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HISTORY  
OF  
KENT, CONNECTICUT.

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INCLUDING  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF MANY OF ITS  
PRESENT OR FORMER INHABITANTS.

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1897.

FRANCIS ATWATER.

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## PREFACE.

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The importance of having town histories is manifest in these days when nearly every one is tracing out who their ancestors were, and the part they may have taken in revolutionary times. What would have been an easy thing to have done in those early days when the facts were fresh upon every body's tongue can only be imperfectly told now and must of necessity be more or less conjectured. The author has thoroughly scanned the records of the town of Kent and from them and many other sources at his command presents this volume to the public to preserve the details that can now be had and which later may be lost forever. No more fascinating work can be found than delving into the musty books that the pioneers kept of their doings in the establishment of the early New England townships. The records of Kent were found well preserved but the importance of having them well bound and all the loose sheets securely sewed in does not seem to have occurred to the authorities who have them in charge. This is a neglect that is prevalent with many towns, and the writer is of the opinion that there should be a state inspector whose business it should be to see that these old records are put in good condition, and if nearly illegible, to have them copied.

The prosperity of the town of Kent was checked with the advent of the railroad. It was once a flourishing community when every night twenty-one two and four horse teams could be seen entering the town from the direction of Quaker hill loaded with iron ore to be cast into pigs and then hauled thirty miles to Poughkeepsie to market. The crack of the whips of so many drivers is gone and the charm of the town now lies in its quietness and solitude.

Is the town of Kent of sufficient importance to justify the writing of its history?

To the native of the town, him who breathed first its air, whose eyes looked first on its hills and valleys, whose earliest years were passed amid its scenes, the response of affection is sufficient answer to this inquiry. For there is no place to the loving heart like home, and no homes like the first home. As such a heart sings in the old poem, that will never lose its charm till human nature itself is changed:

"How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,  
When fond recollection presents them to view."

Nor is this the dictate of affection alone. It is the sentiment of patriotism as well. As says Chief Justice Church, in his centennial address at Salisbury: "To commemorate the birth-day, and perpetuate the annals of a retired New England town, may seem to some a trifling affair, but there is nothing dearer to a man of sensibility, than his home. Here is the only true source of patriotism; and the man who loves not to indulge in the recollections of the home of his youth, is constituted of such materials as traitors are made of."

But there is a wider than local and personal interest in such history. It is the key to the broader history of the country, and, so far as the influence of our country extends, of the world. For the model on which these broader institutions were framed, is the New England town. As President Garfield, speaking of "The germ of our institutions," says:—"The germ of our political institutions, the primary cell from which they were evolved, was in the New England town; and the vital force, the informing soul of the town, was the town meeting, which for all local concerns, was king, lords and commons in one." The town is the unit in the New England system; and since the New England system is that of the nation, the New England town is the germ and genesis of the American system. The larger organizations of the state and nation, are but developments of the New England town system. This, the history of our institutions abundantly proves; especially that of the Connecticut towns. The earliest organizations of our commonwealth were towns, and these were the first truly free republics in the history of the world. The earliest free constitution known to history, was the agreement entered into by the three towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor in 1639; and this was the grand and noble model of the constitution of the United States when the thirteen colonies a hundred and forty-eight years later, formed the wider confederation known as the nation. Bryant, in his "History of the United States," speaking of this constitution, says:—"The colony (of Connecticut) thus founded a christian commonwealth, and a purely democratic republic upon the first written constitution of any state in America, if not indeed in the world." If the world ever knew an earlier one, it has not come down to us. Of this first constitution of the three earliest towns of Connecticut, Bancroft, the historian, says: "Nearly two centuries have elapsed; the world has been made wiser by various experience, political institutions have become the theme on which the most powerful and cultivated minds have been employed; dynasties of kings have been dethroned, recalled, dethroned again; and so many constitutions have been framed or reformed, stifled or subverted, that memory may despair of a complete catalogue; but the people of Connecticut have found no reason

to deviate essentially from the government established by their fathers." This early constitution of the Connecticut towns was the earliest recognition in the political history of the world, of the people as "The Supreme Power of the Commonwealth." Although a colony of the British Crown at the time, no reference is made in it to the king, any more than as though there were not a king on the globe, nor to any source of power whatever, other than the freemen of the towns, expressing their will by their own free elections. Thus in Connecticut towns originated the free institutions of the modern world.

The author is indebted to Mr. J. A. Bolles of the New Milford Gazette and the late Rev. E. B. Hillard of Plymouth for considerable of the material herein printed and to Mr. Jerome Judd of Kent for the work of making the History a financial success.



KENT FALLS.

## CHAPTER I.

### PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT.

KENT ORIGINALLY BELONGED TO THE TERRITORY CONVEYED TO THE TOWNS OF HARTFORD AND WINDSOR IN 1686-7.—THE COST DID NOT EXCEED A PENNY AND THREE FARTHING PER ACRE.—PRIMITIVE WILDERNESS AT THE TIME.

The period of the settlement of Kent was that of Connecticut's first attack of the western fever, and this is how it was brought on. As has been said, but little value was attached to the territory of Litchfield county, before the beginning of the last century. There was land enough nearer the center of the colony, and the population was still too limited for the peopling of new towns. But after the reinstatement of the colonial charter in 1694, and the consequent restored security of the colony, enterprise, which had languished during the reign of James, revived, the population of the colony increased, and inquiry began to be made for territory for new settlements. The earliest response to this demand, in this section of the state, was the exploration and sale of the territory of the town of Litchfield. This territory was included in the "Western Lands" conveyed by the colony to the towns of Hartford and Windsor in 1686-7, and the sale of it was the first disposal of that territory which the towns had made. In the spring of 1715, a committee of these towns, of whom John Marsh, the ancestor of the Marshes of Litchfield, was one, and the seeming chief, visited the region, "viewed" it, and secured deeds of it from the Indians; their bills for service, against the towns, giving intimation of the primitive wildness of the region, as by the following items from the Hartford records:—

"The town of Hartford Dr.

To John Marsh, May 1715.

For 5 days man and horse, with expenses in viewing the land at the new plantation, £2.

The town of Hartford Dr.

January 22, 1715-16. To 6 days journey to Woodbury to treat with the Indians about the western lands, £1 4s.

| May, 1716,                                  | £ | s  | d |
|---|---|----|---|
| Expenses at Farmington - - - - -            |   | 4  | 9 |
| "    " Waterbury - - - - -                  |   | 1  | 7 |
| "    " Woodbury - - - - -                   | 2 | 11 | 0 |
| For pilot and protection - - - - -          | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Fastening horse shoe at Waterbury - - - - - |   | 2  |   |

In 1718, the towns sold the land to proprietors, who formed a company for the settlement of the new plantation, one-sixth part of the territory having first been transferred to John Stanley and others of Farmington, in liquidation of their claim to it based on the original "black lead mine" deed

of 1657, from the Indians, and on a later deed confirming the former, given in 1714; a still earlier indication than the purchase of Litchfield of the rising interest in and value of the Western Lands. The title to the territory was confirmed by the legislature to the proprietors in 1719, and in 1720 the first settlement was made by three men, one from each of the three original towns of the colony, Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. The cost of the land to the proprietors did not exceed a penny and three farthings an acre—terms on which not many acres in the town could now be bought. But land went at low figures in the olden times. The price paid the Indian owners for the township of New Haven, was “twelve coates of english trucking cloath, twelve alcemy spoons, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives, twelve por-engers, and four cases of French knives and scissors;” while the adjoining territory, “ten miles in length from north to south, and thirteen miles in width from east to west,” comprising the present towns of Branford, Wallingford, East Haven, Woodbridge, Cheshire and North Haven, was bought of the Indian sachem owner, for “eleven coates made of trucking cloath, and



SCENE ON THE HOUSATONIC IN KENT.

one coat for himself, of English cloath, made after the English manner.” The sale of the territory of Litchfield by the towns of Hartford and Windsor, roused the colony to assert its claim to the Western Lands, and in 1719 at the May session, the legislature enacted:—

“That the whole of said tract of Land shall lie for the further dispose of this assembly, and all surveyors and persons appointed to lay out lands, are hereby forbidden to bound or lay out any of said land without the special order of this assembly.”

Nevertheless, Hartford and Windsor went on disposing of the land, and a fierce controversy arose between the colony on the one side, and these two towns and the settlers in the Western Lands to whom they had sold tracts, on the other, which was settled as records show, by compromise, in 1726, the colony taking one, the western half, and the two towns the other, the eastern half; Litchfield, as already disposed of, being left out of the division.

This long controversy had thoroughly advertised the unsettled lands,

and as soon as the division was completed in 1731, the whole was laid out into towns; the eastern half, into Colebrook, Hartland, Winchester, Barkhamsted, Torrington, New Hartford, and Harwinton; and the western half into Kent (including Warren) Sharon, Cornwall, Goshen, Norfolk, Canaan, (including North Canaan), and Salisbury. The owners on each side were eager to get their land into the market at the earliest day, and so between sellers and buyers, a genuine land speculation arose, and a western excitement spread throughout the colony. The colony enacted that its lands should be sold at public auction, "to inhabitants of Connecticut only," at the different county seats, and they were so sold: Goshen at New Haven, in December, 1737; Canaan at New London, in January, 1738; Cornwall at Fairfield, in February of the same year; Kent at Windham, in March; Norfolk at Hartford, in April; Salisbury at Hartford, in May; and Sharon at New Haven, in October. Meanwhile, in 1732, Hartford and Windsor had effected a division between themselves of their half of the Western territory, Hartford taking three townships, viz.: New Hartford, Hartland and Winchester, with a half of Harwinton; and Windsor taking three townships, viz.: Barkhamsted, Torrington and Colebrook, with the other half of Harwinton; this latter town taking its name from this joint ownership of Hartford and Windsor; viz., "Har-win-ton." The lands of those seven townships were divided among the inhabitants of Hartford and Windsor respectively, and were of course, at once for sale. So that for the time, "western land" was no scarcity in the Connecticut real estate market, fourteen townships at once being a very fair supply. Speculators bought to sell again; young men "went west to grow up with the country;" and all north and east of Kent was alive, as was itself, with the interest of new settlement. Harwinton was the earliest settled; it being incorporated as a town in 1737, the General Assembly, in its act of incorporation, mixing matters spiritual and temporal in this fashion:—

"Resolved, that said Inhabitants have liberty to Imbody themselves into church estate and Settle an Orthodox minister of the Gospel in said Town, with the advice and consent of the neighboring churches; and it is further by this Assembly resolved that the Letter A shall be the Brand for horses in the Town of Harwinton."

From this date till 1738, the date of the organization of Kent, the inhabitants of Harwinton were engaged in a controversy among themselves as to the location of the meeting house, petition after petition, and remonstrance after remonstrance, in anything but amiable mood, following one another to the General Assembly, which had in those days determination of things ecclesiastical as well as civil—a controversy which had at least this good result, that there is preserved in the state archives in Hartford, a map of Harwinton at the time, with all the roads down on it, and the location of every house marked, with the dweller's name attached. Torrington, at the same time, was in process of settlement and organization, the inhabitants making their first petition to be organized into an ecclesiastical society at the same session of the General Assembly at which Northbury was incorporated, October 1739; there being at that time nine families in the town; and a year later, October 1740, the town was incorporated, and so became an ecclesiastical society. But not to go over the several towns in detail, a table of dates of the organization of the several settlements, will show how "all at



SCENES ON  
THE  
HOUSATONIC.



once," to use a familiar phrase, the country sprang into life at the period of the settlement of Kent: Northbury church, organized 1740; Westbury, 1740; Bethlehem, 1740; Washington, 1742; Kent, 1741; Goshen, 1740; Cornwall, 1741; Canaan, 1741; Torrington, 1741; Harwinton, 1737; New Hartford, 1738. So that Kent was by no means born alone. Its settlement was but one manifestation of a movement that pervaded the colony, the first great set of Connecticut's westward tide; the tide that, with its successive flowings, has peopled the continent with its best inhabitants and noblest life.

While the new life of Kent society was crystalizing into form, the same process of the beginnings of religious and civil organization was going on in the communities around it. As the primeval forest still covered this parish, unbroken save by the settler's clearings, so over Litchfield county the primitive wilderness stretched unbroken, save where here and there the centres were being established of the several towns. It is the period from which the life of Litchfield county takes its date.

Westbury, now Watertown, was constituted an ecclesiastical society in 1738, the same year as Kent.

In Bethlehem, the first settlers are petitioning the General Assembly to be constituted a distinct society, which petition was granted at the October session, 1739, and the church was organized the following spring, March 27, 1740.

In Washington, too, the first settlement is under way, the pioneer settler, Joseph Hurlburt, locating there in 1736, and the community petitioning in 1741, to be organized into an ecclesiastical society, which was done by the General Assembly at the October session of that year, the society being named "Judea," likely from the hill country of Palestine, which of old bore that name. Immediately on the organization of the society, the building of the meeting-house was proceeded with, the inhabitants stating, in a petition to the General Assembly in May 1742, that they had "Unanimously and Lovingly Agreed upon a place for to set a Meeting House; ' the only instance of the kind in the early history of the county. The house was built during the same year; the church being organized Sept. 1st., 1742; Rev. Reuben Judd, the first pastor being ordained the same day; the ceremonies taking place in a grove—the other society in the town, that of New Preston, was organized October, 1752.

Into the "Wilderness" the first invasion was the settlement of Litchfield, and this introduces us to one of the most curious and interesting chapters of Connecticut history, as well as to a matter which early engaged the attention of Northbury; it being the subject of a controversy which the new society waged with the mother town, from the time of its organization as a society until after it became a town itself—the famous affair of the "Western Lands." In the records of Waterbury, 1741, there is the following entry with reference to the matter:—

"There having been considerable discourse about the money for which the western lands were sold and granted for the use of the school, and not agreeing in what method it should be disposed of, (the town) did by vote agree that they would refer it to some indifferent gentlemen, to be decided by them where the said money shall be disposed, whether it belongs to the first parish (of Waterbury) or should be divided among the several parishes (including Westbury and Northbury)."

What were these "western lands?" The original title to the territory of New England was the grant, in 1620, by James I. to the Plymouth Company, of England of

"All that part of America lying and being in breadth from the fortieth degree of north latitude, from the equinoctial line, to the forty-eighth degree of said northerly latitude inclusively, and in length of and with all the breadth aforesaid, throughout the main land from sea to sea."

In 1630 the Plymouth company conveyed to its president, Robert, Earl of Warwick, the territory of Connecticut; and he conveyed the same to Viscount Say and Seal, Lord Brooke and others by a patent bearing date of 1631, under authority of which in 1639, taking its name from its principal proprietors. In this patent the limits of the grant are thus defined:—

"All that part of New England in America which lyes and extends it selfe from a Riuer there called Narrogancett Riuer, the space of forty leagues upon a straight lyne neere the sea shore towards the South west, west and by south or west, as the coast lyeth, towards Virginia, accounting Three English Miles to the league, and also all and Singular the lands and hereditaments what Soeuer lyeing and being with in the lands afoarsayd, North and South in Lattitude and bredth, and in Length and Longitude of and with in all the bredth afoarsayd, through out the Maine lands there, from the westerne oscian to the South sea; and also all Islands lying in America afoarsayd, in the said seas or either of them, on the western or eastern coasts or parts of sayd Tracts of lands."

These limits were repeated in substance in the charter of the Connecticut colony given by Charles II in 1662—the charter that was hid in the Charter Oak, and which now hangs in the office of the Secretary of State in the capitol at Hartford—in the following form:—

"All that parte of our Dominions in Newe England in America, bounded on the East by Norrogancett River, commonly called Norrogancett Bay, Where the said River falleth into the Sea, and in longitude as the lyne of the Massachusetts Colony, running from East to west; that is to say, from the said Norrogancett Bay on the East to the South Sea on the West parte, with the islands thereunto adioyneinge."

By this title, Connecticut owned a strip seventy miles wide, extending across the continent, or nearly one-eighth of the circumference of the globe. By the "Sowth Sea" was meant the Pacific ocean, wherever that might be—how far across to it—which those who gave the titles did not clearly know. Beyond the limits of the settlements, the country was at that time a terra incognita, an unknown land; as much so as Central Africa has been in our time. At any rate the early settlers had no idea of ever occupying it, of ever being able, on account of numbers, to occupy it, and so they were careless as to the disposition of it. Thus, in giving deeds of land abutting on the "wilderness," owners used to describe the western limits, indefinitely, as "running west as far as the good land goeth." But time and the increase of numbers wrought a change in this estimate. As is well known, from this claim of Connecticut to lands west of its present boundaries, came the school fund of the state. But those far western claims had not yet entered into the thoughts of the colonists. The "Western lands" which engaged the

attention of our fathers lay nearer home, being none other than the territory of what is now Litchfield county; and these in that day seemed as far away, and the settlement of them as bold an undertaking as that of the Rocky mountain region in our time. When the pioneers left their home on the Connecticut river or the Sound to brave these perils of the wilderness, prayers were offered up for them in the churches, as for those who might never see the faces of friends on earth again.

The earliest school moneys of the state, aside from the income of the lot which, in the laying out of the towns, was uniformly reserved for the support of the school in the town, were derived from the sale of these western lands; and this is how they came into the market.

Upon the death, in 1685, of Charles II, who gave the Connecticut colony its charter, he was succeeded by his brother, James II, a man of arbitrary and despotic spirit, who, impatient of the freedom enjoyed by the colonies under their charters, resolved to revoke these, and consolidate the several colonies into one province, under a governor appointed directly by the Crown; and Sir Edmund Andros was sent over to consummate this scheme. He arrived in Boston in December 1686. Massachusetts was deprived of its charter; and, the following October, Andros appeared in Hartford to demand that of Connecticut. Meanwhile, the colony in anticipation of his coming and demand, and in the expectation that its charter would have to be surrendered, had taken care that Andros should get as little with it as might be. A special session of the General Court was held in January, at which the colony put out of its possession all its public lands, in order that, though the charter under which these were held might go, the ownership of the lands should remain in the colony. Accordingly the General Assembly at this session passed the following vote:—

“This court grants the plantations (or towns) of Hartford and Windsor those lands on the north of Woodbury, and Mattatock (Waterbury), and on the west of Farmington and Simsbury to the Massachusetts line north, and to run west to Housatunick or Stratford river, to make a plantation or village thereon.”

This was an absolute grant, and vested the title to this territory unconditionally in the aforesaid towns.

Andros came and demanded the charter; with what result is familiar to all who are acquainted with the history of the time. He did not get it. Though surrendered in form, it was retained, in fact, concealed in the recess of the historic oak; and on the accession of William to the throne was reinstated, and the government of the colony under it restored. Then the colony, as was natural, wanted its western lands back again, and demanded them of Hartford and Windsor. But these towns did not acknowledge the demand. The lands, they said, had been given to them and were theirs, and they proposed to keep them. The case was as though a man, expecting to die, should dispose of his property, and then, unexpectedly recovering, should wish it back again. The colony evidently expected to die as such. It expected to lose its charter, and with it whatsoever it held under the charter—as one of the Massachusetts lawyers quaintly expressed it, “When the cow died, the calf died in the cow’s belly.” The records of the colony were closed with the minutes of the session of the General Court at which the charter was in form surrendered—as the merchants would say, “sold but

not delivered"—and the clerk wrote at the end, in large letters, "Finis." But the succession of William to the throne changed all, and the colony found itself in the condition of Mother Hubbard's dog.

Come thus unexpectedly to life again, as has been said, the colony wished to recover its surrendered estate, and thence arose a controversy between the colony and those towns which was waged for years, and was finally settled by a division of the lands in question, one half to remain with Hartford and Windsor, and the other half to revert to the colony; the towns taking the eastern half and the colony the western. And this is how it came about that the "western lands" were settled almost simultaneously.



PASTORAL SCENE IN KENT.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE PIONEERS.

THEY WERE REQUIRED TO BUILD HOUSES AT LEAST EIGHTEEN FEET SQUARE, AND CLEAR SIX ACRES OF GROUND, BEFORE THE TITLE OF THE DEEDS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE WOULD BE PERFECT.

In the western part of the state sequestered in the valley of the Housatonic with mountains to the west and high overhanging hills to the east is situated the town of Kent. It covers an area of about eight by six square miles and has four railroad stations and six post offices. It is bounded on the north by Sharon, on the east by Warren, south by New Milford and west by the state of New York. The territory is characteristically mountainous, and has produced more or less iron and copper ore.

The first move to put it into a township was in October, 1710, when the General Assembly appointed a committee to lay it out including what is now Kent and Warren. The committee reported in October the following year, having done its work promptly. The matter was dropped from this time until October, 1737, when the legislature ordered the township to be sold at auction to the highest bidder at the court house in Windham in December, 1737. There were other townships contiguous to be vended in the same way, and the money was to be allotted to the several counties separately. There were fifty shares in each section of this township besides three shares that were to be set apart, one for the first minister that should settle there, to be conveyed to him in fee, one to be sequestered for the use of the present established ministry forever, and one for the use of the school or schools in the town forever. The purchaser before his title could be made perfect must build and finish a house eighteen feet square at least seven foot stud, and fence and clear six acres of ground within two years. In May, 1738, the assembly named the township Kent and annexed it to Hartford county. The first deed was given to Humphrey Avery, and is as follows:

Whereas, by an act of the Assembly holden at New Haven October 13, yr. 1737, entitled: An act for the ordering and directing the sale and settlement of all the townships in the western land. Among other things it is enacted that the southern town in said lands bounding Westerly on Housatonic River shall be vendued and sold at the court house in Windham to the highest bidders, being inhabitants of this colony, on the first Tuesday of March next at one of the clock in the afternoon and continued by adjournment till the whole be sold by Timothy Pierce, Ebenezer West and Jonathan Huntington, Esquires. They or any two of them to be a committee in the name of the governor and company to set the rights, take bonds and give deeds with references, etc. Therefore to all people to whom these presents shall come greeting:

Know ye that we, Timothy Pierce, Ebenezer West and Jonathan Huntington by virtue of the power and authority to us granted in said act for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred eighty-five pounds, sixteen shillings, to us in hand paid before the ensembling hereof by Humphrey Avery of Groton in the county of New London, in the colony of Connecticut, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge and thereupon in the name of the Governor and Company of the colony aforesaid do give, grant, bargain, sell, convey and confer unto the said Humphrey Avery, his heirs and assigns forever, one right, part, share or allotment in the township aforesaid, the same being divided into fifty-three equal shares or allotments exclusive of the lands granted to the college and all former grants of the General Assembly that are surveyed and recorded in the public records of the colony and are lying in said town with the privileges and appurtenances thereof, thereunto belonging to have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises with all and singler the appurtenances thereof unto the said Humphrey Avery, his heirs and assigns for ever to his and their sole and proper use, benefit and behoof. And we, the said Timothy Pierce, Ebenezer West, Jonathan Huntington, do covenant to and with the said Humphrey Avery, his heirs and assigns in manner and form following: That is to say that at and until the ensembling of these presents we by virtue of the power and authority to us granted have good right to sell and dispose of the said granted premises in manner as aforesaid and that the same is free from all encumbrances whatsoever. Always provided and these presents are upon this consideration that if the said Humphrey Avery shall by himself or his agent within the space of two full years next after the date hereof enter upon the said granted premises build and finish an house thereon not less than eighteen feet square and seven feet stud, subdue, clear and fence six acres of said land and continue thereon for the space of three successive years commencing two years aforesaid unless prevented by death or inevitable Providence, and do and perform all orders and duties, pay all taxes that shall be granted then the aforesaid deed shall remain in full force and virtue, but in default or neglect in either or all of the articles, the same shall be void and of none effect. An witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 7 day of March Anno Domini 1737-8.

TIMOTHY PIERCE.  
 EBENEZER WEST.  
 JONATHAN HUNTINGTON.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of  
 HEZEKIAH HUNTINGTON,  
 MOSES GOVE.

Timothy Pierce, Esq., Ebenezer West, Esq., and Jonathan Huntington Esq., all personally appeared and acknowledged the above written instrument to be their act and deed before me,

JOSEPH ADAMS,  
 Justice of the Peace.

The town was subsequently divided into ten divisions the holders either drawing or "pitching" for choice. The list is as follows:

## FIRST DIVISION, MAY 1738.

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Humphrey Avery,   | John Knapp and Noah Rockwell,      |
| John Beebe,       | Samuel Lewis,                      |
| Nathaniel Berry,  | John Mitchell,                     |
| Josiah Barn,      | John Mills,                        |
| Abel Barnum,      | Jonathan Morgan, Sr.,              |
| Ebenezer Barnum,  | Jonathan Morgan, Jr.,              |
| Nathaniel Barnum, | Mitchel Knell (or Knell Mitchell), |
| Thomas Barman,    | Samuel Miner,                      |
| Thomas Capson,    | Thomas Newcomb,                    |
| Philip Caverly,   | John Porter,                       |
| Daniel Comstock,  | John Smith,                        |
| Samuel Canfield,  | Thomas Skeels,                     |
| Daniel Comstock,  | Nathaniel Slosson,                 |
| Johnathan Dunham, | Zephania Swift,                    |
| Francis Fanton,   | John Seely (or Seely John),        |
| Joseph Hatch,     | Josiah Starr,                      |
| Ephraim Hubbel,   | Thomas Tozer,                      |
| Peter Hubbel,     | Abel Wright,                       |
| Richard Hubbel,   | Elisha Williams,                   |
| Johnathan Hubbel, | Jacob Warner.                      |
| Philip Judd,      |                                    |

## SECOND DIVISION, SEPTEMBER 1738.

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Humphrey Avery,       | John Knapp and Noah Rockwell, |
| Benjamin Brownson,    | Samuel Lewis,                 |
| Ebenezer Barnum,      | John Mills,                   |
| Abel Barnum,          | Jonathan Morgan,              |
| Nathaniel Berry,      | John Mitchell,                |
| Josiah Barre,         | Samuel Miner,                 |
| John Beebe,           | Knell Mitchell,               |
| Thomas Beeman,        | Thomas Newcomb,               |
| Thomas Carson,        | John Porter,                  |
| Philip Caverly,       | Noah Rockwell and John Knapp, |
| Daniel Comstock, Sr., | Zephariah Swift,              |
| Samuel Canfield,      | John Seely,                   |
| Daniel Comstock, Jr., | Thomas Skeels,                |
| Johnathan Dunham,     | Josiah Starr,                 |
| Frances Fenton,       | Nathaniel Slosson,            |
| Ephraim Hubbel,       | John Smith,                   |
| Jonathan Hubbel,      | Thomas Tozer,                 |
| Joseph Hatch,         | Abel Wright,                  |
| Richard Hubbel,       | Elisha Williams,              |
| Peter Hubbel,         | Abraham Warner.               |
| Philip Judd,          |                               |

## THIRD DIVISION, MAY 1739.

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Humphrey Avery,    | Abel Barnum,      |
| Benjamin Brownson, | Ebenezer Barnum,  |
| Nathaniel Berry,   | Nathaniel Barnum, |
| John Beebe,        | Ebenezer Barnum,  |
| Josiah Barre,      | Thomas Beeman,    |

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Thomas Carson,                | John Mitchell,                |
| Daniel Comstock, Jr.,         | Jonathan Morgan,              |
| Philip Caverly,               | Samuel Miner,                 |
| Daniel Comstock, Sr.,         | Thomas Newcomb,               |
| Samuel Canfield,              | John Porter,                  |
| Jonathan Dunham,              | Noah Rockwell and John Knapp, |
| Frances Fenton,               | John Smith,                   |
| Joseph Hatch,                 | John Seely,                   |
| Peter Hubbel,                 | Zephaniah Swift,              |
| Jonathan Hubbel,              | Josiah Starr,                 |
| Ephraim Hubbel,               | Thomas Skeeles,               |
| Richard Hubbel,               | Nathaniel Closson,            |
| Philip Judd,                  | Thomas Tozer,                 |
| John Knapp and Noah Rockwell, | Abraham Warner,               |
| Samuel Lewis,                 | Abel Wright,                  |
| Knell Mitchell,               | Elisha Williams.              |
| John Mills,                   |                               |

## FOURTH DIVISION, MAY 1740.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Humphrey Avery,                    | Samuel Lewis,                                    |
| Joshua Barnum,                     | Ebenezer Lyman and others,                       |
| Ebenezer Barnum,                   | John Mills,                                      |
| Gideon Barnum,                     | Jonathan Morgan,                                 |
| Ebenezer Barnum and Jehiel Barnum, | Knell Mitchell,                                  |
| Thomas Beeman,                     | Ebenezer Marsh,                                  |
| Benjamin Brownson,                 | Thomas Newcomb,                                  |
| Nathaniel Berry,                   | Azariah Pratt,                                   |
| John Beebe,                        | Joseph Peck,                                     |
| William Burnham,                   | John Porter,                                     |
| Samuel Batts,                      | John Roberts,                                    |
| Nathaniel Bostwick,                | John Ranson,                                     |
| Thomas Carson,                     | Judah Swift,                                     |
| Daniel Comstock,                   | Thomas Skeels,                                   |
| Philip Caverly,                    | John Smith,                                      |
| Samuel Canfield and others,        | Zephaniah Swift,                                 |
| Daniel Comstock,                   | Thomas Skeels,                                   |
| Joseph Fuller,                     | Nathaniel Sanford,                               |
| Richard Hubbel,                    | Nathaniel Slosson,                               |
| Barnabas Hatch,                    | Abel Wright,                                     |
| Timothy Hatch,                     | Abel Wright, Samuel Canfield and Ebenezer Lyman. |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                    |  |
| Philip Judd,                       |  |

