, Mass., settled in Williamsburg in 1765, and erected a log house near the house now occupied by Lauriston Washburn, in the southern part of the town. The prospect of the Connecticut valley, from this location, is one of the finest. His son, Stephen Washburn, who came with him, died at the age of 84. He married Sally Faxon of Bridgewater, who died at the age of 84. They had seven children, five of whom lived to mature years, and two died in early life. The names of the five who lived were Stephen, Amos, Polly, Sally and Ruth. Stephen married Rebecca Paine, and died in Cummington, soon after his marriage. He was crossing a bridge in that town, on his way from Williamsburg, having in his arms an infant child of Cyrus Miller of Williamsburg, which his wife was to nurse, when the bridge fell and he sustained injuries that caused his death in five weeks. The child, now the wife of Quartus Kingsley of Haydenville, escaped harmless.

Amos married Amanda, daughter of Orlando Root of Northampton, and died in April, 1858, aged 87. Mrs. Washburn is now living, at the age of 84. Their children number seven, six of whom are now living. Their names are Lauriston, Nehemiah, Lyman, Edward, and Charles (twins,) and Sarah, the latter the wife of Wm. J. Lyman of Easthampton.

Polly married Gross Williams. She died Aug. 22, 1851, aged 77. They had 12 children.

Sally married Eleazer Hillman, and afterward Seth Johnson of Dana.

Ruth married Rev. Hosea Ballou of Richmond, N.H., afterward of Boston—a distinguished Universalist clergyman. They had 13 children, one of whom is Maturin M. Ballou, widely known as a newspaper editor.

The house which Mr. Washburn now occupies was built about 1791, and five generations of that family have resided in it.

Several of the Washburns have been noted as hunters, and many are the marvelous stories handed down from father to son, of encounters with the wild animals which abounded in the forests of that region. On one occasion, two bear-traps that had been set were found missing. On following the trail, one was found attached to the leg of a cub. The other trail was followed a long distance, passing around the mountain south of Mr. Washburn's house, when Mr. W., being weary, returned home for assistance. His brother started out with him, and were accompanied by dogs. They pursued the trail several hours and at night came up with the bear, which proved to be a very large one. The animal was lying beside a large log and appeared weary. Mr. W. mounted the log and leaning over the bear made passes at him with a hunting knife, as if to stab him. The animal turned its head toward him each time and growled and showed its teeth in no very agreeable manner, but so excited was the hunter that he thrust the knife into the bear's neck; but it nearly cost him his life. Infuriated by the wound the bear sprang upon the hunter and caught him by the pantaloons below the knee, tearing out a large piece. He escaped, to the astonishment of his brother at the time and subsequently to his own great amazement. The bear was so severely wounded that it died.

RUFUS HYDE, Sen., a native of Norwich, Ct., and a blacksmith by trade, was born June 20, 1744, and moved to Williamsburg in the spring of 1774. He worked at his trade, near the present residence of Eleazer Hyde and Sons, till about the year 1795, and then erected a shop with a trip-hammer, &c., near the factory of Nathaniel Sears, where he and his sons, Rufus, Jr. and Stephen, carried on the blacksmith business, 'till the death of the latter, in 1834.

Mr. Hyde, married Mary Wolcott of Mansfield, Ct., April 3, 1771, and died Jan. 19, 1807, aged 63. His wife died May 24, 1825, aged 80. He was known somewhat extensively as a manufacturer of scythes and axes. Their children were Eleazer, Rufus, Mary, Josiah and Stephen. Of these, three only were married, viz:--

1. Eleazer married Keziah Howes in 1802, and she died Jan. 30, 1839, aged 64. Eleazer is now living at the age of 87, and is the oldest man in Williamsburg. Their children were John Wolcott, Sarah, Lyman, Ansel, Sumner, Samantha and Rufus. John W. and Sumner now live on the old homestead. The former married Mary Rogers, who died Dec. 1, 1847. They had two children. In 1856, he married Sarah Sears, a native of Hawley. Sumner married Susan Field Reed in 1841, who died June 10, 1855. They had four children.
2. Rufus married Mrs. Zerivah Taylor, in 1808. He was a manufacturer of scythes and axes. He died in Stanstead, L. I., in 1825 and she at Williamsburg. Their children were Rufus and Harriet. The former was drowned in a well, at the age of three years.
3. Stephen married Pamela Baker, a native of Chesterfield, daughter of major Thaddeus Baker. He was also a manufacturer of scythes and axes. He died at Williamsburg, Feb. 15, 1834, and she in April of the same year. Their children were Cordelia Butler, Francis Augustus, (two of the same name, the first dying in infancy,) Ellsworth Hulbert, Theresa Pamela, (two of the same name,) and Mary Isabel.

BENJAMIN POMEROY, a native of Northampton, son of Josiah Pomeroy, removed to Williamsburg in 1780, and built a barn on the present homestead of Dea. William Pomeroy, in the southerly part of the town. He occupied this barn for a dwelling until he erected a house, which he located on the site of Dea. Pomeroy's residence. Previous to this, Benjamin and Asahel Pomeroy worked on the farm during two summers, and occupied a cabin located east of the present house.

The fathers of Benjamin and Asahel purchased 220 acres of land here, which was divided between them about the time of Benjamin's settlement upon it. Asahel never occupied his farm, but soon after erected a hotel in Northampton, on the site of the present Warner House.

Benjamin married Esther, daughter of Josiah Clark of Northampton, in 1770. They had eight children, viz:--

1. Samuel, married Ama Curtis; moved to Montreal, where he died, aged 47. They had four children.
2. Lydia, married Elnathan Graves. They had eight children.
3. Selah, married Hannah, daughter of Capt. Abel Thayer. He died in 1856, aged 81. They had four children.
4. Josiah, married Ruth, daughter of Lieut. Joshua Thayer. They had six children.
5. Esther, married Gaius Searle of Southampton, and is still living.
6. Lucy, married Phineas Graves of Hatfield, and died in 1853, aged 70. They had two children.
7. William, married Rachel, daughter of Capt. Oliver Edwards of Chesterfield, who died in January, 1859, aged 74. Mr. Pomeroy was chosen a Deacon of the First Congregational Church in Williamsburg, in 1838, and is still living at the age of 75 years. They have had four children.
8. Polly, married Moses Montague of Sunderland, and is still living. They have had four children.

Of this family of eight children, five are now living, the youngest has reached the age of 73.

ICHABOD HEMMENWAY removed from Framingham to Williamsburg, and made a clearing on the old Conway road, where James and Obed Hemmenway now live. The year of his removal is not known, but it was, probably previous to 1770. While making his first clearing and before erecting a house, he boarded with the family of James Hunt, near where the old meeting house afterward stood. In 1771 he married Lucretia Southard, who came from Lyme, Ct. They had nine children, two of whom died in infancy and seven reached mature years. Their names were—Elizabeth, Lucretia, Lovina, Asa, Elijah, Aaron, and James. Elizabeth married Adonijah Thayer, and removed to Conway, where she died in 1852, aged 80. They had nine children. Lucretia married Aaron Warren, who died in April, 1856, aged 90 years and 17 days. They had five children, four of whom are now living, viz:-- Lucretia, wife of Henry Taylor; Aaron K., now in California; Harriet, wife of Job Wheeler, formerly of Conway, now in Illinois; and Quartus, now living in Williamsburg. Mrs. Warner now lives in Williamsburg at the age of nearly 87 years. She is a woman of remarkable activity. During the past year, she knit, in six months, sixty pairs of men's hose, spinning all the yarn herself.

Dea. JOSEPH CAREY settled in Williamsburg at an early day, and located near the house now occupied by John C. Williams. He came from Mansfield, Ct. On Walnut Hill, directly north of Dea. Carey's several families located, and about the year 1800 there were nine families living in that neighborhood. The last of the houses built there was destroyed by fire in 1823. These were log houses. A road leading from Dea. Carey's over Walnut Hill to the Conway line was laid by the Commissioners, but was never worked to their acceptance.

JESSE WILDE, one of the pioneer settlers of Williamsburg, resided at the top of the hill, near the new burial ground. He died about the year 1807. His wife was a woman of uncommon physical endurance. It is

related of her, that on one occasion she carried a half bushel of corn on her back to Hatfield, had it ground, and carried it home in the same manner.

The house now occupied by Mr. Leonard Strong, a descendant of the Rev. Joseph Strong, the second minister of the town, (of whom mention will be made in the church history,) was built by Dea. Elisha Allis, and was the first house erected on the hill.

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### THE EARLY SETTLERS [III]

Of Mr. John Nash, son of Thomas Nash, Jr., of Hatfield, brother of Dea. Elisha Nash of Williamsburg, and husband of Martha Graves of Hatfield, we have spoken in fitting terms, as also of his consort, Mrs. Martha (Graves) Nash, in a recent number. Their children were as follows:--

| Name.       | Born.          | Settled at.    |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Moses,   | Nov. 17, 1758, | Williamsburg.  |
| 2. Judith,  | Nov. 23, 1760, | Hatfield.      |
| 3. Moses,   | Mch. 24, 1763, | Williamsburg.  |
| 4. John,    | Nov. 12, 1764, | “              |
| 5. Samuel,  | Oct. 29, 1766, | “              |
| 6. William, | Aug. 5, 1768,  | West Boylston. |
| 7. Thomas,  | Nov. 5, 1770,  | Williamsburg.  |
| 8. Elijah   | June 12, 1772, | Conway.        |

Of these, the first, Moses, died in infancy. Judith, the second, married David Phiney, May 17, 1780. They lived at Hatfield, Shelburne, and Deerfield, Mass. Then Manlius and Cazanovia, N.Y. Their children were fourteen, one of whom died in infancy; several died between the ages of 16 and 30, and the others are still living in various parts of western New York, a worthy posterity of worthy parents. All the deaths in this family, except one, have been by consumption. It may be remarked as a singular fact, that while all the other branches of the race have been remarkably exempted from that disease, it should have entered this family no less than seven or eight times and in almost every case cut down those who, up to the time of the attack, were uncommonly vigorous, hopeful and promising. Seldom have parents been more severely smitten in their offspring. Mr. Phiney died of consumption at Manlius, N.Y., Aug. 29, 1832, a good man and a decided christian. Mrs. Phiney survived him, in the family of her son at Cazanovia, till Aug. 24, 1839, when she died in the triumphs of the christian faith—a woman of more than ordinary force of character, a faithful wife and kind mother, often stricken, but never complaining. “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him,” was the language of her whole life.

3. Moses Nash married Sarah Little, of Simsbury, Conn., and settled on the homestead of his father, in Williamsburg. He was a professor of religion, a good, public spirited man, a generous liver, and long before his death, which took place in 1846, had become wealthy. His children were eight, of whom one, William A. Nash, now lives on the old homestead.

4. John Nash married Martha Little, sister to the wife of Moses, and settled on land lying north of the old homestead which had belonged to his father, John Nash. Their children were nine, of whom the oldest, Rev. Ansel Nash, recently deceased, was an active worthy clergyman for a pretty long life, first in Connecticut and then in Massachusetts. Subsequently he married Abigail Kingsley, the children of which marriage were three. He died in 1824.

5. Samuel Nash married Mary Kingsley of Williamsburg, and settled one mile north from John. Children of this marriage nine, of whom one, Samuel G., now inherits his father's place. Death of Samuel Nash, March 12, 1826; of Mary, his wife, Feb. 13, 1830.

6. Thomas Nash married Naomi Warner, settled near his brother Samuel, reared a large family, died in 1844, his wife having long survived him.

Of these four families, living on the east side of the road leading to Conway, and constituting, with Dea. Elisha Nash and his children, who were on the west side, the Nash neighborhood, it is impossible for the writer to speak so as to satisfy his own affectionate regards for the departed, having known them all and loved them well, without perhaps seeming to be unreasonably appreciative. If he should say, there are no such men and women “now-a-days,” it might lead to a suspicion that is growing old. To say they were all good, all christian professors, always in “good and regular standing with the church,” for the simple reason that they were from the heart followers of Christ, all supporters of good things, all kind hearted, friendly, social, is not saying more than will be approved by those who have known them best. Where so many brothers train up families side by side, they naturally become uncles and their wives aunts to anybody; and now if any of the present citizens of the neighborhood do not think affectionately and respectfully of Uncle Moses and Aunt Sarah, Uncle John and Aunt Martha, and Aunt Abigail as well, Uncle Samuel and Aunt Mary, and Uncle Thomas and Aunt Naomi, they should pause and consider whether it is not because they themselves have degenerated. I can not forbear to name one fact which is much to the praise of them all, and of the others, of whom I am yet to speak. Every one of the six brothers and their wives knew well what good spirit was, and how to prepare it in the

most faultless way. I believe every one of them had long used it, probably from childhood, but with self control and in moderation. It was social, it was hospitable, and it was fashionable. The wrongfulness of the practice had hardly been thought of. But when the temperance movement came up, every one of

them, if I am not mistaken, reviewed their course, broke it off, at the very time when long habit and approaching old age made it necessary for them, if it is so for any, and placed their example on the safe side of the question, and that long before the safe side had become the popular side.

7. Rev. Wm. Nash graduated at Yale College, studied theology and settled in the ministry at West Boylston, Mass. He was a deep thinker, an earnest scholar, and practically a faithful pastor and a consistent christian minister, but differed in his theological views from those who are denominated orthodox. All, who knew him and could divest themselves of unreasonable prejudice, would accord to him sincerity and singleness of purpose—that his life was according to Godliness, whatever they might think of his creed. He died at a somewhat advanced age, leaving a widow and several children of decidedly worthy, efficient and amiable character.

Elijah Nash of Conway, was the youngest son of John Nash and Martha (Graves) Nash of Williamsburg, and was born June 12, 1772; married Feb. 14, 1796, Paulina Warner, daughter of Capt. Jonathan Warner of Williamsburg, settled in Conway shortly after, where he died in the autumn of 1855, having lived in that town, with the exception of a short time passed on the Bodman farm in Williamsburg, a fraction short of 60 years, an honest, industrious, energetic and successful farmer. He outlived his first and only wife, a most worthy help mate, but one year, their married life having been almost 60 years, and the age of each about 84 years.

He was a man of strong mind and remarkably sound judgment. Three months schooling and the instructions of an excellent mother were all the means of education he enjoyed, except that when at majority his first move was to earn a few months wages at work on the South Hadley Falls Canal, and then to expend it in a six months attendance at the family school of the good Rev. Moses Hallock, of Plainfield, Mass. He was a subscriber to the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE about 60 years; took many other publications, and was largely a purchaser and reader of books. When business or social duties called, no book or paper was allowed to hinder—at other times, he was seldom without one or the other, and he thus overcome the defects of early education, and arose to a more than ordinary degree of intelligence and general knowledge. As a practical farmer, he treated all propositions for improvement candidly—did not despise a proposed method because it was new—but experimented cautiously, and was always a little ahead of his neighbors. It might be invidious to say that he was the best farmer in the town, but to say that he was as good as any, is true. As selectman, assessor and appraiser of property, he was much employed in public business, in connection with the town and otherwise. His first purchase in Conway was of 150 acres, mostly wild, with buildings of little value. This was soon built upon respectably, and was paid for from the produce alone. Fifty acres adjoining were soon added and paid for in the same way, and then another fifty, and subsequently more. His success in farming was a confirmation of a favorite expression of his, that “farming pays, if it is properly attended to, and nothing else pays but on that condition.” Beginning life with nothing, he educated a large family in perfect contrast with the stinted means he had enjoyed—gave liberally to all charitable objects through his whole life—lost \$3000, of which \$2000 was by a business firm, considered at the time above suspicion—gave liberal portions to all his children, and left them a handsome estate at his decease. This would seem to be a pretty good testimony, among others, that the calling of the farmer is compatible at once with a good degree of intellectual improvement and a comfortable living. He was mostly of a cheerful spirit, but never exultant. In early life his attention was strongly called to the subject of personal religion. Through life he was always in his place at church, be the weather what it might, generally at the minor gatherings of religious people, constant in family, and, it is believed, also in secret worship; but he never experienced what he conceived to be the change of heart necessary to salvation, and finally died without that hope, which all his friends consolingly entertained for him. His want of consolation from that religion whose precepts all but that of the public profession, he practiced, left him a little despondent at times. His religion was greatly orthodox, but little comfortable. This no doubt was owing to a too high-toned, attenuated, sharp-cornered, impracticable theology, which formed the bulk of his early reading, till it was too deeply in-wrought into the framework of his nature to be eradicated, till he went to see God as he is, not as his notions had depicted him. Said a friend, looking on his face for the last time, “Now his religion will make him happy, as well as good.” His wife, less reasoning, more confiding, and willing, one might say, to be saved without understanding how in any particular beforehand, after a life equally comfortable to the precepts of Christianity, and after a long profession of the Christian faith, died in its full hope and blessed assurance.

Of their children, eight in number, two died in childhood; one in early youth; two, the wives of Solomon L. Russell of Pittsfield and of Oliver Field of Conway, after having reared large families; and three are still living, one in New York, one in Conway, and one in Ann Arbor, Mich. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Field were affectionate wives, kind mothers, and intelligent, high-minded Christian women. The living descendants of Elijah and Paulina Nash are about fifty, residing in Conway, Amherst, Northampton and Pittsfield, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; New York City; Ann Arbor, Mich.; Columbus, Ohio; Savannah, Ga.; Villa Clara, Cuba; Melbourne, Australia; and other places.

Of their male descendants, five have received and others are now receiving a collegiate education, and as many of the female descendants have received, or are receiving an education equivalent. It was an opinion of Elijah Nash, always held, and maintained to the last, that daughters, (since mothers are the natural instructors of their children,) should be as well educated as sons; and that where no special reason exists for the contrary, they should receive as much of the family property.



## FIRST CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The desire for religious worship, so conspicuous among the early settlers of New England, was foremost with the pioneers of Williamsburg. First gathering their families under shelters of their own raising, they turned almost instinctively to throw upon the new settlement the salutary influences of a stated public worship. At the second town meeting, held May 13, 1771, it was voted to raise twenty pounds to be laid out in preaching before next March meeting, and that Samuel Fairfield, Josiah Dwight, and John Nash, be a committee to lay out the money according to their best discretion; that Amasa Frost, Joshua Warner, and Jonathan Warner, be a committee "to repair the school-house in such a manner that it shall be fit to meet in for public worship, according to their best discretion," that the Selectmen provide a signal to notify the time when to begin public worship; that public worship on Lord's Day, from the first of May to the first of October, shall begin at 10 A.M. and 2 P.M., and from Oct. 1 to May 1, at 10 1/2 A.M. and 1 P.M.; and that Joshua Thayer have "fifteen shillings for blowing the conk-shell and keeping the schoolhouse fit for public worship this year."

The schoolhouse here referred to was the one in which the first town meeting was held, and was, at that time, the only school-house or public building in the place. The conk-shell then used is now in possession of Luther Bodman. From the elevated position, where it was blown, its sound was probably heard by the settlers for miles around. It is preserved as a choice relic of early times.

The first preacher was Timothy Dwight, afterward President of Yale College, who then resided at Northampton in the capacity of a licentiate. He spent a Sabbath with the settlers and was afterward hired for five Sabbaths. His preaching was the occasion of the organization of a church, which took place on the 3d of July, 1771. The names of the original members—twenty-two in all—are recorded as follows:--

Thomas Nash, Hezekiah Read, Amasa Frost and wife, Joseph Carey and wife, Jesse Wilde and wife, Samuel Fairfield and wife, Joshua Warner and wife, Thomas Warren, John Nash, Jonathan Warner and wife, Richard Church and wife, Elisha Nash and wife, Josiah Dwight and wife.

Amasa Frost and Joseph Carey were chosen deacons, and accepted.

How long Mr. Dwight preached here is not precisely known, but at the fourth meeting of the town, held in October following the organization of the church, it was voted that Deacons Frost and Carey, Samuel Fairfield, Josiah Dwight and John Nash, "be a committee to wait on Mr. Elijah Parsons (of Amherst) and give him a call to come and preach here six Sabbaths on probation, in order to his settling in the ministry in this place." It appears from the town record, that Mr. Parsons accepted the invitation to preach, as on Dec. 2d following, it was voted to pay him for preaching, 26 pounds. At the same meeting the above committee was authorized to invite Mr. Parsons to settle as pastor of the church, and to offer him a settlement of £140, and the first year after his settlement a salary of £60, to be increased two pounds each year until it should reach £80; also, "after Mr. Parsons is settled in a family of his own, they will give him six pounds annually, to be paid in wood or labor, as he may choose." It was also voted at this meeting to raise money to continue preaching six Sabbaths. The effort to secure Mr. Parsons failed.

On the 9th of April, in the following spring, John Nash was appointed "to go after a minister of the gospel to come and preach here in order to his settling in the ministry in this place." Several meetings of the town were held during the few weeks following, in the records of which no mention is made of the success of Mr. Nash, but on the 17th of May, it is recorded, "there being some difficulty likely to arise with regard to Mr. Strong, whom we expected to come and preach here, in order to remove said difficulty, voted to get some of the neighboring ministers to write to him in our behalf." Who the Mr. Strong here referred to was, we know not, but no success attended the efforts, which appear to have been earnest, to induce him to settle over the church. Thus a second time disappointed, the people again turned their attention toward Mr. Parsons, for whom they seem to have entertained a high regard. On the 10th of August, a committee was appointed "to take the advice of some of the neighboring ministers, informing them of the temper of the people toward Mr. Parsons, and that if they shall think best as things stand to make application to him, that said application shall be made to him to come here and preach a few Sabbaths to see whether the breach that has been made between us may not be healed, that we may make further trial to get him to settle here." Sept. 14th, Samuel Fairfield was appointed to go after Mr. Parsons and urge him to come and preach a few Sabbaths; but all to no purpose, so far as his settlement was concerned.

It would seem that Mr. AMOS BUTLER was employed to preach, soon after the final failure of the efforts to secure Mr. Parsons. Some time in the spring of 1773, the church and town invited him to become their pastor, offering him the same terms that were offered to Mr. Parsons. To this invitation, he replied in the following letter:--

## WILLIAMSBURG, JUNE 1, 1773

To the Church of Christ in Williamsburg and the other inhabitants of the town —Brethren and Friends:

"Whereas your committee have acquainted me with a vote of the church and the town, electing me for your Pastor, and for my encouragement to settle with you in that capacity have informed me that the town have voted to give me the sum of one hundred and forty pounds as a settlement, and an annual salary beginning at thirty pounds and to be increased at the rate of forty shillings per annum till it amounts to eighty pounds, which sum is to be the stated annual salary, and also six pounds a year yearly, to be paid me either in wood or labor as I shall choose.

The above mentioned vote I have taken into serious consideration and have also advised with friends and the neighboring gentlemen in the ministry, and have determined to accept of your invitation and comply with the proposals, on condition that the following alterations shall be made in them, viz:--

1. That instead of the six pounds per annum for wood or labor, you become obliged to provide for me as much wood as will be necessary to be consumed in my family, should I have one, be it more or less.
2. That instead of forty shillings for the annual rise of the salary, it may be increased at the rate of five pounds per annum, till it amounts to eighty pounds.

These alterations appear to me necessary to be made, and I imagine a little consideration will make them appear so to you.

Praying for your prosperity in every reward, I am, gentlemen, your Brother in the Truth of the Gospel." Amos Butler

The town voted to grant the first request of Mr. Butler, but declined to accede to the second. The terms were then accepted, and Mr. Butler was ordained as the first pastor of the church, on the 14th of July. The meeting for his ordination was held at the house of James Hunt, near the spot on which the first meeting house was afterward erected. Deacons Frost and Carey, with John Miller and Joshua Warner, were a committee to provide for the ordination, and a fast was kept preparatory to it. The sermon, it is supposed, was preached by Rev. Mr. Parsons of Amherst.

Mr. Butler was a native of Hartford, Ct., and was a relative of the family of Butlers living in Northampton, and also a relative of the Butler brothers, who for many years owned and published the newspaper called The Mercantile Advertiser, in New York. He was married soon after his settlement, to Sally, daughter of Dea. Jonathan Hunt of Northampton. The Rev. Mr. Lusk, one of his successors in the pastorate of the church wrote of him as follows:--

"His doctrine and manner of life are well reported of. Calvinistic in his professed belief, he was accounted faithful as a steward of Christ. And though he was not a man of great powers, and of rather ordinary address, his piety seems to have been unaffected and sincere, his walk very consistent, and his manners, on the whole prepossessing and kind. Under his care, the church made some advance; and the discipline of it, with respect to a strict observance of the Sabbath, was peculiarly marked. The cause of his death was consumption. No fruit from the above connection in marriage existed at the time of his death. His widow again married, to Rev. Joshua Johnston, and removed from this place to the town of Woodstock, Conn."

Mr. Butler being settled for life, the town voted to pay his salary as long as he lived, although from the nature of his disease it is presumed that he did not preach for some time previous to his death. He died in the house now owned and occupied by A.H. White, Esq., which he purchased during his ministry.