## FIFTH DIVISION, MAY 1748.

|                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thomas Beeman,                    | Philip Caverly,              |
| Benjamin Brownson,                | Daniel Comstock,             |
| Jehiel Barnum and — Swift,        | Nathaniel Cushman,           |
| William Burnham,                  | Philip Caverly,              |
| Nathaniel Berry and Josiah Starr, | Joseph and John Cary,        |
| Nathaniel Bostwick,               | Daniel Comstock Sr. and Jr., |
| Nathaniel Berry and Philip Judd,  | Charles Duncumb,             |
| John Clemmons,                    | Ebenezer Devotion.           |



|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Davis and Neemiah Mead,      | Nehemiah Mead and John Davis,       |
| John Davis and Josiah Starr,      | Knell Mitchell,                     |
| John Fitch,                       | Jonathan Morgan,                    |
| John French and Joseph Themberry, | John Mills,                         |
| Joseph Fuller and James Laid,     | Ebenezer Marsh,                     |
| John Fitch and Henry Silsby,      | Daniel Pratt,                       |
| John Henderson,                   | Josiah Starr and Nathaniel Berry,   |
| Barnabas Hatch,                   | John Roberts and Josiah Thomas,     |
| Sylvanius and Timothy Hatch,      | Jonathan Rudd,                      |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                   | David Ripley,                       |
| Richard Hubbel,                   | Jabez and Moses Swift,              |
| Philip Judd and Nathaniel Berry,  | Henry Sibley and John Fitch,        |
| Nathaniel Kingsley,               | Nathaniel Sanford and Henry Silsby, |
| Joseph Kingsley and John French,  | John Smith, Jabez Swift,            |
| James Lazel and Joseph Fuller,    | Nathaniel Slosson,                  |
| Elisha Lilly,                     | David Smith and Josiah Thomas,      |
| Joshua Lazel,                     | Jehiel Barnum and — Swift,          |
| Cyrus Marsh, John Roberts,        |                                     |

## SIXTH DIVISION, 1750.

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nathaniel Bostwick,                | Joseph Kingsberry and John French,  |
| Jehiel Barnum,                     | Joshua Lazel,                       |
| Thomas Beeman,                     | Elisha Lilley,                      |
| Benjamin Brownson,                 | Ebenezer Marsh,                     |
| Nathaniel Berry,                   | Nehemiah Mead and John Davis,       |
| Heirs of William Barnum,           | John Mills,                         |
| Nathaniel Cushman,                 | Jonathan Morgan,                    |
| Philip Caverly,                    | Knell Mitchell,                     |
| Daniel Comstock, Sr. and Jr.,      | Cyrus Marsh,                        |
| John and Joseph Cary,              | David Ripley,                       |
| John Cogswell,                     | Jonathan Rudd,                      |
| John Davis,                        | David Ripley and Philip Judd,       |
| John Davis and Nehemiah Mead,      | Jonathan Rudd and Joseph Skiff,     |
| Ebenezer Devotion,                 | Jonathan Rudd,                      |
| Charles Duncomb,                   | John Smith,                         |
| John French and Joseph Kingsberry, | Jabez and Moses Swift,              |
| Josiah Griswold,                   | Joseph Skiff,                       |
| Silas Geer,                        | Joseph Skiff and Jonathan Rudd,     |
| Richard Hubbel,                    | Nathaniel Sanford and Joshua Lazel, |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                    | Jabez Swift,                        |
| Timothy Hatch,                     | David Smith,                        |
| Philip Judd and David Ripley,      | Josiah Thomas,                      |
| Nathaniel Kingsley,                | John Walden.                        |

## SEVENTH DIVISION, 1752.

|                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Benjamin Brownson,               | Heirs of Thomas Beeman,       |
| Heirs of William Burnham,        | Philip Caverly,               |
| Nathaniel Berry and Jabez Swift, | Daniel Comstock, Sr. and Jr., |
| Jehiel Barnum,                   | Nathaniel Cushman,            |
| Nathaniel Bostwick,              | John Davis,                   |
| David Barnum,                    | Ebenezer Devotion,            |

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charles Duncumb,                   | Nehemiah Mead and John Davis,    |
| John French and Joseph Kingsberry, | Ebenezer Marsh,                  |
| Nathaniel Fuller and John Mills,   | Daniel Pratt,                    |
| Silas Geere,                       | David Ripley,                    |
| Josiah Griswold,                   | David Ripley and Philip Judd,    |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                    | Jonathan Rudd,                   |
| Timothy Hatch,                     | Jonathan Rudd and Joseph Skiff,  |
| Richard Hubbel,                    | Jabez Swift and Nathaniel Berry, |
| Barnabas Hatch,                    | David Smith,                     |
| Philip Judd and David Ripley,      | John Smith,                      |
| Joseph Kingsberry and John French, | Jabez and Moses Swift,           |
| Nathaniel Kingsberry,              | Jabez Swift,                     |
| Elisha Lilley,                     | Joseph Skiff,                    |
| Knell Mitchell,                    | Josiah Thomas,                   |
| Jehiel Murray,                     | John Welden.                     |
| Pelatiah Marsh.                    |                                  |

## EIGHTH DIVISION, 1755.

|                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Joseph Beeman,                      | Joseph Kingsberry.                  |
| Peleg Bruster and Nathaniel Smith,  | Joshua Lazel,                       |
| Heirs of Williams Burnham,          | Heirs of Knell Mitchell,            |
| Heirs of Nathaniel Bostwick,        | Thomas Morriss,                     |
| Samuel Carter and Wm. Swetland,     | John Mills,                         |
| Joseph Cary,                        | Ebenezer Marsh,                     |
| John Caverly,                       | Pelatiah Marsh,                     |
| Nathaniel Cushman,                  | Jonathan Rudd,                      |
| Jehoshaphat Eldrid and Jabez Swift, | Jonathan Rudd and Joseph Skiff,     |
| Charles Duncumb,                    | David Ripley and Philip Judd,       |
| Ebenezer Devotion,                  | Thomas Rowley and Paul Welch,       |
| David Ferriss and Paul Welch,       | William Swetland and Samuel Carter, |
| John Finney,                        | Juban Strong,                       |
| Frances Fenton,                     | Samuel Silsby,                      |
| Josiah Griswold,                    | Nathaniel Smith and Peleg Bruster,  |
| Samuel Hotchkiss,                   | Jabez Swift and Jehoshaphat Eldrid, |
| Barnabas Hatch,                     | Samuel Silsby,                      |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                     | Joseph Skiff and Jonathan Rudd,     |
| Timothy Hatch,                      | Juban Strong,                       |
| Philip Judd and David Ripley,       | Jabez Swift,                        |
| Samuel William Johnson,             | Heirs of David Smith,               |
| Nehemiah Mead and Samuel William    | John Walden,                        |
| Johnson,                            | Samuel Waller,                      |
| Nathaniel Kingsley,                 | Paul Welch and Thomas Rowlee.       |

## NINTH DIVISION, 1761.

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Humphrey Avery and Philip Caverly, | Nathaniel Barnum,             |
| Abel Barnum,                       | Thomas Carson,                |
| John Beebe,                        | Daniel Comstock,              |
| Ebenezer Barnum,                   | Samuel Canfield,              |
| Benjamin Brownson,                 | Jonathan Dunham,              |
| Thomas Buman,                      | David Ferriss,                |
| Nathaniel Berry,                   | David Ferriss and Paul Welch, |

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Frances Fenton,                | Noah Rockwell,                |
| Ephraim Hubbel,                | Jabez Swift,                  |
| Jediah Hubbel,                 | John Smith,                   |
| Joseph Hatch (supposed to be), | Thomas Skeels,                |
| Peter Hubbel,                  | Nathaniel Slosson,            |
| Richard Hubbel,                | Zephania Swift,               |
| Jonathan Hubbel,               | John Seely,                   |
| Thomas Newcomb,                | Josiah Starr,                 |
| Jonathan Morgan,               | Thomas Skeels,                |
| John Mills,                    | Thomas Lozer,                 |
| John Mitchel,                  | Abell Wright,                 |
| Knell Mitchell,                | Elisha Williams,              |
| John Knapp and Noah Rockwell,  | Paul Welch and David Ferriss, |
| Philip Judd,                   | Abraham Wanser.               |
| John Porter,                   |                               |

## TENTH DIVISION, VOTED 1771 AND LAID OUT 1773.

|                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Friend Beeman,                        | Ephraim Hubbel,                     |
| Moses Billings,                       | Jethro Sylvanus and Timothy Hatch,  |
| Sherman Boardman,                     | Jedidiah Hubbel esq.,               |
| Heirs of William Burnham,             | Philip Judd and Rev. Nathaniel Tay- |
| Timothy Beeman,                       | lor,                                |
| Rev. Joel Bordwell and his wife Jane, | Samuel W. Johnson esq.,             |
| John Beeman and Gideon Morgan,        | Joseph Kingsberry and John French,  |
| Ebenezer Beeman,                      | John Keeney and Isaac Camp,         |
| Nathaniel Brown and Nathaniel Bos-    | Amaziah Lyon and James New-         |
| worth,                                | comb,                               |
| Daniel Comstock Jr., Abel Comstock    | Heirs of Colonel Ebenezer Marsh,    |
| Gersham Comstock,                     | Jerusha Miner,                      |
| Heirs of Joseph Cary, -               | William Marsh,                      |
| Samuel Carter and William Sweet-      | Gideon Morgan and John Beeman,      |
| land,                                 | James Newcomb and Amaziah Lyon,     |
| Ebenezer Curtis Jr.,                  | Joseph Parks and Julius Caswell,    |
| Roger Cogswell,                       | Joseph Parks, Julius Caswell and    |
| Isaac Camp and John Keeny,            | Eleazer Thomson,                    |
| Julius Caswell and Joseph Parker,     | Joseph Pratt Jr.,                   |
| Julius Caswell, Joseph Parker,        | Daniel Pratt,                       |
| Eleazer Thomson,                      | Peter Pratt,                        |
| Jehoshaphat Eldrid and Jabez Swift,   | Lester Road, Silas Tracy and Joseph |
| John French and Joseph Kingsberry,    | Whittlesey,                         |
| Amaziah and Joel Ferriss,             | William Swetland,                   |
| Simeon Fuller,                        | Heirs of Jabez Swift and Jehosha-   |
| John Foot,                            | phat Eldrid,                        |
| John Finney Jr.,                      | Ebenezer Strong,                    |
| Jedediah Hubbel and William Sam-      | Philip Strong,                      |
| uel Johnson esq.,                     | Paul Welch esq.                     |
| Barnabas Hatch,                       |                                     |

N. B. The whole of the foregoing in their alphabet respect only.

The Ten original divisions without any regard to after conveyances, highway, etc.

[The above notice is written as it is in the records in regard to capitalization, etc.]

We quote from the quaint way of the surveyors the following language: "We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee to view and lay out the plot in the township of E. accordingly repaired to said township viewed and laid out the town plot in manner following, viz: Beginning at the southernmost part of a large intervale called the Great Plains where a small spring or run of water empties itself into the Ousatonie river, there we laid a heap of stones. Thence we run east thirty-three degrees; south and westerly two rods. Thence we pitched a stake and laid stones to it. Thence we run north forty-five degrees, east four miles and a half and have laid a highway so far twelve rods wide and from the foresaid stakes and stones. We have continued the highway twelve rods wide running south twenty-five degrees, west down to Fairweather's land and have laid out the land on both sides of the said highway beginning at the aforesaid stakes and stones and have divided the Great Plains into thirty-nine lots all numbered by the highway, which thirty-nine lots have a lot numbered with the same number belonging to them either on the eastward or westward side of the said highway, except the twelfth lot on the plain."

The first meeting of the new owners was held in Windham according to the records "March ye 8th 1738," and is described as "ye proprietors of a certain township in the colony of Connecticut, sold at public vendue (pursuing to a vote of the assembly) at the court house at Windham the 7th inst." This however does not agree with the colonial records, which says the public vendue took place the preceding December. Humphrey Avery of Groton was moderator and also proprietors' clerk. At this meeting Lieutenant John Mitchell of Woodbury, Lieutenant Thomas Newcomb of Lebanon, Captain Johnathan Dunham of Colchester, Humphrey Avery of Groton and Captain Ebenezer Hubbell of Newtown were appointed a committee fully empowered to lay out such parts of the new town as they should think for the best interests of all. They were also to lay out to each proprietor an equal part for quality and quantity and give a survey of the same under the hands of a major portion of the committee, including the highways. The lots were not to be less than fifty acres, were to be laid out in one or two parcels for each proprietor as the committee should think fit and to be drawn by number. Their pay was to be at the rate of ten shillings per day.

In May of that same year, before leaving for their new homes in the wilderness, Humphrey Avery was appointed agent to prepare a memorial to the general assembly for the abatement of the price of the land in whole or in part. His application could not have been successful because about five years later some of the land owners applied to the assembly for relief as they were unable to meet their maturing obligations, the land having been bought with a bond for a deed. They were given more time and it is supposed eventually paid up.

The next vote was to give Yale College 300 acres of land "near what is called the Tamerish swamp," now in the township of Warren. The boundaries must surely have perished ere this. They are described as "white oak stakes, with pile of stones, marked Y. C., rock marked Y. C. and a red oak tree." The farm is one of the college's not over valuable assets now, and is generally rented.

One of the first things needed in a new town is a saw mill, and Ebenezer Barnum of Danbury was given the forty-ninth lot in the first division pro-

vided he would erect one by the last of the following December and a grist mill in two years, the lot to be retained if not built on. Six years later he was given liberty to lay out six acres of undivided lands for the making of a dam for his iron works, which leads the writer to believe that he was an ancestor of the late Wm. H. Barnum who made a fortune in the iron business in the nearby town of Salisbury. Next he was given four more acres, and in 1757 was given all the proprietor's land that his dam would cause water to flow over.

Apparently the woodland had been so well cleared up by April, 1748, that some alarm was felt that the supply would not more than equal the demand for Nathaniel Slosson and Samuel Canfield were appointed a committee "to take care of the woods on the common and see it is not destroyed by anybody cutting it off."

We have already noted that at this time the wheels of industry had been started and that the town voted substantial encouragement. The next man to receive public favor was John Henderson, who was voted a pitch of land toward his fifth division, a little below the grist mill that stands on Apetuk brook in the commons, containing twenty acres or any number under that, to set up a fulling mill.

In December, 1738, John Morgan was given ten acres of land on both sides of the brook known as Mill brook provided he had a good saw mill fit for use by the first of June, 1739, and kept said mill in good repair for twelve years. Elisha Perry was given sixty-four acres, including the "great falls" above the ten acres for a grist mill. Evidently in those days one or both of these men wanted to monopolize the business, for a few months later it was voted that neither should combine the two kinds of mills at their respective places. After this when encouragement enough had been given in this line the saw mill place in lots 35 and 36 was offered at public auction.

In 1750 Daniel Comstock must have become the village shoe maker for he was given the privilege of building a "shew" maker's shop in the highway right against his house.

Jacob Bull of Dover, Duchess County, N. Y., was the next to apply for the privilege of building a saw mill or iron works on the grant known as the Fairweather. This was in 1756, and he paid thirty pounds to the town. When his mill was finished he was given liberty to build a house in the highway.

James Stuart was given the right to turn the water of the Housatonic into Mill brook if he built a good grist mill, and about the same time Thomas Skeel was privileged to build another grist mill at the most convenient place near south "Spectral" pond, provided he had it done within a twelve months and a day.

The first years evidently were prosperous, as the grand list of that year shows:

|                             | £   | s  | d |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|---|
| Isaac Benton, - - - - -     | 28  | 0  | 0 |
| Nathaniel Berry, - - - - -  | 115 | 5  | 0 |
| Richard Barnum, - - - - -   | 18  | 0  | 0 |
| Benjamin Bronson, - - - - - | 62  | 0  | 0 |
| Samuel Bates, - - - - -     | 29  | 0  | 0 |
| Ebenezer Barnum, - - - - -  | 23  | 10 | 0 |
| Thomas Beman, - - - - -     | 66  | 0  | 0 |

|                              | £  | s  | d |
|------------------------------|----|----|---|
| Amos Barnum, - - - - -       | 24 | 0  | 0 |
| Daniel Beman, - - - - -      | 21 | 0  | 0 |
| Gideon Barnum, - - - - -     | 88 | 11 | 0 |
| John Bentley, - - - - -      | 22 | 0  | 0 |
| E. Beman, - - - - -          | 21 | 0  | 0 |
| Jehial Barnum, - - - - -     | 60 | 15 | 0 |
| David Comstock, - - - - -    | 73 | 0  | 0 |
| Abel Comstock, - - - - -     | 19 | 0  | 0 |
| Daniel Comstock, - - - - -   | 75 | 0  | 0 |
| Samuel Comstock, - - - - -   | 89 | 8  | 6 |
| Daniel Cross, - - - - -      | 25 | 0  | 0 |
| Nathan Delano, - - - - -     | 36 | 0  | 0 |
| J. Fuller, - - - - -         | 83 | 0  | 0 |
| Barnabas Hatch, - - - - -    | 55 | 10 | 0 |
| Timothy Hatch, - - - - -     | 76 | 0  | 0 |
| Jethro Hatch, - - - - -      | 21 | 0  | 0 |
| Benjamin Hamilton, - - - - - | 43 | 0  | 0 |
| E. Hubbell, - - - - -        | 96 | 0  | 0 |
| Philip Judd, - - - - -       | 41 | 0  | 0 |
| Samuel Lattean, - - - - -    | 24 | 0  | 0 |
| J. Hassell, - - - - -        | 68 | 1  | 0 |
| John Mills, - - - - -        | 99 | 10 | 0 |
| J. Morgan, - - - - -         | 47 | 0  | 0 |
| Thomas Morris, - - - - -     | 33 | 0  | 0 |
| Benjamin Newcomb, - - - - -  | 59 | 0  | 0 |
| Stephen Nolles, - - - - -    | 62 | 0  | 0 |
| Jonathan Nolles, - - - - -   | 28 | 0  | 0 |
| Jesse Pratt, - - - - -       | 53 | 0  | 0 |
| Azariah Pratt, - - - - -     | 52 | 12 | 0 |
| Abram Raymond, - - - - -     | 40 | 14 | 0 |
| John Ransom, - - - - -       | 40 | 0  | 0 |
| Jean Stewart, - - - - -      | 87 | 7  | 0 |
| N. Slosson, - - - - -        | 55 | 10 | 0 |
| Samuel Skeal, - - - - -      | 18 | 0  | 0 |
| Reuben Swift, - - - - -      | 31 | 0  | 0 |
| Daniel Thomson, - - - - -    | 37 | 0  | 0 |
| J. Thomas, - - - - -         | 57 | 0  | 0 |
| E. Washborn, - - - - -       | 88 | 10 | 0 |
| J. Wallig, - - - - -         | 18 | 0  | 0 |
| M. Lathrop, - - - - -        | 23 | 0  | 0 |
| Nathaniel Roberts, - - - - - | 29 | 0  | 0 |
| Moses Rowley, - - - - -      | 39 | 0  | 0 |
| Jacob Galusha, - - - - -     | 23 | 0  | 0 |
| Ebenezer Park, - - - - -     | 22 | 0  | 0 |
| Wm. Spooner, - - - - -       | 19 | 0  | 0 |
| Stephen Paris, - - - - -     | 25 | 0  | 0 |
| John Beebe, - - - - -        | 77 | 17 | 0 |
| Nathaniel Swift, - - - - -   | 33 | 0  | 0 |
| Jehial Benton, - - - - -     | 42 | 10 | 0 |
| I. Swift, - - - - -          | 8  | 0  | 0 |

|                            | £  | s | d |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|
| Alexander Keney, - - - - - | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| John Massay, - - - - -     | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Jesse Small, - - - - -     | 28 | 0 | 0 |

JEHIAL BARNUM,  
SAMUEL HUBBELL, Listers.

In December, 1749, Capt. Nathaniel Berry was sent to the General Assembly to pray for a county to be established for this part of the government, and at the same time it was voted to confer with the towns of New Milford, Newtown and Woodbury. The memorialists were successful two years later when the county of Litchfield was named and Kent became a part of it.

Evidently wild cats were a terror to the community for in 1752 it was voted to give £2 for every wild cat's head produced, and another vote was a sixpence for every black bird killed and threepence for each young one killed in the middle of May.



ALDER VILLAGE.

Rams and swine were a source of more or less trouble at each town meeting. In 1743 it was voted "to fine fifteen shillings for every ram taken up on the common, the fine to be paid to those who chose to take up the ram," but swine were to have the privilege of running free.

Other votes were in 1743 "to ask the assembly to annex the inhabitants of the west side of the Housatonic to us;" in 1747 to build a road to Litchfield; in 1748 to pay fifteen shillings for a day's work and a sixpence for each yoke of oxen; in 1749 to sell the town stock of powder.

In 1742 Kent was allotted to the Litchfield Probate court. ✓

In 1748 the society of East Greenwich was authorized as the inhabitants found it difficult to attend public worship at the first society. In 1767 upon the petition of Nathan Tibbals, Stephen Starkweather, Wm. Wedge, Jedediah Durkee, Wm. Guthrie, and Ephraim Guthrie, the society was annexed to New Preston, the bounds "beginning at a bridge over the Shepaug river in the road from New Milford to Litchfield, thence a straight line to the southeast corner of Philip Strong's lot he now lives on, thence to straight

line to the southeast corner of the lot of Joseph Beamond now lives, thence to the West Pond so called." Wm. Spooner, Peleg and Perez Sturdevant and Ebenezer Peck were others that were set off to the new society.

The old deeds refer frequently to the Fairweather purchase, but as there is no deed on record in Kent of this property a search was made through the old colonial records where it was found that in 1707 there was a large tract of land granted to Hon. Nathaniel Gold, Peter Burr and several others of Fairfield for a township in what is now the southern portion of Kent and the northern portion of New Milford, and that they in turn sold a part or all of it to Robert Silliman, Richard Hubbell and Benjamin Fairweather, the latter being described as the "cornet of the troop in Fairfield." The latter's purchase contained some 3,800 acres and was six miles in length from east to west and three hundred rods wide. When the owner died the large tract was divided between his heirs.

Our forefathers did not take the serious view of the present day in regard to lotteries. It is recorded in 1783 "that this town accept the bill in form from the last general assembly for a lottery to build a bridge over the Housatonic river." Capt. Joseph Pratt, Capt. Abraham Fuller and Capt. Joseph Carter were appointed a committee to lay out the money or so much of it as was needed to complete the bridge. Some hitch occurred for at the next meeting the managers were required to call in the tickets that were out for sale. The next year however they were directed to begin the draw on the second Monday in October. In December they were instructed to complete the lottery.

The bridges over the Housatonic were always more or less a subject of contention at town meetings, and numerous controversies are recorded. Joseph Pratt, jr., Abraham Fuller and Lewis Mills were appointed a committee in 1772 to bridge the river at Bonny's place. The timber had all been drawn and the structure nearly completed when the town revoked the contract, but the contractors appealed to the general assembly, who ordered them to complete the work and collect of the selectmen. At another time the town meeting refused to bridge the river at another place, and the general assembly appointed a committee to "view" the place, but the town decided to build before the viewing took place.

In 1771 Moses Rowley was accused by the general assembly of deceiving it in representing that a grant of land which the state had given him was small when it was large, the gift being made on account of his having bought of Robert Watson a section of land belonging to the Seatacock Indians.

In 1777 it was voted: "That we will allow of inoculation of smallpox under proper restrictions that shall hereafter be agreed by this meeting. That it shall be restricted to the 15th of April next."

In 1776 a memorial was sent to the General Assembly with the following result:

Upon the memorial of the town of Kent in the county of Litchfield, praying for liberty that for the future the inhabitants of said town make, mend and maintain their highways by a town rate, and that it be passed into a law the better to enable said town to maintain their own highways as said town shall agree, and that the inhabitants of said town be excused from working at highways in the usual method; as per memorial on file.



Resolved by this Assembly That the said town of Kent have liberty, and authority is hereby granted to the inhabitants of said town, to tax the poles and rateable estate of said inhabitants to raise such sums of money as said town shall from time to time judge necessary and sufficient to repair all public highways in said town, which tax shall be collected by the several surveyors of the several districts for repairing highways in said town and be by such surveyors laid out and improved for the repairing highways in each district in said town; and said town is hereby impowered, by the selectmen or a committee chosen annually or from time to time as occasion shall require, to divide the highways in said towns into districts and to assign to each surveyor a certain proportion of highways to be repaired and maintained, and to divide out and proportion to the several surveyors of the several districts the money so raised by said town according to the quantity or proportion of roads set out to them as aforesaid within their respective districts, in the same manner and form as other town surveyors or any of them after such surveyor shall render a true account of such money by him so collected to



DEPOT AT KENT.

the selectmen of said town in a reasonable time when thereto required after the same becomes payable to said collectors; and all surplus of such money as shall remain in the hands of such taxes are collected; and every such highways are sufficiently repaired shall be paid into the hands of the treasurer of said town for the time being, and by him and his successors in said office paid out to the next succeeding surveyors of the several districts respectively in the same proportion as the money raised by said town for the purpose of repairing highways for the then current year shall by said selectmen or committee be ordered to be divided.

And it is further resolved, That this liberty and authority shall be and remain to said town of Kent during the pleasure of this Assembly.

During the revolution or rather for the year 1776 the tax rate was to be two pence per pound, and the price of each day's work for that year was to equal the price of a bushel of wheat.

The town's first experience with bad money was in 1786 when "the selectmen were authorized to settle with Col. Andrew Adams and grant such relief as they think fit for the counterfeit bills he has taken for the state rates,"

Nathan Slosson was appointed tax collector to make all persons outside of the colony pay a license to sell goods in Kent.

In 1790 Electrous Hoyt was given liberty to build a hatter's shop.

At a meeting of the town held April 9, 1804, it is recorded that the inhabitants came through and over snow drifts in many places four or five feet deep.

Up to November 18, 1825, town meetings were held at Flanders, in the northern part of the town. The town then voted to accept the old Episcopal church on Kent plains if it was "moved onto the ground a few rods northward where it now stands, with the ground it may there stand on, free of expense to the town for a town house for said town." The first meeting was held in the new quarters March 10, 1826.

About this time there was considerable agitation to have a canal from Stockbridge, Mass., to tide water at Derby. This is the language of the resolution the town meeting passed: "That we claim it is the interest and duty of every individual situated near the proposed route to aid and assist in the completion of this object by endeavoring to promote and otherwise concert in measures calculated to effect it by lending funds as circumstances may enable and the vastness of the undertaking may require. That no other route to tide water heretofore suggested is by us regarded as equally important or can equally well accommodate this town or that portion of the public subjected to land carriage which lies between the Connecticut and Hudson rivers."



J. F. GIBBS' PROPERTY, USED AS TOWN HALL.

## CHAPTER III.

### MILITARY SPIRIT.

THE TRAINBAND BECAME ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF KENT IN ITS EARLY DAYS, AND FROM THAT TIME UNTIL THE CIVIL WAR THE TOWN'S LOYALTY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR ITS COUNTRY'S FLAG WAS BOUNDLESS.

In the organization of the early towns of Connecticut, provision was made for a public ground, known as the parade ground or green, on which the meeting house shall stand and which should be used for the training and display of the military company which every town was expected to maintain, and the organization and maintenance of which was regarded as a concern second in interest and importance only to that of the church. As in the settlement of other towns these two interests the "benefit of christian duties," and "defence against enemies" were always combined. The inhabitants not only "trusted in God," "but kept their powder dry," and the care and use of the powder was closely associated with the worship of God. It was so of necessity; for in those early, perilous days, their only earthly security oftentimes was in the fire-arms which they carried with them to meeting, and which it stood them in hand to know how to use. Upon the prayer or the psalm, might burst at any moment the war-whoop of the savage. Unlike the apostle, they had to contend with "flesh and blood" in the red skins of Indians, as well as with the "principalities and powers" of the spiritual world; and accordingly they armed themselves against both. This gave a distinctly military, as well as spiritual character to the life of the early New England communities. Military office held rank with religious, the "captain" being counted second in position and importance only to the minister. Next in public regard to the worship of the Sabbath, was the parade of "training day." Those who could remember olden times never forgot the pomp and circumstance of that supreme occasion, when all work was laid aside, even the washing had to wait, unless it was done the Sunday night before, for

"The first Monday in May, was training day:"—

when all the boys got "stents," a week beforehand, and worked like beavers to finish them so as to have that day free; and all the people turned out, old and young, male and female; and the green was thronged; and all the fences round were lined with horses, for wheeled vehicles were few; and in the centre, the "train-band," brilliant with their uniforms, and their captain at their head with port sublime, went through those wonderful evolutions, those marchings and countermarchings, those right wheels and left wheels, and finally that "whipping the snake," which seemed to the lookers on to surpass all human powers, not only of execution, but even of comprehension; while the drums rolled, and the fifes screamed, and the

plumes waved in the wind, and the excited crowd scarcely knew whether it was peace or war, whether they were on the field of battle or the village green; and the wives were proud of their husbands as they saw them in the ranks, and the sweethearts of their lovers, and the boys devoured the squares of shining molasses gingerbread which they had knocked over with stones, set up at so many paces for a cent a throw; and their sisters and mothers gorged themselves with "training cake," and all went home at night happy, and some of them drunk.

The first need of a new community was a public ground, and this was supplied in that part of the town known as Flanders in a lot back of the tavern kept by Col. Philo Mills, known in later years as the Burritt Eaton place. The first train band in Kent must have been formed as soon as there were enough settlers to make a quorum, as the general assembly in May, 1739, passed a resolution that "the military companies in the towns of Kent, Woodbury, New Milford, Litchfield, Cornwall, Goshen, Canaan, Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon, and New Fairfield shall be one entire regiment to be distinguished by the name of the Thirteenth regiment." The officers were Joseph Minor, colonel; Wm. Preston, lieutenant colonel; John Bostwick, major. At the May session in 1740, Timothy Hatch was appointed and confirmed as captain of the company or trainband; John Mills, lieutenant; and Nathaniel Berry, ensign. Each company was required to have sixty-four members, and the town was obliged to have on hand at least fifty pounds of powder, 200 pounds of bullets, and 300 flints for every sixty men enlisted. Nathaniel Berry in October, 1745, was promoted to a lieutenantancy and in 1750 to be captain

This early training had kindled a military fire in the hearts of the inhabitants of Kent, and when the blow for independence was to be struck the town was quick to respond as the records of the several town meetings at this period show. The first indication of a spirit of unrest is manifested by the following in 1770: "Voted, That we are opposed to having European goods imported under the present condition of things." The indignation which may have moldered for some time, could not be kept down, for three years later the following votes are spread on the records:

"At a town meeting lawfully warned and held by the inhabitants of the town of Kent at the old meeting house in the first society in Kent on the 26th day of October, 1774, voted and made choice of Capt. Nathaniel Swift, moderator. Voted, that this meeting having taken into consideration the alarming situation of the American colonies now burdened with the yoke of ministerial oppression by those unconstitutional and oppressive acts of Parliament, The Boston Port Bill and the ever to be detested Quebec Bill, engrosses our greatest attention and esteeming the General Congress now sitting at Philadelphia and committees of correspondence in each town through the colonies the most likely method to preserve our invaluable privilege both of a civil as well as religious nature from the stroke of impending ruin, and hand them down inviolable to the latest posterity we do heartily acquiesce in the wise and glorious effort for the preservation of liberty and taking into consideration the distressing circumstances of the poor in Boston have appointed Capt. Jedidiah Hubbel, Capt. Joseph Pratt, Mr. Peter Pratt, Mr. Eleazer Curtis, jr., Capt. Joseph Carter, Nathan Eliot, esq., and Mr. Joseph Guthrie as a committee of correspondence to receive the generous donations of the inhabitants of the town of Kent who are hereby appointed

to receive the same as soon as may be and to transmit the same to the committee of correspondence or selectmen of the town of Boston for the relief of the poor in Boston and to keep a free correspond and consult all matters relative to American affairs with other committees in the neighboring towns and colonies appointed for the above laudable purpose. Voted, that the town clerk transmit a copy of the votes of this meeting to the printers at New Haven to be inserted in the public paper."

"At a town meeting legally warned and held on the 29th day of November, 1774, at one o'clock in the afternoon by the inhabitants of the town of Kent at the old meeting house in the first society in Kent. Voted, and made choice of Nathaniel Berry, moderator. Voted, that the resolves contained in the late Continental congress and recommended by the House of Representatives ought to be strictly and faithfully adhered to and observed."

Shortly afterwards we find that instead of town meeting protests the inhabitants are shouldering the musket as the most practical way to solve the problem of independence.

The first call upon the State militia for active service in the Revolutionary War was made in the summer of 1776, when Washington was in need of a large force to meet the enemy's threatened attack upon New York. Connecticut already had eight Continental and nine State regiments in the field, but she responded at once to an urgent request from the Commander-in-Chief to send down a portion of her militia. Two requisitions were issued. The first called out fourteen of the regiments lying west of the Connecticut River to serve from August until "the exigency should be over." Brig.-Gen. Oliver Wolcott was specially appointed to their command. The second was a call for nine of the regiments lying east of the River to serve from September with Brig.-Gen. Gurdon Saltonstall in command. As these troops were hastily summoned, poorly armed and provided for, and generally undisciplined, effective service could not be expected of them. A few of the regiments were exposed to the first attack of the enemy on New York, Sept. 15, '76, and contributed to what is sometimes described as the "panic" at Kips' Bay. Better troops would have found it difficult to withstand the shock. The experience proved a valuable one to the militiamen who were to be called out again more than once during the war.

Later in the season when the enemy sent their ships up the Hudson to interrupt the American communications, Washington again requested Gov. Trumbull to send troops to the North River. The Governor thereupon issued a proclamation calling upon the militia and all able bodied within the State to equip themselves without loss of time and be ready to march upon the shortest notice as exigencies might require.

In the early part of August, 1776, the two trainbands in this town and Captain Olmsted's company made up largely of the inhabitants of Kent and contiguous territory to the east and south were in New York. The two Kent companies were in the Thirteenth regiment. They had returned by the first of October following. The officers of the regiment and members of the three companies were:

Colonel Benjamin Hinman, Woodbury, appointed before the war Colonel

Continental army, succeeded in October '76 by

Colonel Increase Mosely, Jr., Woodbury, promoted October '76.

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Canfield, New Milford, promoted Lieutenant Colonel October '76.

Major Jethro Hatch, Kent, promoted Major October '76.

Major William Cogswell, New Preston, Captain, promoted Major vice Hatch, May '81.

#### CAPTAIN CARTER'S COMPANY.

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Captain Joseph Carter,     | Private Reuben Taylor,    |
| Lieutenant Eleazer Carter, | Private Israel Lee,       |
| Ensign Jna. Taylor,        | Private Truman Gilbert,   |
| Clerk Joseph Pack,         | Private Philip Strong,    |
| Sergeant Gershom Holmes,   | Private Levi Swan,        |
| Sergeant Ephim Tanner,     | Private Thomas Beeman,    |
| Sergeant Eleazer Finney,   | Private Herman Brown,     |
| Sergeant Benoni Carter,    | Private David Taylor,     |
| Corporal Judah Hopkins,    | Private Benjamin Sprague, |
| Corporal Philip Judd,      | Private Benjamin Andrews, |
| Corporal Judah Eldridg,    | Private Eleazer Curtis,   |
| Corporal Asahel Wedge,     | Private Chauncey Smith,   |
| Drummer Jos. Andrews,      | Private Job Taylor,       |
| Fifer Alexander Sackett,   | Private Isaac Wedge.      |

#### CAPTAIN ABRAHAM FULLER'S COMPANY.

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Captain Abraham Fuller,       | Private Nathan Skiff,    |
| Lieutenant Lewis Mills,       | Private Ebenezer Hait,   |
| Clerk Philip Judd,            | Private Levi Fairchild,  |
| Sergeant Abijah Hubbell,      | Private Elijah Crane,    |
| Sergeant Stephen Skiff,       | Private Benjamin Merry,  |
| Sergeant Peleg Chamberlain,   | Private Wells Beardsley, |
| Sergeant Eleazer Chamberlain, | Private William Trap,    |
| Corporal Thomas Stevens,      | Private Silas Stuart,    |
| Corporal Joseph Bates,        | Private Silas Brownson,  |
| Drummer Thomas Avery,         | Private Samuel Andrews,  |
| Fifer Ashbel Fuller,          | Private Barnabas Hatch,  |
| Private Isaac Darish,         | Private David Lyon,      |
| Private Ephrim Fuller,        | Private Nathaniel Geer,  |
| Private John Bull,            | Private Daniel Hall,     |
| Private Daniel Dye,           | Private Jonathan Maim.   |

#### CAPTAIN OLMSTED'S COMPANY.

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Captain David Olmsted,            | Corporal Ebenezer Judson, |
| First Lieutenant Lewis Mills,     | Drummer Josiah Edwards,   |
| Second Lieutenant Edward Collins, | Fifer Bartlet Chamberlen, |
| Ensign Silas Hubbel,              | Private James Lyn,        |
| Sergeant Edward Tyler,            | Private Daniel Beebe,     |
| Sergeant Thomas Avery,            | Private James Lincoln,    |
| Sergeant Abijah Bennerdict,       | Private Cyrus Berrey,     |
| Sergeant Samuel Hawley,           | Private Ebenezer Lyon,    |
| Sergeant Alexander Sackett,       | Private Barabas Berrey,   |
| Sergeant Seth Crawford,           | Private David Morris,     |
| Corporal Crag Celley,             | Private John Bennet,      |
| Corporal John Berrey,             | Private Uriah Marvin,     |
| Corporal Benjamin Brownson,       | Private Edward Blackman,  |

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Private Heman Comstock,  | Private Samuel Nichols,      |
| Private David Allen,     | Private Samuel Botsford,     |
| Private Truman Beeman,   | Private Jonathan Nash,       |
| Private Richard China,   | Private Stephen Peck,        |
| Private Abel Comstock,   | Private Abel Peck,           |
| Private Aaron Case,      | Private Oliver Parish,       |
| Private Levy Camp,       | Private Benjamin Porter,     |
| Private Israel Chapman,  | Private William Rockwell,    |
| Private Joel Engersoll,  | Private Silas Rockwell,      |
| Private Benjamin Fowler, | Private Levy Rust,           |
| Private Abel Fuller,     | Private Joshua Raymond,      |
| Private John Foot,       | Private Newcomb Raymond,     |
| Private James Frisbie,   | Private Enoch Simons,        |
| Private John Gilbard,    | Private Curtis Stoddard,     |
| Private John Geer,       | Private Azarigh Smith,       |
| Private William Hucker,  | Private Deliverance Slawson, |
| Private Weight Hurlbut,  | Private Peres Sturdivant,    |
| Private Justice Hinman,  | Private Benjamin Sacket,     |
| Private Talcut Hawley,   | Private Nathaniel Spooner,   |
| Private Samuel Hunt,     | Private Ely Smith,           |
| Private William Hector,  | Private Hiram Summers,       |
| Private Gilead Hector,   | Private William Tanner,      |
| Private Peter Hines,     | Private Reubin Taylor,       |
| Private Timothy Johnson, | Private David Walker,        |
| Private Matthew Keelor,  | Private Solomon Warner,      |
| Private Lewis Keelor,    | Private Lican Der Curtis.    |

In October, 1776, the near approach of the enemy to Kent, as well as the critical situation of the Continental army and the danger of the enemy cutting off all communication between the country and the army, the utmost speed was put forth to oppose the further inroad of the enemy. All able bodied men in the west part of the state were called out, including the Tenth, Thirteenth and Sixteenth regiments, those going from Kent of course chiefly belonging to the Thirteenth regiment which was under the command of Major General Wooster.

In October, 1778, the state records say, "Upon the memorial of Nathan Sloper, of Kent, in the county of Litchfield, shewing to this Assembly that he, the said Sloper, was a soldier in Capt. Sacket's company in Colonel Hooker's regiment at the Peekskill in the year, 1777, and by reason of illness was furlowed to the 13th of October, 1777, and then enabled to return to said regiment, and that he received no wages from that time to the discharge of the regiment, as per memorial on file.

Resolved by this Assembly, that the Committee of Pay-Table are directed to pay to the memorialist the whole of his wages and bounty from said 13th day of October till the discharge of said regiment, and draw on treasurer of this state in his favour accordingly."

In April, 1780, the Assembly appointed Stephen Barnes "to be a purchaser to procure fresh and salted beef, pork and flour and such other articles as shall be directed, agreeable to act of Assembly of this State passed this sessions, within the limits of New Fairfield, New Milford, Washington,

and Kent exclusive of the parish of Greenwich, in said county of Litchfield." Capt. Moses Seymour was appointed purchaser for the same purpose for the towns of Litchfield, Goshen, Torrington, Harwinton and the parish of Greenwich, in Kent, in said County of Litchfield.

In October, 1778, Jacob Bull of Kent presented a memorial to the General Assembly which stated "that he is now confined in Litchfield county goal on a prosecution in favor of this state for aiding traitors to said state, and that he has been anxious for tryal to evince his innocence; praying that he might be liberated from his said confinement upon his procuring bonds for his appearing before the superior courts for tryal."

It was resolved by the Assembly "that the memorialist be freed and liberated from his said confinement upon his acknowledging a recognizance in the sum of 300 pounds, lawful money, with one sponisible surety, before legal authority for his, the said memorialist's personal appearance before the superior court to be holden at Litchfield in and for Litchfield county upon the last Tuesday save two of February next, to answer to the complaint on which he is now imprisoned, and that he shall be of peaceable and good behaviour in the meantime."

When the British descended upon Danbury April 25-28, 1777, it is supposed the two Kent companies both went to the defense of its neighboring town. The records are not explicit about Captain Abraham Fuller's company, but it is known that he himself drew pay for his services from the state and that Lewis Mills was recompensed for his time lost in the hospital, both claiming to have been at Danbury at this time. The evidence that Captain Carter's company took part is furnished by the following memorial and resolution of the General Assembly at the May session, 1778:

"Upon the memorial of John Wedge, of Kent, in the county of Litchfield and state of Connecticut, showing to this Assembly that on or about the 27th of April last the memorialist belonging to Captain Joseph Carter's company was required by said Captain Carter to march with the rest of said company in the utmost haste on horseback for the relief of the town of Danbury, when invaded by the British troops: the memorialist and several others left their horses with a guard, pursued the enemy on foot and the memorialist's horse was unfortunately lost, and, notwithstanding the utmost pains and cost reasonable, can never hear anything of said horse since; praying this Assembly to give an order upon the treasurer of the state to draw so much money out of the treasury as this Assembly shall think may be a reasonable recompense, or some other way relieve the memorialist. Resolved by this Assembly that the sum of £9—15—0 be allowed to the memorialist out of the treasury of this state."

Six months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence we find that one of the first persons to enlist from Kent was John Brown, who may by his example have stimulated his namesake in years long afterward to strike the first blow for freedom in another cause. He enlisted for three years January 14, 1777, in Colonel Beardsley's regiment and joined in August that same year what was known as the Georgia battery. He was followed on the 26th of the same month by John Warren, who joined Colonel Chapman. Other enlistments took place rapidly and the town was well represented throughout the revolutionary war. Three soldiers, Isaac Pennell, David Loff and Seth Rowley were with Colonel Seth Warner's regiment at Fort George, New York, when nearly all were killed or taken prisoners.



The town appointed in 1777 Nathaniel Berry, Reuben Murray, Eliphalet Comstock, Josiah Camp, Jehosaphat Eldrid and Reuben Sackett a committee to provide for soldiers' families, and another committee was appointed to provide them with clothing.

In 1778 Moses Knapp was released by a vote of the town from paying one-half of £120 for not going out in a draft.

In 1780 it was voted "That this town will secure the wages of all the soldiers that shall hereafter enlist into the services of this or the United States or that shall be draughted or detached, at the cost of this town into the services and see the same paid at 40 shillings per month equivalent to wheat at 4 shillings per bushel for each month they shall continue in said service including the pay wages of the state and also a premium of 10 shillings like money per month provided they will equip themselves according to law with arms, blankets, etc., provided the same shall not be paid by this state or the United States.

"That those lately drafted for six and three months services respectively shall be included in the above vote."

The next vote was to select a committee to obtain recruits to fill up the line in the Continental army agreeable to a late act of the general assembly. To encourage the enlistment of soldiers the town voted "That there shall be paid out of the treasury of the town of Kent unto Capt. Peter Mills, Capt. Abraham Fuller, Peleg Sturtevant and Capt. Joseph Carter, provided they shall procure five able-bodied, effective men, or any number under five to enlist into either of the Connecticut battalions in the Continental army for three years or during the war, such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary to make good each soldier's wages with the continental wages equal to forty shillings per month estimated at the price of wheat at four shillings per bushel to be paid the first day of July annually. Also that the committee have liberty to agree and pay to the above mentioned soldiers twenty-six shillings per month in addition to the continental wages to be paid by this town in lieu of the above provided they shall choose it."

In 1781 a committee was appointed to class the town to fill up the state's regiment agreeable to a late vote of the assembly, and Ephriam Fuller, Gertham Holmes and Peter Waller were appointed a committee to procure clothing for the soldiers serving in the army.

Benjamin Ackley, Major Jethro Hatch, Nathaniel Hatch, John Ransom, jr., Nathaniel Berry, Joseph Carter, and John Brownson were appointed a committee to divide the town into two classes and to hire a recruit for each class into the Connecticut line in the Continental army and make a rate on the inhabitants to defray the charge and collect the same.

Major Eleazer Curtis was to procure the proper evidence for the claim the town had to three men usually credited to the town but at that time excluded by the assembly.

The next action was to suspend the vote in July respecting the raising of soldiers' wages.

The last record relating to the revolutionary war was February 20, 1782, when it was voted "That we will raise six men for this state according to the requisition of the general assembly. That the men be raised by classing the inhabitants."

It will be seen that from the commencement until the finish of the war Kent was loyal and steadfast, never wavering, but bearing its share of the burden with its neighboring towns. The roster of its soldiers is as follows:

Stephen Barnum enlisted in Col. Beardsley's company April 21, 1777; reduced July 20, 1780; promoted sergeant Aug., 1780; discharged April 5, 1781.

Daniel Avery enlisted with Col. Woodridge, March 3, 1777 for three years; discharged March 15, 1780.

John Brown enlisted with Col. Beardsley January 14, 1777, for three years; joined Georgia battery, August, 1777.

Samuel Bates enlisted with Col. Beardsley March 15, 1777, during war, corp. (.) reduced.

Lemuel Bemont enlisted with Col. Chapman February 19, 1777, during war, disabled June 1779, rejoined regiment January, 1781.

Matthias Beman enlisted with Col. Chapman January 31, 1777, during war, promoted corporal May 9, 1780.

John Barlow enlisted with Colonel Chapman August 12, 1777, during war.

Samuel Chamberlain enlisted with Col. Chapman March 22, 1777, during war.

John Cobb joined from Putnam's regiment August 6, 1778, promoted corporal August, 1780.

Elijah Chapman enlisted with Col. Beardsley March 11, 1777, during war.

David Danes, enlisted with Col. Warner April 2, 1777, three years, discharged May 31, 1780.

Joseph Dickinson enlisted with Col. Beardsley March 15, 1777, during war; appointed corporal September 1, 1777; transferred to quartermaster-general department July 1, 1781.

Prentice Fitch enlisted with Col. Beardsley February 22, 1777, during war, appointed corporal August, 1780.

Samuel Fairchild enlisted with Beardsley March 15, 1777, three years, discharged March 14, 1780.

Cuff Freeman enlisted with Beardsley September 4, 1777, during war.

Call Freeman enlisted with Beardsley September 4, 1777, during war.

Benjamin Lampkin enlisted with Hills April 29, 1778, three years, discharged April 22, 1780.

Asa Sprague enlisted with Hills February 10, 1778, during war.

John Warren enlisted with Chapman January 26, 1777 during war, disabled April 6, 1779; rejoined and discharged December 19, 1780.

Elihu Waters enlisted with Col. Samuel B. Webb June 13, 1778, paid to 1780.

Isaac Pennell enlisted with Col. Seth Warner December 5, 1779, taken prisoner October 11, 1780; exchanged before January, 1783.

David Loff enlisted with Col. Seth Warner January 22, 1780.

Seth Rowley enlisted with Seth Warner January 1, 1777; dead or discharged December 31, 1779.

David Thayer enlisted with Col. Moses Hazen January 1, 1777; discharged January 1, 1781.

Capt. Ebenezer Hill (Greenwich or Kent) enlisted 7th regiment April 14, 1780; discharged April 23, 1783.

Ebenezer Hill jr., enlisted 7th regiment November 1, 1777, three years.

Ebenezer Forgues enlisted January 18, 1783, three years.

Nathan Wheeler enlisted January 27, 1781, three years.

Samuel Ingraham enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, December 19, 1780, during war.

Calvin Buckley enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, November 28, 1783, during war.

Stephen Morey enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, December, 1779, during war.

Sergt. Amos Barnum enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, November 15, 1777, during war.

Reander Chamberlain enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, April 21, 1782, three years.

Heman Carter, enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, February 2, 1781.

Swift Chamberlain enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, February 2, 1781.

Rogers Lake enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, February 3, 1781.

Newcomb Raymont enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, June 29, 1780, three years.

Philetus Swift enlisted 2d regiment, Connecticut line, February 2, 1781, three years.

Elijah Gray, Reuben Peck and Ezra Fairchild were in Col. Canfield's militia regiment.

In Captain Smith's company, March 22, 1781, these members were from Kent: Peter Drew, John Oakland, Daniel Succamux, James Sprague, Clark Beement, Comfort Thomson.

Lieut. Stephen Dodge belonged to the provisional regiment in 1781. This regiment was raised to go to Washington's aid should he call for it.

Captain Jeriah Swift was a member of Colonel Burrall's regiment, and was reported dead in September, 1776.

Lieut. Ebenezer Tanner was a member of the Connecticut Cincinnati society.

In 1840 there were living in Kent these pensioners: Michael Bailey, aged 96; Naomi Burton, 92; Silas Leonard, 83; Joseph Seger, 82; Elias Taylor, 87; David Whitehead, 75; Tracy Beeman, 78; Daniel Stone, 81 — Judd, 92.

There is a cave among the rocks in a continuation of Bull's mountain in South Kent. It is on the side or rather foot of the mountain and it is said furnished an admirable hiding place in revolutionary times. The cave is a room about 15x20 feet and six feet high, all of solid rock. It shows traces of fire, and the rock has been heated until it has scaled off in places. A number of relics have been found there from time to time.

It is said that a company of continental troops were encamped about half a mile from this cave, and a lady (Mrs. Charles Northrup of New Milford) says that her great grandfather, Johnathan Bull, entertained a number of British officers one winter who, it is said, were sent there with a squad of British soldiers to protect Stephen Stuart, at that time in hiding, and that a skirmish actually took place between them and the Americans.

The war of 1812 seems mainly to have called forth expression at a town meeting as only one soldier can be found enlisting from Kent. The records

state "a town meeting was called to advise together relative to the alarming situation of our country in general and of this state in particular and see whether it is not expedient to request a convention of the general court. Lewis Mills, Hopson Pratt, Erastus Chamberlain, Nathaniel P. Perry, Henry Standard, and John Raymond were appointed to draft resolutions which were forwarded to the government." The one name credited to Kent is that of Solomon Chamberlain who enlisted May 13, 1813, in the Seventh Infantry, the date of his discharge not being known.

In the Mexican war the only name found is that of Samuel D. Canfield, who joined Companies A and I of the Ninth Infantry, April 7, 1847, and was wounded August 20, 1847, at Churubusco, Mexico, when he was discharged.

The firing on Fort Sumter awoke in the hearts of the people of Kent the slumbering military fire that had descended from the forefathers of 1776. It was the talk of the town, and a public meeting was called April 29, 1861, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of voting supplies



OFFICERS SECOND CONNECTICUT HEAVY ARTILLERY, FOR WHICH  
KENT RECRUITED FORTY-FIVE MEN.

to all who would volunteer into the service of the United States and go to the seat of war, to vote ample supplies to support the families of such volunteers, and to equip a respectable volunteer force. The matter was discussed but no action taken at this time. The summer came and before it had passed enlistments were the order of the day. Enthusiasm ran wild and between the 9th of August and the 21st of September a goodly number had joined Company D, Tenth regiment, under Captain Lewis Judd of Roxbury. The Tenth left Hartford in October, 1861, and after reaching Annapolis, Md., was assigned to Burnside's command. It was in the battle of Roanoke Island, N. C., February, 1862 where Col. Charles L. Russell was killed while gallantly leading the regiment in a charge; and Leman S. Lane was wounded from which he died in April, 1862. At the battle of Newbern, a few weeks later the Tenth lost twenty-three killed and wounded. December 14 it lost 106 officers and men in the battle at Kinston, N. C.; and two days later it was in the skirmish at Whitehall. March 28, 1863, the regiment was in the

battle of Seabrook Island, S. C., and remained in the neighborhood of Charleston until late in the fall. Having removed to Florida, the Tenth, in December, met with severe losses in the fight at St. Augustine. In the spring of 1864 the regiment was ordered to Virginia, and at once took active part in the closing campaign of the war. It was in the engagement of Walthall Junction, Drury's Bluff, Bermuda Hundred, Strawberry Plains, Deep Bottom, Deep Run, Petersburg, Laurel-Hill Church, New Market Road, and at Hatcher's Run, and at Appomattox Court-House in 1865. It was mustered out August 25, 1865. Henry L. V. Mairel was killed at Fort Gregg, Va., April 2, 1865.

No sooner was Company D of the Tenth off than enlistments were made in Company C of the Thirteenth regiment under Captain C. D. Blinn of New Milford. This company was known as the Lyon Guards and was composed of thirty-six men from Kent, seventeen from Sharon and eight from Goshen and others from Salisbury, Canaan, and New Milford. The Thirteenth was the last regiment raised under the call for 500,000 men. It was organized in

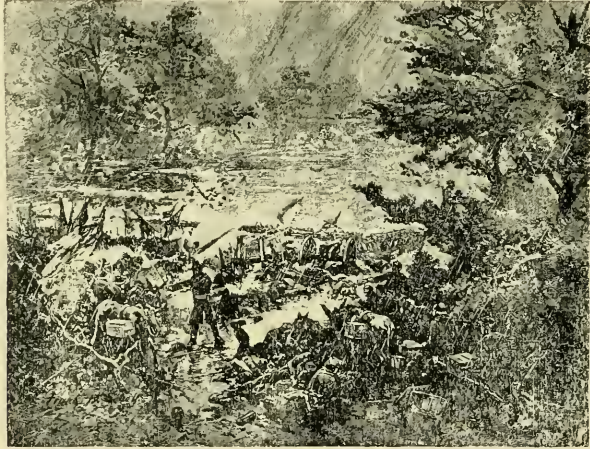


THE BATTLE OF WINCHESTER.

the fall of 1861 and remained in barracks at New Haven during the following winter. Henry W. Birge of Norwich was its first colonel. The regiment left Connecticut in March, 1862, and joined the expedition in command of General Butler. After entering New Orleans in May it was selected to do provost duty. In the fall it was again in active service under Butler and Banks, and took part in the fight at Irish Bend April 14, 1863, where Ira Marshall was wounded and at Port Hudson, La., June 14, where Frank E. Waldron received mortal injuries from which he died on the 19th. In the fall of 1864 the regiment was sent to join the forces of Sheridan in the Shenandoah. It was in the battles of Opequan, Winchester and Fisher's Hill. At Winchester Willis Barnes, Homer M. Welch and Wm. H. Murphy were captured by the rebels, Barnes and Welch dying at Salisbury, N. C., while Oliver Potter was killed in the battle; Sergeant Joseph H. Pratt was wounded and died the following April. Colonel Birge was promoted to be brigadier general in 1863 and Captain C. D. Blinn of New Milford was appointed colonel. In January, 1864, out of 406 men present on duty, 400 were ready to re-enlist. The regiment was reduced to five companies and called "The Veteran Battalion, Thirteenth

C. V.," and Lieutenant-Colonel Homer B. Sprague was put in command. It was mustered out April 25, 1866.

The Nineteenth was a Litchfield county regiment, afterwards changed to the Second regiment, C. V. H. A. It was recruited in the summer of 1862. Kent furnished twenty-four men for Company B, Capt. James Hubbard of Salisbury and twenty-one for Company H, Captain George S. Williams of New Milford. It left Litchfield in September for Washington, and was stationed at Alexandria. During 1863 it was engaged in garrison duty in forts on the south of the Potomac, near Washington. The regiment was brought to a high state of efficiency under the command of Colonel Elisha S. Kellogg of Derby; and in May, 1864, it joined the Sixth Army Corps in Virginia. In the sad slaughter at Cold Harbor June 1 Colonel Kellogg was killed and the total loss of the regiment 285 killed, wounded and missing. Among the number was Jerome Johnson, who was wounded June 1 and died June 16; Henry C. Straight, killed; Edwin Harrington, wounded; Uriah F. Snedeker,



UPTON'S BRIGADE AT BLOODY ANGLE.

wounded; George Chamberlain, wounded; Solomon Hinckley, wounded; Daniel O. Page, captured; George A. Skiff, killed; William Barton, killed. Following the fortunes of the gallant Sixth corps, the regiment was in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, Va. In February, 1865, it was in the engagement of Hatcher's Run, and, in March and April, near Petersburg and at Sailor's Creek. The casualties which it suffered tell the story of its noble service. It was mustered out at Washington, D. C., August 18, 1865.

As the roster will show Kent men were to be found in many other regiments, and it is probable that no other town in the state, population considered, suffered such a large percentage of its soldiers killed or wounded.

The town was liberal in offering bounties, and on August 7, 1862, voted \$100 to each volunteer, not to exceed thirty in number, and on the 16th it was voted to not have any limit. July 27, 1863, \$300 was voted to each man drafted. August 10, 1864, under the call for 500,000 troops it was voted to

offer \$500 to each volunteer or to any one who furnished a substitute. At this time the grand list was \$643,539. There was expended for bounties, and support of families \$20,000, and it is estimated that \$3,750 was paid out by private individuals for volunteers and substitutes. The following is the roster of soldiers:

COMPANY A, FIRST REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

David Donnelly, enlisted Dec. 3, 1864; deserted July 29, 1865.

COMPANY B, FIRST REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

Eugene Erb, enlisted Aug. 13, 1864; mustered out Sept. 25, 1865.

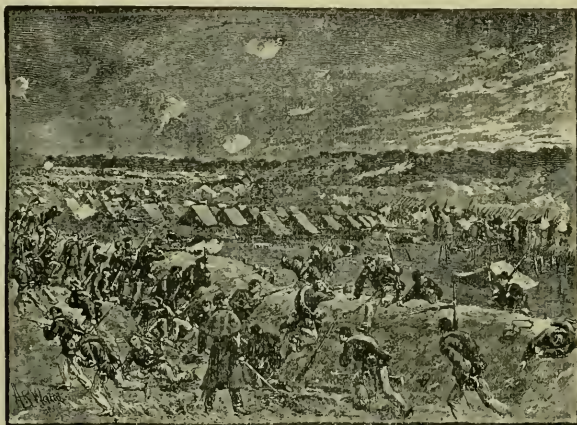
COMPANY F, FIRST REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

Felix Dupont, enlisted Dec. 6, 1864; deserted July 28, 1865.