Mr. Butler's remains were interred in the old burial-ground. A sand-stone slab was erected to his memory, which, in after time, was broken—tradition says—by a stroke of lightning. The inscription had become almost illegible, when some friendly hand traced and copied it, and procured a respectable marblestone to stand in the place of the old one. The inscription is as follows:--

"This monument is sacred to the memory of the Rev. AMOS BUTLER, who was born at Hartford; settled the first gospel minister in this town; sustained the ministerial character with uncommon dignity and usefulness four years, and rested from his labors October 18, 1777, in the 30th year of his age. If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they hear if one rose from the dead."

During the entire period of Mr. Butler's pastorate, the meetings for public worship were held in the school house, and not until June, 1778, was the subject of erecting a house of worship considered in town meeting. On the 5th of that month, it was voted "to be in preparation for building a meeting house the next spring." A committee was then appointed to procure a plan and apportion to each inhabitant what material to find. This committee consisted of the following persons:--James Bangs, Jonathan Warner, Capt. Thayer, Samuel Day, Abijah Hunt, Ephraim Fisher, Esqrs. Bodman and Dwight, and Elisha Nash. It was voted to sell the pews to the highest bidder, taking wheat at 4 shillings per bushel, rye at 3s and corn at 2s. The size of the house was fixed at 60 by 45 feet. It may readily be supposed that the infant settlement met with many difficulties in the accomplishment of this enterprise. The people gave of their substance, and one man contributed a barrel of rum, which at that time was deemed as appropriate as a contribution of a bushel of wheat. Capt. Jonathan Warner was the master builder, under whose direction the house was erected. The building was raised in 1779, but was only partially finished at that time. The raising was the occasion of a general turn out of the people of the town. Josiah Dwight and Dr. Elijah Paine, tavern-keepers, provided a supper for the men engaged in the raising, by order of the town. Two persons are now living in the town, (Mr. Eleazer Hyde, aged 79, and Mrs. Lucretia Warner, aged 77,) who were present at this raising. The building was located on the hill, on the west side of the road, about forty rods above the residence of Mr. Leonard Strong. It stood facing the north. There were three entrances, at the north, south, and east, the latter being the grand entrance and leading directly to the pulpit. The house was not fully completed until October, 1787, at which time it was dedicated, eight years after it was raised. During its unfinished state, meetings were held in it, temporary seats being erected. It seems that the building, before being completed, was hardly more than the frame and outside covering, being without gallery, pews, steeple, and a finished pulpit. At the dedication a sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Tracy of Norwich from Gen. 28:17. These words were also sung, on this occasion:--

"Arise, O King of Grace," &c.

We are the more particular in describing the appearance of this meeting-house, because it is now among the things that were. Its interior was somewhat singular—at least it appears so to us, as we saw it only when a boy. Its pews were square and very high, with seats on three sides. The pulpit was set at an unusual elevation, and in front of it and partly under it was the deacons' seat, where those dignitaries were accustomed to sit, while directly over it hung a large sounding board. Two seats on either side of the broad aisle, in front of the pulpit, were reserved for the old men and women of the congregation, and each Sabbath from four to ten of these elderly people were accustomed to occupy them. The town meetings were also held in the meeting-house. The bell hung

in its belfry at the time of its completion was of beautiful tone; it was twice broken, and once recast. The steeple was 119 feet in height, and of a gradual taper from the belfry. In 1838 the house was taken down. It may with truth be said to have been the victim of a misplaced confidence. Erected on a high hill, difficult of access from all sections, except the north, though in the center of what was then, and what was judged would be, the principal village of the town, it was soon found to be on an isolated spot. The settlement at the southern base of the hill having attracted to it the main business of the town, and the new road along Mill river from the present village to Searsville, having diverted public travel from the hill route, a new meeting house was erected at the main village. The old one, having thus outlived its usefulness, was destroyed. We cannot but wish it yet stood to give its unmistakable evidence of the difficulties of other days. But it is gone. We see it now only dimly in the past,—a few Sabbaths in its high-walled pews, peering over and up to the venerable man of God, who for nearly a third of a century occupied its pulpit—the long weekly processions winding their way up the wearisome hill—a gathering throng in front, paying the last sad tribute of respect to an esteemed citizen of the town! Gone—all gone!

The church was without a pastor after Mr. Butler's death, upward of four years. During this time, as appears by the record, efforts were made to obtain Mr. Noah Andrus and Mr. Allen Olcott to preach with a view to settle, or "on probation," as it was termed. In 1780, it was voted to apply to Mr. Dwight of Northampton, to preach until the committee could get somebody with a view to settle; also, to apply to Mr. Hurlburt to preach one month. In the winter of 1778-9, it was voted to have preaching one month and to send to Norwich for Mr. Nathaniel Niles. This would seem to indicate that while without a pastor there was not regular preaching during the winter season. On the 10th of September, 1781 an invitation was extended to Rev. JOSEPH STRONG (who had preached for the society two or three months,) to settle, and he accepted in the following letter, which is an honor to the man and to the cause he had at heart:--

#### REV. JOSEPH STRONG'S ANSWER TO THE CHURCH AND TOWN.

Men and Brethren:--Having by your committee received your invitation to engage in the work of the christian ministry among you, and your spontaneous offers for the purpose of a temporal subsistence therein, by which you have given substantial evidence of your readiness to receive and support the Gospel Ministry and me in that character. The supplies you have voted for that purpose, (especially considering the present infant state of the town at least to as many of the inhabitants, and the peculiar public burdens of the present day,) must be thought liberal and clearly evidential of your cheerfulness to impart of your temporal things for the sake of enjoying spiritual things; whether they will prove adequate to the end proposed, I am not at present able to make more than a probable judgment, not having it in my power to foresee what the particular exigencies of my family may be; but be this as it may, I am, God willing, ready to make the trial, and hereby signify my acceptance of your invitation and compliance with your offers, relying on your justice and liberality for further supplies, should they be found necessary, and God give you ability; for since it is of divine ordination that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, I am not certain that they, except in some exempt cases, have a right to bind themselves to take up with anything short of a comfortable living, or could be holden should they do it.

My present wish and prayer is, that we may be owned and blessed of God and made mutual blessings one to the other and disposal without one exception to study and pursue the things that make for peace and wherewith one may edify another.

From yours in the Gospel of Christ,  
JOSEPH STRONG

Williamsburg, Dec. 3, 1781.

Mr. Strong was installed on the 26th of December, 1781, the 19th of the same month having been kept as a fast preparatory to it. He was voted a salary of £70, one half to be paid in silver and the other half in produce, he to find his own fire wood. It was afterward voted to give him 25 bushels of wheat at 4 shillings per bushels, 20 bushels of rye at 3 shillings, 33 bushels of corn at 2s.5d, 500 lbs., pork at 3d, 500 lbs. beef at 20s. per cwt., 55 lbs butter at 6 1-2d., 100 lbs. cheese at 6d., 120 lbs. flax at 8d., and 50 lbs wool at 1s. 6d.

At the installation of Mr. Strong, the following churches were invited to be present by pastors and delegates:--The churches in Windsor, North Windsor, Hadley, Hatfield, Conway, Northampton, Whately, Westhampton, Ashfield and Cummington. Deacons Carey and Frost, Josiah Dwight, Wm. Bodman and Elisha Nash, were appointed a committee of arrangements. The Installation sermon was, at the request of the church, preached by Rev. Jonathan Judd, of Southampton.

Mr. Strong died Jan 1, 1803, at the ripe age of 74 years, having been pastor of the church twenty-one years. The cause of his death was a disease of the throat, of long standing. His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Rufus Wells of Whately from Dan. 12, 3. Mr. Strong was a son of Joseph Strong of Coventry, Ct., and was married June 7, 1733, to Jane Gelston of Southampton, L.I., daughter of Hugh Gelston, Esq. His wife died Sept. 21, 1811, aged 83. They had nine children, one of whom (Joseph) became a minister of the gospel. Their names are as follows:--

1. Jane, born Oct. 5, 1754, married Rev. Reuben Holcomb of Sterling, Mass., and died April 11, 1822, aged 68.
2. Joseph, born April 7, 1756, married Sophia Woodbridge of South Hadley, and died at Clinton, N. Y.
3. Gelston, Born Nov. 15, 1757.
4. Elizabeth, born April 27, 1760, married Lathrop Mayhew and afterward Sherebiah Butler, and died Feb. 3, 1849, aged 89.
5. Mary, born May 24, 1762, married Perez Clapp of Southampton.
6. William, born Jan. 11, 1766, married Rhoda Skinner, Oct. 14, 1792, and died April 12, 1849, aged 83. He lived and died in Williamsburg. Their children were six, as follows:--Maltby G., Mary, Maltby, Jane, Maria, and Leonard. The latter still resides on

the old homestead in Williamsburg, and is the only one of the family now living. Maltby G. died in infancy. Mary married Stephen Hopkins of Williamsburg, and died Jan 11, 1818, aged 23, leaving two children. Maltby married Maria Buell and died Aug. 4, 1833, aged 34, leaving two children. Jane married Benjamin Rodgers, and died in 1829, aged 29, leaving two children. Maria married Silas Rice, and died June 21, 1830, aged 26, leaving two children. Leonard married Sophia, daughter of Rev. Rufus Wells of Whately, May 18, 1833, who died July 8, 1836, aged 24, leaving two children. He again married, April 27, 1837, to Lucy L. Patch, and by her has one son.

7. Hannah, born March 19, 1768, married Seth Dwight, son of Josiah Dwight, of Williamsburg, and died in Utica, N.Y. They were the parents of Rev. H. C. O. Dwight, a missionary to Constantinople.

8. Susannah, born March 17, 1790, married Thomas Mayhew, and died in 1842.

9. Sarah P., born Sept. 11, 1772, died Sept. 1774.

Previous to his settlement in Williamsburg, Mr. Strong was settled over the church at Simsbury, Ct., a number of years. He was also a chaplain in the Revolutionary army. He was a graduate of Yale College in 1749. He was, (says Mr. Lusk) "a man of liberal attainments, of strong mind, of large comprehension, deep spirituality, discreet carriage, engaging address, obliging and amiable in his deportment; he was also, a man wise in counsel, and in this respect enjoyed the distinguished confidence of his brethren abroad. Under his care the church was highly blessed. Some evil was mixed in their cup; but the glory of the Lord abode in His tabernacle. A work of grace in the year 1789, added about seventy souls to the church. That was called by way of eminence, the great reformation. It was marked by a solemnity, and deep convictions of sin, almost universal, though nothing peculiar obtained about the means of grace that were employed. It is said, indeed, that two of three brethren especially, had prayed for such a work for nearly twenty years. The stillness of the night season had often witnessed the conscious, deep-felt agony of their souls, on its behalf! From the recorded discipline of the church during his ministry, it appears that the evils of lying, fraud, and gross immorality, were discountenanced by a due severity."

Mr. Strong's sermons evinced much ability. One of them was published in a volume of sermons forming a collection of "Discourses by American Clergymen." The subject of this discourse was "The Divine Origin of the Bible," and taking the affirmative side of the question, he handled it in a masterly and eloquent manner. His style was free and bold, and he reproved sin and vice from his desk without reserve. On one occasion, during his ministry, a club of young men and youth in the town had robbed some bee-hives and fruit orchards. They were detected and arrested, brought before a magistrate, and escaped on their arraignment by false swearing. Mr. Strong soon after, on a Sunday, preached from his desk a sermon "On the wickedness of stealing and false-swearing." His text was, "The F[li]ying Roll;" from Zachariah 5:1-4:--

"What seest thou? I answered, a flying roll. The length thereof is twenty cubits and the breadth is ten cubits. Then said he unto me, this is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth, for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. I will bring it forth, saith the Lord of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief and the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name, and it shall remain in the midst of his house and shall consume it, with the timber thereof and the stones thereof."

The astonished culprits were in church during the delivery of this sermon, and they found that the preacher, though he could not arraign them criminally, yet could and did so morally, and publish to the world their guilt. The rebuke had a most salutary effect, and some of the delinquents lived and died in the town, aged and respected citizens.

The remains of Mr. Strong were deposited in the old burial ground, and a stone with this inscription raised to mark the spot:--

"To the memory of Rev. Joseph Strong, who died Jan 1, 1803, in the 76th year of his age and the 52d of his ministry. Naturally possessed of great self-command, a correct judgment, and a penetrating mind, he was eminently qualified for ruling a church and silencing opposers. By a faithful examination of the Scriptures, he acquired a thorough knowledge of their truths, and in his discourses taught them with perspicuity and force. His ministry, by a divine blessing, was crowned with remarkable success."

The church remained without a pastor nearly a year and a half, when they were fortunate in securing the consent of Rev. HENRY LORD to become their minister. Mr. Lord graduated at Yale College in 1801, and was ordained at Williamsburg, June 20, 1804. The sermon at his ordination was preached by Rev. Dr. Lyman of Hatfield, from Tim. 4:1-3. The pastors of the churches in Northampton, Hadley, Hatfield, Killingworth, (2d society,) Conway, Chesterfield, Goshen, Whately, Westhampton, Easthampton and Ashfield, with Rev. Theodore Hinsdale of Dalton, were present. The church held a fast preceding the ordination.

It is a sufficient eulogy of Mr. Lord to state, that he remained the faithful and fearless pastor of this church until his death, Nov. 22, 1834, a period of upward of thirty years. The sundering of the ties which bound him to the people of his flock was a severe blow to them. Did they respect him—love him—revere him? If it were not a sufficient answer to point to the remarkable length of his ministry, we can yet appeal to the many of his flock still remaining, who listened to his preachings. They say, with united voice, "he was a good man—a faithful pastor, and lived the sermons to which he gave utterance." A ministry of thirty years over a church composing nearly the entire population of a town, and in the early years of its settlement, afforded a great field for the exercise of powers such as Mr. Lord possessed. His gifts were great, his acquirements extensive. His unexceptionable walk, his kind and urbane manners, his ability and judicious action as a pastor, caused him to be universally esteemed by all that knew him. He lived in peace with his people, and died honored and lamented. The influence of such a man, at such a time, and in such a position, who can measure? Under his care the church was blessed with repeated marks of divine favor. There were revivals in 1816, 1819 and 1831, as the fruit of which not less than 134 souls were added to the church. He died at the age of 53. His disease was typhus fever. His funeral sermon was presented by Rev. Levi Pratt of Hatfield, from Isaiah 26:4, and a large concourse of people gathered to witness the obsequies.

The children of Mr. Lord were four—Chester, Charles, Fidelia and Emily. The two sons became ministers of the Gospel.

Rev. WILLIAM LUSK became the fourth pastor of the church, and was installed Jan. 20, 1836. The following pastors were present:--Rev. Messrs. Perkins of Amherst, Bisbee of Worthington, White of Southampton, Condit of South Hadley, and Tyler of South Hadley Falls. The sermon was preached by Rev. David D. Field of Stockbridge, from Eph. 4:11.

Mr. Lusk was a graduate of Union College, in 1822, and before his settlement at Williamsburg, he was settled at Chenango, N.Y. His ministry was of short duration. An unfortunate division occurred, originating soon after his settlement, and continuing until his dismissal, Feb. 7, 1840. He was a man of much energy and zeal. Several of his sermons were published, to one of which there was prefixed a brief historical sketch of the church.

Since the dismissal of Mr. Lusk—21 years—the church has had five pastors, four of whom are now living. One—Mr. Goodwin—died while holding the pastorate. He had been settled over the church less than sixteen months, when he died. During that time he had greatly endeared himself to his people, and his loss was much lamented.—The pastors and deacons of the church, from its organization to this time, have been as follows:--

#### PASTORS

Rev. Amos Butler, Ordained July 14, 1773. Died Oct. 18, 1777.  
Rev. Joseph Strong, Installed Dec. 26, 1781. Died Jan. 1, 1803.  
Rev. Henry Lord, Ordained June 20, 1804. Died Nov. 22, 1834.  
Rev. William Lusk, Installed Jan. 20, 1836. Dismissed Feb. 7, 1840.  
Rev. David E. Goodwin, Ordained Jan. 13, 1841. Died May 2, 1842.  
Rev. M.G. Wheeler, Installed Oct. 18, 1842. Dismissed March 1, 1846.  
Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox, Installed Feb. 19, 1847. Dismissed Nov. 11, 1849.  
Rev. Edward W. Root, Ordained Oct. 23, 1850.  
Rev. Frederick T. Perkins, Dismissed April, 1860.

#### DEACONS.

Amasa Frost, Elected 1771,  
died, Jan. 6, 1795  
Joseph Carey Elected 1771,  
died, May 30, 1803  
Elisha Allis, Elected 6-13-1785  
Nehemiah Cleveland, Elected 6-13-1785  
Elisha Nash “ 5/27/90, Died, 9/15/1827  
Asa Ludden “ 5/27/90, Died, 4/8/1825  
Sam'l Graves “ 8/16/04, Died, 5/21/1821  
Zechariah Mayhew “ 8/12/13, Died, 5/29/1830  
Sylvanus Hubbard, “ 12/16/1813, resn'd 5/6/1847.  
Joseph Bodman, “ 5/29/1817, died 3/2/1847.  
Joseph Ludden, “ 2/2/1832, died 5/12/1836.  
Gershom Rodgers, “ 8/4/1832, resn'd 3/4/1840.  
William Pomeroy, “ 11/23/1838.  
Erastus Graves, “ 5/6/1847.  
Washington Shaw, “ 5/6/1847, resn'd 3/2/1851.  
Jonathan w. Nash, “ 1/ 2/1832.  
Henry Stearns, “ 9/ 2/1852.

#### NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ADDED FROM 1771 TO 1794.

Josiah Hadlock, Jr. and wife, Wm. Bodman and wife, Ebenezer Bird and wife, Elihu Graves and wife, Samuel Bodman and wife, Joseph Bodman and wife, Baron Graves and wife, Edmund Taylor and wife, Priscilla; Jonathan Walcot and wife, Joseph Ludden, Nehemiah Cleveland and wife, Aaron Kinsley and wife, Dr. Elijah Paine and wife, John Miller and wife, Elijah Waite and wife, Wm. Guilford and wife, James Claghorn and wife, Rufus Hyde, Samuel Bradford and wife; Esther, wife of Joseph Hill, widow Mary Bodman, widow Eliza Fisher, widow Martha Nash, Martha Nash, Mary, wife of John Waite, Hannah, wife of Thomas Meekins, widow Warren, the wife of James Skiff, Esther, wife of Mather Warren, the wife of Thomas Fintin, the wife of Thomas French, widow Abigail Thayer, widow Mary White, widow Snow, widow Cobb, Elizabeth Finney, Dea. Elisha Allis and wife, Mary, David Phinney and wife, Jane, wife of Rev. Joseph Strong, Samuel Graves and wife, Abigail, Benj. Pomeroy and wife, Solomon Snow and wife, Irena; Sally, wife of Timothy Guilford; Joseph Wait and wife, Judith; David Porter and wife, Sarah; widow Deliverance Wales; Sarah A., wife of Ezra Clark; Polly, wife of Daniel Prince; Irena, wife of Lucius Graves; Gelston Strong and wife, Deborah; Seth Frary and wife, Esther; Roswell Cleveland and wife, Temperance; Hannah Hillman; James Barry and wife; Dea. Nehemiah Cleveland and wife, Hannah; Martha, wife of Asa Wright; Simeon Guilford; widow Jemima Luce; George Davenport and wife, Esther; John Bagley and wife; Eliza, wife of Lt. Asa Ludden; Amos Truesdale; Priscilla, wife of Stephen

Miller; Asa White and wife, Zilpah; Susanna, wife of Elias Root; Noah Bodman; Amasa Cleveland and wife, Naomi; Solomon Warner and wife, Huldah; Lt. Asa Ludden; Lt. Joshua Thayer; Benj. Jones and wife, Rebecca; Elisha Graves and wife, Abigail; Josiah Frost; Timothy Guilford; Ezra Strong and wife, Temperance; Obed Skiff and wife, Lucy; Hannah, wife of F. Mayhew; Zachariah Mayhew and wife, Anna; Samuel Walcot; Ezra Strong, Jr. and wife, Nancy; Irena, wife of Seth Kingsley; Wm. Meader and wife; Reuben Bangs and wife, Lucy; Sarah, wife of C. Miller; Oliver Thayer and wife; Hannah, wife of I. Little; John Starks; Martha, wife of Robert Little; Perez Graves and wife; Naomi, wife of Elisha Nash; Noah Washburn; Drusilla Meader; Elias Stone and wife, Sarah; Freeman Norton and wife; John Nash and wife, Patty; John Frost and wife, Amy; Thomas Wilde and wife, Joanna; Priscilla Bird; Betsey, Hannah and Susan Strong; Lydia Pomeroy; Josiah Hadlock; Samson Hill; Lot Hillman and wife, Lucy; John, Shubael, Levi, Eleazer, Abigail and Ruth Hillman; Justus Smith, Jared Brooks, Jeremiah Douglass, Thomas Meekins, Josiah Hayden, Jr., Abner Cary, Joseph Meekins, Susannah Bangs, Hannah Bangs, Silence Chesman, Naomi Bodman, Thomas Spafford, Lemuel Potter and wife, Lydia; Lucy Cathill, Eliphalet Bangs, Selah Pomeroy, Mary and Eliza Fance, Anna Collins Hadlock, Paul Davis and wife, Martha; Northway Fairfield; Sarah Bradford, Anna Fairfield; Richard Cary and wife, Susanna, Cotton Hayden, Herman Bangs, Abram Thayer, Wm. White, Hannah Nash, Mary Hyde, Seth Paine, Wm. Bodman, Jr., John Steward, Stephen Meekins and Sally, his wife; James Bangs, Jr., Samuel Hill, Charlotte Gervison, Nehemiah White and wife, Eliza, Andrew Crawford and wife, Susan, Axe Hellet, Benj. Ludden and wife, Rebecca, Asa Carey, Sally Allen, Hezekiah Dunham and wife, Rebecca, Thomas Allen Fance, Patty Bodman, Wm. Strong, Lydia Wilde, Patty Nash, Seth Warner, Seth Warner, Thomas Nash, Elijah Allis, Nathan Starks and wife, Lucy, widow Phebe Norton, Elisha Wells and wife, Jerusha, Ruhama, wife of S. Guilford; John Miller, Jr. and wife, Hannah; Rhoda, wife of Edward Little; Molly, wife of B. Smith; Abisha Williams; Anna, wife of Lt. Joshua Thayer; Bethiah Thayer, Mary Robinson; Elisha Hubbard and wife, Hannah; Cornelius Tileston and wife, Sarah; Ebenezer Paine; Wilmot Mayhew and wife, Nancy; Daniel Sapeton and wife, Jerusha; Sally Nash, Shubael Bradford, Ephraim Hill, Moses Nash and wife, Sally; Olive, wife of Timothy Kingsley; Robert Allen, Jr.; Chloe, wife of Samuel Cowles; Adonijah Taylor and wife Rachel; Susanna, wife of Josiah Gillett; Caleb Johnson and wife, Mary; Athern Butler and wife, Desire; Elnathan Graves; Sarah, wife of Orange Hart Warren; Jacob Cooper and wife, Sarah; Lovisa, wife of Mark Warner; Elisha Morton and wife, Sarah; Clarissa, wife of Lucius Graves. Males 130, females 186, total 316.

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January 22, 1861

#### THE PART TAKEN IN THE REVOLUTION.

September 20, 1774.—At a town meeting, voted that Samuel Fairfield, Elisha Nash and Russell Kellogg, be a committee to meet the delegates at Northampton. (Lo! a sign of rebellion in America!)

October 3, 1774.—Voted at a town meeting to send Russell Kellogg as a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Concord. The patriots, Dr. Warren, John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock and others, were soon to be found here, discussing the rights and grievances of the American people.

March 13, 1775.—The town voted to send Russell Kellogg to the Provincial Congress at Concord, and voted to raise minute men, who were soldiers, to march at the tap of the drum, without further notice, for the military service of the Colony.

May 22, 1775.—Voted to send Josiah Dwight as a delegate to the Provincial Congress, to be held at Watertown. At this stage of the Revolution, the towns of New England appointed "Committees of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection." Williamsburg, at a public meeting, selected a committee composed of the following persons, viz: Doctor Elijah Paine, Elisha Nash, Amasa Frost, Richard Church and Josiah Hayden.

March, 1776.—This year began the preparations for independence. Soldiers were raised more or less through New England. Capt. Samuel Fairfield was sent to Cambridge with a load of provisions from Williamsburg, for the soldiers.

May 6, 1776.—The town, at a public meeting, voted to advise the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, to make a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain, whenever the Congress might think proper to do it.

July 15, 1776.—Voted to give 9 soldiers £6 apiece, to join the continental army in Canada.