COMPANY A, SECOND REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

William Barton, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.

Robert Ellil, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.



SURPRISE AT CEDAR CREEK.

COMPANY B, SECOND REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

Dwight Hallock, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Charles B. Benedict, enlisted Aug. 5, 1862; discharged May 18, 1865.

Curtis Hall, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; promoted Sergeant Feb. 13, 1864; wounded Oct. 19, 1864, Cedar Creek, Va. Discharged July 7, 1865.

Myron R. Sterry, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; killed June 1, 1865, Cold Harbor, Va.

James S. Thayer, enlisted Aug. 14, 1862; discharged disabled Jan. 24, 1863.

George L. Sterry, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

John W. Ward, enlisted Aug. 14, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Walston W. Peck, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Robert W. Ames, enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; wounded Oct. 19, 1864, Cedar Creek, Va. Died Nov. 5, 1864.

Martin A. Besler, enlisted July 7, 1862; discharged Aug. 18, 1865.

James Burnes, enlisted Aug. 19, 1862; discharged June 13, 1865.

Lewis Burton, enlisted Aug. 20, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

- Almeron Burton, enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; died Oct. 1, 1864.  
 Silas Burton, enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; mustered out Aug. 31, 1865.  
 Joseph E. Dewey, enlisted Aug. 14, 1862; discharged July 12, 1865.  
 Luther Hall, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.  
 Solomon Hinckley, enlisted Aug. 15, 1862; wounded June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va. Discharged July 7, 1865.  
 William H. Ingraham, enlisted Aug. 15, 1862; discharged disabled Feb. 12, 1863.  
 Henry M. Marshall, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; discharged disabled Feb. 12, 1863.  
 Lewis Mory, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; wounded Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va. Discharged disabled June 9, 1865.  
 Daniel O. Page, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; captured June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va. Paroled Nov. 20, 1864. Discharged May 18, 1865.  
 Charles H. Segur, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.  
 George R. Skiff, enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.  
 Henry Sterry, enlisted Aug. 19, 1862; discharged disabled Apr. 3, 1863.  
 Horace N. Thorp, enlisted Sept. 12, 1864; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.



EXPLOSION OF THE MINE AT PETERSBURG.

- John White, enlisted Aug. 12, 1864; sentenced by G. C. M. Nov. 2, 1864, to one year confinement for absence without leave.

## COMPANY E, SECOND REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

- Harmon Clark, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.  
 Edwin D. Beman, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; promoted First Sergeant, March 1, 1865; discharged July 7, 1865.  
 Geo. H. McBirney, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; promoted Sergeant Feb. 13, 1864; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.  
 Edgar J. Stuart, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; wounded June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va. Discharged June 9, 1865.  
 John Birch, enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; died July 31, 1864.  
 Hiram L. Bronson, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.  
 Henry Murphy, enlisted Aug. 15, 1862; discharged disabled Nov. 3, 1862.  
 Allen Sawyer, enlisted Aug. 13, 1862; discharged July 17, 1865.  
 Alonzo Stuart, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; discharged disabled June 29, 1863.  
 Ira Warner, enlisted Aug. 20, 1862; deserted Apr. 13, 1863.



## COMPANY G, SECOND REGIMENT, C. V.

Harvey Clark, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; died Jan. 18, 1863.

## COMPANY H, SECOND REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

Myron M. Jennings, enlisted June 13, 1864; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.

Jerome Johnson, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; wounded June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va. Died June 16, 1864.

Jarin W. Monroe, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; discharged disabled Feb. 16, 1863.

Henry Murphy, 2nd, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; discharged disabled Apr. 18, 1864.

Hiram Murphy, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; discharged June 15, 1865.

Alanson Peet, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Lauren Peet, enlisted Aug. 14, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

John Rodgers, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863; discharged Aug. 1, 1865.

Orville R. Sawyer, enlisted Aug. 13, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Daniel T. Somers, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; wounded Oct. 19, 1864, Cedar Creek, Va. Discharged June 22, 1865.

Lewis St. John, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; discharged Mar. 12, 1863.



THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER.

Henry C. Straight, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.

Henry J. Thompson, enlisted June 4, 1864; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.

George Wedge, enlisted Sept. 16, 1863; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.

Allen G. Winegar, enlisted Nov. 18, 1863; deserted July 31, 1865.

Lewis S. Young, enlisted Aug. 5, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Edwin Harrington, enlisted Sept. 16, 1863; wounded June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor; mustered out Aug. 18, 1865.

Daniel G. Marshall, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Anson B. Nichols, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Stephen Snedeker, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; discharged May 31, 1865.

Uriah F. Snedeker, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; wounded June 1, Cold Harbor, Va., discharged disabled July 7, 1865.

William H. Thompson, enlisted August 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Harmon T. Edwards, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Hiram Cable, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; wounded Sept. 19, 1864, Winchster, Va.; discharged disabled May 8, 1865.

George Chamberlain, enlisted Aug. 8, 1862; wounded June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor; discharged disabled, June 3, 1865.

Henry Fry, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

Cyrus Howland, enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; discharged June 1, 1865.

Elroy S. Jennings, enlisted Aug. 7, 1862; discharged July 7, 1865.

COMPANY M, SECOND REGIMENT.

Myron Odell, enlisted Aug. 17, 1864; deserted July 2, 1865.

COMPANY G, FIFTH REGIMENT, C. V.

John Lee, enlisted Aug. 14, 1863; deserted Oct. 2, 1863.

James McCabe, enlisted Aug. 14, 1863; discharged July 14, 1865.

COMPANY I, SEVENTH REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Arthur Seymour, enlisted Nov. 29, 1864; mustered out July 20, 1865.

James Griffin, enlisted November 29, 1864; mustered out July 20, 1865.

COMPANY C, EIGHTH REGIMENT, C. V. H. A.

William Brown, enlisted Nov. 19, 1864; discharged Nov. 11, 1865.

COMPANY G, EIGHTH REGIMENT, C. V.

John S. Lane, enlisted Sept. 14, 1861; promoted Second Lieutenant Sept. 29, 1863; discharged Oct. 14, 1864.

COMPANY I, EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Frederick Stevenson, enlisted Sept. 21, 1861; discharged disabled Jan. 9, 1863.

Ebenezer Thayer, enlisted Sept. 21, 1861; discharged Sept. 20, 1864.

COMPANY B, TENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Frederick McArdle, enlisted Dec. 9, 1864; mustered out Aug. 25, 1865.

COMPANY D, TENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Austin L. Frink, corporal, enlisted Sept. 21, 1861; discharged disabled Feb. 12, 1863.

Luman Hoag, corporal, enlisted Sept. 5, 1861; discharged Sept. 30, 1864.

Lewis Murphy, corporal, enlisted Aug. 20, 1861; deserted March 23, 1864.

Louis Pouslett, corporal, enlisted Oct. 1, 1861; mustered out Aug. 25, 1865.

Simeon M. Walling, musician, enlisted Aug. 24, 1861; mustered out Aug. 25, 1865.

George C. Austin, enlisted Sept. 9, 1861; died May 8, 1862.

Frank Friar, enlisted Aug. 21, 1861; discharged disabled July 7, 1865.

Oliver Friar, enlisted Aug. 21, 1861; discharged Oct. 1, 1864.

Elmore F. Jenks, enlisted Sept. 9, 1861; discharged Oct. 7, 1864.

Henry F. Johnson, enlisted Aug. 21, 1861; mustered out Aug. 25, 1865.

Leman G. Lane, enlisted Aug. 21, 1861; wounded Feb. 1862, Roanoke Island, N. C. Died Apr. 1, 1862.

Henry L. V. Mairel, enlisted Sept. 10, 1861; killed Apr. 2, 1865, Fort Gregg, Virginia.

Alfred Murphy, enlisted Sept. 12, 1861; discharged Aug. 5, 1865.

George Odell, enlisted Aug. 21, 1861; discharged Sept. 30, 1864.

Harvey Sterry, enlisted Sept. 18, 1861; discharged disabled July 11, 1862.

## COMPANY E, TENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Michael McNab, enlisted Nov. 23, 1864 deserted June 10, 1865.

## COMPANY G, TENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Stephen Wood, enlisted Dec. 22, 1864; transferred to Provost Marshal, R. C., May 5, 1865.

## COMPANY H, TENTH REGIMENT.

Franz Peter, enlisted Nov. 26, 1864; deserted June 11, 1865.

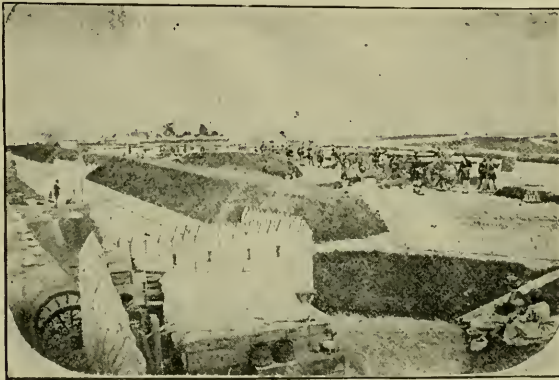
## COMPANY G, ELEVENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Michael Mullins, enlisted Nov. 28, 1864; deserted July 14, 1865.

## COMPANY K, ELEVENTH REGIMENT.

Michael O'Connor, enlisted Nov. 26, 1864; deserted Feb. 15, 1865.

William Stanley, enlisted Nov. 25, 1864; mustered out Dec. 21, 1865.



REDOUBT B, NEAR FORT ALEXANDRIA, VA.

## COMPANY C, THIRTEENTH REGIMENT, C. V.

Andrew J. Austin, enlisted Nov. 4, 1861; deserted Aug. 26, 1864.

Willis Barnes, enlisted Jan. 8, 1862; captured Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va.

Died Dec. 8, 1864, Salisbury, N. C.

Hobby Brown, enlisted Dec. 23, 1861; mustered out Apr. 25, 1862.

John Carpenter, enlisted Nov. 19, 1861; discharged disabled May 31, 1862.

John Clark, enlisted Dec. 16, 1861; died Aug. 6, 1862.

Reuben H. Douglas, enlisted Nov. 7, 1861; died Sept. 4, 1862.

Homer Hall, enlisted Nov. 11, 1861; discharged disabled March 9, 1864.

Seneca Hammond, enlisted Nov. 25, 1861; mustered out Apr. 25, 1866.

John B. Hutchins, enlisted Nov. 20, 1861; discharged disabled May 29, 1863.

Ezra S. Marshall enlisted Nov. 7, 1861; discharged disabled June 30, 1862.

Ira Marshall, enlisted Nov. 6, 1861; wounded Apr. 14, 1863, Irish Bend, Va.

Discharged Jan. 6, 1865.

Charles Mitchell, enlisted Dec. 20, 1861; died Oct. 11, 1864.

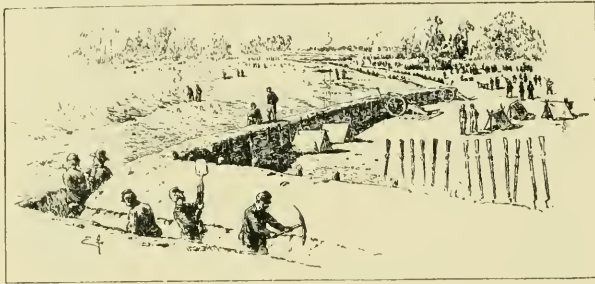
Oliver Potter, enlisted Oct. 30, 1861; killed Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va.

Francis Quain, enlisted Nov. 20, 1861; discharged disabled May 31, 1862.

William H. Reynolds, enlisted Nov. 11, 1861; died May 14, 1862.

John Roach, enlisted Nov. 26, 1861; died Aug. 18, 1862.

- Everett E. Dunbar, enlisted Nov. 16, 1861; promoted Second Lieutenant Jan. 8, 1865.
- Elias P. Scott, enlisted Nov. 14, 1861; killed June 1, 1864, Cold Harbor, Va.
- John N. Duncan, enlisted Oct. 30, 1861; (First Sergeant) discharged disabled May 13, 1863.
- Joseph H. Pratt, enlisted Nov. 11, 1861; (First Sergeant) promoted Corporal Sept. 24, 1863; wounded Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va. Died Apr. 13, 1866.
- Homer M. Welch, enlisted Oct. 28, 1861; (Sergeant) promoted Sept. 24, 1863; captured Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va. Died Dec. 31, 1864, Salisbury, N. C.
- Edwin Evetts, enlisted Dec. 23, 1861; (Corporal) promoted Mar. 16, 1864; deserted Aug. 26, 1864.
- William H. Murphy, enlisted Oct. 30, 1861; (Corporal) promoted Mar. 4, 1864; captured Sept. 19, 1864, Winchester, Va. Paroled Feb. 27, 1865. Discharged Dec. 22, 1865.
- I. F. Nettleton, enlisted Oct. 21, 1861; died Sept. 27, 1862.
- William H. Odell, enlisted Oct. 30, 1861; (Corporal) promoted Sept. 24, 1863; discharged Aug. 26, 1864.



UNION BREASTWORKS AT COLD HARBOR.

- Frederick W. Pender, enlisted Nov. 7, 1861; (Corporal) promoted Sept. 24, 1863; discharged Aug. 26, 1864.
- Simon Potter, enlisted Oct. 28, 1861; (Corporal) discharged disabled Sept. 7, 1862.
- Orange Smith, enlisted Nov. 20, 1861; (Corporal) promoted Nov. 30, 1864; discharged Jan. 6, 1865.
- Albert G. Williams, enlisted Nov. 20, 1861; (Corporal) died Nov. 11, 1862.
- Benjamin Walker, enlisted Feb. 6, 1862; (Corporal) discharged disabled May 31, 1862.
- Mortimer H. Scott, enlisted Nov. 23, 1861; deserted Aug. 26, 1864. Enlisted Aug. 30, 1864 under name of Henry Simpson in Company K, Seventh regiment, N. Y. Heavy Art.; discharged June 17, 1865.
- Vivant Stowe, enlisted Jan. 8, 1862; killed May 9, 1864.
- Frederick Stuart, enlisted Nov. 30, 1861; discharged disabled April 16, 1864.
- Herman Stuart, enlisted Dec. 16, 1861; mustered out April 25, 1866.
- William H. Teneyck, enlisted Dec. 23, 1861; discharged disabled May 13, 1863.
- Daniel Thompson, enlisted Nov. 13, 1861; mustered out Apr. 25, 1866.
- Frederick E. Waldron, enlisted Nov. 18, 1861; wounded June 14, 1863, Port Hudson, La. Died June 19, 1863.
- H. Stowe, enlisted Feb. 13, 1864; died Dec. 8, 1864.

Such a roll of honor any town might be proud of. To perpetuate the memory of these noble heroes there was unveiled June 11, 1886, a monument at the intersection of the roads in front of the Episcopal church. It is Quincy granite and cost \$4,000. The chairman of the occasion was Rev. E. S. Porter. On the cap of the monument is inscribed the coat of arms of the state of Connecticut with the motto "Qui transtulit sustinet." On the die are cut these words: "A tribute of honor and gratitude to her citizens who fought for liberty 1861-65." Chiseled on the base are these words: "Erected by the people of Kent, 1885."

The speakers of the day were Hon. B. G. Northrop, Rev. E. P. Payson of Ansonia, Rev. W. W. Andrews of Wethersfield, Rev. T. J. Lee of New Milford, and Hon. Charles B. Andrews of Litchfield. In his address Mr. Andrews asked the "people of Kent to go back to the summer of 1861 and recall the wave of patriotism that swept over the country. Nevertheless enlistments were at first few. It was not until after the battle of Bull Run that the patriotic heart was touched to the bottom. The first time that men were enlisted from Kent was when a man from Roxbury enlisted men for the Tenth regiment.

"What a sensation of strangeness was felt by us who watched those who marched up and down our streets. In the autumn of 1861 it was proposed to raise a company or part of a company. Isaac F. Nettleton, a popular man, whose genial and kindly voice will be remembered, did the recruiting. The speaker administered the preliminary oath then as a magistrate. On the night before the Thirteenth regiment enlisted—it was early in November of that year—Rev. Mr. Scudder delivered an address. You remember with what pathos Mr. Scudder bid you farewell, how he repeated the stanzas of Dr. Holmes' battle poem. The speaker recalled among them Homer Welsh, noblest of the noble, who fell in the Shenandoah valley on the day when there was a morning of disaster and a night of victory, and 'Sheridan was twenty miles away.' There was another man, Reuben Douglas (laughter by many of the audience) a man of rollicking, indifferent disposition, who went into war in the lightest-hearted way, which had been his for forty years. It is doubtful if he ever had a serious thought. When he was before a justice of the peace and was asked by a cross-examining lawyer whether he ever drank he replied that he always did when he could get snow to eat. He never returned from the war.

"In the summer of 1862 recruiting took a definite form and an entire regiment was raised in Litchfield county. It was the Nineteenth regiment, afterwards the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery. Captain Frank Berry and Ezra M. Merwin, each energetic and capable, raised fifty-four men in this vicinity. All through that summer the sound of the fife and drum was heard all through this valley, and the air is still tremulous with the memories of those who went to war. Over 1,000 were recruited for the Second Artillery.

"The first baptism of fire was at Cold Harbor, when over 400 men of the sons and brothers of Litchfield county were killed or wounded. There was one dead in every household. Still the regiment went on and did their duty, not only at Cold Harbor, but at Winchester and entirely through the war until the surrender at Appomattox. We are indebted to the 54,000 sons of Connecticut who braved battle and the prison pen and each succeeding year makes the debt of gratitude greater."



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, KENT.

## CHAPTER IV.

### CHURCHES.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN IS PRINCIPALLY THAT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ONE OF THE FIRST ACTS ON RECORD BEING TO LAY A TAX OF 4D. PER ACRE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

The early history of the town is principally that of the Congregational church, for at that time the town and church were inseparable. The act of incorporation was passed in October, 1738, and a tax of 4d. an acre for four years was laid on all divided lands for the support of the ministry. In October, 1743, it was ordered that a tax of 2d. an acre on all unimproved land, except college, ministry, and school lands, be laid for the support of minister and meeting house.

The church was organized by the neighboring churches of Sharon and New Milford, on April 29, 1741. It consisted of eleven male members, including Cyrus Marsh, who became the first pastor. The others were Samuel Lewis, Daniel Comstock, Azariah Pratt, Ebenezer Lyman, Samuel Bates, Ebenezer Barnum, Abel Wright, Nathaniel Berry, Joseph Fuller, Gideon Barnum. Settlers came in so fast that before the close of the year fifty-three were added to the church, chiefly by letter.

In an historical address Rev. B. M. Wright furnished the information which follows, it being so complete, the author quotes it verbatim:

It is said the pioneers located on East Mountain, directly back of what now is called Good Hill. If so, they soon moved down and occupied Good Hill and Flanders. The "Great Plain" was thought to be swampy and worthless; it was near the Indians, too, who hunted over it at will. There is a tradition that Daniel Comstock, while out hunting, fell in with the Indian chief and treated him to "fire-water." This was the beginning of a friendship of great value to the whites. Comstock put up a building on the site of the present Botsford Fuller house, which served as store, dwelling house, and church. The store and dwelling apartments were on the first floor, and overhead was the one large room which was used for a "meeting house." The Indians came to trade their furs for rum, beads, and other articles that took their fancy, and Comstock taught them the gospel. In the upper room the Indians were gathered, and there the white man first worshiped. There, it is supposed, Robert Silliman preached, Cyrus Marsh was ordained, and the church was organized; and there they worshiped until 1743.

The old house stood till 1860, when it was pulled down. On the last night of its existence it was honored with divine service. Mr. Scudder, the pastor, made an address, and Lewis Spooner told many interesting facts regarding the ancient structure, which he had learned from the old people, whose memories ran far back toward the beginning.

The early settlers of Kent were of the true New England type. To them religion was the most important thing, and almost the first thing they did was to call a minister. The first town meeting was held Dec. 4, 1738, and less than a month later, Jan. 2, 1739, a special meeting was held, at which it was voted to give "Mr. Robert Silliman a call for to be ower minister, and also voted to give the Jentelman one hundred pounds and twenty pounds salary; and also voted that a comett be appointed to treat with Mr. Silliman and to se upon what terms ye Jentelman will be ower minister." The committee found the reverend Jentelman unwilling to treat, and so reported to the meeting; whereupon the vote mentioned above was declared to be of no force nor regard in the least, and it was voted to give Sur Silliman forty shillings a week and his board for so long a time as ye Jentelman had preacht to us all Readdey or shall continue to preach to us ocationally. At this same meeting it was further voted that wee will Bnild a Meeting hows, and also that we will not begin to git the timber untill october next; this is avoated by the whole of the people of the meeting. Then follows a series of meetings and propositions to Mr. Silliman. He was of uncertain mind. At one time the record says he accepts humbly and freely, and a short time later declines the call on the ground of insufficient support. By great economy he might be able to live himself, but the proposed salary would not permit him to lay up anything for posterity. His final reply covers two closely written pages of the Town Record.

As the time drew near for beginning the work of getting out the timber for the meeting house, it seemed desirable to get a definite idea of what was to be done. Accordingly a meeting was called for September 29th, which resulted in the following vote: "We will Build a Meeting hous for the publeck worship of God in Kent, the dimensions of which is as follows, 50 foot in length and 40 foot in breadth and 23 between joists." At a special meeting held October 20th it was voted to ask Mr. Cyrus Marsh to preach for a time on probation. December 8th he was invited to settle as the Gospel minister. To this call Mr. Marsh replied in the negative, but an offer of better support caused him to reconsider the matter; and this time the reply was in the affirmative, and a council was therefore immediately called to meet May 6th for the purpose of ordaining him.

The church was organized the preceding week, April 29, 1741, by the neighboring churches of Sharon and New Milford, and consisted of eleven members, all men. Before the end of the year, however, fifty were added, making sixty-one in all. This great gain is significant as showing the rapidity with which the town was settled. In the meantime work progressed favorably on the frame of the meeting house. It continued triumphantly to go forward, until at a lawful town meeting held April 19, 1742, it was so far advanced that it became necessary to vote six gallons of rum to raise it. Another year goes by and we find a vote to board up the sides and ends of the meeting house, in order that it may be clapboarded. Whether it was built of logs and clapboarded is uncertain. Tradition says it was built of logs, and a poor affair anyway. Certain it is that it was not plastered; and that it was poorly lighted, is evident from the occasional votes to permit some individual to build a pew and cut out a window. Just before the new church was built it was proposed to lath and plaster the interior and white-wash the beams overhead.



Where this second place of worship stood is not altogether clear. We should naturally expect it on a hill, in accordance with the prevailing custom, and that it would be near the burying ground. Tradition says it was proposed to build opposite the old burying ground on Good Hill; but on account of the steep hill up which the lumber must be drawn from the mill, that plan was abandoned. The Town Records state that an impartial committee consisting of three men, one each from Sharon, Litchfield, and Danbury, was chosen to fix the site.

It is probable that the house stood in what was then the highway in Flanders, just south of the large rock to the north of Mr. Bissell's. There still remain marked traces of an old foundation, and all the direct evidence points to that slope as the site of the first meeting house.

It must have been finished some time during 1743; for at a town meeting held October 5th of that year, it was voted to pay John Ransom fifteen shillings for the care of the meeting house during the ensuing year.

The young church almost immediately had a case of discipline on its hands and heart. A member was tried and found guilty of the sin of drunkenness, and accordingly suspended until such time as he should make gospel satisfaction. This he did in a short time, and was restored to full communion.

Another case of discipline attracts one's attention in reading the old records, for it concerns one of the proprietors and first settlers of the town. Four members are summoned to appear to answer for their conduct in attending a disorderly meeting. What that "disorderly meeting" was is not stated, and one reads on and on, till at last, from the confession of one of the women, he learns that it was a Quaker meeting.

There was not perfect harmony between Mr. Marsh and his people, and in 1756 the pastoral relation was dissolved. Mr. Marsh became a lawyer, and after an interregnum of two years, Joel Bordwell was called and settled. He was a graduate of Yale College, and eminent for learning and piety. Under his long pastorate of fifty-four years the church flourished in spite of the terribly trying character of the time.

The War of the Revolution impoverished where it did not devastate. For many years there was practically no money. Mr. Bordwell was from necessity a farmer, and during the long winter a tutor as well; for like most of the ministers of the day, he fitted many a boy for college. The spiritual destitution of the period was even greater than the material. Scepticism and infidelity were rampant, and the church that held its own did well.

But during this period, under the leadership of Mr. Bordwell, the church in Kent held the even tenor of its way without serious hindrance or mishap. There was much to be done,—lands to be cleared and fenced, roads laid out, and bridges and schoolhouses built. Worst of all there was no money to do it with, as we have seen. Yet our hard-working, self-sacrificing fathers did not stop there. The old meeting house, poorly built, unplastered, unpainted, bare and cheerless, must be extensively repaired or a new house built.

In 1770 the first vote to build anew was passed, and two years later decisive steps were taken. It was voted to prepare timber, and stones for the underpinning; a tax of 4d on a pound on the list of 1771 was laid. This tax might be paid in wheat, rye, Indian corn, bar iron, or cash. The house was

to be 60 x 45 x 26 feet high between joists. It was probably occupied sometime during 1774, although not entirely completed for several years after. In 1777 a committee was appointed to sell or pull down the old meeting house.

The church built in 1774 is the one which stood on the Green at Flanders, and is so well remembered by many. It was a good-sized building, and the galleries, which extended around three sides, seated a large number. It was always full, for everybody went to church in those days.

Rev. Joel Bordwell died Dec. 6, 1811, in the eightieth year of his age and the fifty-fourth of his ministry. Of his funeral the church record says: A funeral sermon was delivered by Rev. Mr. Mills, of Torrington, to a large and very solemn assembly, in which were several neighboring clergymen. The Rev. Mr. Geltson (son-in-law of the deceased) made a very appropriate address at the grave, at which time the funeral anthem, "I heard a great voice," etc., was sung in a very solemn and moving manner.

For several months the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Zephaniah Swift, and in September a call to settle was given him. Mr. Swift was obliged to decline the call, because he could find no convenient place which he might purchase for a residence.

Six months later Mr. Asa Blair was called, and on May 26, 1813, was ordained pastor. The faithful seed sowing of Mr. Bordwell now began to be manifest, and in the years immediately following, the church was richly blessed, revival following revival. On the first Sunday in November, 1812, Mr. Swift received forty-seven into the church; and during the nine years of Mr. Blair's ministry one hundred and seventy were added. Without extraordinary ability Mr. Blair, nevertheless, combined those qualities of head and heart which, together with good sense and thoroughgoing consecration, rendered his labor blessed of the Lord, and himself dearly beloved by the church. It was therefore the source of great grief when the state of his health compelled him to ask leave of absence.

He journeyed South, and died in South Carolina in January, 1823, mourned by everyone.

In October of the same year Rev. Laurens P. Hickok was called, and two months later ordained and installed by consociation. Rev. Samuel Mills, of Torrington, a native of Kent, assisted in the ordination service, being one of those who "imposed hands." He was father of the famous Samuel J. Mills, who by his prayers and consecrated effort did so much to call in to being the A. B. C. F. M., and was himself one of the most brilliant and original of that band of great preachers who made Litchfield County a synonym for pulpit power. Harriet Beecher Stowe writes of him, "Of all the marvels that astonished my childhood, there is no one that I remember to this day with so much interest as Father Mills."

The six years of Mr. Hickok's ministry were somewhat stormy, and the church and society records would lead one to think unsatisfactory. This, however, is untrue with regard to the church as a whole. As a preacher Mr. Hickok was simple, direct, and forceful, and as a man altogether lovable. All the trouble came from the violent dislike of the minister on the part of an influential man in the community, who permitted no opportunity for stirring up strife to pass. The minister was charged with unministerial conduct, such as whistling, vaulting fences, running on the streets, and driving a fast horse. Consociation was called, and it decided that there was no

cause for uneasiness, and therefore no reason for the dissolution of the pastoral relation. When, however, the call came from Litchfield inviting Mr. Hickok to succeed Dr. Lyman Beecher, he gladly availed himself of it as offering a solution of the difficulty, and thus Kent lost the most eminent man who has ever occupied her pulpit.

During these years society affairs moved smoothly. Votes are recorded which look odd to us in these days; e. g., occasionally some one is granted permission to build a pew, and for several years it was repeatedly voted that the society seat the meeting house. In 1802 certain individuals were given permission to build a steeple, provided no expense accrued to the society. On similar conditions individuals might saw out the crack in the bell; and it was voted to let the burying ground to some one who would fence it, and pasture it only with sheep.

In 1811 the first steps were taken toward raising a permanent fund for the support of the public worship. The records speak frequently of a parsonage fund, but where it came from is nowhere explained. A committee was appointed to raise a fund for the support of the society, and this parsonage fund was appropriated to that use. People were invited to contribute merchantable neat cattle, grain, pork, bar iron, or cash. It was estimated that six thousand dollars would be sufficient. The society already possessed two thousand (parsonage fund probably), which would leave four thousand to be raised. The interest on the sums contributed by various individuals was to be set off against their tax. How soon the whole amount was raised cannot be ascertained. What was contributed was of no benefit for many years, as it was deposited in the Hartford Bank, which failed to pay dividends.

What led the fathers to this action is uncertain. It may have been local cause, or possibly wise men saw the crisis that was coming, when the voluntary principle should be substituted for the compulsory in the support of public worship. Their church expenses were met by taxation. The right to tax still exists, but is never exercised. At all events the consecrated Christians of Kent toiled, and saved, and denied themselves for the sake of Christ.