March 18, 1776.—Nine soldiers were at this date raised and equipped for the continental army, and Elisha Nash, James Bangs, Samuel Bradford, Ephraim Fisher and Richard Church, were appointed a "Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection" of the town. The Northern campaign in 1776 was a failure. In the campaign of 1777, thirteen continental soldiers were sent to Ticonderoga and Lake Champlain from this town.

March 18, 1777.—Voted that the town meetings be notified at two public houses and at the Liberty Pole, except on sudden emergencies.

May 16, 1777.—General Arnold had been unable to resist the British fleet under Burgoyne on Lake Champlain, though he fought the British armament much longer and more ably and skillfully than he ever had credit for. General Schuyler commanded the nucleus of the Northern army. After the British had driven Generals St. Clair and Arnold from Lake Champlain, and Ticonderoga had been evacuated, a messenger was dispatched down the country to rally recruits and troops. The man came through Williamsburg on a Sunday morning, on horseback. He reined up at the church door during sermon time, and made his business known by proclamation. Capt. Fairfield promptly called for "soldiers and arms," and over fifty men were drafted and

enlisted before 4 o'clock that afternoon. We have the names of thirty-four persons who were enrolled in that enlistment. They are as follows:--Thomas Vintor, Eleazer Hill, Amasa Frost, John Miller, John Wait, Jonathan Wolcott, Samson Hill, Jacob Robinson, Thomas Thatcher, Thomas Howe, Downing Warner, Samuel French, Andrew Gates, Josiah Dwight, Samuel Bradford, Elisha Nash, Jesse Wilde, Bethuel Smith, Isaac Finney, Daniel Fuller, John Bagley, Ezra Strong, John Williams, Amasa Graves, Simeon Barrows, Rufus Hyde, Richard Church, Ichabod Hemmenway, Samuel Fairfield, Abel Thayer, Jonathan Warner, Elisha Graves, Nehemiah Washburn. These men either went to the Northern Arm or procured substitutes. They raised £215 by way of voluntary contribution, to hire substitutes; while on August 27, 1779, the town voted to raise £300 to be levied on the polls and estates of the town, to hire seven additional continental soldiers for 3 years, or during the revolutionary war.

June 4, 1777.—Capt. Jonathan Warner procured a soldier by the name of Joel Wiles, and the town paid him £56.10 as a bounty.

June 16, 1777.—Constant Mayhew received £20 bounty, on his enlistment.

Aug. 18, 1777.—Paid Samuel Duryer £30 bounty, on his enlistment for 3 years. Captain Warner was in the battles of Saratoga, and was severely wounded by a musket ball in the shoulder, while heading a charge with the bayonet.

Dec. 15, 1777.—Voted in town meeting to pay Capt. Samuel Fairfield £54 bounty money, which he had paid for 9 soldiers who served six months each in the Northern army.

March 16, 1778.—Joshua Thayer, Ephraim Fisher, Abijah Hunt and Samuel Day, were chosen a Committee of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection for the town. By the proceedings at this meeting it appears that 9 soldiers had served in the Northern army during 1776; 13 soldiers had served in the continental army during 1777.

July 22, 1779.—Voted to hire men for 9 months for the continental army, one half of the expense to be laid on the polls and the other on the estates of the inhabitants, the rate of wages to be 40 shillings a month, to be paid to each man, estimated at the rate of 4 shillings per bushel of wheat.

March 30, 1780.—Elisha Nash, Elijah Paine, Joseph Carey, Andrew Gates and Nehemiah Cleveland, be a Committee of "Correspondence, Safety and Inspection" of the town.

May 8, 1780.—Voted that Elisha Nash, Josiah Dwight, William Johnson, Elisha Allis, Abel Thayer, Elijah Paine and Samuel Day, be a committee to revise the constitution and make such alterations as they may think sound, and report their doings at an adjourned meeting. The committee reported in its favor, and the town voted to accept the constitution with such alterations as were suggested by the committee.

July 3, 1780.—Voted an average should be taken with regard to the services the people have done in the continental army, and that the town will raise the number of men required for the 3 months and 6 months; and that the 3 months men receive £4 per month each for their wages upon their return home; and that the men enlisted for 6 months receive £300 each, continental currency, bounty money. Voted also that the militia called into service receive £3 per month each, for wages, and return the wages they received from the state to the town, and \$50 each bounty money.

Oct. 13, 1780.—Voted to procure the beef for the army, assessed upon, and that the same be procured at the rate of £170 continental currency, as the hundred weight, and that Joseph Carey, Elisha Nash and Asa Ludden be a committee to procure said beef, and that an assessment be laid on the polls of the town, to bring the people upon an average for their services done in the Revolutionary war.

Sept. 4, 1780.—The first election for Governor took place. John Hancock received 19 votes for Governor in this town. James Bowdoin received 4 votes.

Dec. 5, 1778.—The selectmen of the town chosen this year, issued a warrant in the name of "The State or Commonwealth of Massachusetts," directed to the constables of the town, commanding them to warn Jedediah Smith, a person liable to become a town charge as a vagrant and pauper, to remove out of the town forthwith, under pain of arrest and imprisonment. The constable, Elijah Waite, returned that he had "executed the within warrant by warning the said Smith forthwith to depart and leave said town."

Appearing in the Gazette & Courier  
January 29, 1861

## PHYSICIANS [I]

Concerning the early physicians of Williamsburg, we possess little information. The first who located here was a Dr. CAREY, who soon left town, and we have no further trace of him. He was succeeded by Dr. FRANCIS MANTER, a respectable practitioner, who died in the house now occupied by Lewis Bodman. The remains of Dr. Manter are interred in the old burying-ground. About this time, Dr. ELIJAH PAINE ministered to the bodily ailments of the inhabitants. Dr. --- Titus, who retired from practice in 1807, was an energetic man, but was very unpopular in his profession.

Dr. DANIEL COLLINS, a son of Rev. Daniel Collins, a congregational clergyman of Lanesboro, was born in that place, Oct. 2, 1780, graduated at Williams College in the class of 1800, and settled in Williamsburg in 1804, for the practice of medicine. For 40 years he was the principal physician in the place and was constantly occupied in a large and laborious practice. His business was not limited to this town, but a large share of it was done in the neighboring counties. As a physician, Dr. Collins occupied a commanding position. He was very skillful in the diagnosis of disease, and this was peculiarly his forte. He was a man of excellent judgment, and in the practice of his profession always acted promptly and energetically, in accordance with his own convictions. He was a man of liberal feelings, whose breast was always open to the relief of suffering and want, and whose generosity, though

unostentatious, knew no reserve. Dr. Collins, in his younger days, had in charge a large number of young men, who were in the pursuit of a classical or scientific education. At his death, in November, 1857, he bequeathed to the town the sum of \$12,000, for the support of schools. He was never married, and left the remainder of his property—about \$1,200—to various benevolent societies.

Dr. Collins first occupied as an office the hall in the house of Abner Williams, afterward used as a tavern, and now owned and occupied by Cornelius Tileston. He soon after took the office in the second story of the store adjoining, and which he occupied until his death, a period of 45 years. Dr. Collins was an earnest and active politician; at first a Federalist, then joining and leading the anti-Masonic party, and in his later years was an unflinching Democrat. The latter party under his lead increased largely in point of numbers. He always refused political distinction, and at one time when supported for the legislature, declined in favor of Dr. Meekins.

Some peculiarities further illustrative of his character may be of interest. In personal bearing Dr. Collins was reserved and dignified; in form, tall and slim. His language was given with scrupulous regard to grammatical accuracy. He seldom attended church—save in the early years of his practice—but was always present at the funerals of his old friends and patrons.

In business affairs he was ever reliable. His word was regarded as good as his note. He paid his indebtedness with remarkable punctuality and with strict regard to justice. It was a common thing for him to pay more than was demanded of him. He would often say, in his emphatic tone, “That isn’t enough—you can’t live so.” These generous qualities gave him great influence with all classes, and over some minds he exercised almost complete sway. In the practice of his profession the doctor always responded promptly to the call of his patients, and his singular appearance as he rode along on horseback—always at a moderate rate, however urgent the demand—will long be remembered. The first year of his settlement, he did about one-third of the medical business of the town; the second year two-thirds, and in the third year Dr. Titus withdrew for lack of patronage, and the entire business fell into his hands.

Soon after Dr. Collins came to Williamsburg and when his practice was quite small, he was accosted by his early rival, Dr. Titus, who taunted him as follows—“Come, Dr. Collins, ride around with me; I’ll get you into business.” It was not long before the tables were turned, and the “young doctor” repaid his old friend; by addressing him in the same sarcastic language.

No man who ever lived in town was capable of using more severe and cutting sarcasm than Dr. Collins; but underneath a rough and sometimes repulsive exterior beat a warm and generous heart.

His funeral was attended by a large concourse, from the congregational church, on the Sabbath afternoon following his decease. The Rev. Mr. Perkins, pastor, delivered an eloquent discourse on the solemn occasion, from which we extract the following paragraph, which appeared also in the Hampshire Gazette and Northampton Courier of Nov. 17th, 1857:--

“You now part with one who has been with you from his early manhood—for the period of fifty years; one, as I judge, naturally of a noble nature, keen perceptions, kind feelings—however affected by his single life, or unfavorably manifested in sudden expressions—still kind, as many a house of sickness and heart of sorrow has testified; and as a loving, feeble, long bed-ridden sister has often borne witness, in grateful acknowledgements for pecuniary aid. A man independent in his purposes and judgments—far as the east from west from cringing subserviency and fawning sycophancy; quick in thought and expression; able to see through men at a glance—hence tossing them into the scales readily as a drug for weight, and out again as unhesitatingly; of strictest integrity, that made him impatient of all unfairness, with a high sense of honor that flashed and burned at wrong, no matter against whom committed, himself or a stranger; a man with a high idea of what a man should be, and with feelings outraged by immorality, which burst forth in language not justified; a man with traits nobler, if sharper, than common.

You part not only with an old citizen, but with an old family physician. The full measure of this, in the case of one who has been your physician more than half a century, no language can express. In how many touching scenes has he shared? By how many tender sympathies been connected with your families! His feet have pressed every inch of your streets. He made every object a witness to his professional faithfulness, in season and out of season. All your homes have been familiar with his steps. Your doors have gladly opened at his coming. Your families have experienced his tender care and warm sympathies. To a great congregation now gone, he has ministered. You do well to remember him kindly, and to bury his faults willingly.”

In the remainder of the discourse, the reverend gentleman touched very fairly and impartially upon the religious opinions of the doctor.—Dr. Collins accumulated a handsome property as the result of a long life of unremitting industry and economy. He was buried in the lot of Dr. Meekins, near the entrance of the new cemetery, and a beautiful monument of the finest marble marks his grave. It bears the following inscription:--

--“DANIEL COLLINS, M.D. Born in Lanesborough, Oct. 2nd, 1780: located in Williamsburgh in 1804; was the principal physician in the town for 40 years. Died Nov. 6, 1857, aged 77 years. Punctuality, activity, energy and fidelity in the discharge of his duties, marked his character.

The brittle thread of life is broken,

The body lies in its kindred dust,

The spirit dwells with God.”--

Appearing in the Gazette & Courier

February 5, 1861



Dr. THOMAS MEEKINS was born in 1796, and in 1816 went South and taught school in North Carolina, traveling much at different times. He returned to Williamsburg in 1824, and immediately commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Daniel Collins, who was at that time in the enjoyment of a very large and increasing practice. In 1827, Dr. Meekins graduated at the Berkshire Medical College, and shortly after settled in Worthington, where he remained until invited to the place of his nativity by the influence of his old preceptor and life-long friend, Dr. Collins. In the years 1834, '35, and '36, Dr. Meekins represented the town, with satisfactory ability, in the Legislature of the State, and served to the general acceptance of his constituents. He has always resided here, and in his profession is considered a judicious and successful practitioner. For many years he has taken a warm interest in the Common Schools of the town, and has often been chosen one of the general school committee.

Dr. SUMNER NASH, son of Thomas and Naomi Nash, born Jan. 1813. Having been an invalid from childhood, he was induced to visit the (then) famous Dr. Samuel Thompson, whose peculiar ideas of medical practice he adopted, and at once devoted his attention to the study of the "Thompsonian System." Returning to Williamsburg, he commenced its practice with good success, after having cured one or two patients who had been "doomed" by the regulars! Dr. Nash died July 9, 1834, at the early age of 21, having just entered upon a large practice.

Dr. J. DUNHAM GREEN, a native of Vermont, but recently of N.Y. city, settled in Williamsburg in 1857. He was a nephew of the celebrated Dr. Horace Green of N.Y., and had enjoyed excellent advantages at the city hospitals and in the office of his distinguished uncle. He remained in this town two years, devoting much attention to the speciality of diseases of the throat and lungs, and in several important operations proved himself an accomplished Surgeon. Dr. Green removed to Rutland, Vt., where he now resides.

Dr. HARVEY E. BROWN was born in New York city, and is a son of Col. Harvey Brown of the U.S. Army. Dr. Brown graduated at the College of New Jersey, Princeton, in 1854, and in medicine at the University N.Y. Medical College, in 1857. He was settled for some time in Sullivan Co., Indiana, and came to Williamsburg in February, 1860, where he still resides, in the enjoyment of a considerable practice.

Dr. THOMAS W. MEEKINS, son of Dr. Thos. Meekins, was educated at the Easthampton Seminary, and afterward studied Dentistry with Dr. J.W. Smith, then of Northampton, but late of Brooklyn, N.Y. Dr. Meekins having become thoroughly versed in the art, engaged in the study of medicine in Pittsfield, where he graduated at the Berkshire Medical College, in 1852. He settled at Northampton soon after, where he has since resided. As a scientific dentist, he has few, if any, superiors.

Dr. ALVAN S. NASH, son of Elisha Nash, was born in Dec., 1802, and having attended medical lectures at Pittsfield and New Haven, he graduated from the latter Medical College. He subsequently studied dentistry and located at Batavia, N.Y., where he died Sept. 14, 1827, a short time after he had entered, with promise, upon his profession.

Dr. ELAM BODMAN, son of Luther Bodman, born in 1812, studied medicine with Dr. William B. Hawks, an eminent practitioner of Tarleton, Ohio, now of Columbus; was licensed to practice, and in 1844 located at Mt. Sterling, Oh., where he remained, having a large and very lucrative business, until in 1857 Dr. Bodman removed to Bement, Ill., where he has since retired from the medical profession.

Dr. EDWARD L. HILL, son of Russell Hill, having spent two years at Amherst College, entered the office of Drs. Daniel and James Thompson, Northampton, for the study of medicine. He graduated at the N.Y. College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 1852. He practiced a few years at Chester Factories, and now resides in Oxford, Ohio, where he is extensively occupied in his profession.

Dr. MORRIS DWIGHT graduated at the Berkshire Medical College in the class of 1825, being the second class that was sent out from that venerable institution after its organization. Dr. Dwight settled in Halifax, Vt., and afterward in Cummington, where he practiced but a few years. He is now a member of a Shaker community somewhere in Virginia.

Dr. HANSON BODMAN, son of Artemas Bodman, now of Oxford, Ohio, graduated at one of the Western Medical Colleges—we are not informed which—and has practiced for a number of years in Southern Ohio, near Cincinnati. He removed to Oxford in 1855. His brother, Dr. Solomon Bodman, practices in Bedford Co., Tenn.

## LAWYERS

ELISHA HUBBARD, son of Elisha Hubbard, Esq., born 1789, graduated at Williams College in 1811, and studied law in the office of Mills & Howe, at Northampton. In 1815, he commenced practice in Williamsburg, where he resided until the time of his death, in 1853. Mr. Hubbard possessed talents of a high order. He took an active interest in politics, and was ever a zealous advocate of the principles of the Federalist and Whig parties. He represented the town with ability, in the legislature of the state, at different times, and enjoyed, to a remarkable degree, the confidence of his fellow citizens. His opinions as expressed in town meetings were listened to with much respect and deference. They usually carried conviction, being delivered with peculiar force and naivete.

ADDISON H. WHITE, son of Asa White, fitted for college with Dr. Daniel Collins, and Rev. Moses Hallock of Plainfield. He graduated at Yale College with high honors, in the class of 1823. With such distinguished men in his class as Rev. Dr. Blagden, Hon. Geo. Ashmun and Hon. Edward Dickinson, Mr. White maintained an enviable rank as a classical scholar. He studied law and practiced extensively several years in Covington, Tenn., of which city he was chosen and officiated as Mayor. In 1839, being in delicate health, he returned to the old homestead, in this place, where he has since resided, devoting his time, principally, to rural pursuits. Mr. White has been occupied to some extent in the practice of law, but since his retirement from its active duties, has always been engaged in promoting the best interests of his fellow citizens. He deserves largely the gratitude of the public for his untiring efforts in the cause of general education. The State Board of Education noticed, particularly, several suggestions made by

him in his published school reports, which are of no small value, and have since been generally adopted. Esq. White still lives to enjoy the fruits of an ample fortune, and devotes himself zealously to every measure that promises to advance, in the place of his nativity, the interests of sound learning and religion.

Hon. HIRAM WARNER, M. C., was the son of Obed and Jane Warner, and was born Oct. 29, 1802. When 17 years of age, he went to Georgia and taught in the Academy of Sparta, in Hancock county. He studied law, and in 1824 was admitted to practice in the courts of Georgia. In 1828 he was elected to the state legislature from Crawford county, and continued to be its representative until 1831. During the session of 1833, a new circuit was formed, called the "Coweta Circuit," and of which he was elected judge. In 1836, he was re-elected, and continued to discharge its duties until 1840, when he was removed from office. At the organization of the supreme court of the state of Georgia, in 1845, Mr. Warner was elected one of the judges, for the term of four years, and at the expiration of this term he was re-elected by a unanimous vote. He has since been a representative in Congress, and was a Union member of the Convention which recently decided the secession of the state from the Union. Judge Warner resides upon his plantation in Meriwether county, near Greenville, Ga.

CHESTER WHITE, son of Asa White, graduated at Yale College in 1825, studied law and practiced in Tennessee. In 1839 he removed to Racine, Wisconsin, where he has been Mayor of the city, and at which place he now resides.

Hon. CLEMENT COFFIN, an old resident of this town, a lawyer, is now a judge in Illinois. He resides near Cedar Falls. He was born on Martha's Vineyard.

Hon. JOHN JOHNSON WHITE, son of Asa White of this place, was born April 3, 1793. He fitted for college with Dr. Daniel Collins, spending a portion of his time with Rev. Henry Lord, then pastor of the church here, and Rev. Moses Hallock of Plainfield. In the fall of 1806, he entered Williams College, and graduated at that institution in 1810, being a classmate with Rev. Justin Edwards, late President of the Andover Theological Seminary, William H. Maynard, the profound jurist, and many others equally distinguished. Mr. White went south and studied law in Nashville, Tenn., and in 1817 opened an office in Gallatin, where he has since resided. As a lawyer, his career has been a brilliant one. He has several times been appointed a special judge of the supreme court, and was a member of the convention called by the General Assembly of the state to sit in Nashville, on the 19th May, 1834, upon a question of great judicial interest and importance. Mr. White took a distinguished part in the debate. A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, writing from Nashville, under date of July 22, 1834, says:--

"The subject of the judiciary excited much interest, for ten or twelve days, in the committee of the whole. Mr. White, the member from Sumner county, was a giant in this debate. He is a native of the good old Bay State, and was born in Williamsburg, a few miles west of Northampton, and graduated at Williams College, in the class of 1810. Soon after, he came to Tennessee, where his course has been one of high and honorable success. He has not only made a fortune, but has won a fame as amiable and pure as it is brilliant. His legal attainments are of no common order. In answer to my question, whose mind was under the best training and had acquired the most varied and effective stores of information of any in the convention, Gov. Carroll, without hesitation, referred me to Mr. White. He strenuously, and with an eloquence enriched with the fruits of severe historical studies and extensive legal knowledge, urged the plan of appointing the supreme judges to hold their offices during good behavior," etc.

In his religious views, he is a Presbyterian, and has been for many years an elder in that denomination. He still follows his profession, more especially in the chancery and supreme courts, and has acquired a large estate, having had a large and lucrative practice for the past forty years. For an extended notice of his life, see Livingston's *Memoirs of Eminent Americans*, Vol. IV.

ALANSON NASH, son of Elisha Nash, was born March 1, 1809. he pursued an extensive course of scientific and classical study with Dr. Daniel Collins, and in early life devoted much attention to Mineralogy. An elaborate account of the Lead Mines in Hampshire county, from his pen, appeared in *Silliman's Journal*, Vol. 12, page 288. Mr. Nash entered upon the study of law, and resides in New York, where he has a large and lucrative practice.

HENRY NASH, brother of the above, born May 15, 1807, studied law with Oran Gray Otis, Esq. of Balston Spa, N.Y., and resides in New Britain, Ct., where he has practiced his profession successfully, for many years.

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#### CLERGYMEN

Rev. ANSEL NASH, son of John Nash, born Jan. 26, 1788, graduated from Williams College in 1809 and pursued his theological studies at Andover, where he completed his course in 1812. He was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Tolland, Ct., where he continued eighteen years, and afterward was successively installed over the churches in Bloomfield and Rockville, Ct., and Colchester, Vt. He was for some time a most efficient agent of the American Education Society. The labors of this devoted man were many and varied. He was useful as a teacher, and prepared many young men for college. As a preacher, his popularity was extensive. His style was peculiarly chaste and elevated, and his manner in the delivery of his sermons was easy and graceful. During his ministry, his churches were greatly blessed with revivals and many additions were made, as the result of his indefatigable efforts. He died at Brattleboro, Vt., Aug. 11, 1851.

Rev. WILLIAM NASH, son of John Nash, was born Aug. 5, 1768, and fitted for college with Rev. Dr. Strong of Northampton. He graduated at Yale, in 1791, and studied theology with Rev. Dr. Lathrop of West Springfield. He settled in Boylston. Although he was at first a Trinitarian, he changed his views, and was through his subsequent life an Unitarian. "He had a decidedly independent and inquiring mind, subject to the dictation of no one—speaking and preaching the conclusions drawn from his own

researches and reflections,— fearless and ready in reprimanding profanity, in any and everyone, high and low.” The world needs more such independent and original thinkers. The church, especially in this age of its history, requires of her ministers the plain and direct application of divine truth, made without distinction of party or faction, and untrammelled by a servile adherence to the dictum of any self-constituted human authority. Mr. Nash died in West Boylston, March 25, 1829.

Rev. CHESTER LORD, son of the Rev. Henry Lord, was born July 12, 1812, graduated at Amherst College in 1831, and at Andover Theological Seminary, in the class of 1834. Mr. Lord was a young man of great promise. He died Nov. 8th, the same year of his graduation, at the age of 22 years. He was never ordained to the ministry, but preached once, in his father’s pulpit, a short time previous to his decease. The following obituary notice of him was published in the Northampton Courier, at the time of his decease:--

“It is seldom that a death of so young a person takes place, by which so deep an impression is made, or so much of worth and high promise is removed. This amiable young man graduated at Amherst college and had just completed his theological studies and received a license to preach the Gospel. The hopes and expectations of his parents and a large circle of friends in regard to his future usefulness were full of promise, and apparently on the very eve of being realized. He had been trained up with great care, and few have stood on the threshold of the ministry, whose morning was brighter. On a bed of death he manifested a desire to live, only that he might be useful in the cause of Christ. When it was decided that he could not recover, he was not only patient and resigned, but joyfully committed his spirit to the Redeemer in whom he believed. He died in the full hope of the Gospel, and his sun, though it set early, went down without a cloud, in stillness and in glory. His funeral was attended at the Congregational church, on Sabbath afternoon, where a very large concourse of sympathising friends and acquaintances gathered around his remains and listened with breathless attention, to a sermon by Rev. Mr. Todd of Northampton. The ways of God are a great deep; but we laid our dear young friend in the grave in the confident assurance not only that these ways are right, but that he will rise again, clothed with honor and immortality.”

Rev. Mr. Lord was interred by the side of his father, in the old cemetery of Williamsburg.

Rev. CHARLES LORD, son of Rev. Henry Lord, was born Jan 27, 1816. He graduated at Amherst College in 1838, and immediately after went south, where he spent a year traveling. In 1842 he had completed his course of theological study and graduated at Andover. He was ordained a Home Missionary at Boonville Mission, Oct. 20, 1843, and labored at Independence and vicinity, Iowa, and in the western part of the state. In 1846 he was called to the pastorate of the Congregational church at Madison, Wisconsin, where he preached until 1864, when, on account of the failure of his sight he returned to Massachusetts. After a cessation from professional labor of a few months, his health so far returned as to enable him to again enter upon the duties of the ministry, and he was installed over the Second Congregational church in Whately, where he remained until about two years since. He is now pastor of the Congregational church in Buckland. In 1845, the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him.

Like his father before him, Mr. Lord has been an earnest and faithful minister, and has been greatly blessed in his labors, particularly at the West, where, during the time of his early ministry, the work of the Home Missionary was exceedingly arduous and in many instances discouraging.