For five years after Mr. Hickok's departure the church was without a pastor, but the long waiting finally closed with the installation of Rev. W. W. Andrews. For fifteen years he faithfully performed his labor of love, trusted and beloved by his people and blessed by God. Having changed his ecclesiastical beliefs, he resigned the charge May 21, 1849. To those who lived under his ministry his memory is a benediction; and to the young, one of the most cherished traditions of the past. He might well have been Goldsmith's model in the "Village Preacher." He walked with God and mirrored Christ to his people, and their every interest was his own.

"Their welfare pleased him, and their cares distressed;  
To them his heart, his love, his griefs were given,  
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven:  
As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,  
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,  
Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,  
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

During the next ten years the church had only one settled minister, and he remained but six months. The pulpit was well supplied by a Mr. Green-

wood, Mr. Caldwell and others till 1856, when Rev. Elisha Whittlesey was engaged, and remained three years.

During this period the society suffered more or less on account of the withdrawal of several families about Flanders, in consequence of the removal of the church.

For some time previous to the year 1848 there had been a feeling that the old church should be repaired. Many thought it good enough as it was, and were unwilling to do anything. Room, too, was needed for horse sheds, but no one near the old church would sell any land for that purpose. The railroad had gone through, and what was then called the corner seemed destined to be the principal part of the town: it certainly was nearer the geographical center of the parish than Flanders. Finally a meeting was called to see about repairing the old church. Instead of voting repairs it was voted to build a new church. Very naturally the people in the vicinity of the old church opposed any change. Another meeting was held, with the same result, and a disinterested commission of three, one each from Sharon, New Milford, and Goshen, was appointed to locate the new church. They fixed upon the present location and the work of construction began; also the work of destruction. More or less had been said about the unsafeness of the old edifice, especially the steeple, which many declared might fall over at any time. At last the day came to pull it over. A great rope was fastened high up, a hundred or more men and boys got hold, and the fun began. It did not come so easily, however, and the good people of Flanders chuckled at the frantic, and for a long time futile, efforts of the crowd. But at last it started; a shout of exultation went up,—a shout which was cut short and actually choked by the dust in which the multitude found themselves; for it had only started to spring back again, and the snap back had laid them all sprawling in the dust. Then it was that Flanders laughed, and one good old lady thanked the Lord that he had humbled the proud.

The new church was dedicated in 1850, probably some time during May. The records do not give the date, but at a meeting held April 27th a committee was appointed to make arrangements. It was voted to occupy the church as soon as dedicated, and to rent the slips from May 1st. It is inferred that the dedication was in May. The sermon was preached by Rev. Samuel J. Andrews, brother of the former pastor of the church and first pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle.

In 1859 the church was once more blessed with a settled pastorate. Rev. Evarts Scudder was installed June 1st, just ten years after the dismission of Mr. Andrews. The name Scudder is a guarantee of pulpit eloquence and pastoral faithfulness, and the man was all the name implies.

Others who occupied the pulpit were Payson, and Crosby, and Barclay, and Vorce, and Porter. They have gone to other fields, but their labors remain.

The ministers raised in the church are as follows:

Samuel John Mills, born May 16, 1743; died in Torrington, May 11, 1833. He was graduated at Yale in 1764, and then studied theology. On June 29, 1769, he was ordained in Torrington, and remained in charge of that parish until his death. He outlived all his college classmates, and became generally known, on account of his age, as "Father Mills." His son, Samuel John, born in Torrington, is famous as the "Father of Foreign Mission Work in Christian America." It is not so generally known that it was his suggestion which resulted in the formation of the American Bible Society.

Rev. Edmund Mills, brother of Samuel J., Sr., born in Kent, and was pastor in Massachusetts from 1790 to 1825.

Rev. Seth Swift, pastor at Williamstown, Mass., 1776-1807. He had two sons who were ministers, Rev. E. G. Swift, and Rev. Elisha P. Swift, who was professor in Alleghany Theological Seminary. A brother of Seth, not born in Kent, Rev. Job Swift, D.D., was in the ministry from 1766 to 1804 in Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. One of his sons became Secretary of State in Vermont, and another United States Senator from the same State.

Rev. Walter Smith, Yale, 1816; pastor of Second Church, Cornwall, from 1819 to 1838.

Rev. Birdsey Grant Northrop, LL.D., Yale, 1841; pastor, Saxonville, Mass., 1847-57; Agent of Massachusetts Board of Education, 1857-69; Secretary of Connecticut Board of Education, 1869-82.

#### LIST OF PASTORS.

Rev. Cyrus Marsh was ordained and installed the first pastor May 5, 1741, and was dismissed about 1754.

Rev. Joel Bordwell was ordained and installed in September, 1756, and died Dec. 6, 1811.

Rev. Asa Blair was ordained and installed May 26, 1813, and died Jan. —, 1823.

Rev. Laurens P. Hickok was ordained and installed Dec. 10, 1823, and was dismissed April 21, 1829.

Rev. William W. Andrews was ordained and installed May 21, 1834, and was dismissed May 21, 1849.

Rev. William W. Page was installed Dec. 7, 1853, and was dismissed July 16, 1854.

Rev. Elisha Whittlesey was engaged as pastor in 1856, and remained three years.

Rev. Evarts Scudder was ordained and installed June 1, 1859, and was dismissed April 1, 1867.

Rev. Edward P. Payson was installed Dec. 4, 1867, and was dismissed about June 1, 1870.

Rev. Arthur Crosby began supplying the pulpit early in the year 1871; was installed in January, 1872, and dismissed Sept. 29, 1873.

Rev. Thomas D. Barclay was engaged as pastor Nov. 30, 1874, and remained until April, 1879.

Rev. J. H. Vorce was engaged as pastor in July, 1879, and remained until June, 1883.

Rev. Elbert S. Porter was ordained and installed Dec. 19, 1883, and was dismissed March 10, 1889.

Rev. Benjamin M. Wright was installed Nov. 19, 1889; resigned, 1896. The present pastor is Rev. Howard Mudie.

#### PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

Pastor—Rev. Howard Mudie.

Deacons—Samuel C. Conn, Levi W. Stone, Marshall C. Gibbs, Charles L. Spooner.

Standing Committee—The Pastor, Deacons, Superintendent of Sunday School, and President of Y. P. S. C. E., ex officio, Mrs. John Hopson, Miss Mary A. Hopson, Mrs. Russell Eaton.

Clerk—Eugene W. Bull.

Treasurer—George R. Bull.

Auditor—Deacon Charles L. Spooner.

#### CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS.

The following list of names are those who signed the covenant and were incorporated into a church by the neighboring churches of New Milford and Sharon, April 29, 1741:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Cyrus Marsh,     | Azariah Pratt,  |
| Ebenezer Barnum, | Joseph Fuller,  |
| Samuel Lewis,    | Ebenezer Lyman, |
| Abel Wright,     | Gideon Barnum,  |
| Daniel Comstock, | Samuel Bates.   |
| Nathaniel Berry. |                 |

The following is a list of the members admitted in full communion with this church, being recommended from the several churches wherefrom they come:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1741.                 | Nathaniel Slosson,    |
| Daniel Comstock, Jr., | James Stewart,        |
| Samuel Canfield,      | Margaret Slosson,     |
| Abigail Barnum,       | Elona Stewart,        |
| Mercy Lewis,          | Bethiah Ransom,       |
| Mary Wright,          | William Roberts,      |
| Mary Comstock,        | Joseph Peck,          |
| Hannah Pratt,         | Mary Roberts,         |
| Lydia Fuller,         | Daniel Brownson,      |
| Lydia Lyman,          | Mary Brownson,        |
| Anna Barnum,          | Elizabeth Sanford,    |
| Mary Canfield,        | Rebekah Segar.        |
| Catherine Comstock,   | 1742.                 |
| Nathaniel Sanford,    | Hannah Newcomb,       |
| Margaret Peck,        | Daniel Joseph Benton, |
| Ebenezer Peck,        | Jehiel Benton,        |
| Benjamin Peck,        | Sarah Benton,         |
| John Mills,           | Mary Castle,          |
| Jane Mills,           | Abraham Raymond,      |
| Esther Hambleton,     | Mercy Raymond.        |
| Ruth Bebec,           | 1743.                 |
| Capt. Timothy Hatch,  | Sarah Thompson, Jr.,  |
| Deborah Hatch,        | John Dunning,         |
| Mary Lothrop,         | Hannah Dunning,       |
| Sylvanus Hatch,       | Daniel Thompson,      |
| Jedida Hatch,         | Sarah Thompson,       |
| Benjamin Brownson,    | Joshua Lasell,        |
| Nathaniel,            | Mary Bentley,         |
| Martha Brownson,      | Nathaniel Roberts,    |
| Ruth,                 | Rebekah Roberts.      |

## CHAPTER V.

### THE SCATACOOKS.

THE NUMBER OF DESCENDANTS CONFINED TO A HANDFUL OF HALF-BREEDS WHO STILL OCCUPY THE OLD RESERVATION—THEY WERE AT ONE TIME ONE OF THE LARGEST TRIBES OF INDIANS IN CONNECTICUT WHO RETREATED BEFORE THE ADVANCING COLONISTS.

One of the largest, if not the very largest, of the tribes of Indians formed by the bands of wanderers who retreated before the advancing colonists of Connecticut, was the tribe of Scatacooks in Kent. The founder of this community was a Pequot, called Gideon Mauwehu, who possessed something of the energy and commanding character for which his nation was once distinguished. He is first known as having been the leader of a small band which lived about the lower portions of the Housatonic. He is said to have resided, at one time, in or near Derby; and it is certain that he possessed sufficient power in that region to settle one of his sons on a small territory at Humphreysville. He is next heard of at Newtown, afterwards at New Milford; and in 1729, he seems to have been one of the thirteen Indians who claimed to be "the owners of all unsold lands in New Fairfield." At all events, a deed of that year exists among the papers at Hartford, disposing of the above lands for sixty-five pounds, and signed by Cockenon, Mauwehu and eleven others. The tract thus sold was doubtless that now comprehended in the township of Sherman, which lies directly west of New Milford, and about four miles west of the ancient residence of the New Milford Indians.

Mauwehu afterwards moved to Dover, a town which is some ten miles west of Scatacook and is situated on the Ten Mile River in the state of New York. Here he had lived but a little while, when, in one of his hunting excursions, he came to the summit of a mountain in Kent which rises to the west of the Housatonic. Looking down from this eminence, he beheld that gentle river, winding through a narrow but fertile and beautiful valley, shut in by mountains thickly covered with trees. The whole country was uninhabited; the white man had not yet penetrated into these quiet recesses; the streams were still stocked with fish, and the wooded hills plentifully supplied with game. The gazing Indian was delighted with the scene, and instantly perceived the capabilities of the region for supporting a considerable population of his countrymen. He returned to his wigwam, packed up his property, and journeyed with his family and followers to this new-found land of quiet and plenty. From here he issued invitations to his old friends at Potatuck and New Milford, to the Mohegans of the Hudson river, and to other tribes of the surrounding country. Immigrants flocked in from all quarters; large numbers especially came from the clans south

of him on the Housatonic; and, in ten years from the time of settlement, it was thought that a hundred warriors had collected under the sachemship of Mauwehu. A considerable accession was received from the New Milford tribe, in 1736, a short time after the death of their sachem, Waramaug. The Indians called their settlement Scatacook, and it is by this name that the tribe thus formed always continued to be distinguished.

The Scatacooks had not enjoyed their happy valley many years before they were disturbed by the arrival of the whites. The settlement of Kent, commenced in 1738, was prosecuted rapidly; but no difficulties seem to have occurred between the settlers and the Indians, and nothing worthy of notice took place until 1742.\*

In that year, the Moravian missionaries began to preach to the Scatacooks, and soon effected a remarkable change in the character of the tribe. As this mission had so much to do with the Indians of Connecticut, it will be well to give a short sketch of its history. \* \* \* In 1739 or 1740, a Moravian named Christian Henry Rauch, arrived at New York, with the design of commencing a mission among the Indians of this part of America. Shortly after his landing, he fell in with two New York Mohegans, and accompanied them to Shekomeko, an Indian village between the Connecticut and the Hudson. His labors first met with much opposition from the natives and the neighboring whites; but success finally rewarded his perseverance, and, in 1742, he had the happiness of baptizing several converts, among whom were the two Indians who brought him to Shekomeko. A few of the brethren joined him, and living and dressing in the Indian style, supported themselves by their own labor. The religious interest extended into the neighboring villages of Connecticut and New York, effecting, not only the natives, but the white population. Many of the New Milford Indians were converted, and a missionary named Bruce was established in Sharon, who remained there until his death. Among the Scatacooks the effects of the Moravians were eminently successful. Mauwehu and from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty of his people were baptized. A church was built and a flourishing congregation collected.

An almost total reformation seemed to have been effected in the character of the Indians. Nearly their whole conversation when among the English was on religion; and they spent a great part of their time in the public or private duties of devotion. This wide spread religious interest excited feelings of deep hostility among the rumsellers and dissolute characters of the surrounding district. They saw their gains at once cut off, and the Indians, who had formerly been their best customers, now become temperate and saving. Reports were spread, that the missionaries were providing the Indians with arms, and endeavoring to draw them into a league with the French. In New York they were called on to serve in the militia, and harassed and persecuted to force a compliance with the call. An act of Legislature was procured in the same colony, commanding the missionaries to take the oath of allegiance, and forbidding them to teach the Indians unless they obeyed. It was contrary to the religious prejudices of the Moravians either to take oaths or to act any part in military affairs. Rather than violate their consciences, they resolved to leave their present settlements, and retire to some spot where they could preach the gospel in peace. Inviting their flock to

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\* This account is chiefly from Barber, pp. 471, 472.



follow them, they removed to Pennsylvania, where they commenced a village which they called Bethlehem. The New York people now seized the lands of the Indians, and set a guard to prevent the latter from being visited by the brethren. A large number of the Mohegans\* followed their teachers to Bethlehem; many, also, of the New Milford Indians, and some of the Scatacooks. But this change of climate proved fatal to numbers of the emigrants, especially among the old people. The Connecticut Indians, discouraged by sickness and hardship, returned to their ancient country, and settled at Scatacook. Here, deprived of their teachers, they seemed to forget their religion, sank into intemperance, and began to waste away. In this mournful manner ended the most promising and, for a time, the most successful religious effort that was ever commenced among the aborigines of Connecticut.†

During the war of 1744 with France, Governor Clinton of New York, and a body of commissioners from Massachusetts and Connecticut, had an audience with the Scatacooks and River Indians,‡ and made them an address calculated to either keep them at peace or engage them on the English side.

They began, as is usual on such occasions, by styling the Indians neighbors and friends; expressing the pleasure which the governor and commissioners felt in seeing them, and declaring that they should henceforth look upon them as their very near relations. After these compliments, they said that they had spoken with the Six Nations, and now came to speak with them: that it was a very proper time to brighten the chain of peace; for the French, without any cause, had just begun a war on the English: that the latter might therefore want the assistance of their good friends and brothers, the Scatacooks and River Indians; and that, when a convenient time arrived, they would make them such a present as would be suitable to the circumstances. Such was the substance of a speech delivered by one of the commissioners. On the next day the Indians made the following reply:

"Fathers of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut. We are glad to see you here, and we bid you welcome. We are inclined to live in peace and love with these three governments and all the rest of his Majesty's subjects.

Fathers: We are very glad that we are all united in one covenant chain; we are resolved that it shall not rust, and will therefore wind it with beaver skins.

Fathers: We are ready to promote good things; and what our uncles, the Six Nations, have promised we will readily concur in on our part.

Fathers: You are the greatest, and you desire us to stay at home, which we promise to do, and we hope that no harm will come to us.

Fathers: We are united with the Six Nations in one common covenant, and this is the belt which is the token of that covenant.

Fathers of Boston and Connecticut: Whatever you desired of us yesterday we engaged to perform; and we are very willing to keep and cultivate a close friendship with you; and we will take care to keep the covenant chain bright.

Fathers: You are a great people and we are a small one; we will do what you desire, and we hope that you will take care that no harm come to us."

\* Not the Mohegans of Connecticut, but those of the Hudson.

† Tracy's History of American Missions, pp. 18, 19. Trumbull, Vol. II., p. 84.

‡ Probably the Stockbridges of Massachusetts.

The Indians then presented a belt of wampum and three martin skins.\*

From this speech it seems pretty evident that the Indians were considerably more anxious to be protected themselves than to risk their lives in injuring others. The warlike spirit had greatly decayed among them; and what was it to them whether the English beat the French, or the French beat the English?

The township of Kent was sold to the original settlers by the colony; and no records or papers remain to show whether the land was usurped from the Indians, or was obtained from them by purchase. Reservations, however, were made to them: one on the west bank of the Housatonic river; and one, of two thousand acres, in the mountains: and, since there were reservations, we may conclude that there must have been, in the first place, sales. One of the only two land transactions, between the natives and the colony, to be found in the Kent records, is a deed dated December 19th, 1746. For the sum of two hundred pounds, it leases to Benjamin Hollister, Robert Watson and Henry Stephens, a large tract, extending from the Housatonic to the western bounds of the colony, for a term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. This form of passing over the property is an evident attempt to evade those colonial laws which prohibited the purchasing of Indian lands by individuals. The record is subscribed by the marks of "Capten Mayhew, Leftenant Samuel Coksuer, Jobe Mayhew, John Anteney, Thomas Cuksuer and John Soke-noge." †

From the above spelling of the sachem's name, we may infer the English origin of the word Mauwehu. Gideon was very likely one of those "Indian youths" who had been brought up, more or less in the families of the "godly English," or other English, and had been baptized, or otherwise furnished, with an English name. When Gideon became a chief, he was, naturally in that military age of New England, dubbed Capten; and his surname was easily transformed into Mauwehu by his own foreign pronunciation, or by the outlandish spelling of the scribes of those early days.

The other Indian deed in the Kent records is a sale by Chere, son of War-amaug, of four hundred acres in Waramaug's Reserve, that is in New Preston in Washington. The price is not mentioned: Chere only declares that he has received valuable consideration. ‡

After the Connecticut people commenced their settlements in Kent, the Indians took up their residence chiefly on the west bank of the Housatonic. The settlers gradually encroached on them, by purchase and perhaps otherwise, until, about the year 1752, the Indians found themselves deprived of nearly all their lands on the plain. Mauwehu and fourteen others now subscribed a petition to the Assembly, saying that the tribe consisted of eighteen families; that they had been deprived of all their planting ground except a small quantity which was insufficient for them; and praying that they might have a tract of unoccupied land which lay below them along the Housatonic.

The Assembly granted them about two hundred acres in the place designated, allowing them to cultivate it at pleasure, and to cut what timber they needed for their own use, from the greatest part of it. The tract was

\* Indian Papers, Vol. I., Doc. 262.

† Kent Records, Vol. I., page 381.

‡ Kent Records, Vol. I., page 464.

not, however, given in fee simple, but was to be held by the Indians at the pleasure of the colony.\*

Other difficulties followed, similar in their nature to those which took place between other tribes and the surrounding whites. The Indians complained of encroachments and trespasses, sometimes with, and sometimes apparently without, cause. State committees reported, and town committees reported, without producing much more effect than the reports of a similar number of pop-guns. At this distance of time it is not easy to understand the precise grounds of these petty differences, nor to discover what party was in the wrong.

In 1757, Jabez Smith was chosen overseer of the tribe; being the first officer of the kind appointed for the Scatacooks.

Ten years after this event, Mauwehu and many of the older persons in the community being dead the remainder became anxious to remove to Stockbridge. The Stockbridge Indians had invited them to come, and they therefore petitioned the Assembly, that the tract of one hundred and fifty or two hundred acres which had been granted them in 1752 might be sold for their benefit. As this land, however, did not belong to the Indians, but to the colony, the Assembly negatived the request.

In October, 1771, the following singular petition, evidently the composition and penmanship of the Indians themselves, was presented to the Legislature.

"We are poore Intins at Scuteuk in the town of Kent we desire to the most honorable Sembly at New Haven we are very much pressed by the Nep-awaug people praking our fences and our gates and turning their cattle in our gardens and destroying our fruits, the loss of our good friend 4 years ago which we desire for a nother overseer in his sted to take Care of us and see that we are not ronged by the people we make choice of Elisha Swift of Kent to be our trustee if it (be) plesing to your minds." †

The petition was signed by David Sherman, Job Sucknuck and eight others. Elisha Swift was appointed overseer, in accordance with its request. He was shortly succeeded, by Reuben Swift, and he, in turn, by Abraham Fuller, who held the office for several years. The Indians, during all this time, were in extreme poverty-stricken circumstances; several of them, too, were sick, and were unable to pay the expenses they thus incurred. David Sherman, a signer, and perhaps the composer, of the above petition, broke his brother's head so badly in a quarrel as to render a trepan necessary. By 1774, so many Scatacooks had died or removed, that the number remaining in Kent was only sixty-two. Of the other bands of Litchfield county, there were seven individuals in Cornwall, eight in Litchfield, and nine in Woodbury. ‡

In 1775, the Assembly ordered that the lands of the Scatacooks should be leased to pay their debts and defray their expenses. It was also ordered, with regard to David Sherman, that he should be bound out to service, to defray the expenses arising from his brother's broken head. Thomas War-rups, probably a son of the old sagamore of Reading, was allowed to sell thirty acres of land to pay his debts and provide for his family. Three years after, another tract, of ten acres, was sold for the purpose of relieving the

\* Indian Papers, Vol. II., Doc. 76.

† Indian Papers, Vol. II., Doc. 201.

‡ Mass. Hist. Coll., Vol. X., p. 118

indigent circumstances of the Warrups family. The old squaw of Chickens was still living; she was blind, however and had lately been sick.\*

Not far from this time, Joseph Mauwehn, the sachem of Humphreysville, came to Scatacook, and took up his residence in his father's tribe. His name appears in a petition, dated April 13th, 1786, which bears marks of having been written by some of the Scatacooks. It complains concerning their darkness, their ignorance, and their consequent inability to take care of themselves; and prays that some means may be used to give them knowledge and education. Most of their reserved lands, the petition goes on to say, have been taken from them; they have lost their hunting grounds in the mountains, and the New Milford people have deprived them of their ancient right of fishing at the falls of the Housatonic. Some of their number have suffered extremely from poverty, and the rest are themselves so poor as to be unable to help them. As for the rents of their lands, they do not know what becomes of them; and they ask the privilege of choosing a guardian, once a year, and exacting from him an annual settlement. The petition states the number of males in the tribe at thirty-six; the number of females at thirty-five: twenty of the whole being of a suitable age for attending school †

A committee was appointed, and examined into the grounds of complaint mentioned in this memorial. They reported that the New Milford people had satisfied the Indians as to their fishing rights; and that, so far from the Scatacooks being entitled to complain of their guardian, they were actually indebted to him to the amount of sixteen pounds, six shillings and six-pence. The committee further stated, that the lands were rented for only one year, and thus the tenants were induced to exhaust them without any regard to their future fertility. They recommended that fifty acres should be allotted to each Indian family, and that the rest should be leased to white farmers in terms of fifty years. As for a school, they reported that the children were so few in number, and "kept in such a wild savage way," that the thing would be useless. The report was approved by the Assembly; and we may suppose, therefore, that the measures which it recommended were carried into execution. ‡

In 1801, the Scatacooks were reduced to thirty-five idle, intemperate beings, who cultivated only six acres of ground. Their lands still amounted to twelve or fifteen hundred acres extending from the Housatonic to the New York line. The greatest portion of this tract consisted of their ancient hunting grounds, was situated among the mountains, and was rough and unsuitable for tillage. In consequence of sickness among the Indians, their overseer, Abraham Fuller, had contracted debts on their account to the amount of over four hundred dollars. He petitioned that part of the reservation might be sold, to pay him for these expenses. The Assembly voted that the northern portion of it should be sold, the above debts liquidated out of the proceeds, and two hundred dollars of the remainder applied to building six wigwams for the Indians. The lands were accordingly disposed of for the sum of thirteen hundred pounds; and the overplus, after paying debts

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\* Indian Papers, Vol. II. Colonial Records, Vol. XII.

† Indian Papers, Vol. II., Doc. 210.

‡ Colonial Records, Vol. XII.

and deducting expenses, was put out at six per cent. interest on mortgage securities.\*

An honorable exception to the prevailing intemperance and idleness of the Scatacooks seems to have existed in Benjamin Chickens, a descendant of the old sachem, Chickens. Seven or eight years before the sale, he went on to the northwestern part of the land, built him a small but convenient house there, and fenced and cultivated several acres in such a manner as to make it good meadow and pasture land. In consequence of these improvements the whole tract sold for more than it could otherwise have brought. Benjamin very reasonably requested that he might be rewarded for his labor; and the Assembly as a remuneration, voted him one hundred dollars. At first he purchased nineteen acres in Kent, but six or seven years after, he sold his little farm and moved into the state of New York. †

Other portions of the Scatacook lands were disposed of at various dates; and these sales, together with the appointments of overseers, constitute the annals of the tribe in later times. In 1836, Eunice Mauwehu, a granddaughter of the old sachem, and a daughter of Chuse or Joseph, was still living at Scatacook, aged seventy-two years. ‡

The Scatacooks have yet a considerable tract of land on the mountain; too rough and woody indeed to be cultivated, but well adapted for supplying them with firewood. At the foot of the mountain, also, and between that and the Housatonic, they possess a narrow strip of plain, sufficient in size for gardens, watered by springs from the upper ground, and containing a few comfortable houses. The number of Indian descendants remaining are few and mostly half-breeds. A few are sober and industrious, live comfortably and have good gardens; but the majority are lazy, immoral and intemperate. Many of them lead a vagabond life, wandering about the state in summer, and returning to Scatacook to spend the winter. A few are in the habit of attending preaching and a few of the children go to school. They live in little houses. In dress, language and manners, they are like white people. There are now living Value Killson, wife and daughter; the Widow Killson, whose daughter married a Bridgeport man; the widow of Henry Harris, the well known "tinner," and Rachel Mauwehu. Near them is the home of George Coggsell, the noted snake hunter, and his son, Archibald. A little further north is the dwelling of the only other Indian family, that of James Harris, son of the "tinner."

The widow of Henry Harris, wife and son James, are the only full-blooded Indians remaining. Henry Harris, who died recently, was seventy-six years old, but his form at that age was sturdy and erect and his vigor remarkable. He possessed unusual mechanical ingenuity. With his queer tools and contrivances he made earrings, repaired guns and pistols, even being able to make a gun tube, and tinkered in many other ways, being a useful man in the neighborhood.

On one of several strips of bark forming the back of a shanty near the Widow Harris' house is noticed traced in large black letters the word, "AMALLOK." It occurs to one at first that it must be an Indian word, but after careful study it is found to mean "Am all O. K." Her husband once had

\* State Records, Vols. VI., VII.

† State Records, Vols. VIII., IX.

‡ Barber, p. 471.

the word "IAMOK" painted on the chimney of his house and it proved to be a great puzzle for visitors who, of course, supposed it was an Indian word. Rachel Mauwehu is eighty-four years old. Her grandmother was over 100 years old when she died.

The ancient Indians did not smoke regular tobacco, but the plant which is called lobelia was what they used. In medicine they seem to have been quite advanced, experiment then being the guide as now. They gathered roots and herbs, and as it was expressed, when a person was sick, "They tried one and another preparation until they hit right."

Rachel Mauwehu has in her possession a large wooden bowl which belonged to her great-grandmother and which is at least 200 years old. It was hollowed out of an apple tree knot with such tools as the Indians had. It has a little handle, now considerably worn, but once so shaped as to represent a dog's head.

## CHAPTER VI.

### IRON INDUSTRY.

MINE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WORKED BEFORE THE TOWN WAS INCORPORATED—  
PRIMITIVE WAY OF TRANSPORTATION WAS BY ORE IN BAGS ACROSS THE BACKS  
OF HORSES.—BUSINESS NOW ABANDONED AND NO PROSPECT THAT IT WILL EVER  
BE STARTED UP AGAIN.

One of the first resolutions passed at a town meeting in Kent referred to the "iron ore pots." This leads the writer to believe that antedating the settlement of the town iron had been discovered in the hills to the east and been mined. The tradition is that the ore was taken in bags across the backs of horses and transported to small forges in neighboring places. The first owners so far as known were Robert Walker of Stratford, Jabez Hurd of Newtown and John Warner and Thomas Noble of New Milford, the mine being located in a tract of land known as the Fairweather purchase. This was in 1758. The year before Joseph Wooster, claimed he was one of the owners of a copper mine in Kent and had petitioned the General Assembly to be allowed to work it at the expense of himself and the other members of the company until the profits paid the expenses, which goes to show that copper was sought for, too.

In 1786 a committee was appointed to view and measure the several roads leading from the iron ore bed toward the iron works who reported the distance of the north road from the bed to the crotch of the road southward of the Widow Mary Hall two miles two quarters and twenty-six rods and the south road to Deacon Isaac Dayton's place two miles two quarters and fifty rods.

After being worked for at least 150 years, the product going to Kent furnace to be put into pig iron, the mine is now abandoned. The ore was originally taken by tunnelling into the side of the hill, but later it became necessary to sink a shaft about 300 feet deep, from which seventy-nine passages were extended into the ore, the hill where the ore lies now being literally honeycombed with underground tunnels, some of them several rods long. The veins usually were from two to eight feet thick. The ore was hoisted in buckets, the miners also ascending and descending in them when necessary to go up and down although there was another shaft called the "man hole" for that purpose. It is related that a round broke once as a workman grasped it and he descended until his legs caught in the rounds below. When found his limbs were broken and he died in the hospital shortly after. The old machinery is housed in a small building beside the shaft, including a steam engine used for hoisting ore and constantly pumping to keep the mine free of water, which but for it would soon have filled up.

From ten to twenty tons of ore were taken out daily and carted in teams

six miles. The shaft is now boarded up, and it is hardly probable that it will ever be opened again as the cost of transportation to market is too much to compete with large mines which have railroads at their shafts.

The property is still owned by the Kent Iron Co., better known as Stewart, Hopson & Co., which had a capital of \$30,000 and were also owners of the Kent Furnace which will be described later.

The Bulls Falls Iron Works capitalized at \$70,000 was a very successful concern for several years but finally had to close its doors. When it was at its height half a century ago Bulls Bridge was a flourishing community. There were a regular nest work of small forges in the surrounding villages which wrought all kinds of iron work from a nail to heavy wagon tires, getting their supply from the Bulls Falls works which beside casting the ore into pigs also worked it into small bars or strips. The majority of the iron was taken in two and four horse teams to Poughkeepsie thirty miles away where it was probably shipped down the Hudson to New York, the teams going one day and returning the next, stopping at Quaker Hill for a load of ore. This when it arrived was weighed in a very primitive way. Chains would be placed around the axles near the wheels, large steelyards would be put in place, and the load would be drawn up on a windlass. Twenty to twenty-five teams were kept in constant use and from fifteen to twenty tons of iron was put into pigs daily.

Regarding the industry we cannot describe it better than by quoting from an article from the versatile pen of Mr. J. A. Bolles of the New Milford Gazette, published March 25, 1887:

"There are seven iron furnaces in the northwestern part of this state, viz: One at Huntsville, one at Sharon, two at Canaan, one at Lime Rock, one at Cornwall Bridge and one at Kent Furnace. The first six mentioned are controlled by Mr. William H. Barnum of Lime Rock, but in the seventh at Kent Furnace he has no interest.

"All of these furnaces have been in operation for a number of years, some of them for many years, and while they do not rank among the great furnaces of the country, not being situated in proximity to large ore producing districts, they have for many years done a thriving business and turned out excellent iron. The iron-making business is, indeed, one of the most important industries of the Housatonic Valley, more important than many people suppose, it being carried on in so quiet and methodical a manner as to attract but little attention.

"Like most other concerns that have had an enduring prosperity, the Kent iron works have steadily grown from a small beginning to their present proportions. The first stack (the name of the receptacle in which the ore is melted), was built in 1826 and from it was turned out three to four tons of iron in a day; in 1844 the stack was rebuilt and its daily capacity then was from five to seven tons of iron; in 1884 the stack was again rebuilt and enlarged, and the present capacity is from thirteen to fifteen tons of iron in a day, or from ninety to 100 tons in a week. The works were formerly run by a private company, known as Stewart, Hopson & Co., but in 1864 the present stock company, the Kent Iron Company, was formed and it now has from twelve to fifteen stock holders. Mr. Hopson has been connected with the business for forty years, most of the time as its treasurer and manager, and Mr. Bull has been the secretary for the last twenty-three years. Mr. Donald



J. Warner of Salisbury is the president, and has filled the office for five years. His predecessor was the late Burrett Eaton of Kent.

"Kent Furnace is situated about one mile and a quarter above the village of Kent on the Housatonic railroad, and besides the buildings of the Kent Iron Co., and of the good-sized country store containing general merchandise kept by George R. Bull and John L. Roberts, there are no structures. It is a place for business solely and for its principal industry, iron-making, it possesses three admirable advantages. By means of a short side track, cars containing the iron ore brought here from the mines at Salisbury, Ct., and Richmond, Mass., can be quickly transferred from the main track to the very doors of the works, the rapidly flowing Housatonic river on the west, but a stone's throw from the furnace, furnishes all of the motive power needed for blowing hot air into the stack, and there is also only six miles southeast of the furnace a local mine from which all of the so called Kent ore, which is liberally used by the company, is extracted. The buildings of the Kent Iron Co., are brown, rambling structures, not at all fine in appearance but well enough suited to the rough and dirty work which is done in them. On the ample stretches of ground between the buildings and adjacent to them are large piles of iron bars, which are all ready for shipment. On each side of the side track are large heaps of iron ore, including the remains of what was a very large quantity of the Kent ore, so much of the latter having been in stock that the mine from which it was obtained has not been worked for about a year.

"The only kind of iron produced in the furnace is pig iron, and of this two kinds are turned out, Kent iron and Salisbury iron. The former iron is made entirely from the ore of the Kent mine. This ore works up into excellent iron for fine machinery, especially for locomotives. It is strong, and has a fine finish. At the mine a shaft 225 feet deep is sunk, and when the mine is operated, about fifteen miners are employed and from 10 to 20 tons of ore are taken out in a day. The Salisbury iron is produced from the old Hill ore of the mine at Salisbury, Ct., and the ore of the mine at Richmond, Mass., the proportions being about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{7}{8}$  Salisbury ore to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  Richmond ore. The Salisbury iron is also strong and is used very largely for car wheels. The Salisbury ore is somewhat used in two furnaces on the Harlem railroad, but with these two exceptions, it is entirely consumed in the Housatonic Valley, at the Kent furnace and at Mr. Barnum's furnaces heretofore mentioned. It is impossible to keep the stack always at a uniform heat, and consequently the iron varies in quality, it being divided into seven distinct kinds, the degree of hardness attained determining in what division a given lot of iron belongs. Both the Kent and Salisbury iron are shipped in considerable quantities to prominent machine works located in the eastern states and in the west and in the south.

"The process of converting the ore into iron is as follows: The ore arrives at the works in two forms, known as wash ore and rock ore. The former consists entirely of little chunks and particles, and as it is, is thrown into the stack to be melted. The rock ore is in the form of large pieces, most of them varying in size from the bigness of a man's head to the capacity of a peck measure. The latter ore has to be crushed, and the cars containing it are run on the side track into a building, where there is a rock crusher made by the Farrell Foundry Co. of Ansonia, Ct. The crusher is impelled by a

steam engine and can crush 100 tons of ore in a day. The crusher is a very simple contrivance, the ore being shattered and ground by means of a cam going very rapidly forward and backward and catching the ore, as it runs down from a spout, between itself and a solid iron frame. After the rock ore has been crushed, that and the wash ore are wheeled, as wanted, in barrows and thrown into the stack, the contents of which look like a seething lake of fire, and from which roaring blasts of air are continually rising into the oven. The latter is placed on top of the stack, instead of to one side of it as is the rule in many iron works, and this arrangement, Mr. Hopson thinks, is a great advantage. In fact, it is his opinion that there is not a better oven in the Housatonic Valley. The oven is at least twenty feet high and the stack 34 feet high, making a total height of 54 feet. The whole structure occupies quite an area, the 'round top' (the receptacle, in which the ore is melted), being enclosed in a huge frame of stone. The round top is perhaps three feet in diameter at the top, and about nine feet in the bosh or widest portion, the stack being built large in the middle, from which it gradually tapers smaller toward the top and to the bottom or hearth. The latter consists of from twenty to forty stones laid very compactly and symmetrically like the concave of a bowl. A new hearth has to be put in about once a year at a cost of \$600, and it takes about a week to build it. When the fire in the stack is started it is called "blowing in," and when it is allowed to go out, it is called "blowing out." The stack can be blown out in about twenty-four hours. Only when a new hearth is put in or there is a shut down for some purpose, is the fire allowed to go out. For many months, perhaps, it is fed with fuel and ore, night and day, Sundays included. Several men are kept constantly at work wheeling barrows full of charcoal and of ore, to be cast into the insatiable maelstrom of flames. The stack is fed by what are called "charges." A charge consists of perhaps thirty bushels of charcoal and from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds of ore, and as these charges rapidly follow one another, in order to keep the stack full, many thousands of bushels of charcoal are being burned, and many tons of ore being melted at the same time. From 1,500 to 1,700 bushels of charcoal are burned in a day of twenty-four hours, and from thirty to thirty-five tons of ore are melted in the same time. This quantity of ore furnishes from fourteen to fifteen tons of iron daily or about 100 tons in a week. The charcoal used is obtained from the woods of the surrounding region. Continually mixed with the ore and charcoal in the stack is a quantity of lime-stone, which serves as a flux to separate the iron from the cinder. Of the lime-stone, three to four tons are used in twenty-four hours.

"The roaring flames which permeate the stack from hearth to top are only kept up by the continual introduction of powerful blasts of hot air at the seat of the fire. The stimulating effect is tremendous. In what is called the "wheel house" are huge and powerful bellows, the clatter and mournful groaning of which, as they are forced through their labored movements, affects the unaccustomed ear rather curiously. The water power from the dam operates these bellows, which send big blasts of air through a long pipe connecting with the furnace. From the main pipe the air flows into a bed pipe and thence into a tier of siphon pipes, rising into the oven. There are three tiers of these siphon pipes, fifteen in a tier, forty-five in all. The pipes of each tier are curved like an ox-bow, and the three tiers are connected with

each other by means of three bed pipes. The air, as it is carried over and over in these siphon pipes, so as to be thoroughly exposed to the heat of the furnace, becomes very hot and it is estimated that its pressure, as it comes down from the siphon pipes upon the fire, cannot vary much from one pound to the square inch. The air is poured upon the fire through what are called "tuyeres," these being short entrance pipes leading from a main pipe encircling the bottom of the stack. There are five tuyeres. They are made of iron, and in order to keep their ends, from which the air rushes forth and which come in contact with the intensely hot fire, from being melted, they are supplied with water chambers which are continually kept full of water pumped from the wheel-house. The water flows from the tuyeres into escape pipes that sink into the ground. At the rear of each tuyere is a glass-covered door, through which one can see the fire of the stack. If a tuyere should become clogged up at the outlet, the glass, of course, would be darkened, and the workmen would know what the trouble was, and be able to thrust an iron through the aperture caused by the opening of the glass door.

"From the hearth of the stack the molten cinder is continually flowing out into a channel, from which, before it has entirely cooled, it is dragged



TOOL-HOUSE NOW STANDING NEAR THE OLD KENT IRON MINE.

off in large slabs, to which the workmen attach grappling irons. Much of this cinder is used in repairing the company's dam, and also in improving the foundations of the neighboring roads. Once in six hours, or four times in twenty-four hours, the iron is cast. On a good-sized plat of ground, near the bottom of the stack, a bed composed of common brown moulding sand, is made. A number of pieces of wood, of the same shape and length, called patterns, are set parallel to each other, about four inches apart. Each pattern is about three and one-half feet long, the width of the bed. Sand is then filled in between the patterns and trod down hard. When sand has been thus packed to the level of the patterns and the latter have been thinly covered also with the same material, the patterns are then removed and the spaces left vacant by them are ready for the reception of the molten iron. The packing used to block up the stack at the foot of the hearth is next removed and a molten stream of iron pours forth, runs through an enclosed track to a main channel in the bed, which connects at a right-angle with each of the small channels. In two minutes the bed is filled with hot iron, which is allowed to cool. Owing to the shape given to each channel by the pattern, there is a central point in each of the cooling bars which renders it weaker

there than elsewhere, and when the iron is struck at this point by a hand bar, it is easily broken into two lengths, each about one and a half feet long. At the mouth of each channel a little sand is sprinkled, which has such an effect on the cooling iron, that it can easily be severed from the iron in the main track by a stroke of a hand bar. On the day when I was at the furnace, a bed with sixty-six patterns was made, so that 132 small bars were turned out, which with about eighteen bars obtained by breaking the iron in the main channel, would make a total of 150 short bars. About four tons of iron are usually obtained at one casting.

"The fire in the stack has, of course, to be constantly watched, and the skilled eyes of the workmen are so well trained that they can tell from the appearance of the fire in the stack, and the aspect of the molten cinder, as it slowly winds out like a sluggish snake, in just what condition the stack is at any time, and what quality of iron may be expected at the next casting. The veteran foundryman who has charge of the stack is James Barker. He has been employed at the furnace since 1838, most of the time in his present capacity as superintendent.

"Fifteen or twenty men are constantly at work around the furnace, and about thirty men are employed in all, some of them doing shoveling and like labor, for performing which, no knowledge of the iron business is needed. Two gangs of men take charge of the furnace; one comes on at noon, and at midnight is relieved by the other gang. Each gang is, therefore, twelve hours on and twelve hours off in the day of twenty-four hours.

"A portion of the water power of the Kent Iron Co. is employed in running a grist mill, which belongs to the company. Grain of all kinds and plaster are ground at this mill."

Stephen Tobias of Waldpot was one of the first superintendents of the Kent iron mine, and was most active in developing its early resources. This gentleman was the second son of John Frobin Tobias of Waldpot, Waldburg Zell, German baron and Teutonic knight who settled in Sharon after the American revolution, having espoused the cause of the colonies. Stephen, the second son, was educated in the family of Hon. John Cotton Smith, governor of Connecticut, where he imbibed those principles of strict integrity and sterling worth which were ever after his chief characteristics. A man of splendid physique, fair haired and having wonderfully beautiful blue eyes, he combined the prowess of a knight of old with the more modern accomplishments of an old time gentleman. Excelling in the sports and pastimes of the day he was always the champion of the weak and the defenseless and the protector of womanhood.

The iron industry in the Housatonic valley is one of considerable antiquity. As early as 1734, it is said that a bloomery forge was erected at Lime Rock, in Salisbury and it is certain that before 1740, the Livingstones of New York province, had in successful operation at Aneram, a blast furnace and a refinery forge.

In 1762, the celebrated Ethan Allen, with two associates, built a blast furnace at Lakeville, which within a few years fell into the hands of one Richard Smith of Hartford, who being a Royalist, was compelled to flee to England during the Revolution, although the works were kept in active operation by the colony of Connecticut during that period, producing great quantities of cannon, cannon balls, shells, etc., for the use of the Continental army. The blowing apparatus of this furnace consisted of a large leather

bellows driven by a water wheel. Probably the oldest furnace in Berkshire county was that formerly existing at Lenoxdale, which was built in 1766 and made iron the following year. This establishment continued in intermittent operation for more than a century, not having been demolished until about 1881. During the most prosperous period of the iron industry in this region it is said that twenty-seven furnaces were in full operation within a radius of 30 miles of Lakeville, the greater part of these being in Litchfield county. The long acceptance without effective protest, of an industrial policy which has been deliberately designed to build up the industries of Pennsylvania at the expense of those of New England, has one by one put out these furnace fires, until at the present time, only a few are left.

Prior to 1840, all the iron made in the United States was smelted by the use of wood-charcoal fuel. The location of a furnace was originally determined by the existence of a sufficient water power in convenient proximity to a trustworthy source of ore supply, it being a fortunate circumstance that wherever iron ore is found, it is sure to be accompanied with plentiful deposits of limestone for use as a flux. In those days the use of a stationary steam engine as a motive power for any purpose was very rare. The unusually good quality and great abundance of the hematite iron ores of Berkshire and Litchfield; the frequently occurring water powers, and the vast tracts of forest which covered the rugged slopes of the Taconics and the Green mountains, made this for more than a century an ideal region for the successful prosecution of this picturesque and interesting industry.

## CHAPTER VII.

### KENT AS IT IS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME—PLEASANT DRIVES OF MANY MILES—INHABITANTS, SCENERY, TRADITIONS AND ANECDOTES—BULLS BRIDGE ONCE A HIVE OF SMALL INDUSTRIES, BUT NOW PRACTICALLY DESERTED, EXCEPT BY A STOREKEEPER AND A FEW FARMERS.

The long main street of Kent center is one of those attractive thoroughfares that can be found in the old settled towns of New England. It is shaded the greater part of the way on each side by a row of flourishing trees, mostly maples, and both they and the few elms among them are free from beetles and other destroying insects, a fact upon which the people of Kent should greatly congratulate themselves at a time when pestiferous bugs are sapping the life of hundreds of arboreal monarchs in many parts of the state. A number of large, fine residences, set amid ample, beautifully shaded grounds, line the Main street, among these residences being those of Mrs. M. L. Stewart, John and George Hopson, Luther Eaton, Mrs. Haxtun, Mrs. Ingersoll, Mrs. Catherine Fuller and C. H. Gaylord. And there are a score of other homes in the vicinity which, if not so imposing, are models of comfort and attractiveness.

The street is provided with a private sewer for the use of residents who contributed liberally toward its support, and this sewer, throughout its length, can be easily and thoroughly flushed by water from the reservoir of the Kent Water Company. The sewer has an outlet in the Housatonic river. The sewer is an improvement not often found in a village no larger than Kent. The public water is furnished to the residents of the entire village and it, as well as the sewer, demonstrates Kent's claim to a progressiveness not common in a place of its size.

To drive to the reservoir the road around the Cobble eastward is taken, the latter being a long wooded elevation that stretches east of the village and continues a considerable distance northward.

On this road is located Luther Eaton's farm and tobacco warehouse, which for many years was used extensively in raising and packing tobacco, and further on is the old Swift place. The present house upon it is only about fifteen years old, but it is the successor of one of Kent's oldest and best known houses, the age of the departed structure being about 150 years.

The pipe from the reservoir to the village extends under one side of this road, and is fed by a pipe from Page's Spring. This spring is on a wooded height forty feet above the level of the reservoir, and during the greater

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NOTE.—This chapter is written by Mr. J. A. Bolles, who in his paper, the New Milford Gazette, has graphically described many of the neighboring villages.

part of the year furnishes the village with sufficient water of the purest quality without recourse to the larger source of supply.

A mile and one half from the village, on the east side of the Cobble, is the well constructed reservoir, which was built under the superintendence of Frank Leonard of South Norwalk in 1881, at a cost of \$16,000. The capital stock of the company represents \$15,000, and, although moderate, even insufficient dividends are earned, principally because there are not enough water takers in the village to furnish a good revenue at such rents as can be feasibly asked and paid, the public spirit which prompted the undertaking has been amply justified. Besides the diminution of labor and the great convenience to householders afforded by the public water, it has been the means of saving the village from a serious destruction of property. The company furnishes a hose cart and lengths of hose free of charge and hydrants for the attachment of hose, and the value of these appliances has three times been effectually demonstrated. A few years ago a barn at the upper end of the village caught fire and the flames would have burned an ad-



DRUG STORE, KENT.

jacent costly house and perhaps other dwellings, had not the use of the fire apparatus conquered the danger. The safeguards were equally useful in overcoming two other fires, one in a small cigar shop and another in the railroad station. At least \$25,000 worth of property has thus been saved from destruction.

The reservoir covers two acres and has a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons. Its altitude above the village is 168 feet. A substantial dam holds the water back and suitable stone work, where needed, makes firm the remaining sides of the receptacle. The reservoir is fed by water from unfailling springs within it and by water brought to it through a six inch pipe from Mill brook. There is a suitable outlet for the overflow of water, which runs into a riverlet below the reservoir. So particular have the officers of the company been to prevent contamination that a neighboring farmer, the drainage from whose barnyard threatened to percolate through the ground toward the reservoir, was paid a proper sum of money to erect a wall or embankment which caused the drainage to flow in the opposite direction.

Through the narrow valley which extends far northward of the reservoir between ranges of wooded hills, and abounds in picturesque scenery, lies what is known as Flanders, an ancient settlement, which was the business center of the region until the modern village of Kent on the southward plains superseded it.

Flanders now represents little else besides farming interests, but once it contained a tavern, a meeting house, a grist mill, a wagon shop, a blacksmith's shop, a tailor's shop, tanning works, etc.; and there the important town clerk attended to his duties and the village parson lived in spiritual blessedness. It was about 1830 that Flanders began to lose its prestige in favor of the modern village, its being somewhat apart from the line of the railroad no doubt largely accounting for its decline.

Here is the Burritt Eaton's house, about 150 years old, which was formerly a tavern kept by Col. Philo Mills. In the lot back of the tavern the militia used to train. Next are the pleasant residences of George R. Bull, Kent Furnace's worthy and prosperous merchant, and Albert Roberts, which are situated at the head of the road leading to Kent Furnace.



FULLER MOUNTAIN SCHOOL.

Other noteworthy houses were those where Deacon Lewis Mills and John Slosson once kept stores. Within the limits of the road on a knoll where a flag pole now stands was the site of the old Congregational meeting house, long since departed. Rev. Joel Bordwell was its pastor for fifty years. Mr. Bissell now lives in what was the Congregational parsonage.

Here too is the well known Slosson homestead from which a number of eminent Slossons, lawyers, judges and the like, have emanated and made their ability and influence vigorously felt in places of size and enterprise.

"Uncle Nathan Slawson," a farmer of the family, was an able man who when he saw a good thing knew it. It is related of him that he once played a trick on a dude from the eastern country who sought to ingratiate himself into the good graces of a family of comely Hubbell girls who lived west of the Housatonic river. The dude, or dandy, as would be a more fit word to use for that time, assumed a patronizing air on one occasion and hired "Uncle Nathan," humble in aspect and commonly dressed, to carry him on his back across the river to visit the girls. When they were in the midst of the stream, "Uncle Nathan" said, "I shall have to, for twenty-five cents, set you down and rest," and thereupon shook off the dandy, completely sousing him and his brave fine clothes.



The North Kent cemetery is a burial yard with a fine modern fence about it. This fence is perhaps the best one surrounding a cemetery in Litchfield county and cost \$2,500, a large sum considering the small area inclosed. The posts, erected at frequent intervals, are solid bars of handsome stone, each seven feet long, four feet out of the ground and three feet in it, each set on a bed of stones and so firmly planted that they may stand for one thousand years. Between the posts are solid bars of galvanized iron.

Seventeen members of the Eaton family are buried here and a handsome monument to their memory was erected a few years ago.

Across Western Brook which perpetuates the memory of a minister named Western, on a little rise of ground, is the saw mill of enterprising George B. Page.

Near by is the Berry family homestead. Of one of its occupants, Nathaniel Berry, the following anecdote is told. Before the days of carriages with springs Berry owned a big lumber wagon somewhat like those now used for carting purposes only. The people went to meeting on horseback and in ox carts, and on the advent of the lumber wagons placed in them as



THE DEVIL'S CHAIR.

seats double chairs called "wagon chairs." One of these chairs would hold two persons and several were usually placed in one wagon, thus accommodating six or eight individuals.

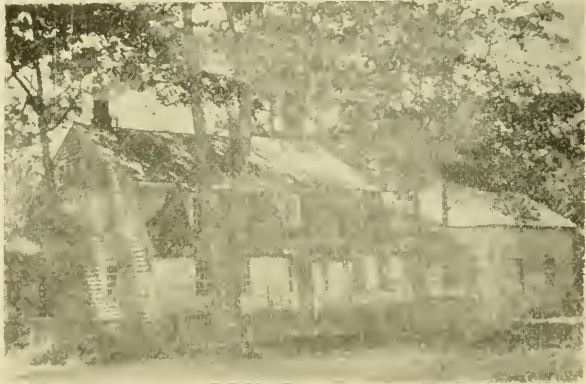
Deacon Bates lived on one of the hills east of the main road, and was praying one morning when Nathaniel's lumber wagon rattled by, just as the deacon fervently ejaculated. "Lord, come in thy chariot of fire and take me to thyself." The next moment the deacon, jumping up as the ominous noise fell upon his startled ears, exclaimed, "Oh, Lord! I never said anything in jest but what you took me in blood 'arnest;" and, quaking, the worthy but not quite prepared man of God hid himself under a bed.

We went by the old farm formerly owned by James Stuart deceased. At the old Eaton place where my companion was born we turned eastward into the "Forge Road." At this point the valley northward with its green meadows, intersected by the winding river, is fair to look upon.

On the Forge Road further on the far famed Kent Falls. The stream flows a few rods from the road down a long rambling ledge descending westward in the midst of a thick growth of trees and bushes. From the

most precipitous part of the ledge the main falls come from a height of fifty feet or more. These falls are divided into two parts, the upper falls descending into a good-sized middle basin, and thence the water leaps into a second and broader basin hollowed in solid rock. In summer, the falls come down in slender but beautiful columns, not more than one hundredth the size of the rushing foaming torrents which in the spring leap, casting clouds of spray and fascinating the eye with their marvelous beauty. There is a spot in the middle basin which is said to be thirty or forty feet deep. In the lower basin is a circular hollow, rounded by madly circling waters so as exactly to resemble the interior of a huge cauldron. In the rocks about the falls is a big hole or cave called the "Meeting House."

Among the various basins below the falls is one which was once called the "Pork Barrel," by a man named Mills who claimed the ownership or control of it. Mills was a great fisherman and reserved the choice Pork Barrel where big trout lay ensconced, for his own exclusive use. Mills was a kind-hearted man and, whenever a neighbor was sick and in need of something to



OLD ASA SLADE HOUSE, DEMOLISHED IN 1895.

tempt the appetite would go to the Pork Barrel and catch a fine trout for him. But Mills was jealous of his rights, and once when a man named Studley attempted to fish in the pool, he picked up stones and from a vantage point among the bushes threw the missiles so effectively at the intruder that he was glad to beat a hasty retreat.

Mills and Ezra Eaton once had an amusing experience. Eaton had been fishing in the Housatonic river and his boat lay on the shore. Mills came along and picking up the catch of fish made off with it and kept it temporarily in a spirit of fun. The fish had forked tails, and Mills assumed that all forked-tailed fish belonged to him and all square-tailed fish to Isaac Nogar. Eaton went fishing another time and Mills was on hand at the boat again, but Eaton had cunningly "squared" the tails of the fish with his knife so that Mills was obliged to say, "I can make no claim to these fish; they belong to Nogar."

The lower falls are pleasing, but are not so high or picturesque as the upper ones. The railroad is not far distant, and in the winter when the

trees are free of leaves, the water of both falls can be easily seen from where the cars pass.

It seemed strange to be told that this now secluded and thickly wooded place was, in old times, the site of mills and other industries requiring strong water power; but such was the case and it afforded another illustration, such as the remnants of dams and forges afford in the Bulls Bridge and Masedonia regions, how the small but flourishing industries that once enlivened the banks of streams in Connecticut, and also in other New Eng-



KENT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

land states, have departed, in favor of modern enterprises which concentrate business in large establishments at tide water and utilize the steam engine.

An attempt was made to open a marble quarry near the falls, but the scheme was a "fake" one, and the innocent victims of the speculators lost much money.

The Kent Falls are a favorite resort for picnickers who on the southern bank shaded by pine trees, do their cooking in a fireplace made of stones.

## BULLS BRIDGE.

That part of Kent known as Bulls Bridge is two and one-half miles from South Kent and one and one-half miles at its nearest point to the railroad. The road at Bulls Bridge intersects the highway from South Kent to South Dover, N. Y. The road leading from the depot at Merwinsville is a pleasant drive, being much of the way near the wooded banks of the Housatonic river. The first object of striking interest to notice is a commanding hill, Owl Town Mountain, with Pickett's Rocks standing out from surrounding trees on the summit as if it were a natural fort. This elevation rises east of the road.

The mail is carried between Bulls Bridge and Gaylordsville for the magnificent sum of thirty-nine cents a day.

A little south of Bulls Bridge in a lot west of the road is the cemetery of the place, showing numerous grave stones within a small area. If industrial growth constitutes what is most desirable in a place, it was unfortunate for Bulls Bridge that the railroad did not run through it, as at one

time was planned. But, on the other hand, the lover of the beautiful can see something fortunate in the circumstances which protected Bulls Bridge from the roar of the great world and left it sequestered and almost as picturesque as in its pristine days before the white man came and made his wide clearings.

The center of Bulls Bridge is where the roads from Gaylordsville to Kent and from South Kent to South Dover cross at right angles. The hamlet comprises a few houses, a country store and a "tabernacle." Two of these houses are good sized and attractive white structures set in ample yards. They stand on opposite sides of the South Kent road. The house on the north is the home of Mott Judd, father of Jerome Judd. Mott Judd is a pleasant gentleman, a fitting representative of the better class of New England farmers. Alonzo Mallory, formerly a railroad man, now a farmer, occupies the house on the south.

Mott Judd's sister, Mrs. Flora Millspaugh, keeps house for him. Her husband was a man of ability. He built the house where Mr. Mallory now lives and laid out an extensive flower garden in which at one time sixty-nine dif-



BULLS BRIDGE ABOUT 1870.

ferent kinds of flowers grew. He invented a kerosene tester and was the author of a useful book entitled, "Kerosene Accidents and How to Prevent Them."

On Mott Judd's farm is a tenant house occupied by Patrick McGarry. West of Mr. Judd's home is an ancient house where the aged but active Elisha Potter resides. On the south side of the road nearly opposite Mr. Potter's house and within a few rods of the covered bridge that crosses the Housatonic river are the store, and four houses. Of the three houses on the bank of the river one is vacant and the other two are occupied by the families of Minot Stevens and Joseph Wilcox. The fourth house, quite a large one, at the rear of the store, is owned by Charles Stone. Charles Stone is the business genius of the place. His restless and planning mind is fully alive to the great future which awaits Bulls Bridge, it being a spot, where, except at Falls Village, by far the best unutilized water power of the Housatonic river is located. The ruins of an iron furnace stand on the river bank a short distance from Mr. Stone's house.

North of Elisha Potter's house is the noted "Tabernacle," once a saloon but redeemed for God's work by the Free Methodists. Now union services are held in it and fervent flows of religious feeling are frequent. The so-called "parsonage" beside the "tabernacle" is the home of Frank Ashmond and family. Rev. E. B. Hawley is the sponsor for this good work in changing a saloon into a gospel shop.

At the furnace a brick kiln rises amid a massive ruin of rocks that once stood solidly around it. Just west of the ruins a large wall stands intact. Its base is washed by the rapidly flowing waters of the river. Much money was expended in the construction of the furnace and it was once the nucleus of a large business, which flourished long before the railroad was built. Probably 200 men were employed at the furnace and in the carting work connected with it. The ore was brought from Clove, Dutchess county, N. Y., a distance of fifteen miles, and twenty-one teams employed in the work could frequently be counted in line on the arrival at Bulls Bridge. Elisha Potter was one of the teamsters.