Rev. JOHN R. MILLER born July 18, 1818, graduated at Union College in 1844, and at the East Windsor (Ct.) Theological School in 1847. He was ordained as pastor of the Congregational church in Norwich, Mass., in May, 1848, and in 1853 he resigned that pastorate and accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in Suffield, Ct., where he has since resided and where he now officiates in the ministry. Mr. Miller is the eldest son of Jason Miller of this town, who is a descendant of John Miller, the first settler of the town.

## PROMINENT MEN.

WILLIAM BODMAN, Esq., for many years a leading man in the town, was born May 28, 1741, and came to Williamsburg in 1770. He purchased land and built the house now occupied by Thomas Nash. He was a member of the convention of 1788, that formed the present state constitution, and participated to some extent in the debates of that body. He represented the town fourteen years in the state legislature, and for many years was a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum. He was undoubtedly the most influential man, in his day, that has lived in the town. He possessed talents of a high order, and was distinguished for his consequence. He had the offer of a nomination for one of the four Senators for the old County of Hampshire, then including the present counties of Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden. This honor—which was one of eminent distinction—he was compelled to decline, on account of ill health. He opposed the adoption of the state constitution in his capacity as a delegate, and made two speeches in presenting his objections. These speeches are reported in “Elliott’s Debates.” The ground of his opposition was, that the general government had given to it the supreme power of taxation and the military power of the nation, and could send an army and take away the liberties of the people. His arguments were at the time considered difficult to be answered. He died in 1825, at the age of 84. During the later years of his life his mind was clouded with melancholy, which increased to such an extent that it became a disease, and was the cause of his death.

Dea. JOSEPH BODMAN, son of Joseph Bodman, was born in 1772, and during the whole period of his life was a man of much prominence in the town. He was chosen deacon in the church May 29, 1817, which office he retained until his death March 2, 1847. As a business man, he was thorough and efficient, and at the same time cautious and far-seeing. In his intercourse with others, he was exceedingly polite, and his very address won his friends. He was a cheerful and happy christian, and exemplified in an eminent degree the profession of religion which he made at an early age. As a deacon, he was a model for all his successors. Ever actively engaged in the service of Christ, he was bold and courageous to defend the doctrines of the church, to enforce its

discipline, and to manage its affairs with zeal and prudence. He did more in his life time to maintain the weekly prayer meetings than any other member of the church, and his house was ever the home of the minister. Deacon Bodman for many years held a commission as Justice of the Peace, and for a long time engaged in the business of tanning, the most of the time connected with the late Stephen Hopkins. In politics he was an ardent Federalist, and was very influential in shaping of political opinions and actions of his fellow citizens. In town affairs his influence was extensive, and he frequently served in offices of trust and responsibility. He was chosen captain of the Infantry company in Williamsburg in 1805 and served three years, a post considered in that time to be the highest within the gift of the people of the town. His wife, Mrs. Lucretia Wait Bodman, was a woman greatly beloved for her good works and consistent piety, and died in 1855, universally lamented.

SALMON H. CLAPP, Esq., was born in Southampton, Oct. 31, 1790. In 1812-13, he taught school in this town, and in 1815 settled here for permanent residence. In 1844, he received from Gov. Briggs the appointment of Justice of the Peace, and in 1853 of Justice of the Peace and Quorum, from Gov. Clifford. In the Probate Court, Mr. Clapp has been constantly engaged during a period of forty years, and probably has done more business in that court than any other man in Hampshire county. Accuracy, punctuality and strictest integrity have ever been his distinguishing characteristics. He has also served his fellow citizens in the respective offices of Constable, School Committee and Selectman. He was in the former capacity for twelve successive years. Although never bred to the profession of law, Esq. Clapp, by years of study and familiarity with the business of the courts, has rendered himself a self-made lawyer. The Revised Statutes of Massachusetts are to a rare degree at his command, and he is often consulted on questions involving points of equity. He was the author of the historical sketch of Williamsburg that appeared in the columns of the Springfield Republican and was afterward incorporated into "Holland's History of Western Massachusetts." Mr. Clapp still lives, at the age of 70 years, in the enjoyment of the respect and confidence always shown by a New England community to one who has for a long series of years lived in their midst, and illustrated in his every public act the principles of justice and strict morality. He has for many years been a liberal contributor to the American Tract and Society and the American Bible Society. We trust his life and health may long be spared to the enjoyment of his domestic concerns and to the service, ever so faithfully performed, toward his fellow citizens.

Hon. HIRAM NASH, son of Elisha Nash, was born Feb. 13, 1809. He applied himself faithfully to study, and received a good common school education. Settling on Nash hill, near the old family homestead, he engaged in farming and has pursued the business as a science. He has been a man of much influence in the town, and has served twelve years as one of the selectmen. He represented the town in the House of Representatives at Boston during the years 1848 and 1849, and was a member of the constitutional convention which met at Boston in 1853. Mr. Nash was elected to the State Senate in 1859, from this senatorial district, and re-elected in 1860, and was appointed chairman of the celebrated committee on the "Pluero-Pneumonia or cattle disease." He was also chairman of the joint standing committee on agriculture. As a legislative officer Mr. Nash has always given excellent satisfaction to his constituents, by the judicious discharge of his duties, and by his genial temperament and courteous address. He is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, and has long been zealously engaged in promoting the interests of that connection.

The four persons here noticed would hardly complete the list of the prominent men of the town, aside from those in the professions. JOSIAH DWIGHT and Capt. JOHN WELLS were active and influential men, and deserve to be mentioned in this connection, but we have not the facts of their history. If these sketches were intended to comprise Haydenville, we should unhesitatingly include in the list Capt. SAMUEL FAIRFIELD and Hon. JOEL HAYDEN. There are several others who were men of much influence and prominence, whom we hope to notice more fully hereafter. GROSS WILLIAMS was prominent for many years as a successful business man; so also was THOMAS MAYHEW. They were both merchants; the former also keeper of a hotel, and the latter postmaster, for many years. They each deserve a more extended notice. ENOCH JAMES and LEWIS BODMAN, still living, are known as leading and successful men in the mercantile business and also in manufacturing.

#### DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

March 13, 1775. Russell Kellogg chosen to attend the Provincial Congress at Concord, "he to find horse and to give in his time by agreement, the town to bear his charges or expenses."

1820. John Wells Delegate to Constitutional Convention, had 67 votes, Elisha Hubbard 3, Wm. Bodman, 2.

1853. Hiram Nash Delegate to Constitutional Convention; had 148 votes, Otis G. Hill 70, others 12.

#### REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL COURT.

May 20, 1778. Ensign Josiah Dwight.

1779. Joshua Johnston.

1780. Josiah Dwight.

1781. do.

1782. do.

1783. William Bodman.

1784. do.

1786. do.

1787. do.

1788. do.

1789. do.  
1791. do.  
1792. do.  
1793. do.  
1794. do.  
1795. do.  
1796. do.  
1800. Elisha Hubbard.  
1801. do.  
1805. Wm. Bodman.  
1806. do.  
1808. Capt. John Wells.  
1809. do.  
1810. do.  
1811. do.  
1812. do.  
1813. Thomas Mayhew.  
1814. do.  
1815. do.  
1816. do.  
1817 and 1818. Did not send.  
1819. Capt. Joseph Bodman.  
1820. Did not send.  
1821. John Wells. Had 27 votes, others 2.  
1824. do, had 53 of 67 votes cast.  
1826. Elisha Hubbard, Jr.; had 15 of 27 votes.  
1827. do  
1828. Elisha Hubbard, Jr.; had 30 votes—all that were cast.  
1829. do had 31—Sam'l Graves 19.  
1830. do had 32 -- do do 22.  
1831. do do 24 -- do do 16.  
1832. Sam'l Graves; do 90 – Elisha Hubbard 27, others 3.  
1833. Dr. Thomas Meekins—chosen on 2d ballot. On 1st ballot Meekins had 46 votes, Dr. Dan'l Collins 80, Elisha Hubbard, Jr. 10, Sylvanus Hubbard 8, Joseph Bodman 1.  
1834. Dr. Thomas Meekins; had 84 votes, Elisha Hubbard, Jr. 80, others 2.  
1835. Voted not to send.  
1836. Isaac Gere.  
1837. Isaac Gere; had 98 votes, Joel Hayden 55.  
1838. Elisha Tileston; had 97 of 191 votes cast.  
1839. Four ballots—no choice.  
1840. Ambrose Stone, Jr.; had 134 of 247 votes cast.  
1841. Ambrose Stone, Jr.; had 108 of 214 cast.  
1842. Five ballots taken—no choice.  
1843. Joel Hayden; chosen on 2d ballot, by 123 of 238 votes cast.  
1844. Joel Hayden; chosen on 2d day by 134 of 265 votes cast.  
1845. Erastus Bodman; had 142 votes, Rev. F.P. Tracy had 68, Samuel S. Wells 61, others 11.  
1846. Erastus Bodman; had 136 of 263 votes cast.  
1847. Voted once—no choice—voted not to send.  
1848. Hiram Nash; had 162 of 279 votes cast.  
1849. Hiram Nash; “ 145 “ 239 votes cast.  
1850. Hiram Hill; had 146 “ 291 “ “ .  
1851. Samuel S. Wells; had 166 of 305 “ “ .  
1852. Joseph Bodman; had 177 of 314 “ “ .  
1853. Voted not to send. One ballot taken—J.H. Metcalf had 113 votes, Elnathan Graves 80, Elam Graves 78.  
1854. Erastus Graves; had 198 votes, Edwin Everett 45, others 4.  
1855. Dr. Thomas Meekins; had 158 votes, Daniel F. Morton, 151.  
1856. Otis G. Hill; had 283 votes, Henry P. Little 59.  
1859. Albert D. Sanders. Mr. S. resigned after the first session, and Elnathan Graves was chosen for the extra session.

## SELECTMEN.

1771. Joshua Warner, Josiah Dwight, John Nash.
1772. Sam'l Fairfield, John Nash, Josiah Dwight.
1773. Sam'l Fairfield, Josiah Dwight, Abel Thayer.
1774. Sam'l Fairfield, Josiah Dwight, Sam'l Bodman.
1775. Sam'l Fairfield, Abel Thayer, Jonathan Warner.
1776. Sam'l Fairfield, Elijah Paine, Russell Kellogg.
1777. Wm. Bodman, Josiah Dwight, Sam'l Day, Capt. Abel Thayer, Dr. Elijah Paine.
1778. Dr. Elijah Paine, Josiah Dwight, Sam'l Bodman.
1779. Sam'l Day, Capt. Abel Thayer, Josiah Dwight.
1780. Capt. Sam'l. Fairfield, Capt. Abel Thayer, Josiah Dwight.
1781. Sam'l Day, Josiah Dwight, Joseph Bodman.
1782. Josiah Dwight, Dr. Elijah Paine, Capt. Abel Thayer.
1783. Capt. Abel Thayer, Capt. Sam'l Fairfield, Josiah Dwight.
1784. Elisha Allis, Capt. Jonathan Warner, Josiah Dwight.
1785. Elisha Allis, Dr. Elijah Paine, Benj. Pomeroy.
1786. Deacon Elisha Allis, Capt. Abel Thayer, Josiah Dwight.
1787. Sam'l Graves, Capt. Abel Thayer, Josiah Dwight.
1788. Dea. Elisha Allis, Capt. Abel Thayer, Josiah Dwight.
1789. Sam'l Graves, Josiah Dwight, Elisha Allis.
1790. Sam'l Graves, Elisha Hubbard, Capt. Abel Thayer.
1791. Sam'l Graves, Elisha Hubbard, Elisha Wells.
1792. Elisha Nash, Elisha Hubbard, Benjamin Pomeroy.
- 1793, 1794 and 1795. Elisha Hubbard, Sam'l Graves, Asa Ludden.
- 1796, 1797 and 1798. Asa Ludden, Elisha Wells, Elkanah Thayer.
- 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802. Asa Ludden, Sam'l Graves, John Wells.
- 1803 and 1804. Abel Thayer, Moses Nash, John Wells.
1806. Elisha Wells, Moses Nash, Capt. John Wells.
1807. Elisha Wells, Capt. John Wells, Moses Nash.
1808. Elisha Wells, John Wells, Dea. Asa Ludden.
- 1809 and 1810. Dea. Asa Ludden, Elisha Wells, John Wells.
1811. Elisha Wells, John Wells, Capt. Joseph Bodman, Jr.
- 1812 and 1813. Elisha Wells, Capt. Joseph Bodman, Moses Nash.
1814. Capt. John Wells, Capt. Joseph Bodman, Sylvanus Hubbard.
1815. Capt. Joseph Bodman, Sylvanus Hubbard, Elisha Hubbard, Jr.
1816. Capt. Joseph Bodman, Sylvanus Hubbard, Thomas Nash.
- 1817 and 1818. Sylvanus Hubbard, Josiah Dwight, Matthew Coffin.
- 1819, 1820, 1821 and 1822. Sylvanus Hubbard, Josiah Dwight, Sam'l Graves, Jr.
- 1823, 1824, 1825 and 1826. Josiah Dwight, Sam'l Graves, Josiah Hannum.
1827. Sam'l Graves, Sylvanus Hubbard, Levi Hitchcock.
1828. Levi Hitchcock, Sam'l Graves, Cornelius Tileston, Jr.
1829. Elisha Hubbard, Jr., Cornelius Tileston, Jr., Levi Hitchcock.
1830. Levi Hitchcock, Sam'l Graves, Thomas Mayhew.
1831. Sam'l Graves, Levi Hitchcock, Edward Gere.
1832. Thomas Mayhew, Edward Gere, James Mayhew.
1833. Elisha Hubbard, Jr., Sylvanus Hubbard, Sam'l Graves.
1834. Elisha Hubbard, Jr., Enoch James, Jason Miller.
1835. Elisha Hubbard, Jr., Isaac Gere, Leonard Dwight.
1836. Isaac Gere, Leonard Dwight, Melzar Warner.
1837. Leonard Dwight, John Wells, Salmon H. Clapp.
1838. Salmon H. Clapp, Henry Merritt, Spencer Root.
- 1839 and 1840. Leonard Dwight, Spencer Root, Hiram Nash.
1841. Leonard Dwight, Hiram Nash, Joel Hayden.
1842. Same.
1843. Joel Hayden, Hiram Nash, Wm. A. Nash.
1844. Wm. A. Nash, Lewis Bodman, Butler Merritt.
1845. Wm. A. Nash, Lewis Bodman, Stephen Meekins.
1846. Same.
1847. Edwin Everett, Hiram Nash, Erastus Graves.

- 1848. Hiram Nash, Henry Merritt, R.H. Fairchild.
- 1849. Lewis Bodman, Erastus Graves, R.H. Fairchild.
- 1850. Same.
- 1851. Elnathan Graves, Hiram Nash, Samuel S. Wells.
- 1852. Same.
- 1853. Elnathan Graves, S.S. Wells, Lewis Bodman.
- 1854. Elnathan Graves, Wm. A. Nash, Francis S. Warner.
- 1855. Wm. A. Nash, Francis S. Warner, Thomas H. Ives.
- 1856. Wm. A. Nash, Otis G. Hill, Royal C. Fairfield.
- 1857. R.C. Fairfield, Edwin Everett, B.F. Sears.
- 1858. Hiram Nash, D.F. Morton, Elnathan Graves.
- 1859. Hiram Nash, D.F. Morton, Joseph T. Thayer.
- 1860. Daniel F. Morton, Wm. A. Nash, Wm. E. Thayer.

|                    |        |          |
|--------------------|--------|----------|
| Joseph Dwight,     | served | 6 years. |
| Abel Thayer,       | do     | 13 do.   |
| Elisha Wells,      | do     | 12 do.   |
| Hiram Nash,        | do     | 12 do.   |
| Sam'l Graves, Sr., | do     | 11 do.   |
| Sylvanus Hubbard,  | do     | 11 do.   |
| John Wells,        | do     | 11 do.   |
| Sam'l Graves, Jr., | do     | 10 do.   |
| Asa Ludden,        | served | 10 years |
| Wm. A. Nash,       |        | 8        |
| Sam'l Fairfield,   |        | 7        |
| Elisha Hubbard,    |        | 6        |

TOWN CLERKS.

- 1771. John Nash.  
Josiah Dwight.
- 1789. Asa White  
Seth Dwight.
- 1798. Elisha Hubbard.
- 1807. Obadiah Skiff Served 13 years.
- 1820. Elisha Hubbard, Jr. 5 do.
- 1825. H.C. Thayer. 3 do.
- 1828. Isaac Gere. 5 do.
- 1833. Thomas Meekins. 8 do.
- 1841. Wm. Stearns. 2 do.
- 1842. Otis G. Hill. 12 do.
- 1845. Wm. Stearns.
- 1846. Otis G. Hill.
- 1855. Henry Stearns. 4 do.
- 1859. J.B. Gleason. 2 do.

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THE MILITARY.

The military spirit infused into the people of Massachusetts during the war of the Revolution, did not die out with those who were witnesses of and participators in those stirring and eventful scenes, but was transmitted from sire to son, and the spirit, and through it the organization, long remained a noble example of the power and efficiency of Massachusetts to uphold the honor of the state and nation. Few towns in the Commonwealth, and perhaps none in the western counties, were more prompt and efficient in responding to the demand for soldiers during the country's struggle for independence, and for upward of seventy years afterward this spirit found vent through two military organizations in the town—one of Infantry and one of Cavalry. The first company, after the actual service of the war, was the Infantry. At first and until about the year 1816, the uniform of this company consisted of a

blue coat with red facing, and the common beaver hat. Afterward, as the military spirit gradually subsided, the uniform was dropped entirely by the privates and only the officers appeared in military dress. This company numbered about sixty men.

In 1812, the military spirit was much revived by the war with Great Britain, and as a consequence a third company (Riflemen) was organized in the town. It is said that one potent reason for the organization of this Rifle company was the desire on the part of some of the leading men that the soldiers should appear in uniform. This company wore gray coats and pants, and was composed of about thirty men from Williamsburg and Whately—about an equal from each town. The Cavalry company numbered about fifty men, who were citizens of Williamsburg, Whately and Hatfield. They wore bearskin caps with red plumes, and dark military coats with red sash. For three or four years prior to 1817, these three companies were in existence at the same time. The Rifle company, however, was continued only three or four years. The Infantry company existed until 1840, and the Cavalry until 1815.

When these organizations were in their prime, the interest in them was universal. The best men were enrolled in the ranks, and to be promoted was deemed worthy of any man's ambition. Many, no doubt, joined the ranks from a sense of duty, rather than from a desire to participate in the excitements of the parade. One peculiarity of the horse company was the large number of men in its ranks who stood nearly six feet in height. These men were formed in divisions and placed in front, and gave to the company when on parade a very imposing appearance.

There were three "trainings" during the year, previous to the general regimental muster and review in the autumn. The parade ground was near the meeting-house on the hill, and afterward near the hotels in the village on the river. So great was the interest manifested by the people in these military displays, that the days were set apart as general holidays, and old and young congregated around the parade ground. The companies met in the morning and continued on parade during most of the day, taking dinner at one of the hotels.

Of the military here, it may be said that its death was natural. While the necessity for its powerful aid existed, its life was vigorous and healthy; but with the progress of peace and of intelligence and an improved civilization, in which peace finds its only sure foundation, the spirit gradually faded and at last was wholly lost. The body evinced the flickering of the spirit. We remember the old company in its later years, and how much of effort was required to rally its disheartened forces to a duty which once was patriotism itself, but which then had lost its life and was but a cold, useless and unmeaning formality.

How great these days seemed to us, as with true boyish enthusiasm we rushed forth to view the troopers at the stated parades. We see them now, drawn up in front of either hotel—the one kept by Theodore Bartlett, the other by Uncle Jerry—a band of men whose appearance was bravery itself. The crowd gathered in front of the soldiers and occupied every available spot. The captain now made his appearance and was received with all military honors. Then mounted on his prancing horse, he gave his multifarious orders which were obeyed as if by magic. How much of skill, we thought, was there displayed! How envious the position! Now, after performing various maneuvers, the whole troop gallop away down the street, passing around the school-house, and soon are lost to view. After the lapse of a weary hour or two, the notes of the bugle are again heard, and the horsemen, having excited the visionary organs of the good people of Haydenville, are on their return to town. We might mention some of the men who, regularly, were to be found among the spectators. Prominent among them was Dr. Collins, who, peering out from his half-closed eyelids made his stated inspection. Lawyer Hubbard, cane in hand, was there. Uncle Jerry, too, never failed to pass judgment upon the company. Capt. Ayres and old father French, and numbers of others, appeared with clocklike regularity and promptness. Of the men of that day, a large number are now dead, and the rest, how changed!

#### LIST OF OFFICERS

Hampshire county, 2d Regiment, 12th Company.

1776. Samuel Fairfield, Captain.

to Jonathan Warner, 1st Lieutenant.

1780. Martin Clark, 2d Lieutenant.

Hampshire County, 2d Regiment, 13th Company.

1776. Samuel Fairfield, Captain.

1776. Russell Kellogg, 1st Lieutenant.

1776. Jonathan Warner, 2d Lieutenant.

1776. Jonathan Warner, 1st Lieutenant.

1777. Captain Samuel Fairfield, Lieut. Jonathan Warner, and 18 men, from Hampshire County, are returned for pay for services in the northern army, from July 9 to Aug. 12, 1777; travel 100 miles.

1778. Captain Samuel Fairfield of Williamsburg, Lieutenant Joseph Foster of Ware, Lieutenant Joseph Hendrick of Greenwich, 3 sergeants, 4 corporals, 1 drummer, 1 fifer, and 40 privates, of Hampshire county, are returned for pay for duty at Dorchester, about 3 months, in 1778.

Officers Commissioned in the 12th Company, 2d Regiment, 4th Division, who resided in Williamsburg.



- 1781. Jonathan Warner, Captain.
- 1781. Joshua Thayer, 1st Lieutenant.
- 1781. Asa Ludden, 2d Lieutenant.

1786. Jonathan Warner, Captain, Asa Ludden, Lieutenant, Lucius Graves, Sergeant, Nehemiah Cleveland, private, all of Williamsburg, in pursuance of orders marched to Springfield, Sept. 20, 1785, and performed six days' service. Pay roll, total £4 18s. 11d.

1787. Jonathan Warner, Captain. Asa Ludden, Lieutenant, both of Williamsburg entered service on the 17th day of January, 1787, and continued 21 days. Total pay roll, £10 1s. 1d.

Officers Commissioned in a Company of the 1st Regiment Infantry, 2d Brigade, 4th Division.

- 1787. James Heaton, Ensign.
  - 1790. David Scott, Captain.
  - 1790. Obed Skiff, Lieutenant.
  - 1790. Cornelius Tileston, Ensign.
  - 1795. Obed Skiff, Captain.
  - 1795. John Frost, Lieutenant.
  - 1796. Reuben Sexton, Ensign.
  - 1797. John Nash, Ensign.
  - 1798. John Wells, Lieutenant.
  - 1799. John Wells, Captain.
  - 1799. John Nash, Lieutenant.
  - 1799. Joseph Bodman, Ensign.
  - 1801. John Nash, Captain.
  - 1801. Joseph Bodman, Lieutenant.
  - 1801. Sylvanus Hubbard, Ensign.
  - 1803. Rufus Hyde, Jr., Ensign.
  - 1805. Joseph Bodman, Lieutenant.
  - 1805. Rufus Hyde, Lieutenant.
  - 1805. Ebenezer Bartlett, Ensign.
  - 1806. Joshua Thayer, Ensign.
  - 1808. Southworth Jenkins, Captain.
  - 1810. Stephen Meekins, Lieutenant.
  - 1810. Eli Ludden, Ensign.
  - 1810. Bartlett Coffin, Ensign.
  - 1816. Bartlett Coffin, Captain.
  - 1816. Russell Hill, Lieutenant.
  - 1816. Murray Thayer, Ensign.
  - 1818. Augustus W. Fox, Ensign.
  - 1820. Augustus W. Fox, Captain.
  - 1820. Downing W. Graves, Ensign.
  - 1821. Downing W. Graves, Lieutenant.
  - 1821. Pliny Kingsly, Ensign.
  - 1825. Pliny Kingsly, Captain.
  - 1825. Spencer Hannum, Lieutenant.
  - 1825. William Hubbard, Ensign.
  - 1827. Spencer Hannum, Captain.
  - 1827. Hiram Nash, Lieutenant.
  - 1830. William Hubbard, Captain.
  - 1830. Waldo H. Ludden, Ensign.
  - 1830. Waldo H. Ludden, Lieutenant.
  - 1831. Benj. F. Williams, Ensign.
  - 1832. Sereno Kingsley, Captain.
  - 1832. Lewis L. James, Lieutenant.
  - 1832. Sesostrus Warner, Ensign.
  - 1837. Joseph L. Bodman, Captain.
  - 1837. Herman Hitchcock, Lieutenant.
- Company disbanded, April 24, 1840.

Officers Commissioned in a Company of the Battalion of Cavalry in the 2d Brigade, 4th Division of the old organization, and known as Company C, 1st Battalion of Cavalry, in the 6th Brigade, 3d Division, of the organization of April 24, 1840.

- 1789. William Allis, Hatfield, Captain.
- 1789. Edmund Lazzell, Cummington, 1st Lieut.
- 1789. Joseph Richards, Cummington, 2d Lieut.
- 1789. Phineas Frary, Whately, Cornet.
- 1793. Phineas Frary, Whately, Captain.
- 1793. Seth Dwight, 1st Lieut.
- 1793. Samuel Kirkland, Norwich, 2d Lieut.
- 1793. Cotton Partridge, Hatfield, Cornet.
- 1796. Samuel Kirkland, Norwich, 1st Lieut.
- 1796. Cotton Partridge, Hatfield, 1st Lt.
- 1796. Salmon Graves, Whately, Corn.
- 1799. Salmon Graves, Whately, Lieut.
- 1799. Israel Parsons, Hatfield, Cornet.
- 1802. Cotton Partridge, Hatfield, Capt.
- 1802. Israel Parsons, Hatfield, Lieut.
- 1802. William Mather, Whately, Corn.
- 1804. Salmon Graves, Whately, Capt.
- 1804. William Mather, Whately, Lieut.
- 1804. Silas Hannum, Cornet.
- 1806. Silas Hannum, Lieut.
- 1806. David Stockbridge, Whately, Corn.
- 1809. William Mather, Whately, Capt.
- 1809. Erastus Billings, Hatfield, Lieut.
- 1809. David Stockbridge, Whately, Lieut.
- 1809. John Pomeroy, N'hampton, Corn.
- 1810. Thomas Wells, Whately, Lieut.
- 1811. Erastus Billings, Hatfield, Capt.
- 1811. Justus White, Whately, Lieut.
- 1811. Jeremiah Hubbard, Cornet.
- 1814. Thomas Wells, Whately, Capt.
- 1814. Jeremiah Hubbard, Lieut.
- 1814. Israel Dickinson, Hatfield, Corn.
- 1816. Chester Hastings, Hatfield, Lieut.
- 1817. Chester Hastings, Hatfield, Capt.
- 1817. Seth Frary, Jr., Whately, Lieut.
- 1817. William Pomeroy, Cornet.
- 1819. William Pomeroy, Lieut.
- 1819. Eurotus Hastings, Hatfield, Corn.
- 1820. Seth Frary, Jr., Whately, Captain.
- 1820. Stephen Hopkins, Lieut.
- 1820. Roderick B. Harwood, Whately, Cornt.
- 1822. William Pomeroy, Captain.
- 1822. Roderick B. Harwood, Whately, Lieut.
- 1822. Pliny Day, Hatfield, Cornet.
- 1823. Theodore Bartlett, Lieut.
- 1824. Roderick B. Harwood, Whately, Capt.
- 1824. Silas Billings, Hatfield, Lieut.
- 1824. Erastus Bodman, Cornet.
- 1827. Cornelius Tileston, Jr., Cornet.
- 1827. Theodore Bartlett, Captain.
- 1827. Cornelius Tileston, Jr., Lieut.
- 1827. Justus F. Harwood, Whately, Corn.
- 1830. Silas Billings, Hatfield, Captain.
- 1830. Justus F. Harwood, Whately, Lt.
- 1830. Almerin Nash, Cornet.

1835. Cornelius Tileston, Jr., Captain.  
 1835. Almerin Nash, Lieut.  
 1835. Lewis Warner, Cornet.  
 1835. Lewis Warner, Lieut.  
 1835. Wm. A. Nash, Cornet.  
 1835. Cornelius Tileston, Jr., Major of the Battalion.  
 1835. Lewis Warner, Captain.  
 1835. Wm. A. Nash, Lieut.  
 1835. Charles A. Williams, Cornet.  
 1836. Charles A. Williams, Lieut.  
 1836. Joseph J. Lewis, Cornet.  
 1837. Christopher Meekins, Cornet.  
 1837. Lewis Warner, Major of Regiment.  
 1837. William A. Nash, Captain.  
 1837. Joseph J. Lewis, Lieut.  
 1837. Christopher Meekins, Cornet.  
 1842. Charles A. Williams, Captain.  
 1842. Christopher Meekins, Lieutenant.  
 1842. Elbridge G. Brown, Lieutenant.  
 1842. Roswell S. Hillman, Cornet.  
 1844. Christopher Meekins, 1st Lieut.  
 1844. Obed Hemmenway, 2d Lieut.  
 1844. Sylvanus Hubbard, 3d Lieut.  
 Company Disbanded, Aug. 28, 1845.

1807. Elijah Luce of Williamsburg, commissioned a Lieutenant in the Battalion of Artillery, attached to 2d Brigade, 4th Division.

1817. Alfred H. Bodman of Williamsburg, commissioned an Ensign in a Rifle Company.

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## MERCHANTS

Abner Williams commenced trading about 1802 or 1803, in the store building located south west of the bridge, and nearly opposite the present hotel. He was a blacksmith by trade, and first kept goods in a room adjoining his shop. His customers became so numerous that he soon gave up his shop and devoted his whole time to his store. He continued in business several years, and about 1810 sold out to his son Phineas Williams and Southworth Jenkins, who conducted the business a few years and sold to Gross Williams, brother of Abner Williams. Gross Williams had been in the mercantile business several years before this purchase, having commenced as the successor of Zabdiel Thayer, in a building that stood on the site of the new store of T.M. Carter, north of the bridge, and for many years afterward used for a residence, by Capt. Pliny Kingsley. Gross Williams remained in the mercantile business at the stand he purchased of his brother, until about 1840—a period of thirty years. He transacted a large and flourishing business. He also was an extensive farmer, and his homestead comprised all the land west of the central highway from the town hall to Thayer's factory, running back over the hill about one mile. This tract comprised about 400 acres, and included some of the best tillage and mowing land in the town. At the time he purchased it there were no buildings on it except the present old tavern stand and the store. It is now the seat of quite a village. The cross road from the tavern stand to Thayer's factory was built by Mr. Williams, and after much opposition was accepted by the town, on condition that the bridge across Mill River should be built by him and kept in repair for the term of ten years. Mr. Williams also owned large tracts of land on "Davis' Hill" and "Shingle Hill," in the southeastern section of the town. He first commenced farming, after leaving the farm of his father, which comprised the farm now owned and occupied by Prescott Williams, on a small farm, since known as the "Starks place," about a mile from the village, in the direction of "Nash hill."

Mr. Williams was also a hotel keeper, which business he continued from 1812 to 1826, in connection with his farming and trading. He owned and conducted a large potash factory, located near the river, about sixty rods back of the hotel buildings, connected with which was a distillery, and near by a cider mill, worked by water-power, in which branches he did a very extensive business.

As a business man, Mr. Williams was one of the most careful, prudent and successful that the town has known. His industry and foresight were remarkable, and for many years very few, if any, important business projects were undertaken in the town, respecting which he had not been consulted. He commenced with no capital save a stout arm and a determination which swept away all difficulties. He knew no such word as failure, and was never disheartened. As the natural consequence, he acquired a

large estate, estimated at one time as high as \$25,000. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and in that capacity did considerable business. In politics he was a staunch Democrat, and therefore—the town being strongly Federal—was not in the line of political promotion. He married Polly, daughter of Stephen Washburn, and both lived to an advanced age. He died in 1845, aged 76. They had twelve children, five of whom died in early life, and seven, whose names are as follows, are now living:-- Elvira, married Cornelius Tileston; Arabella, married Edward Gere; Benj. Faxon, married Silence Judd of Southampton; Charles A., married Louisa Wait; Lewis Lyman, married Adelia C. Buckland of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Wm. Henry, married in Kentucky, where he now resides, engaged in mercantile business; Mary Ann, married Samuel S. Wells, and now lives in Boston.

It may be mentioned, as an interesting fact, that Dr. Collins was a boarder in Mr. Williams' family for 30 years. We may add, also, that between family and Doctor, from their earliest connection, there existed a cordial friendship, which ceased only with death.

Thomas Mayhew, a man of note for many years, served an apprenticeship in the mercantile business with Asa White at Chesterfield, and opened a store in Williamsburg, on the hill, where he continued business many years. He was the first postmaster of the town, and held that office a long time. His store was a large yellow building, which was, after he had relinquished business, moved down the hill to the present central village and located near the present residence of Lewis Bodman. This building was used as a store until the winter of 1860, when it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Mayhew was a correct and active business man, and accumulated a considerable property.

Isaac Gere, son of Isaac Gere of Northampton, watch maker and jeweler, was for a number of years, an influential man in the town. He removed to Williamsburg from Northampton about 1825, after the decease of his father, and engaged in the mercantile business at the stand afterward occupied by Lewis Bodman, and engaged also in manufacturing, in the building then located on the site of Thayer's new factory. He was a thorough business man, had numerous friends and no enemies, and was widely respected. He removed to Oxford, Ohio, where, in the retiracy of his farm, he devoted himself to the education of his interesting family, and the enjoyment of the blessings which he so well knew how to appreciate. He died about the year 1850. His brother, Edward, also settled in Williamsburg, and was a man much respected. He entered Yale College, but ill health compelled him to retire before the completion of his course. He was for one or two years connected with Isaac Gere in the mercantile business, at the Bodman stand, and afterward settled on a farm in the north part of the town, near what is now known as "Gere's hill," to seek in the cultivation of the soil restoration of health. His hopes in this respect failed, and he died in 1832.

Enoch James was a prominent merchant in the town for 28 years. He commenced business April 1, 1825, as the successor of Russell Hill and Clement Coffin, who, a few months previous, had opened a store in a building which stood on the site of the present residence of Dea. Henry Stearns. His brother, Lewis L. James, was a clerk for him seven years, and afterward a partner 14 years, the name of the firm being E. & L.L. James. This copartnership was dissolved in 1846, when L.L. James removed to New York and became a partner in a wholesale house. Enoch James then continued the business alone until 1853, when he retired and was succeeded by his son, Henry L. James, who still continues the business at the stand so long occupied by his father. The Messrs. James have always done a large business, and since 1854, H.L. James has also manufactured large quantities of joiners' tools, employing this branch from 12 to 20 hands.

It may be of interest to mention here, some of the prices of articles sold by Mr. James in 1825. Flour was retailed at \$7 per barrel, brown sugar at 15 cents per pound, molasses at 50 cents a gallon, eggs 10 cents a dozen. Some idea of the manner in which "Independence Day" was celebrated may be obtained from the following list of articles furnished by Mr. James for a tea party held July 4, 1825:-- 3 gallons Cognac Brandy, 4th proof; 4 galls. Malaga Wine; 2 galls. S. Madeira do; 4 loaves Sugar, 19 lbs.; 4 lbs. Old Hyson Tea; 2 ½ doz Lemons. With such stimulating aids, it may be easily inferred that the "glorious fourth" was observed with becoming spirit and patriotism.—Another interesting item recorded is the following:--

"I, Walker Rice, agree to find E. James in boots and shoes such as he may choose to wear, which are to be made of good calf skin and in good modern style, one year from June 6, 1825, for the sum of ten dollars, to be paid at the expiration of said time; and it is not expected that the said James is to wear any patched boots or shoes."

Mr. Enoch James was, in his active business years, a man of much energy and perseverance, and was widely known. He accumulated a large estate, a considerable portion of which was invested in lands at the West, where he now resides. He exerted considerable influence in town affairs, in which he ever manifested a lively interest, and often officiated as a moderator of town meetings.

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#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

When the inhabitants first began to settle in Williamsburg, they found the country clothed with an immense growth of timber. The first thing in the way of clearance was to cut this down and make it available for various purposes. The hemlock and oak by being cut down in June, were easily stripped of their bark for the tanneries. The pine and the hemlock and oak were then cut into saw-mill logs and converted into lumber. The chestnut worked easily into posts and rails for fencing, and furnished the very best of timber for frames of barns and other out-door buildings. The sugar maple was preserved for sugar orchards, while the other timber was cut down in immense quantities and drawn, after being cut into logs, to the ash-pits, for making potash. These ash-pits were

cellars dug 10 to 20 feet wide, 20 to 40 in length, and 4 to 6 in depth, and stoned up around the sides. In these a fire was built, the logs were drawn and kept piling on, many times for weeks together, until the whole pile was reduced to ashes. The ashes were then shovelled into large vats, with a mixture of quick lime and straw; water was then poured on, after which a strong, dark-colored lye came off. This lye was put into large kettles, often times holding several hds., which were previously set over a furnace, producing a heat sufficient to effect a change in the lye, which made it appear like a black salt. These are what is called "the salts of potash." The next step is to take this "salt" and put it into another large kettle, placed over a still hotter furnace and the heat continued for several hours, according to the degree of heat obtained, until the salts are melted into a liquid, red and glowing. When in this state, it requires continuous stirring with a long iron poker. After from three to four hours fermentation, this liquor is again drawn off into large troughs prepared for that purpose, where it is allowed to cool, and then dipped into stout barrels. This is called "crude potash." It is then ready for use and transportation, and in this shape it is exported to Europe.

John and Elisha Nash, when clearing their farms, fixed several cellars for making this ashes. There is a little hill on Elisha's farm, which to this day is called "potash hill." Here was manufactured potash for exportation, and the neighboring farmers brought their ashes to be melted.

The hemlock timber made a firm and durable board, and more than one-half of the out-door buildings in Williamsburg were covered with lumber from this tree. Lumber made from hemlock, when the tree is vigorous and young, is of the most substantial and durable quality.

When people first built their houses, they always built one enormous fireplace in the kitchen, where were put on large backlogs, so that oftentimes in the old kitchen, logs three feet and one half to four feet in diameter and 3 to 7 feet long were used. They were rolled in and a fire built in front, and kept burning until the whole was consumed into ashes. The potashes were shipped to Boston, thence to Europe, where they are converted into pearlash and saleratus by roasting first being liquified and refined and evaporated in an oven made for this purpose. The potash business takes away many of the fertile ingredients of the soil, and the trade is carried on at the expense of robbing the land of its fertility.

The first crop was rye and wheat, where the timber was cut down, the land harrowed and cleaned. This was the regular routine for crops. Then a growth of red and white clover, herdsgrass, and English pasture grass. This is the time for dairying. Butter, cheese and milk of the first qualities and in great quantities, from these now and virgin pastures, were formerly made in Williamsburg. Cattle, sheep and stock fed on such pastures in the summer become thrifty, putting on fat and flesh very fast, and of the most delicate quality and kind; while sheep kept for wool produced it in the greatest abundance. The rains come down frequently and in showers, and the springs are pure and sweet. After cropping with grasses and hay, the next course of husbandry is to plow the lands of Indian corn, potatoes, oats and spring grains, and flax. Spring wheat is a good and valuable crop, and where the land is well tilled and manured, it often produced from 20 to 55 bushels an acre. There are no better lands for fruits and garden productions, and grapes, pears, peaches, quinces, apples, cherries, plums, currants, blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, all grew in the greatest perfection. And we know of no better country for wool, both long and fine. The merino sheep, when crossed with the native stock, are greatly improved in size, and the wool is increased in length and vigor of staple, making the best of cloths, satinets and yarns. The climate excels for horses, and some of the best animals that have ever appeared in the American market, were raised on the hill farms in Williamsburg. So with swine, fat cattle, and working oxen.

As soon as the timber was cut off and grass seed was sown, the surface of the country was immediately clothed with a rank and thick verdure of white and red clover and the most nutritious grasses. This afforded the richest pasturage for dairying. Deacon Elisha Nash followed the dairying business for 25 years, making many times from a ton to a ton and a half of cheese and 1000 lbs. of butter in a season. His son, Elisha, Jr., at times kept as many as 25 dairy cows. The butter and cheese business was extensively followed in Williamsburg for 25 years after the country was first cleared, and these products were generally disposed of at the Boston market.

Matthew Coffin, born on the island of Nantucket, came to Williamsburg with his family during the revolutionary war. For many years he followed the business of collecting the choicest butter and cheese from the various dairies in Williamsburg and sending it to Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and the towns on Cape Cod, and the southern and eastern parts of Massachusetts, and around Buzzard's and Barnstable bays. Mr. Coffin was a man of elegant address, and great urbanity of manners. At one time he shipped a good deal of beef from the interior to his own friends and former home at Nantucket.

Another source of agricultural income in Williamsburg, and which was carried on to a considerable extent, was the purchase of stock in the spring and fattening them on the pastures until fall, when they were sold for beef. Another class of people fed cattle and sheep in the winter for the spring markets at Brighton. Moses Nash and his brother John, in their early life, followed this business; indeed, until pastures became worn out, dairying and stock-feeding in Williamsburg was a profitable and thriving business with a majority of its inhabitants for the first forty years after the town was settled.

During the war of 1812 and the "non-intercourse" laws of Jefferson's administration, alcohol was extensively manufactured in this town, from apples. There were also two or three distilleries for manufacturing cider-brandy, kept in this town for many years. This continued until after the peace of 1816. During the embargo, non-intercourse and war policy of the country, from 1806 to 1816, there sprung up in Williamsburg a thriving spirit of manufacture. The Bodmans ran their fulling and coloring mills and mills for dressing woolen cloths, to great advantage. Edward Taylor, Jonathan Warner, and Washington A. Fox started a cotton factory in the upper village, and ran this factory by the surplus water power from Taylor's mills. Edward Taylor was an enterprising man. He came to Williamsburg as early as 1790. He erected a flouring and grist mill on the stream near Warner's blacksmith shop, just below it. He also ran a carding and picking machine for wool for many years, and a shingle machine, whereby shingles were sawed out from the blocks. Indeed, since the pasturing has become exhausted, people have turned their attention to manufacture and

mechanical operations, and many of the farms have been permitted to lie in a state of unproductiveness. Two hundred pounds of bone dust or phosphate of lime is carried off from every farm by every animal grown on it, including horses and oxen, and 25 lbs. for each sheep and 40 lbs. for each head of swine, besides carbonaceous and nitrogen matters in almost untold quantities. The English are aware of this, and hence there is not a battle-field, or a city where fresh meats are slaughtered, or a soap factory, or a bone-boiling establishment in the Western world or in Europe, but what they send their ships there and load them with bones for fertilizing their farms. The potash, bone dust and animal matter carried away from the New England farms have been an incalculable injury to them, exhausting them of their fertility. These substances must be returned by some means to every field, or the account will never be balanced. The first and most abundant supply of these materials will be found in black muck, dry leaves, bone dust, Peruvian guano, ashes, plaster de paris, composts, urine of cattle and all other animals, barn yard manure, salt, lime, spent leach tan-bark, hide dressings, hair, and various other materials, which can be saved on every farm and around every dwelling, and which the practical farmer will readily make use of. The parable of the fig tree is a striking case to illustrate our argument. The gardener begged of his lord not to cut it down for another year, but to spare it until he had dugged around it and manured it.

There is not a farm in all New England that may not be made a perfect garden and a paradise, with one half the toil and labor and difficulties to be encountered by a New England man to pull up stakes and go out west. Here he has health, institutions already established, homes made dear to him by birth, kindred, and associations of various kinds. Nature stands gushing out before him, surrounding him with trees, shades, fruits and goodly flowers. Religious and literary schools and institutions, and scientific arrangements, are all ready at his hand and in successful operation, of which he can at all times avail himself. Besides, the air is cool, bracing and healthful, and those sparkling fountains of water are at his side, inviting him to drink and be joyful with song. While in the west and northern country, in nine cases out of ten, they have first to encounter the deadly miasma, which carries disease into all of a man's bones; rude, vicious, and suspicious neighbors are to be encountered, roads to be made, houses and churches to be erected, schools to be established, fruit trees planted, manufacturing industry and a multitude of other appliances of life, are to be created, while the means to accomplish this are often to be brought from distant countries. The mind is fatigued, harrassed, and almost, if not altogether worn out; besides, sickness is sure to follow, for want of comfortable household accommodations, to which they had previously been accustomed. Sickness and death are the lot of many a once happy family, that have left the genial soil and climate of New England to seek a home in distant lands. Nature is far more bountiful in her blessings in New England than many suppose. A big crop of wheat or corn on the prairies in Illinois finds a skeleton gathering it, struck down with fever and ague; while the planter in the cotton field, sugar field, and rice field, walks in a charnel house of Africans, whose leprosy he shuns and abhors. The sea-faring man is tossed and struggles on the ocean with his life in danger. One out of a thousand only lives to tell you he has followed the business twenty-five years. The miner is deep and dark in the center of his pits, cold, chilly, and constantly surrounded by that horrid damp, commonly called "choke damp;" while the emigrant to California lays his bones down in the "Placer," surrounded like Midas, with his gold that he can never use. Indeed, let no man think that he can find a better home than in New England, for he is sure to be disappointed if he presumes to hope so.

## HOTELS

The first public house opened in Williamsburg was by Capt. Samuel Fairfield, in 1752. Ezra Clark opened a public house in 1783; a history of both of which was given in the history of Haydenville.

Joshua Warner, from Amherst, kept a public house in Mountain Street, where Jonathan Dickinson now lives, as early as 1772. Mr. Warner was an active, intelligent man, but his political opinions were not in accordance with the spirit of the times. He quitted the business of tavern keeping, but resided on the place through life; had a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters; two of them resided in town through life. Mr. Warner probably relinquished the tavern about 1784. Elijah Wait, a native of Hatfield, opened a tavern on the Hatfield road, on the farm next east of Mr. Warner, in 1784. He kept a few years and sold his place to Amasa Cleveland, who kept it as a public house while he lived, and was kept by his son, Waldo Cleveland, some years after. This house was kept as a public house probably about fifty years.

Joshua Thayer, a native of Braintree, Mass., opened a public house on the hill, a few rods from the old meeting house, in 1781. Mr. Thayer built an addition to his first house, making a very respectable establishment. He kept a few years and sold to Mr. Nathan Phinney. Mr. Phinney sold to Josiah Hannum, and the house was afterward kept successively by Obed Smith, Dea. Partridge, Obadiah Skiff, A.W. Fox, and last by Jeremiah Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard relinquished the business in that house in 1831, making a term of fifty years that this house was kept as a tavern. When military trainings were an institution of every town, the parade ground was generally near the meeting house, and the public house near the parade ground was usually patronized on all public occasions, and depended in good measure, upon public gatherings for its support. There was considerable rivalry between the meeting-house hill and the village for the business, for several years, but when the new road to Goshen and also to Chesterfield carried the travel in a new direction, this public house became wholly neglected.

Doct. Elijah Paine kept a public house in the house now occupied by Spencer Bartlett, in 1779, but we cannot give the date of its opening, and it was discontinued in perhaps a year after the date mentioned.

John Frost kept a public house where Samuel Bartholomew lives, in 1794. Simeon Bartlett kept the house after Mr. F., but we cannot give the date when it was discontinued.

Mr. Josiah Dwight kept a public house on the premises now owned by Mr. Holgate, in 1774. Mr. D. was one of the leading men of that day, and much of the town business was done at his house. He was an active, intelligent, efficient man, as the numerous positions of public trust which he occupied fully prove. He represented the town four years in the Legislature, was many years Selectman and Town Clerk, and one always respected for good judgment and good sense, notwithstanding the social and mirthful elements in his composition were prominent. An incident related of Mr. D. may be worth relating. A wayfaring man called at his tavern for a lunch of cold victuals. Mrs. D., who was an economical woman, set upon the table what was left of a former meal. While the traveler was at the table, Mr. D. passed into the room and then retired to the bar-room and mixed a glass of toddy. Soon the traveler came in and asked for his bill. Mr. D. very pleasantly, asked him to take a drink, and after a little hesitation, he drank. Says Mr. D., "say nothing about your lunch; you are welcome." After he left, Mr. D. asked his wife, "how much it was worth to pick those bones?" "Why, ninepence," says Mrs. D. "Well, then, says Mr. D., "I made a good bargain, for I got it done for six cents!"

Elisha Hubbard and wife emigrated from Hatfield in 1788. They began on the farm afterward owned for quite a number of years by Elkanah Thayer, at present by Rufus Hall & Son. Mr. Hubbard moved into the village in 1795 or '96, and opened a store in May, 1796. In 1800, he relinquished the store and opened his house as a tavern, which was kept in the Hubbard family till 1851; then by Edward Bridgman, D.H. Giles, Henry Wells, Roswell Hubbard, then by Henry Wells, and for the last three years and at present by Samuel B. Wood. Mr. Hubbard was an accurate business man and enjoyed the confidence of his townsmen and the public. His wife was Hannah White, a native of Hatfield. They had eleven children; three daughters and three sons lived to be settled in life, and five died in infancy or early childhood. Mr. Hubbard kept the active management of the business till 1813, when his son, Jeremiah, was married to Huldah, daughter of Moses Nash, and moved into his family, at which time the young folks assumed the more active duties and care of the establishment. Both father and son had good reputations as tavern-keepers, and gave very general satisfaction. Mrs. Hubbard died March 27, 1824, aged 65. Mr. Hubbard died May 17, 1813, aged 85. Jeremiah died May 18, 1850, aged 63. His widow is still living in this village. Elisha, Jr., a lawyer of good attainments in his profession, died Aug. 30, 1853, aged 64. He was never married. Erastus, the youngest son, married Wealthy, daughter of Thomas Mayhew. She died Feb. 6, 1849, aged 51. Erastus died Sept. 14, 1850, aged 58. Sally, the youngest, married Moses Putney, and moved to near Rochester, N. Y., and died about 1835. Two of the family still survive. Lucinda, the oldest, lives near the village, in her eighty-first year, and Lucretia, wife of Walker Rice, aged 65, lives in the village. Mr. Hubbard was often in public business, in middle life; was Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectman, Town Representative, and on Committees of important business, showing him to have been held in high respect by all the community.