BULLS BRIDGE.

The iron or finished product was carted to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the cost for taking a ton there being \$5. Iron then sold for \$60 a ton, now the price is about \$20 a ton. Scotch pig iron was then the kind which had the biggest reputation for good quality, and the iron made at Bulls Bridge was fully equal to it. The ore beds in the south and west were at that time not at all or little utilized, and untrammelled by formidable competition, the iron industry flourished in the Housatonic valley. In those good and prosperous days more people lived at and about Bulls Bridge than at present. It is said that sixty children attended school, whereas now the number is but twelve.

The furnace was built in 1826, and at the time of the civil war was known as the Monitor Iron Works because iron made there was used in the construction of ironclad vessels.

Frederick J. Fenn, one of the owners of the blast furnace, removed to Salisbury. He was the victim of a sad misfortune. A keg of powder was exploded in a seam amid the rocks at the furnace. Mr. Fenn stood too near, and was struck in the eyes by particles of the stone, which rendered him totally blind.

Tim Lannigan, an employe at the furnace, fell into the river near it and was drowned. While men were searching for the body some odd suggestions were made. One was that a candle be placed in a bundle of straw which, it was asserted, would float to that part of the water under which the body lay. A wag claimed, inasmuch as the deceased was an Irishman, that a potato should be attached to a string for the purpose of "skiddering" for Tim.

The corpse was finally recovered without recourse to the extraordinary expedients. There was a big wake over the remains and at the funeral the widow frequently and lustily cried: "Oh Tim, why did ye come to America to be drowned!"

Beside the furnace is a beautiful grove where the Sunday school children from Kent frequently hold picnics. Just east of the grove are the ancient remains of the Bulls Bridge cemetery. A few badly broken stones lie askew beneath a canopy of regardless sumacs.

The chief attraction at Bulls Bridge is the falls. They begin a few rods above the bridge, tumbling many feet down a ledge that extends from



FALLS ABOVE BULLS BRIDGE.

bank to bank. Boiling and dangerous are the torrents and swifter in their course than is the arrow's flight. From the first falls the river gradually descends for many rods over a slanting surface of rock, at places jutting upwards sufficiently to cause other and lesser falls. The shores in the vicinity of the falls are wooded, picturesque and winding, appropriately bounding the dashing waters. The place is named after Jacob Bull, who over a hundred and twenty-five years ago was given permission to erect a grist mill and iron works at this point. Mr. Bull came from Dover, N. Y.

It used to be said that Bulls Bridge was noted for three things, "lamper eels, bull beef and handsome women." The reference to bull beef was a hit on John Chamberlain, a butcher called "Leather Wheels." He was an original character, and devised singular nicknames for his associates, which are well remembered to this day. Some of these names were: "Hardack," "Swing Clear," "Major," "Enoch," "Broad Horns," "Old Hail Cut," "Forlorn Dove," "John Harmless," and "Nogar."

A short distance from the home of Henry Spooner, on the west side of the river from Bulls Bridge, one soon comes to the house of Martin B. Lane, once a conductor on the Housatonic railroad. Mr. Lane is now a farmer and also the agent who manages the property of the descendants of the Scatacook Indians. He submits an account of his stewardship annually to the Court of Common Pleas in this county.

Between Scatacook mountain and the river there is but a narrow strip of valley land. The mountain rises precipitously to a great height and must



BULLS BRIDGE SCHOOL HOUSE.

be at least two miles long. It is densely wooded and in summer time it presents a grand bank of luxuriant foliage, which can be best seen by the traveler on the east side of the river. The road beneath the mountain, with the winding stream on the right hand is full of attractions. It is not unfitting that in so romantic a region, at the south end of Scatacook mountain, the few last families of the Indians who were once the sole masters of the country should have their dwelling place.

### MACEDONIA.

The scenery along the route from Bulls Bridge to Kent is pleasing. A fine view can be obtained of Scatacook mountain, rising a short distance west of the stream.

Along this route are the homes of John Newton, a well-to-do farmer, Edward Gregory and Charles Lee. Mr. Gregory is a bold companion of Geo. Cogswell, the noted snake hunter, whose home stands opposite Mr. Gregory's on the west side of the river. The two men have often visited Rattlesnake Den and together have fearlessly slaughtered many of the venomous reptiles.

Charles Lee is a jovial farmer, a Democrat in politics, who represented Kent in the House of Representatives in 1893. It is said that the late Charles Edwards, once delivered a lecture in schoolhouses in Kent and vicinity, asking a small price for admission and using the funds thus obtained for the benefit of a needy neighbor. The lecture was full of local hits and abounded in humor. In it full explanation was given to the nicknames,

"Leather Wheels," "Old Hail Cut," etc., to which reference has been made in a previous article.

The lecture gained such celebrity that it was finally decided to print it in pamphlet form. It is thought that a few copies of this pamphlet are still extant.

Birdsey G. Pratt was born in Macedonia and lived on a farm a good part of his life and is well acquainted with Macedonia and all the surrounding country. The traveler, not acquainted with the past, who journeys through this region, now quiet and unambitious in appearance, the abiding place of farmers, little dreams that it was once a busy manufacturing center. Mr. Pratt, who can remember when Macedonia was an important place, feels sad when he thinks of the glory that is no more.

Macedonia lies west and northwest of the village of Kent and is separated from it by a long elevation called Pismire Hill, followed toward the northern part of the valley by Pond mountain, leading west from which is a



OLD MILL AT KENT FURNACE.

third hill, known as Stone's Ledges. The valley is a beautiful spot, like that described by Whittier in his poem of Barbara Frietchie:

"Fair as the garden of the Lord,  
To the eyes of the famished rebel horde."

The Macedonia Brook, a stream of considerable size and force, runs through the center of the valley.

The old Gilbert place, once the home of the brothers, John, Allen and Henry Gilbert, all of whom are dead, is now the home of F. H. Gilbert, a son of Allen. The brothers were shoemakers and conducted a large tannery which stood a little north of their house near the present residence of John Duncan. On the opposite side of the road was a cemetery. At present it is a plowed field, all efforts to preserve its graves and to maintain its sacred character having been abandoned.

Near by is the house once the home of Dwight Chamberlain, a relative of President Dwight of Yale college. Here is the Macedonia wagon shop, established in 1847, where a thriving business was conducted by the brothers, Norman, Allen and Linus Winegar.



The water of a stream flowing north of the shop turned the big overshot wheel, the power moving a saw, and felloes and other wood pieces needed in the construction of carriages were sawed out. The father of the brothers was Beecher Winegar, who had a little wagon shop where a pump stands in the yard of the house just north of the old wagon shop. A short distance from here is the commodious and pleasant residence of Deacon L. W. Stone and near by is the school house, from which a remarkably fine view of the southern portion of the valley can be obtained, showing a long stretch of beautiful meadows and Cobble and Algo mountains beyond them.

Near where the old road turns northward from an easterly course, is the only dam left on the Macedonia Brook. Here was the site of the large puddling works, which were run by the Kent Iron Company. Probably twenty-five men were employed in the puddling operations alone, not to speak of the many teamsters and other workmen connected with them. All kinds of wrought iron work, such as crow-bars, wagon tires, etc., were made and sent in great quantities to Poughkeepsie, New Haven and Bridgeport.

The overseer of the work was Eber S. Peters, who also conducted near by the saw mill which is now successfully managed by his son, J. H. Peters. He lives in a handsome stone house nearly opposite his mill. In the third building he keeps a store.

The Kent Iron company established the Macedonia store in a large old fashioned building. Later the proprietors were Charles Edwards and Squire Rufus Fuller. In the manufacturing days this building, where now a private family dwells in seclusion, was a lively place and did a big business, being a center where the people from miles around gathered. In front of the store were scales and a platform for weighing big loads of coal, iron and other things. Teams were constantly arriving and departing and there was a great bustle.

In the neighboring stream is an old dam still in good condition. Here a cider mill stood. The owner was Zachariah Winegar, who lived in a large brick house which stands opposite the site of a defunct grist mill, the latter being a little north of the cider mill. Edward Schermerhorn conducted the grist mill. The brick house is two stories high, and was considered the finest house in the region at the time it was built. After Zachariah, his son, Anson Winegar owned the house, and it is at present the home of Mrs. Frances Barnum, a daughter of Anson.

The next place of interest is Forge Hill, where what was called the "second forge" stood. At the foot of this hill on the east is the entrance to a road which crosses a bridge and leads to Fuller mountains. At the second forge were stamping works where shot iron was stamped out of the cinder, from the furnace.

At the blast furnace were made thousands of tons of pig iron and hundreds of bushels of charcoal were burned to make the iron. The ore was hauled from South Kent, Amenia and Salisbury; all told, hundreds of people were employed to keep the furnace running. The charcoal was made on the mountains near by. Limestone used in the furnace was all hauled from the east side of the Housatonic river, as there was none on the west side in Kent. Near the furnace were large coal houses and a blacksmith shop. Trees and shrubs cover the ground, and the traveler sees scarcely anything to remind him that he is passing a place where an extensive bus-

iness was done forty years ago. The chief reminder of the iron industry is the dark color of the highway, noticeable all the way between the first and second forges. The ground is still specked with the cinders that emanated from the forges.

### SOUTH KENT.

The village of South Kent is a small place, only four houses in the center and two houses in the suburbs, so to speak. But it represents a lot of enterprise; for it is here that Fred H. Chase has demonstrated the large possibilities of the country store when it is situated in a favorable spot and run at a minimum of expense.

Mr. Chase is now South Kent's leading business man, and he is well entitled to the honor. One dozen years ago he bought of William Geer the small and ancient grocery store of the place. Geer had run the store a year only. His predecessor was Edwards Dakins, who made a snug sum of money from the business, after he bought it of a man named Segar. It was an old stand, but it remained for Chase to make it a noteworthy establishment.

He had \$600 in cash and \$2,100 borrowed money when he took possession of the small grocery, and to-day he is a well-to-do citizen, even a rich one for a small country place. Close to the railroad station stands his store and dwelling house, a good sized and good looking structure. South is a feed store, it being the remodeled building formerly occupied by the small grocery, and north of the main store is Mr. Chase's latest building, a structure 100 feet long, 30 feet wide and 22 feet high.

It is fitted up in modern style with tanks of cool water for the reception of the milk in cans, and a churn run by steam power. The second floor contains a room for cheese making and a large space for the storage and grinding of grain, the mill for grinding being run by the steam engine on the first floor. At the east end of the building is an apartment for the ice needed in the creamery, capacity for storage being 600 tons, ice being obtained from Hatch's pond a short distance from the station.

The four houses in the immediate vicinity of the station are those of Walter Page, VanNess Case, Miss Emiline Fanton and John Burkhardt. All are farmers and Mr. Page runs a distillery and cider mill. Miss Fanton although eighty-two years old, is alert and businesslike, a fine specimen of the old fashioned American housewife. Her farm is managed by a competent man, but she has general oversight.

Another thing worthy of mention is the railroad station, about the size of an umbrella, which is ably managed by Store-keeper Chase, who waves a red flag for trains to stop, but has no tickets to sell. Then there is a little ancient history of particular interest. There have been six hotels in the place, usually one at a time, which were frequented in days before the railroad when cattle drovers were thick on the roads.

The former name of the village was Pigtail Corners or Hopson Corners, the name Pigtail, according to tradition, being adopted because one neighbor got angry at another neighbor and cut off the tail of his enemy's pig.

Following the Bulls Bridge road westward, one passes the John Straight farm now owned by Mr. John Judd. It is one of the largest and best farms in the town of Kent. Adjoining this farm are the premises of Miss Helen Straight, a most competent woman farmer.

Ascending Turkey Hill, one comes to the house of Robert Boyd. Mr.

Boyd is a good farmer, his buildings and well cultivated acres showing the care and enterprise of the thorough manager. From the summit of Turkey Hill, so called because wild turkeys in old times used to alight on it in great numbers during their expeditions, a fine view can be had of the valley through which flows the Housatonic river and of the noble Scatacook range beyond. At the foot of the hill is the fine home of William Newton, a well-to-do farmer. After turning north into the road leading over Spooner Hill one passes the home of Nathaniel Dwy, also those of Charles L. Spooner and Simeon Griffin. At this point one can look down into a shelving valley, where enclosed on three sides by picturesque hills lies the beautiful little Leonard Pond. East of the pond is Leonard Mountain, north of it Cobble Mountain and west of it an elevation of Spooner Hill.

Where the road turns eastward to join the main road from South Kent to Kent, is the old John Spooner place. John Spooner was a noted cattle dealer in his day. A little south of the junction of the roads is the farm of Mott Darling, a thrifty tiller of the soil, and a little north of the junction is the house of another farmer, Jerome Leonard.



TEACHERS AND BOARD OF SCHOOL VISITORS OF KENT, 1895.

Up the main road from South Kent a short distance is the house of John Orton, nearly opposite Leonard Pond. On returning to South Kent via the main road one passes the houses of Seth Monroe and Leonard Unson, who lives on the borders of Hatch Pond. A little south of Mr. Unson's house is the abode and shop of Ephraim Merrit, blacksmith and general repairer of the region.

Near by is the school house, a small red structure, humble enough but celebrated now as the place where a rising young business man obtained all his book education. The young man referred to is young John Burkhardt of South Kent village. Mr. Burkhardt is now traveling salesman for a large New York firm and his employers consider him the best drummer in the New England states.

About ten years ago there was a curious landslide from the hill east of Hatch Pond. Tons of earth suddenly left a high bed and made a double quick run over a stretch of meadow, across the railroad track into the lake. The thundering noise came in the midst of the night and aroused the inhabitants, terrifying them mightily. Hatch Pond is about a mile long and is a celebrated resort of fishermen from New Milford, Danbury and other places.

The old house, a cut of which is shown on page 92, is supposed to have been the oldest one in town. It was demolished in 1895 and was owned at that time by Hiram J. Wildman, who still retains the ground, on which he intends to build a summer hotel. A Dr. Raymond lived there a long time ago. After him John McCoy occupied it as a hotel. Next Asa Slade lived in it and kept a store in one part. This was in the time of the famous Maine law and Slade used to sell an equally famous "Schiedam Schnapps" for sickness. When a customer wished to buy he would say "I suppose it is for sickness." The reply was usually in the affirmative. After Slade, Frederick Mallory lived there till his death in the spring of 1895. The house was then sold to Wildman and his family went West. It was known to the older inhabitants as the old Asa Slade house and to the younger ones as the Old Mallory house.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### PROSPECTS OF THE OLD FARMS.

THE LAND WHICH WAS ONCE PROFITABLY TILLED IN THIS VICINITY HAS GRADUALLY DEGENERATED, AND MUCH THAT WAS FORMERLY CULTIVATED, IS NOW EITHER GIVEN UP TO PASTURE, OR TO WOODLAND, OR IS WHOLLY ABANDONED—IT MAY HAVE VALUE YET.

A drive through the valleys or over the hills of Kent while picturesque and interesting furnishes a study as to its future as an agricultural or dairy community. Like all New England when taken from its primeval condition its soil was rich; its productiveness was bountiful, and the crops it yielded were abundant. This continued for years, but it could not go on forever. The farmer disregarded what in any other line would have been regarded as ruin from the start. Year after year he sapped its life, never hesitating to take everything it would yield, but seldom, if ever returning the fertilization it required. He was generally slack in all his work. His barns were seldom painted. They were not even warm. There were plenty of cracks large enough to let snow fall across the animals housed therein, and they in turn required more feed to keep them alive—to say nothing about being comfortable. The few crude implements in use in olden days received no care. Plows usually stood all winter where last used, and sleds and carts were rarely sheltered if ever painted. Fire wood was cut and burned green, getting the least benefit that could be derived from it.

As one after another old cellar hole is passed one cannot but reflect: Suppose in these good old days farming had been carried on scientifically and in a business-like way? Suppose the old land which yielded a liberal interest had been given something in return? Suppose the old home had been made cheerful and entertaining for the children, and that while they could have been given a certain amount of work to do, they were not compelled to be slaves from early morn until late at night? Suppose that common sense and sunshine instead of drudgery and darkness had been the life of these pioneers, would Kent and its neighboring towns have so many of these abandoned homes? We answer no. The intelligence of enlightenment is coming, and what our ancestors were ignorant of—practical, scientific farming—will yet come to the relief of such towns as Kent and repopulate its hills and valleys.

An interesting paper written by Mr. R. S. Hinman, chief clerk in the office of the secretary of the state and a resident of the neighboring town of Oxford, covers this subject so thoroughly and applies fittingly to this territory, we quote from it as follows:

“There has been so much said and written of the abandoned farms of Connecticut and the other New England states of late, that my theme may

seem a little worn, but I believe there are phases of it worthy of consideration. Some years ago I had occasion to transact a little business with a Dutchess county, New York, farmer. Learning that I came from Connecticut, he expressed his surprise at the thriftiness of Connecticut farmers. He owned a hundred acres of land in what is known as the Oblong Valley, worth a hundred dollars an acre, and only got a living, but over in Connecticut the farm-houses were painted, picket fences separated the front yard from the highway and there was a general air of thrift about the premises, while, so far as he could see, there was not so much decent farming land in a whole township as there was on this farm. To get the full force of the gentleman's surprise one needs to drive through the richest part of Dutchess county, in which the Oblong Valley lies, and then across into Connecticut. Ever since I have been familiar with that country I have contended that the Knickerbockers that sailed up the Hudson and settled along its shores took up the land as far east of that noble stream as they considered it habitable and left the rest for Connecticut.



ONE OF THE OLD FARMS.

"A few months ago I came across an article in a popular magazine written by a Southern woman who evidently considered herself better posted. Its title was 'The Gray Cabins of New England.'

"The impression that one not conversant with the facts would get from this good lady's description would be that the farmhouses of New England are little one-story, unpainted affairs in which, in these latter days, there commonly dwell one or two lonesome old maids or a morose old bachelor and his still more morose old maid sister. During the day, when their dyspepsia will allow of labor, these unfortunate beings do what they can to keep body and soul together, and when night comes they hug a fast cooling stove while they brood over the misfortunes of their fallen race. When at last death ends their sufferings all they can expect is that the grass and weeds will be scraped away from a little spot of ground in the nearest graveyard, a hole dug, and the last sad rites performed over a descendant of the Puritans. That the author of the article was as ignorant of her subject as one of the poor Southern whites with whom she is undoubtedly familiar is quite true, but I doubt whether she really intended to libel the good people of New England.

"She had read, undoubtedly, much about the abandoned farms of New England, and drew upon her knowledge of farm life among poor people and her imagination for a description of the farmhouses of New England and the people that inhabited them.

"But we must allow that we have deserted farms. I have in mind a piece of land, facing the northwest, so full of boulders and fast rocks that, upon an average, I doubt if a furrow five feet in length could be continuously turned, and that never had anything but a thin, poor soil. A gentleman now living, who in his old age rides a bicycle for exercise, has told me that when he was in his teens he and his brother-in-law planted that field with corn on shares, the owner, if I remember aright, taking half the crop. Those two young men possibly got fifty cents per day, boarded themselves and were content. That field has never been tilled since and it is not likely to be, unless in the distant future there comes a time when fifty cents per day is the best wages a young Connecticut farmer can earn and board himself. God grant that such time may not come in our day. Within sight of this field that I have been telling you of there lives a pioneer. Some ten or twelve



SOME OLD RELICS.

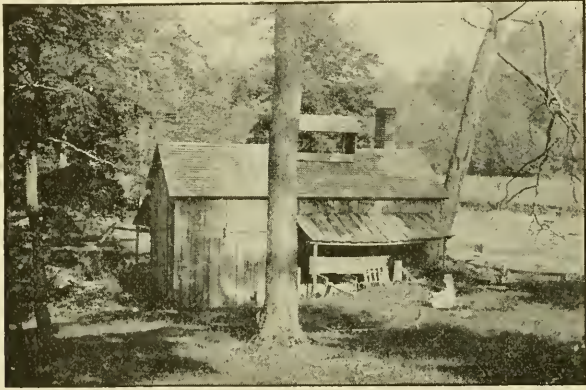
years ago he bought a stump lot for \$2 or \$3 per acre and put up as a dwelling a cross between a wood chopper's shanty and a Western dug out and what he calls his barn. The entire outfit of buildings aside from his own labor, did not probably cost him \$50.

"The place is half a mile through sprout land from the nearest highway, and here he and his wife and one son live. He has plenty of muscle and energy and now has the stumps and stones cleared from a patch of ground as big as a well-to-do farmer's garden ought to be.

"His little new land farm is, however, wonderfully productive, and besides growing vegetables for the family it supplies him with onions, celery, strawberries and other things that he takes to market and exchanges for rum and molasses, and such minor articles as he and his family need. His success shows that no land in Connecticut need be abandoned if men can be found willing to work as the early settlers of this county worked, and live as they lived. But some one may tell me of easily-tilled land, easily accessible, and apparently once productive that has long been unused and is now

grown up to brush. I grant it. The very fact that it was so easily tilled and so easy to get at worked its ruin. Taking crop after crop from any land and returning nothing will in time render it fit only for abandonment. Such land may be restored by fertilizing, but the cost is too great for competition with cheap, new, Western land. When Uncle Sam gets through giving us all a farm such land is liable to again be cleared up, and if left long enough to itself nature will to some extent restore its fertility. Aside from the rough land unsuitable for farming at the wages a farmer of to-day can earn, and the land that has been despoiled by covetous owners, there are undoubtedly many thousand acres of excellent pasture land in Connecticut practically abandoned.

"When a Connecticut farmer could loan his money to a Western competitor at eight or ten per cent., it was a great temptation to let the brush grow on his farm, and take his interest rather than hire help to cut his brush.



OLD SUGAR CAMP.

"When Connecticut passed a law allowing the registration of notes and bonds at low rate of taxation, the farmers of a Litchfield county town sent to the state treasurer's office something like \$60,000 worth of evidences of Western indebtedness. Had that money been used in cutting hard hack, improving highways and maintaining the value of the real estate of the town, there might not have been so great an apparent profit, but the town would have been more than \$60,000 richer now. If two manufacturers were to start in the same village at the same time and one loaned his profits to the other to keep up and enlarge his plant, while the lender allowed his buildings and machinery to rot out and wear out, it would take but a few years to make one a prosperous manufacturer, while the other could take what was due him and abandon his plant. Very many Connecticut farmers have for years past been doing altogether too much in the way of booming the business of others. Said a friend: 'This subject is a good one, for there are scores of deserted farm houses and cellars where farm houses once stood, go where you will in Connecticut.'

"This is quite true, but it does not follow that we are poorer.

"Let me give you an example. In my boyhood days there stood near a by-way that I travel over in going to an outlying farm, what would be



known as a farm-house. The owner had a little farm, kept a horse and cow, possibly two cows some times, and made and mended boots and shoes. The old shoemaker died years ago and shoe-making as an individual industry died about the same time. The farm-house is gone also, only the site remains, and the little farm is deserted. I have offered double what the house, barn and farm brought the last time it was sold, about thirty years ago, for the land alone, but the owner, employed in a nearby city, thinks he may come back to the country to live some time and prefers to let it grow up to brush in the meantime. Again it must be remembered that it required more people to raise the same crop on the same land years ago than now. Mowing machines, horse rakes and cultivators take the place of men, but do not require farm-houses. The man that sits on a mowing machine to-day gets double the pay that the old scythe swinger got, but he and a pair of horses can do as much in a day as the dwellers in half a dozen of the houses that are gone, because not needed under present conditions. When you allow for the farm-houses, once plenty all over New England, occupied by shoemakers,



AN OLD APPLE TREE.

wheelwrights, tailors and people engaged in other industries that are now concentrated in our cities and boroughs, and for those occupied by people, who, living as farm help lived fifty years ago, could plant a rocky hillside with corn on shares, or work for fifty cents a day, you will account for all the old sites. And when you find a farm-house fit to live in or a farm upon which a living, as we now live, can be made, deserted, it is because the owner's profit or pleasure takes him away from it and he does not choose to sell.

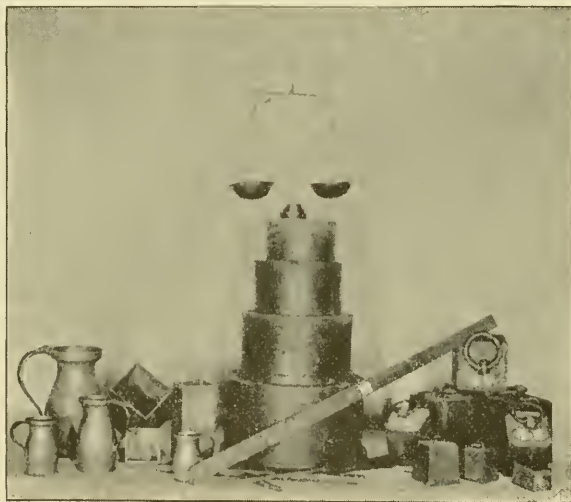
"It is the misfortune of Connecticut that, through mismanagement, many hundred acres of her soil have been made unproductive, but it is not her misfortune that her citizens can live more comfortably than of yore and are not compelled to wrestle with her rocky hillsides and worn-out fields.

"While a vast amount of the abandoned land of Connecticut can, without doubt, profitably remain abandoned, there is much that the frugal, industrious man can reclaim. Farms that the owners have left because they had obtained more profitable employment or because they were not fitted for farmers or farm life, although they may look somewhat untidy owing to dilapidated buildings and fences and the growth of brush and weeds are, I believe, if they can be bought at their value, safer as investments than much of the

new Western land. While there are mortgaged farms in Connecticut and farmers in debt, failures are rare in comparison with those of persons engaged in other industries. Connecticut farmers are not, as a class, asking for a 50-cent dollar to pay their indebtedness with, and they are not asking for laws to hamper the collection of honest debts. While I have known of a few cases in Connecticut where farms have been taken by foreclosure, it has always been under conditions that would have produced a like result whatever business the owner was engaged in.

"While the state would surely be richer if frugal, industrious people bought and reclaimed our abandoned farms, this is not a matter that should specially interest us as farmers.

"When dull times came on a few years ago four abandoned farms within two miles of me were occupied by purchasers or by tenants who had been thrown out of profitable employment. To-day instead of buying farm products of me or my neighbors, these people are selling in competition with us. Two of these farms are occupied by foreigners, and as they live economical-

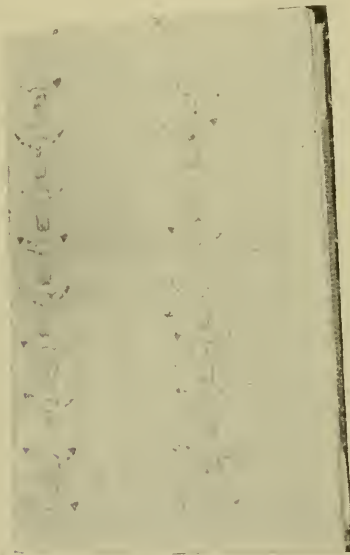


WEIGHTS AND MEASURES USED 100 YEARS AGO.

ly and all, men, women and children, work, they can undersell me. This may be an advantage to citizens of Connecticut who buy farm products, but I fail to see where my profit comes in. The other two farms were bought by men who have money to burn. They are both as yet customers of ours, and I doubt whether they will ever be able with profit to themselves to sell farm products at less than I can. If the taxable value of the property is increased, the state is benefited, but as taxpayers our share is minute in comparison with what we lose by the competition, as producers, of the industrious, frugal class of occupants of deserted farms. When deserted farms are taken by gentlemen to whom farming is a fad and who look upon the farm as an amusement like a yacht or a stable of trotting or running horses we can all get some benefit. They are quite sure to spend money and benefit the laboring people in the neighborhood, and equally as sure to make experiments

that observing neighbors can derive benefit from without expense to themselves. This class of purchasers of abandoned farms should be welcomed and encouraged by everybody. Money spent in increasing the value of Connecticut real estate is, in my opinion, much better spent than in yacht building or horse racing.

"As patriotic citizens we may advocate measures for the reclaiming of abandoned land by frugal, industrious people, but as farmers, looking to our own interests, we should instead advocate the starting of every mill wheel and the building up of industries that will give us a market for what we produce."



OLD SHEEP MARKS.