A hotel was kept upward of thirty years in the building opposite the present hotel—first by Abner Williams, then by Gross Williams, who kept it 14 years, retiring in 1826. He was succeeded by Cornelius Tileston, Theodore Bartlett, James M. Beebe, Dennis Morton, Charles A. Williams, and perhaps others. It was closed as a tavern about the year 1840.

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When the town was first explored, large numbers of wild turkeys roamed through the forests, feeding upon the chestnuts, acorns, beech-nuts, and other waste; so with wild pigeons, which were annually seen hovering over the woods, in large flocks. The last flock of wild turkeys, consisting of near twenty, was found in 1826. The last bear seen in this town was in 1795, with two cubs; the cubs were killed, but the dam escaped. The cubs were brought down from a high tree, by rifle bullets, while the mother bear was pursued by the hounds and dogs, and escaped. The next day the bear came back, moaning for her young, and stripped the bark off the tree from top to bottom. In 1771 bears frequently came into the yards and sheep-folds for swine, calves and sheep, and carried them away, while the wolves were assailing the flocks as late as 1786, so that those who owned young cattle and sheep had to guard them at night, to protect them from these rapacious animals. The lynx still remains about the caves and woods, though few in number, and at times destroys sheep, by seizing them at the throat and sucking their blood; while the red and black foxes often kill the young lambs when turned out to pasture, early in the Spring. Within the last 35 years, several packs of hounds have been kept for chasing the fox, and these wild animals have been pretty much cleared out of the town; but it has been found that this has had a deleterious effect, as the mice and ground moles in late years have appeared in vast numbers, destroyed the grass lands, and many fruit trees by gnawing off the bark in winter around the roots. The fox and the wildcat seem to compensate their wrongs to the geese and poultry yards, by the destruction of field mice. The large black eagle is often seen in Williamsburg, as well as his prototype, the golden eagle, and birds of the hawk family; but the greatest misfortune that has come over the town, has been the killing of small birds, by idle gunners. The caterpillar, the cankerworm, the beetle, grasshoppers and crickets have increased at a fearful rate and assailed the apple, peach and plum trees, and small fruits, to their great injury, and sometimes to their entire destruction. A people who discard the songs of the merry lark, finch, wren, bobolink and other choristers, forget that they are scattering some of the best charmers sent into this habitable world. Many families know not what they have lost by quarreling with the songsters that gather around their orchards and gardens.

#### EARLY SETTLERS. [I]

Doctor ELIJAH PAINE was one of the most prominent men in the early history of the town. He came to Williamsburg from Hatfield, where he had been a physician for many years. He was born at Woodstock, Conn., and married there, in early life, a Miss

Lyons, who was a near relative of Marcus Lyons' ancestors. Marcus Lyons was murdered at Wilbraham, Mass., Nov. 9, 1805, on the highway while traveling from Casanovia, N.Y., to Woodstock, Conn. Two men, named Halligan and Daly, were convicted for this murder and executed at Northampton, in June, 1806.

Doctor Paine came to Williamsburg as early as 1772, and practised medicine in the town for 25 years. He first occupied the house on the hill, afterward known as "Skiff's Tavern;" he then moved on to his farm of 250 acres, one mile north of the "Old Church," on the road to Goshen, and died there in 1817. He had a family of four children, three sons and one daughter. The daughter's name was Electa. She married a Mr. Frost, and afterward settled in Genesee Co., N.Y.

Elijah, the oldest son of Dr. Paine, was educated at Yale College in 1796, and afterward became a distinguished member of the bar and settled at Ashfield, where he died about 1836, leaving a large family.

Seth Paine was the second son of Dr. Paine. He married Hannah Nash, daughter of Dea. Elisha Nash. Seth first occupied one half of his father's farm, and after some time bought the mercantile business of Abner Williams. This was in 1803. He carried on this business some 6 or 7 years, in the village. In 1811 he moved to Brecksville, Ohio, where he died in 1812, leaving a wife and four children in the wilderness. John, the third son, resided on the south half of his father's farm, and in 1820 moved to Pembroke, Livingston Co., N.Y., where the new country and sickly climate lost him his wife and daughter within three years after he left New England.

JAMES CLEGHORN was one of the earliest settlers of the town. He was born on Martha's Vineyard, July 6, 1751. He married Saloma Cottle, on the Vineyard, who was born May 18, 1752. Mr. Cleghorn came to Williamsburg in 1772, and had a large family of children, 8 by his first wife, Saloma, 6 by his second, (Mary Wildes,) and 4 by this third, (Aseneth Miller). The Cleghorns were quite numerous on Martha's Vineyard. George and William, brothers of James, were shipwrights, and settled at New Bedford, and were the master workmen and architects who laid down and built the United States frigate, "Constitution." This vessel was built from the live oak of that day, which grew in abundance on the granite hills and knolls in the southern and eastern part of Massachusetts. The celebrated ship "Rebecca," was also built by the Cleghorns, of this oak. She was the first ship that ever doubled Cape Horn, and brought home a cargo of sperm oil from the Pacific. She was launched March 17, 1785. What a change since!

James Cleghorn died at Cummington, Mass., in 1815. He was the father of Experience Nash, wife of Elisha Nash, Jr., and mother of Alanson and Hiram Nash. Mr. Cleghorn married his third wife, June 9, 1796.

James Cleghorn's family have been dispersed around the world. William, his eldest child, settled in Jefferson county, New York. Experience lived in Williamsburg until her death, which occurred in 1858. Three of his daughters married, and with their families moved to Ontario county, New York in 1801, and two lived and died in Cummington. One of his sons went to Ohio and died there, near Marietta. George, another son, moved to Delaware Co., N.Y., where he has raised a large family. Two of his daughters and his son, James Miller, by his third wife, moved to Erie county, New York. One daughter married and settled in Hawley, Franklin county, New York, while two of his sons are yet living. One, Benjamin, resides in Williamsburg and the other in Middlefield.

Mr. Cleghorn in early life was attached to vessels in the fishing trade. He made two voyages to the North Seas, one to Spitzbergen, where he saw the sun for more than a month above the horizon, in June and July. The second voyage was to the coast of Greenland, the seal fishery, which then was much more accessible than it is now. On the voyage to Spitzbergen he came in close contact with the "Malstream," on the N.W. coast of Norway, which he very vividly described in after years. At one time, while fishing on the "Banks" of Newfoundland, the vessel he was in was caught by water spouts. He described the boiling of the ocean and the great curtain, as it were, let down from the clouds, with the peculiar hissing noise which always accompanies such phenomena. One of these much to be dreaded "water spouts" came right athwart the jib boom of the vessel, and it was only by the greatest possible exertion she was saved from being engulfed in what appeared to be a "second deluge."

Mr. Cleghorn, on the breaking out of the Revolutionary troubles, with many other families, emigrated from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket to Hampshire county. The family of Cleghorns are a familiar name in the annals of Scotland and the North of Ireland. The name signifies in the ancient Scotch dialect, the King's Trumpeter, a man who proclaims the King's decrees. Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard were originally settled under the auspices of the Hamiltons and Georges, who were originally Scotchmen, and two of the most prominent men in the old Plymouth company, to whom James the 1st, King of England, in 1620, gave a charter for ordering, ruling, governing and planting New England, in America.

THE BODMANS.—The early members of this family came to the country from England. The first subsequent intelligence we gain of them is from the "church record of the town of Boston," where are recorded the births of the children of John and Sarah Bodman:--John, born Aug. 6, 1645; Manoah, born March 6, 1647; Joseph, born Oct. 17, 1653. The time of John Bodman's death is unknown. His wife was one of the first members enrolled on the records of the old south church in Boston. Nothing further is known of their children, John and Manoah, but Joseph next appears at Westfield, Mass., where, in 1681, he executed a bond to James Brown of Deerfield. In 1685 his wife, Hepzibah, died, leaving one daughter, Lydia, who died soon after her mother. Joseph Bodman removed to Hatfield, where, in 1687, he married Naomi Church. There he lived until his decease, May 8, 1711, aged 58 years. He had by his second wife, six children:--Manoah, born 1692, William, born 1698; Sarah, born in 1701, married Thomas Keet; Mary, born 1704, married John Billings; Lydia, born 1707, married Samuel Harvey; Samuel, (time of birth not recorded.) Manoah settled in Sunderland and his sisters all married there. He had a wife but no children, and died Sept. 8, 1759, aged 67. His property was divided between his widow and his brother Samuel and the sisters. Samuel, the last of the above named children, married Martha Warner. Their children were as follows:--Hepzibah, born 1727; married Noah Nash; Martha, born 1729, married Caleb Benjamin; Joseph, born 1731; Sarah, born 1733, married David Arms; Samuel, born 1736; Mary, born 1738; William, born



May 28, 1741. Samuel Bodman (the first) made his will in 1764 and it was proved in 1773. He probably died in that year. His widow, Martha Bodman, lived to be one hundred years of age, lacking a few days. Of their children, Joseph married Esther Field of Sunderland, and came to Williamsburg to reside in the year 1775. He purchased the land now owned by his children and grand children. His house stood a few rods north of the one now occupied by Mr. Luther Bodman. Joseph Bodman died in this town Sept. 3, 1818, aged 87, and his wife died Nov. 26, 1820, aged 78. Both were interred in the old burying ground until a year ago, when, under the direction of Messrs. Lewis and Luther Bodman, Jr., their remains were removed to the new cemetery and deposited in the family enclosure. Their children were as follows:--Manoah, born Jan., 1764; Martha, born Jan. 15, 1767; Samuel, born 1770, died Sept. 26, 1789; Erastus, born 1774, died Nov. 7, 1795; Joseph, born 1772; Naomi, born March 3, 1776; Luther, born July 20, 1780.

To return to the children of Samuel Bodman, Samuel married Susannah Allen and came to this town about the year 1774. He purchased land and erected a house nearly on the spot where the village school house now stands. His wife died April 20, 1821, and he survived her until June 26, 1827. They left no children.

William, the youngest son, married Annie Smith of Williamsburg. He purchased land in 1770 and erected the house now owned by Thomas Nash. He was a prominent man in the town, as was shown in the notice of him given in this history a few weeks since. His wife died Oct. 31, 1823, and he died Jan. 15, 1835. Their children were:--Polly, born April 16, 1774, died March 4, 1848, unmarried; William, born Aug. 28, 1775; Hepzibah, born Aug. 24, 1777; Artemas, born Aug. 24, 1779; Sylvester, born Aug. 18, 1781; Alfred, born March 26, 1784; Solomon, born June 6, 1786, died in 1807; Annie, born Dec. 31, 1788; Pamela, born July 17, 1791, died Oct. 8, 1794; Theophilus, born Aug. 18, 1793; Pamela, born Aug. 6, 1796.

The descendants of Joseph and Esther Bodman were:--Manoah, married Theodocia Green in 1799, studied and practiced law in Williamsburg. His wife died the same year of their marriage, and he afterward remained a widower. He was a man of great eccentricity, but of strong native talent, and published a number of addresses, which he had delivered in different towns, under the title of "Bodman's Orations." These are marked by a decided originality, and all who knew the "old lawyer" will recognize him in these pages. He died Jan. 1, 1850, age 85, and his funeral was attended at the Congregational church, where a discourse was preached by Rev. Mr. Crossett of Goshen. —Martha married John Hillman, about 1790, and he died Aug. 18, 1796, in Williamsburg. She afterward married Nathaniel Frary of Hatfield. Mrs. Frary died July 19, 1829, leaving the following named children:--Esther Hillman, born July 20, 1791, married Luther Rice, late of Haydenville; Samuel, born Aug. 18, 1792; Martha, born Jan. 1, 1794, married Alvah Miller, both now living in Williamsburg; Erastus, born Nov. 5, 1795; Nathaniel Frary; Lucretia Frary, Sophia Frary, Theodocia Frary, Nathaniel Frary, live in Whately.

Of the children of Esqr. William Bodman, Artemas married Hannah Waite and lived and died in Williamsburg, June 26, 1818. Their children were William A., born Dec. 30, 1807; Solomon, born Aug. 19, 1809, physician, practices in Bedford, Co., Tenn.; Pamela, born Nov. 23, 1811; Hanson, born Aug. 10, 1813, physician, now in Oxford, Ohio; Caroline, born Aug. 20, 1816, died Feb. 16, 1817.

Sylvester married Relief Burt of Southampton, and resided in this town until 1817, when they removed to western New York. He died in 1859. Their children were:--Miranda, born Nov. 11, 1811; Martin Luther, born May 23, 1813, died Sept. 3, 1814; Martin Burt, born Jan. 3, 1815; Sophronia, born Jan. 1, 1818.

Alfred married Philomela Wells, and lived in this town until his death, Jan 24, 1824. Their children were:--Austin, born Sept. 12, 1800; Alfred Hays, born Oct. 27, 1811; Phidelia, born May 23, 1813, died June 27, 1814; Harrison A., born Jan 31, 1815; Phidelia C., born Feb. 3, 1817; Cornelia, born Nov. 20, 1818; Artemas W., born July 5, 1820; Eliza Ann, born Dec. 24, 1821, died April 2, 1823; James M., born Jan 18, 1824.

Of Joseph Bodman, we have a notice several weeks since. His children were: Erastus, born Dec., 1797; Fanny, born March 4, 1800; Lucretia Strong, born Dec. 24, 1806; Joseph Lyman, born Oct. 30, 1810.

Erastus married Nov. 1825, Mary Ann Butler of this town. They resided here until 1855, when they removed to Vermillion, Oswego Co., N.Y., where Mr. Bodman is now engaged in the tanning business. During his life here he was universally respected and esteemed, both for his honor and uprightness in business transactions, and as a most exemplary christian citizen.

Fanny married Stephen Hopkins of this place, who died Nov. 26, 1855. His widow still survives, and had by her husband three children. Lucretia married Russell Hill, and has always resided in Williamsburg. They have had six children, three of whom are now living. The eldest, Dr. Edward J. Hill, is a prominent physician in Oxford, Ohio. Joseph Lyman, married in Oct. 1833, Cordelia Hubbard, daughter of the late Jeremiah Hubbard. He lived on the old homestead and died suddenly of a (supposed) disease of the heart, Jan. 21, 1857. His funeral was attended by a very large concourse, on the following Sabbath, and Rev. F.T. Perkins delivered a deeply impressive sermon, at the congregational church, in which he eulogized very highly the christian character which the deceased had maintained while living.

Of the children of Luther and Clarissa Bodman, Samuel, the eldest son, married Oct. 13, 1831, Susan, daughter of Capt. Pliny Kingsley, and in 1833 they removed to Huntsburg, Geauga Co., Ohio, where they still reside, Mr. Bodman being one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of that township. They have two children. Lewis, the second son, married Emily Caroline Nash, daughter of Elisha Nash of Williamsburg. They have six children now living.

Elam, married a daughter of Levi Hitchcock and removed to Tasleton, Ohio. Luther, Jr. married a daughter of Silas Hawks of Charlemont, Mass., and lives in Williamsburg. They have four children now living.

Naomi, married Caleb Alvord of Easthampton, who died in 1825. His widow survived until Feb. 25, 1855. Their children were:--Susan, died; Susan, lives in Easthampton; Solomon, farmer, lives in Easthampton; Joseph Frary, removed in 1856 to Bement, Ill., where he now resides; C. Mattoon, Methodist Episcopal clergyman and teacher, lives in E. Greenwich, R.I.

Luther Bodman married Clarissa Day, daughter of Samuel and Ruth Day of Williamsburg. They settled on the old homestead, where they now live, both enjoying a hale, vigorous and comfortable old age. Their children were:--Samuel, born Oct. 27, 1807; Lewis, born Oct. 4, 1809; Elam, born Aug. 2, 1812; Luther, born Dec. 11, 1814; Joseph, born Sept. 20, 1819, unmarried and resides mostly at Bement, Piatt Co., Ill., of which place he was the first settler. Oliver Booth, born Aug. 4, 1825, died July 8, 1850; Clarissa Angeline, born Aug. 21, 1830, married Jan. 4, 1853, Edward C. Hawkes of Charlemont, Mass., where they now reside.

Annie, married James Mayhew of this town, and removed to Oxford, Ohio, about the year 1836. They have both died since that time.

Theophilus married Sophia Bartlett and settled in Williamsburg. He died Aug. 12, 1838, and his widow is still living here. Their children were:--Elizabeth Burt, born Nov. 12, 1820, married Rev. N. Bosworth, a Cong. clergyman; Theophilus Parsons, born March 20, 1822, died May 1, 1847; Sophia Bartlett, born Nov. 8, 1824, married Joshua Crosby and lives in Williamsburg; Harriet Hall, born Sept. 5, 1832.

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## EARLY SETTLERS [II]

CAPT. JOHN WELLS.—The subject of the following notice was the older brother of Elisha Wells of Williamsburg, and Wm. Wells of Rutland, Vt. Their father was Jonathan Wells of Hatfield. The father of the latter and grandfather of John, Elisha and William, whose name was also Jonathan, was one of the party who attacked King Phillip, at Turner's Falls, in 1676.

In the autumn of 1675 had occurred the terrible slaughter at Bloody Brook. In the following spring, Phillip, with a thousand warriors, had reached Turner's Falls, and was threatening destruction to the neighboring settlements. On the 17th of May, 160 men, comprising four mounted companies, of 40 each, mostly from Hatfield and Hadley, started to attack him. At two o'clock on the morning of the 18th, the attack was commenced. After an obstinate battle, in which one-fourth of the Indians fell, the residue retreated and the whites, supposing their work was done, commenced their return to Hatfield. They had not proceeded far, when Phillip, reinforced by new arrivals, having still a thousand strong, interrupted their march by a most violent assault. Jonathan Wells, who was one of the rear guard, was shot in the thigh. Though disabled, he still maintained his seat upon his horse, but retired from the fight. It being a cloudy day, he, having no compass, soon became lost in the woods. He wandered, not knowing whither, till at dark he fell, exhausted, and left his horse to escape, at a place now known as the North Greenfield Farms. His horse gone, and being too weak to mount, if the horse had remained, he here laid down and slept till the morning of the 19th, when he wandered on the Green River, using his gun for a crutch. At the close of the day he again lay down and slept the second night. He dreamed that he should have gone down the river instead of up. The sun had not been seen the two previous days. This morning, the 20th, it arose clear. He took a southern course, down the river, still using his gun for a crutch; and at night had reached the Deerfield river, opposite the village of Deerfield, a few months before burnt by the Indians, where he again lay down and slept through the night. On the next morning, the fifth from his leaving Hatfield, and the fourth after the battle, he saw an Indian, armed with a knife, coming toward him, across the river in a canoe. He had no ammunition. The barrel of his gun was filled with sand. He pointed it at the Indian. Leaving his canoe, with the rifle in it, the Indian leaped into the water and swam away. Wells crawled under some drift wood in a marsh near by. Several Indians came to the place, and passed over the wood, but did not find him. After they had gone, he crossed the river, kept on a southerly course, traveled all day and all the following night, and the next morning reached Bloody Brook. Here, faint, and despairing, he lay down to die. But subsequently, making further effort, he found a dead horse, got some of his flesh and ate it. He also found and ate some bird's eggs. It was now Saturday. He traveled all that day and the next day, Sunday, at noon, reached his home, where he lived to be one of the oldest men in the place. What powers of endurance the habits of our ancestors gave! and how true is it that any period of our past history, from the landing of the first comers to the organization of the United States government, was a period of blood and of toil, the purchase paid by our fathers, for the blessings which we inherit. Of the 160 men, who made up the Turner's Falls expedition, 33 were killed by the Indians.

Capt. John Wells, son of Jonathan Wells, and grandson of the foregoing, was born in Hatfield, July 11, 1764. He married Sarah, daughter of Capt. Jonathan Warner, and sister of the wives of Thomas Nash, Elijah Nash, Joseph Warner, and Elijah Graves, and of Nathan, Silas, Job, Ebenezer, Jonathan and Melzar Warner.

Capt. Wells was as unlike Captain Warner, in many respects, as two men well could be. One was a worker, on a closely laid plan, which seldom failed execution by the hour or before. The other was a reader, an observer, a deep thinker. Capt. Warner was active, bodily, with mind concentrated in his business—eminently practical; Capt. Wells was intensely active, mentally, but was speculative, ranging through the past and grasping at the future. He was a man of few words; but thoughts, that did not "breathe," for he seldom revealed them, burned within him always, and were of the sublimest class of thoughts, soaring above and beyond the mere physical to the intellectual, the affectional, the spiritual, to the unseen past and the unseen future. If he admired nature, it was nature's God that his eyes were striving to uphold. If he criticized human character, it was man, not the individual, but the species and its relations to the Deity that occupied his thoughts. If there was ever a man naturally religious he was one; and yet he was not religious in his own estimation, not perhaps in that of religious people, and he found no solid ground on which his soul could rest till within a few years of his death.

It is hardly needful to detail the events of his life, as they mainly were those which happen to all. One or two may be noticed. Soon after his settlement in the north part of Williamsburg, he conceived the plan of traveling among the Northwestern Indians, in

the then almost returnless regions of Western New York, Ohio, Michigan, and Canada West. Having put his affairs in order, and given his young wife important hints, as to how she and the children would be provided for in case he should not return; after laying in provisions for the family, making general arrangements as if for a long absence, he took leave of them, with but few words explanatory of his purpose. Mrs. Wells felt quite assured that ample provision was made for the family, that a key to its attainment would be within her power if he should not return, which was about all she knew and more than any one else knew on the subject. He was absent some years, engaged in the fur trade, mostly among the French and Indians. The stories we have heard him relate of savage life, his intercourse with the various tribes, the perils he experienced, the hard lodgings, the bad fare and the hair breadth escapes, would make a good sized volume, and an interesting one, if they could be recalled, though he was little given to story-telling, and probably never related them to half a dozen persons in his whole life.

Not many years after his return, the results of his trip, so far as we know, remaining to die in his own bosom, his family perhaps not knowing to this day whether he made or lost money by it, his brother, Wm. Wells, who had settled in Rutland, Vt., died and left the bulk of a considerable estate to him and his brother Elisha. Capt. Wells with his family, then consisting, besides his wife, of John Wells, Jr., since deceased in Williamsburg, Lucinda, Panthea and Rowena, all since deceased, Sarah, the widow of D. Warner Graves, and Serintha, the wife of L.L. James, Esq., now of Brooklyn, N.Y., removed to Rutland, Vt., and lived there some ten years. They then returned to Williamsburg, much to the gratification of their friends there and of the community generally. Capt. Wells from this time to his death was "well off," but was not rich, and we think did not desire to be. He died March 13, 1835, his wife Sarah, Nov. 25, 1837, both aged 70. Of the latter it may be said that she was a modest, unassuming, but kind-hearted and truly christian woman.

Capt. Wells enjoyed the confidence of all who knew him; he never was accused of a mean or dishonest act. We verily believe he was never guilty of one; and as he was always cautious not to injure the reputation of others, we believe he escaped the breath of slander to a remarkable degree. For as many as 8 years he served the town as Legislator at Boston, and more as one of the Selectmen of Williamsburg. He was temperate in all things, equable in temper, and wore a deeply serious countenance. In person he was tall, erect and well formed. An earnest thinker of that class of mind which craves demonstration before it believes and trusts, and yet so far convinced of the great truths, which constituted the orthodox religion of the age and place, that he would have sooner cut off his right hand than express a doubt, why should he not be serious? how could he be otherwise than anxious about the future? conscientious as he was, how could he fail to be solicitous about his family, whose religious education he felt that he was neglecting? He was essentially convinced of all the solemn realities, of which he heard every Sunday from the pulpit and of which he read from the best author every day of the week. But there was lacking that demonstration, which a mind constituted like his craves, and he felt that he was not a believer in the highest and best sense of the term, and felt an almost overwhelming sense of guilt, that he was not, and feared that a profession of religion, which long years he really desired to make if he might, would perhaps be the greatest sin he could commit. Whether there was anything in the religious and the christian literature of the times to so becloud a clear, strong and comprehensive mind, others must judge. But such was the religious state of mind, in which this good man, as we verily believe him to have been, was for the greater part of his life. By many he was reputed unsocial. His appearance of being so, was unquestionably owing to his religious state. The immortality of the human soul and its possible destinies were too nearly demonstrated realities to admit of neglect or decay by a mind constituted like his; and yet he could not go forward and discharge all the duties of religion, because he was unfit, as he believed.

Soon after his return from Rutland, it was the privilege of the writer to reside in his family a few months, and there we learned his character, as we should not have done otherwise, and as we believe few if any, have. At the table he hardly ever spoke, unless directly addressed. In family worship, he was happy in expression, and always seemed sincere and earnest. Whenever his family, then young and interesting, were present, he would be wonderfully reserved. If all of them were absent, he would be more social. One evening, when all others had retired, and he appeared unusually talkative, we ventured to ask him, if more freedom and familiarity with his children would not be agreeable to him, and beneficial to them, saying, that a man six feet high, stern in look and seldom speaking, is awfully dignified in the eyes of children, and that they are of course afraid of him. This led to a confession, such as we had not dreamed of. It was all wrong, he said; parents ought to be on social terms with the children as they grow up, to secure their sympathy and confidence, and to gain an influence for their good. In that and subsequent conversations, he related his religious difficulties and anxieties. Religion seemed to him so important, that he could not possibly feel an interest in trivial conversation; and he was totally unfit to teach his children religiously. He would give the world, if he could, but how could he teach what he did not himself know? It was impossible. He was doing his family no good; it was terrible to think of the eternal loss they might suffer in consequence; but he was resolved to do them no harm; was fearful of speaking in their presence, lest he might; he knew they were awed in his presence, but he was silenced in theirs, by the fear that he might injure them by saying things he should not. With the writer, the ice was from that time broken, and seldom have we seen a man more frank, open and confiding and never do we expect to find a more amiable character revealed. In saying that he was confiding, we do not mean that he revealed anything that all the world might not have known to his advantage. A man with so high an appreciation of virtue, purity and justice, so abhorrent of all that was unjust, mean or sensual, so alive to a keen sense of obligation toward God and our fellow-man, and yet so feeling conscious of short-coming with regard to the higher religious duties, we had not found then nor have we since. Some may have interpreted his usual reserve, his seldom laughing, and his looking as if he despised himself for it, when he did, into something like haughtiness, or too much self-esteem. His humility was profound; and when he suffered a fellow-man to read him through, which he did not do always, it would be seen as a reality and no assumption. Although Capt. Wells was, we believe, unusually esteemed, yet few knew him perfectly, or fully appreciated his inward worth. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we record the foregoing recollections, believing that those who best understood his character, will find in them a faithful

remembrancer. We have rejoiced to know that in his last years, the sun of his religious experience broke from the clouds, that he made a profession of religion, and enjoyed its consolations on a sick bed and in the hour of death.

One of the most respectable families in Williamsburg was that of JOHN GRAVES, who resided one mile and a half east of the old meeting-house, on the road to Hatfield. He was born in Hatfield in 1772, and married Eunice Porter of Hatfield, daughter of Deacon Jonathan Porter, who resided on the hill, near the original homestead of the Nashes. Mr. Graves and his wife, who now survives him, were persons of great moral worth, industry and economy, and remarkable for sobriety and truthful and frank demeanor. Their family consisted of five children. Samuel Dwight Graves was the oldest; he died in December, 1857. The second son is Deacon Erastus Graves, now living in Williamsburg. The third was Mary, who married Deacon John Montague of Sunderland. The fourth was Martha, who married David Miller of Williamsburg. The fifth was Eunice, who married Dea. Elam Graves of Haydenville, and lately deceased. It does our heart good to think back and know that we were born and associated with such families as those of John Graves and others from early youth for more than 25 years. Mr. Graves and his family were neighbors of the writer of this family sketch, and there was ever such sincerity, kindness, and good neighborly feeling that not a word was passed or a gesture made to mar the cordiality of two families, who were allied by not even the remotest kindred. Mr. Graves died in January, 1842, at the age of 70.

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#### CAPT. JONATHAN WARNER

The ancestors of Capt. Jonathan Warner came to Ipswich, Mass. One of their number removed to Brookfield; and thence, when that town was destroyed by the Indians, to Hadley. His descendants are now scattered over that and the neighboring towns. One of them, Capt. Jonathan Warner, married Egra Sheldon, and removed from Northampton and settled in the east part of Williamsburg. It was, perhaps, one of the most singular matches ever made. His was a giant will; she was all meekness and submission. Despotisms are said to be the best governments, when the head is a wise and good man. It was so here. The government was absolute, but it was kind; the wife was about as much a subject of it as the children. And yet, perhaps two human beings never loved each more stably. When Capt. Warner died, after a wedded life of more than three-score years, his wife, though apparently as likely to live the next ten years as many younger persons, laid her down, and died also, for hardly an apparent reason, unless that there was nothing in this world to detain her longer; and we verily believe it would have been so on the other side, if it had pleased the Lord to call her first. They were both professors of religion.

That was a beautiful prayer and wonderfully comprehensive, which Capt. Warner used to utter every night and morning, for more than sixty years. It was always the same; but it had been pruned of every expression, that was not always appropriate. It never particularized, and yet it seemed never to omit a human want; and as uttered by him was full of life and meaning. How a laboring man, with but little education, and whose library contained but few books, such as the Bible, Watts' Psalms and Hymns, Pilgrim's Progress, and the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, from the time it came on a little brown sheet, about as large as foolscap, and advertised "Cash paid for rags at this office," till it grew up to something like half its present size— could have mastered such a beautiful form of prayer, and how he could utter it so often and with such propriety and simple pathos, always pausing a moment as he took his stand over the old elbow chair, and then pausing emphatically at each change of subject, is more than we know. Next to the gift of expressing our wants, in language of our own, like that of children to an earthly parent, ever varying our petitions as circumstances change, is that of uttering, with unaffected sincerity and appropriate pauses and intonations, one of these forms of prayer, of which many of our ancestors made so good a use. We would go ten times as far today, to hear that prayer uttered in the same tones, as any impatient boy would have gone to escape hearing it. It was a perfect gem in its way. If any of the grandchildren of the Patriarch have not yet learned this, they have failed to learn one thing that is true.

But after prayer, business. Capt. Warner was one of the most industrious of men. When visiting his friends, he would talk fast and get through quick; and when they visited him, it was not always that they could hold his exclusive attention for a long time. He was an energetic man, and accomplished much. His trade was that of a house carpenter, to which he added pretty extensive farming. It has been related, that he once laid his finger across the top of a chisel handle, on which an apprentice was striking with a mallet, saying "you need not stop, it will not hurt." Some young men would have made it hurt, but probably he knew his man. He was a keen observer of character; not a hard master, but could not bear to see idleness or shrinking from duty. He was the builder of the old church in Williamsburg, also of the old generation of churches in Goshen, Chesterfield, Westhampton, Ash-field, and several other towns. It has been said, and we believe with truth, that for the building of churches, he never charged a cent of profit on the wages or the materials. Perhaps the practice of charging 50 per cent on the actual cost of materials, and that of paying a journeyman one dollar a day and charging two, was unknown to his unsophisticated age. It would be rather difficult to find builders on such terms now; and there would be another difficulty found— congregations would not as often have the pleasure of saying, "Our church cost a hundred thousand dollars," if builders were as honest "now-a-days;" and government might not as easily find contractors for the public buildings. There may have been less merit in honesty then than now. Capt. Warner was a strictly, rigidly, inherently honest man—cheated nobody, flattered nobody, hated fraud and deception, and yet was not uncharitable in the eyes of those who best understood him. From the first settlement of Williamsburg, he was an active supporter of all good things—a church-goer—a Sabbath-keeper, in the true Puritan style. He was systematic in his business, quick of perception, sound in judgment, reputed a little fretful if his plans were foolishly interfered with, but of a truly kind heart and an undissembled piety.

Capt. Warner was an officer during the war of the Revolution. His first commission, appointing him a second Lieutenant, was dated at Watertown, April 8th, 1776, and signed by the "Major part of the Council of Massachusetts Bay." Fifteen names are appended, and among them are the autographs of James Otis, Caleb Cushing, B. Lincoln, (afterward General,) and James Prescott. This commission appears to have been prepared for use under the authority of the King, and the line reading, "In the year of the reign of King George Third," is erased with a pen. He subsequently received two other commissions, signed by the "Major part of the Council," and in 1781 received a Captain's commission signed by Gov. John Hancock. His terms of service in the army are unknown at present, but he was wounded in the shoulder by a ball, most probably at Saratoga or Bennington, which troubled him through life. He refused to apply for a pension, which he might have obtained, because he thought himself well off without it, and the country too poor to pay it. Among his papers is a Regimental order, dated July, 1781, which he is required, "immediately, without loss of time," to put in execution, and be at Northampton with his men to be mustered. Appended to this order is an act of the House of Representatives, resolving, in response to the earnest request of General Washington that 2700 men be immediately raised in this commonwealth and sent on to join the continental army at West Point, or such other place as the commander-in-chief shall direct, and that each man shall provide for himself a good firelock, bayonet, cartridge-box, haversack and blanket. Then follows a list of the towns and the number of men each is required to furnish, which shows the relative proportion of their population. Springfield is required to furnish 20, Northampton 17, Hadley 10, Williamsburg 6, Deerfield 11, Greenfield 8, Conway 10, Pelham 8, Ware 5, Charlemont 4, Ashfield 8, Worthington 7, Chesterfield 9, Westhampton 3, Buckland 8.

In 1786, Dec. 4, during Shay's Rebellion, an order emanating from Gen. Shepard, was sent to Capt. Warner, by which he was requested to assemble his company, see that they were well armed, well clothed, and furnished with ammunition and provisions for 15 days, and march them with all possible speed to Northampton where he would receive further orders. The order is still in existence, but it bears no record of the result. It was probably duly obeyed, however, as Capt. Warner was a strong government man and was subsequently, while riding alone on horse-back near Horse Mountain in Northampton, suddenly surprised and taken prisoner by the Shay's men and carried to Pelham or Petersham, where he remained in duress for several days, suffering for want of necessaries which he had not the means with him to purchase. This circumstance led him to form the resolution never to be without money in his pocket, and his family recollect that he duly kept his resolution and carried a five-dollar bill with him ever after. His horse was not returned to him, and after the rebellion was crushed it appears that he commenced a suit for it. A letter from W. Williams dated Dalton, 23d Nov., 1787, concerning the case, conveys a moral suited to the present times. He says—"My neighbors, the Chamberlains and others, who committed a trespass against you last winter, of a highly aggravated nature, appear to be sensible of the wrong done you and disposed to make complete satisfaction for it. If your feelings will suffer you, in settling with them, to comport with the ideas government seems to have entertained of the folly and madness of the times, and so lower your demands as far as you can and do yourself justice, you will probably in the review feel yourself as happy, as to press matters as far as legal right might allow." The appeal seems to have been effectual, as a receipt eventually follows, in the following words:-- "Received of Benj. Chamberlain and the party that took me and my horse, saddle, and bridle, Thirty-Five Pounds, L. M., in full of all demands from the beginning of the world to this day."

Capt. Warner had a family of 12 children, 11 of whom grew up to maturity and were all married. Four of six sons settled in Williamsburg on adjoining farms. Melzar the youngest, retains the old homestead to the present time.

We close this sketch by noticing two certificates found among his papers that may throw a little light on "old times." The first reads as follows:--

"Northampton, July 8, 1769.

these may sertefy all inquirers that jonathan warner hath paid suffitient baffridg for his deep blue serge Coat & vest lind with sidloon and trimd with white mettle buttens made by me.

Ruth Wright."

"Baffridg" is understood to be the liquor or "treat" that every one must pay to the first party that claimed it, according to the custom of those times, when he had a new hat or new suit of clothes; and the certificate that it had been duly paid was a matter of precaution, to avoid paying it more than once. The next certificate is as follows:--

-- "Hampshire ss. I hereby certify that I judge it reasonable and lawful y<sup>t</sup> the remains of the widow Experience Warner, deceased, should be interred or buried on the sabbath.

JOSEPH HAWLEY,

May 21, 1768. Justice of ye Peace."

[This seems to indicate that no person could be buried on the Sabbath, without good reason and without permission by a magistrate.]

#### THE WARNER FAMILY.

First Generation.—Wm. Warner—Came from England in 1637—settled at Ipswich.

Second Generation.—Daniel. John—came to Hadley before 1678, and was living there in 1692. Also, one daughter.

Third Generation.—Children of John—Samuel, John. Mark 1st—married Abigail Montague, daughter of Richard Montague—came to Hadley about 1670—removed to Northampton about 1687—married widow Mary Root of Westfield in 1713 and lived there with her till her death in 1732; then returned to Northampton, where he died, May 3, 1738, aged 91. Daniel, Nathaniel—came to Hadley. Eleazer—came to Hadley.

Fourth Generation.—Children of Mark 1st—Mark 2d—married Lydia Phelps in 1701—lived at “Blackpole” in Northampton; died Aug. 3, 1766, aged 89. Abigail—married Charles Ferry of Springfield. The Easthampton Ferries are among her descendants.

Fifth Generation.—Children of Mark, 3d—Lydia, born 1702, married Abner Lyman in 1726, Abigail, born 1704, married a Mr. Noble of Springfield. Elizabeth, born 1706, married Jos. Bridgman, Belchertown, 1737. Mehitable, born 1708, married Noah Bridgman, in 1731. Downing, born 1710, died 1729. Mark, born 1712, married Experience Bright. Mary, born 1715, married Israel Rust, 1735, and died 1809. Daniel, born 1717, Naomi, born 1719, married Israel Sheldon, Southampton, 1741. Elisha, born 1722. Lucy, born 1724, married Ebenezer Edwards, Chesterfield.

Sixth Generation.—Children of Mark, 2d—Downing, Jonathan, Elijah, Joel, Paul, Silas, Experience, and Lydia.

Seventh Generation.—Children of Jonathan—Paulina, died in infancy. Sarah, married John Wells of Williamsburg. Matthew, born April 12, 1767, married Rebecca Washburn. Paulina, born July 24, 1769, married Elijah Nash of Conway. Naomi, born Oct. 27, 1771, married Thomas Nash of Williamsburg. Ebenezer, born Nov. 17, 1773, married Sarah Graves of Williamsburg. Silas, born Nov. 12, 1775, married Lucy King of Williamsburg. Jonathan, born Feb. 19, 1778, married Betsey Warren of Williamsburg. Job, born Aug. 30, 1780, married Rhoda Miller of Northampton. Melzar, born Dec. 28, 1782, married Eunice Graves, and after her death, Elizabeth Wright. Nancy, born April 17, 1785, married Joseph Warner of Williamsburg. Lydia, born July 28, 1787, married Elijah Graves of Southampton, Feb. 23, 1790.

Eighth Generation.—Children of Job—Elvira—married Austin Allis, and after his decease, Levi Barrus of Goshen. Ernest A., married Louisa Ferry of Westfield. Nancy M. married Geo. W. Fisk of Northampton. Lorenzo, married Charlotte Whiting, Stafford, Ct., Luthera E., married Austin S. Wait of Williamsburg. Cordelia, married Bennet Allen. William J., married Ruth L. Whiting of Stafford.

OBADIAH WARNER resided on the “mountain road,” half a mile from Cleveland’s hotel. He and his father were originally from Hatfield. Obadiah married a daughter of Captain Coffin, one of the Nantucket Coffins, who came to Williamsburg soon after the revolutionary war. Mr. Warner was bred a farmer and carried on this business some years; but he became affected with a pulmonary complaint and then rode much on horseback to obtain relief. He became one of the most finished horsemen in Hampshire County. He finally went into the business of buying and training horses for the Boston, New York and Hartford markets. Perhaps he possessed and sold more of the fancy and elegant specimens of the horse kind than any other individual in his day. He raised a family of children. His wife was a lady of elegant appearance and accomplishments. His eldest son was a young man of ability; left his father’s house when 18 years of age to go to Green Co., in the southeast part of Georgia, to keep school. He proved industrious and enterprising; studied law, became a County Judge, then was elected Circuit Judge, then chosen by the Legislature of Georgia for two terms as Supreme Court Judge; was elected to Congress in 1856, and maintained a high position there as a Representative. Latterly his health has failed him, and he has retired to private life.

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#### SOCIAL AND MORAL CUSTOMS OF THE INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants of Williamsburg for the first 70 years after the town was settled, were emphatically a band of brothers and family neighbors. In the early days of the town, it was almost universal that the people slept without locking or barring the doors of their houses at night. Indeed, they were an order and law-loving and law-abiding people. We believe that no case of burglary or murder, was ever committed here. In a long series of years there have been some convictions for small offenses, but there are few towns in this Commonwealth that can show a more enviable record in this respect. When people were sick, cases of suffering for the want of necessaries have not been known, the neighbors having always supplied the comforts and conveniences for sickness, if needed. We never knew an action of slander or of libel instituted between any of the citizens of the town, and but few contested law-suits have ever originated here. Two public libraries have been instituted for the benefit of this community, but the inhabitants have lived too scattered in former times to render these institutions available and the books have been divided among the original subscribers. Indeed, society in Williamsburg has had as few of the evils which arise from municipal and social organizations as any other town in New England. It was remarked in early times by a very notable Lieutenant Governor in Massachusetts when he read his inaugural to the legislative body assembled—“God sifted four nations to get choice seed to plant New England.” The Governor is said to have been a man of extensive information. Indeed, when the people of New England first came from the Old World, they were a class of great intelligence, and many of them highly educated. They began for a commonwealth of social and equal rights and privileges, while they founded the whole upon schools and religious instruction for their children and youth. The Bible was their spelling book and the schoolmaster that made them acquainted with their duties and obligations to their Creator and to one another.

The institutions have been handed down from father to son and were never more flourishing than at the present time. In a population like Williamsburg, every man has perfect security for his life and liberty, and to redress his wrongs toward his person and property. Haply but few wrongs exhibit themselves in such a community, and we must say, after long years of experience, that alcoholic drinks have produced more misfortune to the people of this and all other towns in New England than any other one or two sources of evil.

The town by law provides for the support of the poor. Sometimes for years not a poor person has called for relief; at other times the number may have been as high as 10 to 15. These are generally provided for by contract with some humane and kind

family, for a given sum by the year. It has been noticed that a great majority of the persons claiming public assistance, were made so by the use of alcoholic liquors, as a beverage. So, also, crime has almost invariably begun with intemperance, though the rule may not be universally correct. Tobacco-chewing, and cigar-smoking are generally the beginning of the excessive use of liquor. The saliva that comes up in unnatural quantities produces thirst, nervousness, and debility, and then comes a hankering after liquors and alcohol, and if the tobacco-juice is swallowed violent diseases of the stomach and liver are sometimes produced by it. The tobacco fields of the Connecticut river have not yet reached Williamsburg and it is hoped that this weed—the “Upas plant” of America—will not be seen growing in the fields of this town; but wheat, Indian corn, grasses and fruits, which seem to be provided for the comfort and happiness of man, bring forth abundantly in this region.

## RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS

### TOWN MEETINGS—SCHOOLS

The earlier settlers of Williamsburg were generally strongly attached to religious customs—very many were deeply imbued with personal religion. On Saturday night as the sun went down, Sabbath day was deemed to have commenced, and from this hour until the going down of the sun of Sunday evening was considered holy time. The families spent Saturday evening reading the Bible and religious books, such as the Westminster Assembly Catechism, Pilgrim’s Progress, and Watts’ Hymns and Psalms, and at 9 to 10 o’clock, after family prayer, all retired to rest. Sunday morning was begun with prayer in the family. Many individuals practiced reading one or two chapters in the Bible every morning and evening. Sundays and week days included, during the whole year and year after year during their lives. Many of the original inhabitants read the Bible through in its course, word for word, a great number of times, to their families. At 9½ o’clock on Sunday mornings, all hands were rallied for the meeting-house. Religious services commenced in the morning at 10½ o’clock. Generally, the clergyman made a short invocation, then read a chapter or lesson in the Bible, then followed singing of Watts’ Psalms, in a tune set to meter, then prayer, then a sermon, then singing again, and then a dismissal of the congregation with a benediction. People residing within a half mile of the meeting-house went home to dinner; the remainder of the congregation disposed of themselves in various ways. The elderly ladies partook of a small lunch, then gathered around in neighborly sociables in the pews, talked of domestic and religious affairs, and of the goodness or badness of the preachings and singing, and invited each other to make social family calls, week days, which were very much observed in early times. The male portion of the congregation gathered in groups in dry and warm weather, around the outside of the meeting-house, talked over their personal histories, what they had seen in the world, the talents of the preacher, some politics, news of the week, and many times discussed the doctrines of theology. Mr. Asa White was a hospitable gentleman, sociable, liberal, and often invited the elderly people to come to his house on Sunday noons and partake of refreshments; so also did Thomas Mayhew, Dr. Paine, and his sons, John and Seth, and many others. In the summer season, people grouped themselves together under the shade trees. In cold and wet weather, they resorted very much to the tavern, kept by an excellent man, Obid Skiff. Once in Skiff’s house, they oftentimes filled three or four rooms, talked some politics and some religion, of Bonaparte’s wars—the French Revolution—Madison’s war—and Revolutionary anecdotes. One Sunday, in 1816, an elderly gentleman, a traveler, came into the bar-room at Skiff’s, called for a small mug of hot flip, which was given him, and while he sat drinking it, the elderly people were rejoiced at the peace, then just proclaimed between Great Britain and the United States. At this juncture, the old man with the mug of flip in his hand, remarked, “Say what you will, it is God that has given us peace.” Upon this, Mr. William Steward, the grand father of Senator Steward of Michigan, spoke to the traveler and said, “Can you tell us who made the war?” Our traveler said, “it was the Devil; he had set on Madison, Gallatin, and Henry Clay, for a fight, and they had had it, and he thought they had got the worst of it.”

Drinking a gin sling or a mug of warm flip on a Sunday noon was not considered in those days, derogatory to a man’s goodness. At one o’clock, P.M., the bell rung, and all then hastened to the church, and here the same order of exercises were repeated in the afternoon as in the morning. The clergyman often read notices that religious meetings would be held at the school-houses during the week in different districts, of which there were six. The clergyman generally went the rounds some five or six times a year in each district. Once or twice a year he visited the schools, and called on the people in their families generally once a year. He baptized no children on his visits, as they all were to be baptized in open church. Returning home, the people generally read sermons, religious books, and catechisms; seldom a newspaper was read on Sunday, unless it was a religious one. People were generally rather deficient in taking newspapers, but the Bible seemed to be their Book for morals, history, information, poetry and precept. In fact, the literature of the Bible was well understood, as well as its moral teachings. Every family had copies of Noah Webster’s spelling book, Morse’s geography, and the Westminster Assembly Catechism; many had church histories, some Robinson Crusoe, and Esop’s Fables.

Sunday evening was generally spent in social and neighborly calls, and the young men improved these evenings for their wooings; but Monday morning all hands started bright and early and fresh for their weekly toils.

Three or more town meetings were held during the year, and these were among the great public days of the town. In the early years, all matters pertaining to public worship were transacted in town meetings. These and other proceedings frequently occasioned spirited and eloquent debates. Indeed, the town legislature was a school to initiate people to a knowledge of the laws and how to obey and enforce them. There can be no sedition or treason in such communities as these. One bad custom of these gatherings in olden time, was that people after the town meetings were over, resorted to the public houses and spent the evenings in many cases drinking liquor too freely.

The schools were generally kept six months in the year—three in winter and three in summer. A male teacher was employed for the winter and a female for the summer. Children between five and sixteen years of age attended the common schools almost universally, and could obtain a good common education, beginning their education with Noah Webster's spelling book. The Bible was a reading book in all the schools. Murray's grammar and reader were of common use. Dayball's arithmetic, Root's do, and others, carried the student through the common branches of mathematics. Most generally in the village, there has been kept for three months or more, a select school, taught by some gentleman of collegiate education. Dr. Collins and the Rev. Henry Lord had students many years. They taught the classics, mathematics, algebra, and prepared students for college. Dr. Collins bestowed days and years in teaching the youth of his town in the higher branches of education, gratuitously.

#### PHYSICAL AND GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

Williamsburg, as has been said by us before, is a hilly and somewhat mountainous country. The first of the hills range along between the eastern part of the town next to Hatfield, and is called the Mountain District. It is a range of hills that break up suddenly from the valley of the Connecticut river, and is composed of gneiss granite, and mica slate, interspersed with patches of primitive limestone, affording sometimes valuable quarries for quicklime and commerce. Successive ranges of these hills and mountains extend through the town from north-east to south-west, generally rising and culminating in the Green Mountains in Chesterfield, Worthington, and Peru. The mountains are uniformly of pretty much one formation, but the horn blende and green stone formations appear in greater abundance as the hills rise to their height in Windsor, Cummington, and Peru. Here tale slate is often seen in many places and in large quantities. Clean blocks of white marble have been seen in the debris of the primitive formations in Williamsburg. The granite, mica slate, limestone, green stone, and horn blende, have been broken up and decomposed into soil, which are of surpassing strength and durability, clear down to the rock underneath. This soil lies over the rock formation, from one foot to 200 feet deep. It generally shows itself the deepest on the north and north-east side of the hills, showing that at one time the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic Ocean flowed far inland over the hills and mountains of New England. Either the mountains since the creation have been upheaved or lifted from their beds below, or the water of the ocean has been densified and retreated into more narrow limits than it once occupied. The latter conclusion is the more rational.

This soil needs plowing deep into the hard-pan; and when the hard-pan comes up in digging wells, cellars and pits it slacks and crumbles to pieces by the air like burnt limestone. White clover has been seen to spring up and grow fresh and rank the first season after the hard-pan was brought up from the bottom of wells many feet deep. What makes the soil of Williamsburg so good for fruit, is the potash found on the decomposition of granite rocks which are made of silica, feldspar and alumine. The feldspar is said to contain many times 13 per cent of potash, while the silica is the best ingredient and a necessary one to form the crust of the corn stalk and wheat stalk. Indeed, the analysis of the granite and primitive soils in Williamsburg shows a rich proportion of lime, alumine, potash, silica, manganese, sulphates or iron and lime, magnesia, and frequently carbon combined in various forms, besides soda in fair proportions.

The Oak timber is strong, compact and silicious, like the timber out of which the Frigate Constitution was built. The Ash timber growing on this soil is of the best kind; so is the Beech, Hemlock, Rock and Sugar Maple, Chestnut, and Whitewood. Indeed, there can be no better timber found in the world for making wagons, plows, machinery and farming utensils, than that which grows on the hills in Williamsburg and along the eastern slopes of the Green Mountains.

#### THE POST-OFFICE.

Of the precise time of the establishment of a post-office in Williamsburg we are without a definite information. It was probably about the year 1814 or 15. Previous to this time, the inhabitants were accommodated at the office in Northampton. Thomas Mayhew was the first postmaster, and the office was kept at his store on the hill until 1834, when it was removed to the village and kept in the store of the Messrs. Thayer. Mr. Mayhew continued the postmaster until 1839, although after the removal of the office the active duties were performed by Wm. E. Thayer, then a clerk in the store of his brothers. In 1849, Lewis Bodman was appointed to succeed Mr. Mayhew as postmaster, and the office was removed to his store. With the exception of about three years, ending in 1851, when J.H. Metcalf held the appointment, Mr. Bodman has been the postmaster to this time.

Until the establishment of the Western railroad, which diverted travel from the old stage routes, there was a mail received every other day—one day from Northampton and the next from Albany. Its arrival from the east was at about 2 o'clock in the morning, and from the west in the evening, at about sunset. The approach of the coaches to town was heralded by the spirited notes of the bugle. This stage route was one of the most profitable in this section, and the days when three, four and five coaches passed through town were not unfrequent. Since 1849 there has been a daily mail received. The office previous to 1840, under the old high-postage law, was worth to the postmaster about \$200 yearly. It is now worth about \$325.

#### MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURES.

From 1816 until 1860, there was a store kept on the now vacant lot next east of the residence of Lewis Bodman. The first building used was the one now located near A.E. Lyman's rake factory, and used for a store-house. This was erected in 1816, by Erastus Hubbard and Augustine W. Fox, who conducted business in it for three or four years, and were succeeded by Abner



Williams, who continued in trade two or three years. His successors were D.W. Graves, Isaac, Edward and Frederick Gere, D.W. and Eben. Graves, Alvah Miller and W.F. Arnold, Lewis Bodman, (the latter from 1837 until February, 1858,) then a Union Company, and lastly T.M. Carter and Wm. B. Avery. About the time Mr. Bodman commenced business, he moved from the hill near the old meeting-house the store building previously used by Thomas Mayhew. In January, 1800, this building was destroyed by fire.

In July, 1831, Ezra, Willisson and Sears Thayer, sons of Eliphalet Thayer, purchased of Edmund Taylor, all the land between the road and the river from the present residence of W.E. Thayer to a point just west of the brick and stone factory. There were no buildings on the premises then, except a small house, now composing a part of the red house in the rear of Mr. Thayer's store, and an old saw and grist mill. The latter stood on the site of the present large factory. Sears Thayer disposed of his interest in the property soon after the purchase, and Ezra and Willisson went forward, erected the present store building, and with their mercantile business carried on an extensive trade in clocks. They manufactured the cases of the clocks in the old mills, and bought the running part at the factories in Connecticut. They sent out six or eight peddlers, who went into all parts of the country with these clocks. This business was very profitable, and when, in April, 1839, the company was dissolved and the property divided, each of the partners had a handsome estate. Ezra continued the mercantile business and also manufactured to some extent. He met with large losses, and in about a year failed, after which he removed west, and is now a farmer in Cayoga county, N.Y.

Willisson Thayer continued the clock business several years, and also manufactured various other articles, including hardware and furniture. In 1843 he erected the three-story factory of granite, brick and wood, at a cost of \$4,000. The granite was quarried from the ledge on Williams' hill, west of the village. In 1843, his brother, W.E. Thayer, became associated with him in the business and remained in that connection until March, 1857. The clock business was given up previous to the copartnership. W. & W.E. Thayer besides their hardware and furniture business, also manufactured wooden buttons extensively. The first wooden buttons made in this country were made by the Messrs. Thayer. The business was very profitable. Willisson Thayer died in September, 1859, from injuries received in falling under his wagon while on a business expedition, and being run over by the wheels, at Chicopee. W.E. Thayer now continues the mercantile business, at the old stand. In the spring of 1859, he made some very desirable alterations in the internal arrangement of his store. The room which now forms the main part of the store was previously partitioned off in the old style, forming four separate rooms, the front room being in the circular form, once so common. By putting these rooms into one, and by other alterations and repairs, the store has been made one of the most pleasant and convenient in the county. His stock of goods comes very near to what one expects to find in a country variety store. His connection with the Hardware trade, by manufacturing, enables him to keep an excellent assortment of Hardware, Cutlery, Tools, etc., and to compete successfully with the best stores in Western Hampshire. During the past year, he has erected a new factory near the fork of the Chesterfield and Goshen roads, and employs about 20 hands in manufacturing screw drivers, mincing knives, and various other articles of hardware, and file, chisel and awl handles.

About the year 1806, Stephen Graves started, at the village now known as Searsville, a mill for fulling and dyeing and dressing woolen cloth. How long he remained in the business we are unable to say, but it was probably not many years. In this village, also, Versel Abell manufactured woolen yarn, flannel and fulled cloth for many years previous to 1840. His factory was south of the river, a few rods north of Mr. Sears' factory.

In 1819, Nathaniel Sears came to Williamsburg with a capital of only fifty dollars. He purchased a part of the water privilege belonging to Stephen Hyde, put up a building near the factory he now occupies, and commenced the business of cloth dressing, which was at that time very common in almost every farming town, as almost every farmer made his own cloth, ready for fulling and dressing. He followed that business until about 1835. In 1828, he enlarged his building and put in machinery for manufacturing fulled cloth and flannel, and continued cloth dressing. In the fall of 1837, he commenced building his present factory, but before it was framed, the old building took fire and was burned, with all its contents. By this disaster, Mr. Sears sustained a loss of about \$1000, there being no insurance on the property. He went on with the new building, put in new machinery, and commenced again, manufacturing fulled cloth and flannel for customers, in which business he continued until ready-made clothing was introduced, which made custom-work a small business. In 1853, he gave up custom-work and commenced manufacturing white flannel, for market, and continues it still. He employs six or seven hands, works up about 1000 lbs. of wool per month, running but one set of machinery.

One branch of business that has contributed much, in former times, to the prosperity of the town, was that of tanning, currying and finishing hides for leather. This business was continued many years, as the tannery now used by Graves & Lamb, by Joseph Bodman and Stephen Hopkins. Previous to and for a time after the construction of these works, the business of tanning was carried on in the building opposite the Dea. Bodman homestead, by Samuel Bodman, where horse-power was used in grinding the bark.— [In one of these buildings, a printing office was temporarily established, where the unique book known as "Bodman's Orations" was printed, a large edition of which was issued. The work was sold by subscription, and people subscribed freely, in the expectation that its publication would never be consummated. —In connection with the tannery of Bodman & Hopkins, a large business was transacted in the manufacture of boots and shoes. From 6 to 10 hands were employed in this branch. In this business Dea. Bodman was first engaged, but he finally relinquished it to Luther and Walker Rice, who employed several hands and continued the business a number of years.

An incident connected with the tannery of Bodman & Hopkins is worth relating. A man named John Putnam, drew 53 hides from the vats in one night and cut them badly, and then set the building on fire. He was arrested and sent to the jail in Northampton, but he died before the expiration of the terms for which he was sentenced.

Josiah Hannum was one of the most successful and industrious mechanics in Williamsburg. For 35 years he followed the business of manufacturing axes. He came to Williamsburg about the year 1795, and for 15 years occupied the house opposite the old meeting-house, afterward owned by Thomas Mayhew and family. His shop stood up the road, on the east side, about 25 rods above the meeting-house. Jared Stewart, the uncle of Senator Stewart of Michigan, learned his trade of ax-maker from Mr. Hannum. Mr. H. worked at ax-making until 1811, at his old shop, when he sold his house and bought the house and farm formerly occupied by Seth Paine, before he moved to Brecksville, Ohio. Paine exchanged his house and farm with John Breck of Northampton, for 3500 acres of land at the mouth of the Cayahoga river, on Lake Erie, and Breck soon after sold the Paine homestead with 100 acres of land to Hannum. Mr. Hannum built a shop west of the road leading to Ashfield and Goshen, opposite his dwelling, which was one mile north of the old meeting-house. This was a very fine situation. During the war with Great Britain in 1812, the price of steel rose to a high figure in Massachusetts—near \$1 a pound. Mr. Hannum went to Montreal and purchased a large quantity of steel and iron. His blistered steel cost him about \$12 a hundred, there. He got it home to Williamsburg in the winter, by working it into sleighs. He became a very skillful man. He furnished his axes at \$1,50 each and received orders to supply axes for the western markets to a large extent. He manufactured for several years as many as 110 axes a week, which were mostly ground sharp and ready for use. He and Rufus and Stephen Hyde carried on the business for many years in Williamsburg, with great success. The Hydes had a trip-hammer in the valley, on Mill river, a few rods above the road leading to Chesterfield, now called Searsville. A dam was erected across the stream, which afforded abundant water-power for the trip-hammer and the running of grind-stones to grind their axes and scythes. Though living more than 2 1-2 miles distant, the writer has often heard this trip-hammer start at 4 o'clock in the morning and run till 10 o'clock in the night, when orders pressed them. Mr. Hannum at times manufactured scythes, but the Hydes carried on the business of scythe-making to a much greater extent. A bar of steel and iron was first welded together, and then when at a glowing heat it was passed under the trip-hammer and the scythe was forged out in 2 or 3 heats—the steel occupying the inner side and the iron the back. The shanks were then welded and adjusted on to the blades. Hannum's and the Hydes' scythes and axes were universally known throughout the northern and western part of New England, New York, Canada, Pennsylvania, and through northern Ohio. The country then was new and covered with vast forests of timber, maple, oak, hemlock, ash, and beech trees. Mr. Hannum died about the year 1836. He raised a family of five children, two by his first wife, and 3 by his second, who was a Miss Williams, a sister of Luther Bodman's wife.

The handles of scythes were extensively manufactured from the white ash timber growing on the Green mountains, and bent to the proper angles and shape by a steam box and pressure. The ax handles were made of hickory wood. The manufacturing of the ax handles and scythe snaths became as important as that of the axes and scythes. Both Mr. Hannum and Mr. Hyde were industrious and hard-working men, and their deaths were no doubt hastened by their extraordinary labors.

About the time of their decease two new factories were erected about a quarter of a mile below Sears' factory, by Levi Hitchcock and Benj. K. Baker, the former building in 1831 and the latter in 1835, and the business of ax-making was continued by both. Mr. Hitchcock carried on the business until 1846. His sons, Heman and Andrew J., were connected with their father in the business during a portion of this time, and the manufacture of chisels and cutlery was added to that of ax-making. This shop is now used by Marcus Way & Son, for the manufacture of button molds. Mr. Baker carried on the business until 1852, when he sold to D.W. Graves, and removed to Lafayette, N.Y., where he now resides. His shop is now used for a grist mill, by S.K. Wait. Mr. Hitchcock died in May, 1848. Both he and Mr. Baker manufactured about \$4000 worth of goods per year.

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## MANUFACTURING.

During the war of 1812, two cotton factories were erected and put in operation in the center village. One was located where Mr. Thayer's new factory stands, and was built and operated by Prince and Phineas Williams. This building, which has since been moved across the street and is now known as the "boarding-house," was the first factory erected in the village. For a considerable number of years after it was built, there was no road leading to it from the main street leading up the hill. A factory has been in operation on this site most of the time since the first building was erected. The proprietors have been somewhat numerous and the goods manufactured quite various. The Messrs. Williams ran their cotton mill until the reestablishment of peace, when the business was prostrated and they sustained a heavy loss. The building remained unoccupied two or three years, when it was used for a grocery store by Joseph and Capt. Southworth Jenkins. They remained here in business about two years. Isaac Gere then purchased the property and manufactured broadcloths. His successors have been Edward and Charles Talbot, Mason & Moffit, J. Pierson, Charles Gloyd, Ezra Thayer, Marcus and Henry Way, D.W. Graves, O.G. Spellman, and Wm. E. Thayer.

The second cotton mill stood on the bank of the river directly in the rear of Mr. Warner's blacksmith shop. It was erected and operated by Erastus Hubbard and Edmund Taylor. This mill also flourished only during the war.

For several years after 1806, Sylvester, Artimus and Theophilus Bodman, sons of William Bodman, Esq., operated a small mill for fulling, dyeing and dressing woolen goods, located on the north bank of the river, some two or three rods below the iron bridge. Their water power was obtained from the pond at Stearns' mill, by means of a pen stock. The cloth dressed and colored was mostly made by hand-loom in private families. In 1809, Col. James Shepherd procured the water privilege in the western part of Northampton, in the village now called Leeds, and ran a fulling and dyeing mill. Col. Shepherd went largely into keeping and

raising Merino and Saxon sheep and worked their wool into fine and broad cloth. He was a merchant, farmer, and manufacturer, possessed unusual business talents and enterprise, and built up quite a village by his industry and skill.

About 1811, a man by the name of Daniel Jackson came from the Woolen Mills in Yorkshire, England, to Williamsburg. He married a daughter of John Miller, and Shepherd employed him as a weaver by hand looms in his factory. Jackson was an industrious, enterprising man. He proposed to Col. Shepherd to build some spinning machines, (or Mules, as they were called,) to spin woolen yarn. The wool at that time was all spun by hand-wheels and wove by hand-loom. Silas Hannum of Williamsburg and his son Spencer, both excellent machinists, built the Jennys or Spinning Machines for Col. Shepherd's factory. These machines worked well and were skillfully constructed. Hannum & Jackson superintended the building of the Jennys. During the year 1817 or '18, Mr. Shepherd procured from Rhode Island a power loom to weave woolen cloth. It was a great unwieldy affair, rudely made and almost as big as a cow stable. He had in his employ at that time as superintendent of his factory machinery, a gentleman by the name of Guy Trumbull, who was an expert mechanic, and saw into things quickly. He began with the big woolen loom, and step by step he reduced its dimensions, simplified its machinery, took away one rude appendage after another and added appliances, until he made the loom a piece of handy work. This very much advanced Shepherd's factory.

In 1813, the three Bodman brothers purchased of David Porter and Samuel Bodman the water privilege at what is now known as "Unquomok Mills," about half a mile south of the village, and erected a mill for prosecuting the business they had commenced at the mill near the bridge. They continued in the business three or four years. Their successors have been Ambrose Stone, Joseph Bodman and Capt. John Wells, Enoch James, Sumner Hyde, W.S. Pierce and Hylas Bradley, then Pierce and Lewis Bodman, then Pierce, Bodman and E.M. Wright, under the name of W.S. Pierce & Co. Mr. Pierce died in 1856, after which Bodman and Wright carried on the business one year, when Mr. Wright withdrew and Mr. Bodman has since been the sole proprietor. About 30 hands are employed and 110,000 yards of satin goods are turned out yearly. In 1847-8, the old factory was supplanted with a new and substantial structure, 3½ stories high. The entire factory property is valued at \$25,000.

Silas Hannum was one of the earliest mechanics in Williamsburg. He lived in the village, half-way between where the grist mill now stands and the bridge at the tavern. He was first a mill-wright; then, from about the year 1807 to 1818, he was mostly employed with his sons, Spencer and two others younger, in making machinery for factories. He made most of the machinery for the spinning department at the woolen mills in Leeds, (Northampton.) Mr. Hannum was a man of very superior genius; so were his three sons, who worked with him. They kept their shop going for 25 years, and were under constant orders for factory machinery. They at one time built carding mills and furnished the machinery of Bodman's factory.

## POLITICAL.

The political character of the town has ever been conservative. The Federalists were uniformly a large majority of the voters. Afterward, the Whigs were for a long time in the ascendancy, but when the disintegration of the old parties began in 1840, and until 1855, the town was generally controlled by a union of the Liberty and Free soul parties with the Democrats. In recent years, a large majority of the votes have been cast for Republicans.

The war of 1812 seemed to meet with little favor with the inhabitants of the town. It was looked upon as an attempt on the part of the government to secure the conquest of Canada. In Williamsburg and in Hampshire County there were many families who had near relatives in Canada. There were the Nashes, the Bangses, the Hubbards, the Pomeroy's and the Hydes, living in Stanstead, all from Williamsburg. The Thayers had relatives at Montreal. Arthur Tappan was living there as well as one of the Pomeroy's. Besides, the early inhabitants had been deeply taught and imbued with the principles of living in peace. This was the general feeling of the town, soon after the war began, a recruiting officer came along, started his fife and drum, and by applying liquor pretty freely among some loafers he succeeded in enlisting two or three men in Williamsburg and one or two in Goshen, for the Niagara frontier, and there was occasionally a straggler that he picked up in the country; but the County of Hampshire furnished but a small number of men for the northern campaign. General Dearborn came up and crossed the country to Greenbush, thence to Niagara, where he found everything in confusion, or rather without any preparation at all. William L. Marcy, afterward Governor of New York, was his right hand man and acted as his secretary. Both were from Roxbury.

In 60 days after Dearborn showed himself on the Niagara frontier, he and all of his army were down with the fever and ague, camp distemper, and billious complaints. Williamsburg and Chesterfield were on the direct routes to Greenbush and thence to Niagara. Vinegar was freighted from Worcester, Essex County and Connecticut River, to supply the army, while all the cannon, arms and munitions of war, were sent by land conveyances from Albany and Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Springfield. In the Fall season many of the officers were discharged on furlough, and as they came back, many of them in small companies, they were completely broken down with billious complaints, agues and other diseases. Large numbers at times came through Williamsburg.

The second season, (1813) great preparations were made to furnish an outfit for Commodore Perry's fleet, then to be launched on Lake Erie. Seamen from Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Rhode Island, Boston and the coast along down East, were gathered by high bounties and sent across the country to Erie in stages and conveyances with thier outfits, many of these passed up through the country, most of them by Northampton and Chesterfield, some through Williamsburg. They were almost all drunk as they went along; some piled their bounty money in their hats, and mounting themselves on the top of the stages, jingled their dollars and gold pieces, hurraing as they rode on to the bloody bourne from which but few of them ever returned.

In 1814, came the first direct tax, which the majority of the people met and paid with patriotic spirit. This direct taxation was continued again in 1815, and also in 1816, but was released on the declaration of peace. No man in Williamsburg resisted this tax,

but paid it all freely and willingly when the tax gatherer came around. This personage was Thomas Shepherd of Northampton. Joseph Smith of Hatfield, was one of the assessors under this national tax law.

The New England people were given to commerce, and they continued to trade with England during the war. Dry goods were brought into Williamsburg from Montreal and Quebec, in 1815, through the northern part of Vermont, packed on horses. Steel for the ax trade, came from Montreal to Williamsburg. We saw goods laid down on the counters in the stores in Williamsburg, in 1814, '15 and '16, directly from the factories of Leeds and Manchester, brought into Boston, Salem and Newport, under Danish and Prussian colors. Indeed, many merchants had a young clerk or partner in England buying goods during the whole war of two years and six months, to supply the New England markets. Stock was driven from Connecticut River, Vermont, and New Hampshire, to supply the demand for beef in Canada. The General Government had become peculiarly obnoxious to the New England people and sentiment, by their non-intercourse and embargo laws, first passed under the administration of Thomas Jefferson and continued by Mr. Madison.

#### REMARKABLE EVENTS.

The first event of note in this century was in 1806. It was a great total eclipse of the sun, which occurred in June, between the hours of 11 and 12. The writer was at school that day, at the district school on Nash hill. The site is commanding, overlooking a great extent, south and east.

After 11 o'clock, the darkness came on. The scholars could not see to read. Suddenly it became like night, and the scholars were dismissed. They rushed out into the street to look at the sun. A small crescent of light alone remained on the northerly and easterly limb. Then it entirely disappeared. Not a cloud or mist was to be seen; not a breath of air moved the trembling leaf. The birds passed at once to their roosts. The stars gave but a sullen and gloomy light. A tremulous crescent on the western limb of the sun appeared, and then came wave after wave of light and darkness ebbd away. Soon the birds broke forth into joyous song—the barn fowls came down from their roosts—the beasts of the field became composed, and the moon gradually away. The afternoon was clear, but cold and chilly.

For ten years after this, every season grew colder and shorter until 1816, when a great number of black spots appeared on the sun. There was not a single month in that year but what a white frost appeared. Green corn was badly frozen in the fields in August and September, and snow fell all along the Green Mountains in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, a foot deep on the 11th day of June. The cycle had this year culminated.

In 1817, and onward, the seasons grew warmer, and epidemics became rife. In 1822 to 1825, 1827, and in 1831 and 2, came the great cholera. In 1811, in the month of June, a brilliant comet appeared in the western heavens, shadowing pestilence and war—and war did come in June following 1812, between England and the United States. This comet was remarkable for the length of time it hung in our hemisphere; finally it disappeared in the east, in October of the same year. Early in September, while gazing at it at 8 o'clock in the evening, apparently without a cloud or a mist, we noticed it to flicker and the tail fell down and entirely disappeared. After a short time it made its appearance again, and kept on flickering and disappearing, until finally at 11 o'clock the tail lighted up with unusual splendor.

In 1819 in the months of July and August, hanging close around the northern pole, appeared a small comet with a fiery, glowing tail. This wanderer for a month appeared to hang close around the sun.

In 1801, 2 and 3, the dysentery was rife in Williamsburg, as well as typhus fever. In 1812, 13 and 14, the spotted fever, a low type of scarlatina, became an epidemic through the country. In 1802 and 3 and in 1825 and 1841, appeared many cases of typhoid fever. Many cases ran into Pneumonia in the winter. The diseases in Williamsburg have many times partaken of phthisic or pulmonary consumption, owing to the fact that warm baths were little used and the chests of many of the inhabitants were not covered with woolen undress, next to the skin. Congestions attack the internal organs, like the lungs, liver, and kidneys, because these organs are oftentimes not fully protected from the severity of the cold; and then again, in the spring when the snow is melting the feet are not sufficiently protected by woolen stockings and thick-soled boots and shoes, and children suffer severely for want of flannel around the bowels. The horses, cattle and meat stock are remarkably healthy, and always have been since the town was first settled.

Great numbers of persons have died in Williamsburg at very advanced ages, between 80 and 95 years and some even at 96, 7 and 8 years, while one was supposed to be over 100 years when he died. He was an African, stolen from Africa, when a small boy, brought to Barbadoes in the West Indies, thence to Newport, Rhode Island, and thence to Connecticut River; was freed by the emancipation laws of Massachusetts in 1778, lived many years in Hatfield, in a state of slavery. His master, gave him 60 acres of land and money enough to build a house and stock his farm. His was the only African family in town. His name was Peter Newport.

Some years the deaths in the town, in a population of 1500 to 1900 inhabitants, have amounted to seven, nine, ten and eleven; during epidemical years, they have run up from 20 to 29.

In the year 1818, the winter was remarkably open; no snow fell to cover the ground until after the middle of February; the roads were as smooth as a house floor; birds came from the South early in January, and staid the balance of the winter. One season, about the year 1815, the snow fell and covered the ground on the 22d of October and remained till the last of February, forming good sledding and sleighing most of the time. In recent years, the snow is inclined to keep off later, some times till the middle of December, and goes off earlier and more suddenly in the Spring. This is since the forests of the country have been cut down. The

weather is often violent and severe for a short time in the winter, much more so than it was in earlier time; then fickle and warm, with sudden thaws.