# REPRESENTATIVES

FROM 1757 TO 1896

ALSO

# TOWN OFFICERS

FROM 1850 TO 1896



## Representatives from 1757 to 1896.

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- 1757—Jabez Swift.  
1758-59—Jabez Swift, Daniel Lee.  
1760—Jabez Swift, Daniel Lee.  
1761—Cyrus Marsh, Nathan Eliot.  
1762—Cyrus Marsh, Nathan Eliot, Eliphalet Comstock.  
1763—Cyrus Marsh, Nathan Eliot, Captain John Hitchcock.  
1764-5—Cyrus Marsh, Ephraim Hubbell, jr.  
1766—John Ramson, Eliphalet Comstock, Cyrus Marsh.  
1767—John Ramson, Eliphalet Comstock, Cyrus Marsh.  
1768—John Ramson, Elisha Swift, Daniel Lee.  
1769—Ephraim Hubbell, jr., Elisha Swift.  
1770—John Ransom, Joseph Pratt, Elisha Swift, Captain Moses Averill.  
1771—Captain Justus Sackett, Joseph Pratt, Ephraim Hubbell.  
1772-4—Captain Justus Sackett, Nathan Elliot, Ephraim Hubbell, jr.  
1775—Captain Eliphlet Whittlesey, Ephraim Hubbell, jr., Captain Moses Averill, Captain Justus Sackett.  
1776—Moses Averill, Captain Justus Sackett, Captain Jethro Hatch.  
1777—Ephraim Hubbell, Captain Justus Sackett, Captain Jethro Hatch.  
1778—Major Jethro Hatch, Captain Joseph Carter, Captain Jedediah Hubbell.  
1779—Major Jethro Hatch, Captain Justus Sackett, Joseph Pratt, Major Eleazer Curtiss.  
1780—Major Jethro Hatch, Captain Joseph Carter, Lewis Mills, Benjamin Ackley.  
1781—Lewis Mills, Benjamin Ackley, Captain Joseph Pratt, Captain Justus Sackett.  
1782—Captain Justus Sackett, Captain Joseph Pratt, Major Eleazer Curtiss.  
1783—Captain Joseph Pratt, Captain Joseph Carter, Nathaniel Berry, Nathan Elliott.  
1785-6—Captain Joseph Pratt, Major Eleazer Curtiss.  
1787—Nathan Elliott.  
1788—Nathan Elliott, Captain Joseph Pratt.  
1789—Nathaniel Perry.  
1790—Nathan Elliott.  
1791—Joseph Pratt.  
1792—Stephen Dodge, Nathaniel Berry.  
1793—Peter Pratt, Peter Comstock.  
1794—Joseph Pratt, John Elliott.  
1795—Joseph Pratt, John Elliott.  
1796—Joseph Pratt, John Elliott.  
1797—Borzillai Slosson, John Elliott.  
1798—Borzillai Slosson, Joseph Pratt.  
1799—David Comstock, Joseph Pratt.  
1800—David Comstock.  
1801—David Comstock, Joseph Pratt.  
1802-3—David Comstock, Borzillai Slosson.  
1804—Nathaniel Berry, jr., Borzillai Slosson.  
1806-7—Borzillai Slosson.  
1808—Matthew Elliott.  
1809—Borzillai Slosson.  
1810-11—Hopson Pratt, Borzillai Slosson.  
1812—Borzillai Slosson.

- 1813-14—Hopson Pratt, Jesse St. John.  
 1815—Matthew Elliott, Jesse St. John.  
 1816—Nathan Elliott, Joseph Skiff.  
 1817—Philo Mills.  
 1818—Abel Beach.  
 1819-20—Lewis Mills.  
 1821—Nathan Slosson, Jr.  
 1822—Nathaniel P. Perry.  
 1823—Russell Judd.  
 1824—John Mills.  
 1825—John S. Swift.  
 1826—Mills Bordwell.  
 1827—Alpheus Fuller.  
 1828—Abel Beach.  
 1829—Nathaniel P. Perry.  
 1830—Birdsey Beardsley.  
 1831—Philo Mills.  
 1832—Garrett Winegar.  
 1833—Ira Eaton.  
 1834—Wells Beardsley.  
 1835—Daniel Dayton.  
 1836—Hiram Converse.  
 1837—Wm. T. Hopson.  
 1838—Russell Judd.  
 1839—Hubbell Miller.  
 1840—Daniel P. Lane.  
 1841—John M. Raymond.  
 1842—No record.  
 1843—John L. Stuart.  
 1844—No record.  
 1845—Agur Beardsley.  
 1846—Nathan Tirrills.  
 1847—John L. Stuart.  
 1848—Rufus Fuller, Jr.  
 1849—Herman Segar.  
 1850—Elida Osborn.  
 1851—Henry I. Fuller.  
 1852—Russell Stone.  
 1853—George Fenn.  
 1854—David Vincent.  
 1855—Petheul Millspaugh.  
 1856—Luke I. Putnam.  
 1857—Edmund H. Mills.  
 1858—Charles J. Fuller.  
 1859—Austin Morehouse.  
 1860—John Spooner.  
 1861—Wm. M. Judd.  
 1862—Reuben Eaton.  
 1863—Frederick A. Mallory.  
 1864—Austin St. John.  
 1865—Luther Eaton.  
 1866—Peter Skiff.  
 1867—Seth W. Hopson.  
 1868-69—F. A. Mallory.  
 1870—Charles Edwards.  
 1871—Walter B. Camp.  
 1872-3—Charles Edwards.  
 1874—Clark Page.  
 1875—Charles Edwards.  
 1876—Samuel R. Peet.  
 1877—Marshall C. Gibbs.  
 1878—Irwin J. Beardsley.  
 1879—Ira Seymour.  
 1880—Charles S. Smith.  
 1881—Sherman Benedict.  
 1882—Charles Lee.  
 1883-4—Linus B. Winegar.  
 1885—Charles S. Smith.  
 1886—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 1887-8—Edwards J. Ingersoll.  
 1889-90—Charles A. Eaton.  
 1891—Charles L. Spooner.  
 1893-94—Charles Lee.  
 1895-96—John L. Roberts.



## Town Officers.

1850.

Clerk—Rufus Fuller.  
Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
Deputy—Asa Slade.  
Selectmen—J. L. Stuart, Silas Dutcher,  
Homer Edwards, Charles Beardsley.  
Collector and Constables—Cogswell,  
L. B. Winegar, J. S. Chamberlain,  
Peter Skiff, Ezra Howland, — New-  
ton.

1851.

Clerk—Rufus Fuller.  
Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
Deputy—Asa Slade.  
Selectmen—J. L. Stuart, Homer Ed-  
wards, Silas Dutcher, Charles Beards-  
ley.  
Constables—Homer Edwards, L. B.  
Winegar, J. S. Chamberlain, Peter  
Skiff, J. W. Cypher, Isaac Dayton, L.  
H. Mills.  
Grand Jurors—Austin Morehouse, G.  
L. Page.  
Assessors—Asa Slade, G. L. Page, Har-  
vey Turrell.  
Board of Registrars—Ira Segar, Phil-  
ip Judd, Harmon Evitts.

1852.

Clerk—Rufus Fuller.  
Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
Deputy—Asa Slade.  
Town Agent—Seth W. Hopson.  
Selectmen—J. L. Stuart, Homer Ed-  
wards, Silas Dutcher.  
Constables—Homer Edwards, L. B.  
Winegar, Wertley Word, J. S. Cham-  
berlain, P. W. Mills, Ezra Howland,  
D. S. Evitts.  
Grand Jurors—Austin Morehouse,  
Moses Smith.

Assessors—David Vincent, W. M.  
Judd, D. S. Evitts.  
Board of Registrars—P. W. Mills, Ira  
Segar, Charles Edwards.

1853.

Clerk—Rufus Fuller.  
Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
Deputy—R. M. Gibbs.  
Town Agent—Moses Smith.  
Selectmen—J. L. Stuart, A. Morehouse,  
Silas Dutcher.  
Constables—Homer Edwards, Linus B.  
Winegar, J. S. Chamberlain, Ezra  
Howland, Calvin Reed, D. S. Evitts,  
P. W. Mills.  
Grand Jurors—J. L. Stuart, A. More-  
house.  
Assessors—David Vincent, W. M.  
Judd, D. S. Evitts.  
Board of Registrars—Hiram Segar, J.  
H. Wanzer, Moses Smith.

1854.

Clerk—J. R. Fuller, Jr.  
Register—William Treat.  
Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
Deputy—Asa Slade.  
Selectmen—Ira Segar, W. B. Newton,  
Harvey Turrell.  
Town Agent—C. I. Fuller.  
Constables—Homer Edwards, E. M.  
Howland, J. S. Chamberlain, P. W.  
Mills, Calvin Reed, Hiram Cogswell,  
John Chase.  
Collector—Harvey Turrell.  
Grand Jurors—J. L. Stuart, Agur  
Beardsley.  
Assessors—David Vincent, W. M. Judd,  
D. S. Evitts.

Board of Relief—J. H. Wonzer, Moses Smith, Hiram Segar.  
 Road Contractors—J. L. Stuart, Miles Camp, Ira Segar.

1855.

Clerk—Rufus Fuller.  
 Register—William Treat.  
 Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
 Selectmen—(\$5 per year)—J. L. Stuart, Ira Segar, Silas Dutcher.  
 Constables—J. S. Chamberlain, P. W. Mills, Calvin Reid, W. M. Judd, Marshall Straight, Henry Judd.  
 Collector—C. I. Fuller.  
 Grand Jurors—J. L. Stuart, Agur Beardsley.  
 Assessors—David Vincent, Jarvis H. Wonzer, William Judd.  
 Board of Relief—J. S. Chamberlain, Moses Smith, Hiram Segar.  
 Land Surveyor—J. R. Fuller.

1856.

Clerk—Leman Beecher.  
 Register—William Treat.  
 Treasurer—John M. Raymond.  
 Selectmen—John L. Stuart, Austin Morehouse, Wilson Patter.  
 Collector—John S. Chamberlain.  
 Constables—Cicero B. Beach, Frederick A. Mallory, Eben S. Tompkins, Calvin Reed, Henry Judd, Ambrose S. Hufint, John Chase.  
 Grand Jurors—John L. Stuart, Agur Beardsley.  
 Assessors—David Vincent, Wm. M. Judd, Edmund H. Mills.  
 Board of Relief—John S. Chamberlain, Moses Smith, John Wilson.  
 School Visitors—N. S. Atwater, Rufus Fuller, Ashbel Fuller.  
 Judge Probate Court—William Treat.  
 Deputy Sheriff—Jared M. Ingersoll.  
 Attorneys-at-Law—Rufus Fuller, William Treat.  
 Justices of the Peace—Aaron W. Benson, Reuben Eaton, Rufus Fuller, Reuben M. Gibbs, William B. Newton, Oliver W. Root, Hiram Segar, William Treat, Harvery Tunsell, John Wilson.

Commissioners on Bridge Bulls Falls—John W. Ward, John Chase.  
 Grand List—\$496,536.  
 Physicians—Wells Beardsley, John E. Smith, Ralph H. Pratt.  
 Postmaster—Rufus Fuller.

1857.

Clerk—Leman Beecher.  
 Register—A. P. Teal.  
 Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
 Selectmen—A. Morehouse, Ira Segar, Wilson Potter.  
 Collector—Ezra Howland.  
 Constables—J. S. Chamberlain, E. Tompkins, E. H. Mills.  
 Grand Jurors—John Hopson, D. S. Everts.  
 Assessors—J. S. Chamberlain, F. L. Bull, David Noble.  
 Board of Relief—John Chase, Moses Smith, John Wilson.  
 Land surveyor—J. R. Fuller.  
 Board of Education—H. S. Atwater, E. Whittlesey, A. Fuller, L. Spooner, C. I. Fuller, W. M. Judd.

1858.

Clerk—Leman Beecher.  
 Register—A. P. Teal.  
 Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
 Selectmen—Austin Morehouse, John C. Berry, L. W. Stone.  
 Constables—J. S. Chamberlain, E. W. Tompkins, E. H. Mills.  
 Grand Jurors—W. T. Hopson, John C. Berry.  
 Assessors—John M. Pratt, Charles Beardsley, F. L. Bull.  
 Board of Relief—Moses Smith, John Chase, John Wilson.  
 Land Surveyor—J. R. Fuller.  
 Board of Education—Lewis Spooner, David Vincent.

1859.

Clerk—Austin St. John.  
 Register—Adam P. Teal.  
 Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.  
 Selectmen—C. I. Fuller, John Wilson, Moses Smith.

Constables—John Chamberlain, Ezra Howland.

Collector—G. H. Chamberlain.

Grand Jurors—Newton Carter, John T. St. John.

Assessors—Austin Morehouse, John Wilson, Newton Carter.

Board of Relief—John C. Berry, Joel B. Pratt, Reuben Eaton.

Land Surveyor—J. R. Fuller.

Board of Education—Ashbel Fuller, John C. Berry, W. Camp.

1860.

Clerk—Austin St. John.

Register—John G. Reid.

Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.

Selectmen—C. I. Fuller, John Wilson, Moses Smith.

Constables—J. S. Chamberlain, J. H. Peters, W. H. Smith, William Ives, Wilson Potter.

Collector—E. M. Howland.

Grand Jurors—F. A. Mallory, Asa Slade, Ambrose Hufcut, Miles Camp.

Assessors—John Wilson, F. L. Bull, D. S. Evitts.

Board of Relief—W. B. Newton, J. M. Pratt, F. A. Mallory.

Land Surveyor—J. R. Fuller.

Board of Education—Ashbel Fuller, H. S. Atwater, Evarts Scudder.

1861.

Clerk and Register—Austin St. John.

Treasurer—J. M. Raymond.

Selectmen—John C. Berry, Richard Lee, D. S. Evitts.

Constables—E. M. Howland, F. S. Merwin, Ambrose Hufcut.

Grand Jurors—Ira Segar, John Spooner.

Assessors—Reuben Eaton, Ralph Pratt, David Noble.

Board of Relief—Marshall Straight, John Segar, Garner Benson.

Road Commissioners—Ira Segar, L. W. Stone.

Board of Education—Ashbel Fuller, J. C. Berry, William Camp, H. S. Atwater, Evarts Scudder, Lewis Spooner, David Vincent.

1862.

Clerk—Austin St. John.

Register—C. B. Andrews.

Treasurer—Ashbel Fuller.

Selectmen—John C. Berry, Richard Lee, D. S. Evitts.

Constables—F. M. Berry, E. M. Howland, Frederick Gilbert.

Grand Jurors—John Spooner, Ira Segar.

Assessors—Reuben Eaton, Ralph Pratt, David Noble.

Board of Relief—Garner Benson, Marshall Straight, John Segar.

Road commissioners—Ira Segar, L. W. Stone.

Board of Education—H. S. Atwater, E. Scudder, Lewis Spooner, David Vincent, Ashbel Fuller, C. B. Andrews.

1863.

Clerk and Register—Charles B. Andrews.

Treasurer—Ashbel Fuller.

Selectmen—John C. Berry, Richard Lee, D. S. Evitts.

Town Agent—C. B. Andrews.

Constables—E. M. Howland, W. H. Peet, John Chase.

Collector—Luther Eaton.

Grand Jurors—Ira Segar, Newton Carter.

Assessors—Peter Skiff, Lewis Spooner, David Noble.

Board of Relief—O. W. Root, Luther Eaton, Isaac Dayton.

Board of Education—Lewis Spooner, William Camp, Ashbel Fuller.

1864.

Clerk and Registrar—H. O. Nash.

Treasurer—David Vincent.

Selectmen—Luther Eaton, David Cole, Clark Page.

Town Agent—Perry Hufcut.

Constables—J. S. Chamberlain, Sherman Green, F. S. Merwin, J. H. Peters, George Segar, Zelous Shove, A. H. Benedict.

Grand Jurors—Moses Smith, John Chase.

Assessors—Charles Beardsley, H. W. Briggs, Peter Skiff.  
 Board of Relief—W. B. Newton, S. R. Peet, J. H. Peters.  
 Road Commissioners—Wilson Potter, Ira Segar, Merwin Howland, Richard Lee, John Chase.  
 Board of Education—Evarts Scudder, Ashbel Fuller, H. O. Nash.

1865.

Clerk—Austin St. John.  
 Register—H. O. Nash.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—Perry Hufcut, David Coles, Clark Page.  
 Constables—J. H. Peters, H. B. Ruggles, George Segar, Walter Camp, H. Lacy, Sherman Green, A. Benedict, Z. Shove, L. Northrop, C. Lane.  
 Collector—Luther Eaton.  
 Grand Jurors—John Chase, Ira Segar.  
 Assessors—Husted Briggs, Charles Beardsley, Peter Skiff.  
 Board of Relief—J. H. Peters, S. R. Peet, William Newton.  
 Board of Education—Ashbel Fuller, Lewis Spooner, Evarts Scudder.

1866.

Clerk—Henry B. Ruggles.  
 Register—David Vincent.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Peter Skiff, John Chase.  
 Town Agent—Perry Hufcut.  
 Constables—J. H. Peters, George Segar, H. B. Ruggles, Andrew Benedict, Zelous Shove, William Peet, J. H. Traver, Charles Leonard, Garner Binson.  
 Grand Jurors—Ira Segar, Moses Smith.  
 Assessors—Peter Skiff, John Chamberlain, S. R. Peet.  
 Board of Relief—A. W. Benson, Sherman Green, Moses Smith.  
 Road Commissioners—Richard Lee, John Chase, Merwin Howland.  
 Board of Education—Evarts Scudder, Ashbel Fuller, John Chase.

1867.

Clerk and Register—J. F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—F. A. Mallory, Clark Page, A. W. Benson.  
 Constables—G. L. Segar, Zelous Shove, J. H. Traver.  
 Grand Jurors—Ira Segar, Moses Smith, Albert Roberts.  
 Assessors—J. S. Chamberlain, Ira Segar, Aaron Benson.  
 Board of Relief—Perry Hufcut, Sherman Benedict, Richard Lee.  
 Road Commissioners—David Cole, Perry Hufcut, N. B. Chamberlain.  
 Board of Education—Ashbel Fuller, Perry Hufcut.  
 S. Treasurer—Luther Eaton.

1868.

Clerk and Register—J. F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—F. A. Mallory, Clark Page, Perry Hufcut.  
 Constables—Zelous Shove, G. L. Segar, W. B. Camp.  
 Collector—Clark Page.  
 Grand Jurors—Luther Eaton, Clark Page.  
 Assessors—J. S. Chamberlain, Peter Skiff, John Chase.  
 Board of Relief—Perry Hufcut, Sherman Benedict, Richard Lee.  
 Board of Education—John Chase, Perry Hufcut, X. A. Welton.

1869.

Clerk and Register—J. F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—F. H. Mallory, Clark Page, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—J. W. Traver, George Segar, Zelous Shove, William Goodsell, Stephen Snidker, Sherman Green, Walter B. Camp.  
 Collector—Clark Page.  
 Grand Jurors—Luther Eaton, Clark Page.  
 Assessors—John Chamberlain, Peter Skiff, John Chase.  
 Board of Relief—George Segar, Richard Lee, Sherman Benedict.

Road Commissions—N. B. Chamberlain, Perry Hufcut.  
 Land Surveyor—D. W. Fuller.  
 Board of Education—Perry Hufcut, X. A. Welton, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—Seth W. Hopson, G. L. Segar.

1870.

Clerk and Register—J. F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Luther Eaton.  
 Selectmen—F. A. Mallory, Clark Page, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—C. W. Roraback, Zelous Shove, G. L. Segar.  
 G. Jurors—Luther Eaton, Clark Page.  
 Assessors—J. S. Chamberlain, Peter Skiff, John Chase.  
 Board of Relief—L. Segar, Richard Lee, Sherman Benedict.  
 Road Commissioners—Wilson Potter, Levi Stone, Ira Segar.  
 Board of Education—John Chase, E. P. Payson, Perry Hufcut.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar.

1871.

Clerk and Register—J. F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—David Vincent.  
 Selectmen—F. A. Mallory, Clark Page, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—C. W. Roraback, E. C. Page, William Goodsell.  
 Collector—Luther Eaton.  
 Grand Jurors—Clark Page, Moses Smith.  
 Assessors—John Chamberlain, Peter Skiff, John Chase.  
 Board of Relief—G. L. Segar, Gilbert Vincent, Richard Lee.  
 Board of Education—John Chase, Perry Hufcut, Gilbert Vincent.

1872.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—David Vincent.  
 Selectmen—Austin Morehouse, John Segar, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—C. W. Roraback, Edgar Page, Zelous Shove, W. H. Thompson.  
 Collector—Luther Eaton.

Grand Jurors—Merwin Howland, Ira Segar.

Assessors—John Chase, Walter B. Camp, Sherman Green.  
 Board of Relief—G. L. Segar, G. A. Vincent; Peter Skiff.  
 Board of Education—Perry Hufcut, Gilbert Vincent, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1873.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Austin St. John.  
 Selectmen—Charles Edwards, Clark Page, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—C. W. Roraback, E. C. Page, J. W. Slosson.  
 Grand Jurors—George Roraback, Merwin Howland.  
 Assessors—John Chase, Walter Camp, S. S. Green.  
 Board of Relief—G. L. Segar, Peter Skiff, G. A. Vincent.  
 Road Commissioners—Frank Evitts, Seth Hopson, N. B. Chamberlain.  
 Board of Education—Perry Hufcut, W. O. Page, A. Crosby, W. B. Camp, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Jesse St. John.

1874.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—David Vincent.  
 Selectmen—Charles Edwards, Clark Page, Charles Beardsley.  
 Constables—E. C. Page, C. W. Roraback, John W. Slosson.  
 Collector—Moses Smith.  
 Grand Jurors—Merwin Howland, George Roraback.  
 Assessors—John Chase, Sherman Green, Walter Camp.  
 Board of Relief—G. L. Segar, Gilbert Vincent, F. R. Buckingham.  
 Road Commissioners—Seth W. Hopson, F. A. Mallory.  
 Board of Education—J. W. Slosson, Gilbert Vincent, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1875.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—David Vincent.  
 Selectmen—Charles Edwards, Clark Page, Wilson Potter.  
 Constables—F. B. Gibbs, A. S. Hill, Walter Page, F. L. Bull.  
 Collector—C. S. Smith.  
 Grand Jurors—F. A. Mallory, John Segar.  
 Assessors—John Chase, Sherman Green, J. S. Chamberlin.  
 Board of Relief—G. A. Vincent, G. L. Segar, F. R. Buckingham.  
 Board of Education—G. A. Vincent, Walter Page, Emerson Jessup, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1876.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Moses Smith.  
 Selectmen—Charles Edwards, Clark Page, Wilson Potter.  
 Constable—F. B. Gibbs.  
 Collector—Charles S. Smith.  
 Grand Jurors—F. A. Mallory, Marvin Hall.  
 Assessors—John Chase, John Chamberlain, Wellington Watson.  
 Board of Relief—G. A. Vincent, G. L. Segar, F. R. Buckingham.  
 Board of Education—Gilbert Vincent, Emerson Jessup, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1877.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—C. H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Stephen Smith, Sherman S. Green.  
 Constables—Thompson Barton, C. L. Spooner, Fred'k Chase.  
 Collector—Irwin J. Beardsley.  
 Grand Jurors—Marvin Hall, John Segar.  
 Assessors—John Chase, L. S. Northrop, Peter Skiff.  
 Board of Relief—Richard Lee, L. W. Stone, Frank Evitts.

Board of Education—Thomas Barclay, I. J. Beardsley.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1878.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Spencer Smith, Clark Page.  
 Constables—Thompson Barton, Mark B. Howland, Edwin B. Payn.  
 Collector—Irwin J. Beardsley.  
 Grand Jurors—John Segar.  
 Assessors—Lewis S. Northrop, Sherman Green, John Chase.  
 Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Frank Evitts, Fitch R. Buckingham.  
 Board of Education—T. D. Barclay, G. A. Vincent, John Chase.  
 Registrar of Voters—G. L. Segar, Albert Roberts.

1879.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Register—John W. King.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Levi W. Stone, Stephen Smith, Fitch R. Buckingham.  
 Constables—Charles S. Smith, James H. Peters.  
 Collector—Charles A. Easton.  
 Grand Jurors—Sherman S. Green, John Segar.  
 Assessors—Lewis S. Northrop, Sherman S. Green, Wilson Potter.  
 Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Frank Evitts, Gilbert A. Vincent.  
 Board of Education—Thomas D. Barclay, Isaac C. Sturgess.  
 Registrar of voters—George L. Segar, Albert Roberts.  
 Postmaster—Burrett Eaton.  
 Member Connecticut Medical Society—John W. King.  
 Clergymen Methodist Episcopal—A. A. Lathbury.  
 Episcopal—Isaac C. Sturgess.  
 Congregational—Thomas D. Barclay.  
 Grand List—\$501,182.  
 Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Daniel C. Camp.

Commissioner Superior Court—Wellington Watson.

Notary Public—Marshall C. Gibbs.

1880.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Register—John W. King.

Treasurer—C. H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—L. W. Stone, Stephen Smith, John Seger.

Constables—Thompson Barton, Charles Lee, I. J. Beardsley.

Collector—C. A. Eaton.

Grand Juror—John Seger.

Assessors—L. S. Northrop, S. S. Green, S. R. Peet.

Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Frank Evetts, G. A. Vincent.

Board of Education—T. D. Barclay, I. C. Sturges, John Chase.

Registrars of Voters—G. L. Seger, Albert Roberts.

1881.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Register—John W. King.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Levi W. Stone, Sherman Benedict, John Seger.

Constables—Thompson Barton, Charles Lee.

Collector—Charles A. Eaton.

Grand Jurors—Luther Eaton, Sherman Green.

Assessors—Fred A. Mallory, Sherman Green.

Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Frank Evetts, Gilbert A. Vincent.

Board of Education—Thomas D. Barclay, Isaac C. Sturges, John Chase, G. A. Vincent.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vincent, Albert Roberts.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Notary Public—Marshall C. Gibbs.

Deputy Sheriff—E. Samuel Elmore.

Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Luther Eaton.

Commissioner Superior Court—Wellington Watson.

Grand List—\$469,391.

Children enrolled 370, militia 173.

Presidential vote for Garfield 180; for Hancock 195; for governor, Bigelow 180, English 196.

Physician—John W. King.

Postmaster—Burrett Eaton.

Population, 1880, 1,922.

Distance from Hartford—Eighty miles.  
1882.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Register—John W. King.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Clark Page, John Straight.

Constables—Frederick A. Mallory.

Collector—Charles A. Eaton.

Grand Juror—George L. Seger.

Assessors—F. A. Mallory, S. S. Green, Charles L. Spooner.

Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Frank Evetts, Gilbert A. Vincent.

Board of Education—Thomas D. Barclay, Isaac C. Sturges, John Chase, G. A. Vincent.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vincent, Albert Roberts.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Luther Eaton.

Grand List—\$472,825.

1883.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Register—John W. King.

Treasurer—C. H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Samuel R. Peet, John Straight.

Constables—F. A. Mallory, F. S. Bull, Charles Lee, Frederick Chase, Elmore Burton, E. D. Beeman.

Collector—Charles A. Eaton.

Grand Jurors—John Seger, Sherman S. Green.

Assessors—John A. Morehouse, Clark Page, Charles L. Spooner.

Board of Relief—Gilbert A. Vincent, Richard Lee, Frank Evetts.

Board of Education—John Chase, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1885.

Registrar of Voters, Gilbert A. Vincent, Albert Roberts.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Luther Eaton, Perry Hufcut, Peter Skiff, S. S. Green, W. O. Page, Clark Page, Walter Conn, L. B. Winegar, Wellington Watson.  
 Grand List—\$486,236.  
 Vote for Governor—Bulkeley 94, Waller 184.

1884.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Register—John W. King.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, George L. Seger, John Straight.  
 Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Fred L. Buell, Fred Chase, Charles Lee, Frank Smith, Elmore Burton, Edwin D. Beeman.  
 Assessors—John A. Morehouse, Clark Page, Sherman S. Green.  
 Board of Relief—Gilbert A. Vincent, Richard Lee, Frank Evetts.  
 Board of Education—John Chase, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1885; Gilbert A. Vincent, Thomas D. Burdy, 1886.  
 Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vincent, Albert Roberts.  
 Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Justices of the Peace—Luther Eaton, Marshall C. Gibbs, Wellington Watson.  
 Grand List—\$494,389.

1885.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Register—John W. King.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Sherman Benedict, John Straight.  
 Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Fred L. Bull, Charles Lee, James Tobin, Fred H. Chase, Elmer Barton.  
 Grand Jurors—George L. Seger, Linus B. Winegar.  
 Assessors—Walter O. Page, Sherman S. Green, Lewis S. Northrop.  
 Board of Relief—Gilbert A. Vincent, Richard Lee, Frank Evetts.

Board of Education—John Chase, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1885; Gilbert A. Vincent, Thomas D. Burdy, 1886; Elbert S. Porter, Walter O. Page, Isaac C. Sturges, 1887.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vincent, Jesse St. John.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Deputy Sheriff—Gilbert A. Vincent.

Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Luther Eaton, Perry Hufcut, Peter Skiff, Sherman S. Greene, Walter O. Page, Clark Page, Linus B. Winegar, Wellington Watson, Walter Conn.

Grand List—\$495,079.

1886.

Clerk—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Register—John W. King.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Sherman Benedict, John Straight.  
 Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Fred L. Bull, Charles Lee, James Tobin, Charles F. Kirk, Wm. H. Stuart, Wm. Burnett.  
 Collector—Fred H. Chase.  
 Grand Jurors—George L. Seger, Linus B. Winegar.  
 Assessors—Walter O. Page, Sherman S. Green, Birdsey G. Pratt.  
 Board of Relief—Gilbert A. Vincent, Richard Lee, John Straight.  
 Board of Education—Gilbert A. Vincent, Thomas D. Burdy, 1886; Elbert S. Porter, Walter O. Page, Isaac C. Sturges, 1887; John Chase, John Slosson, F. R. Buckingham, 1888.  
 Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vincent, Albert Roberts.  
 Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Justices of the Peace—Marshall C. Gibbs, Luther Eaton, Walter O. Page.  
 Grand List—\$490,260.  
 Vote for President—Cleveland 198; Blaine 144.



1887.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, John  
 Straight, Sherman Benedict.  
 Constables—Thompson Burton, Bird-  
 sey G. Pratt, W. B. Burnett, Walter  
 Hatch, Daniel Hall, Charles Kirk,  
 James Tobin.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Jurors—Birdsey G. Pratt, Linus  
 B. Winegar.

Assessors—Charles L. Spooner, James  
 H. Peters, Walter O. Page.

Board of Education—Elbert S. Porter,  
 Walter O. Page, Isaac C. Sturges,  
 1887; John Chase, John Slosson, F.  
 R. Buckingham, 1888; Irwin J.  
 Beardsley, Gilbert A. Vincent, 1889.

Board of Relief—John Straight, Ir-  
 win J. Beardsley, Richard Lee.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vin-  
 cent, Albert Roberts.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J. Beards-  
 ley, Luther Eaton, Marshall C.  
 Gibbs, Sherman S. Green, Perry Huf-  
 cut, John L. Roberts, Jesse St. John,  
 Peter Skiff, William K. Stone, John  
 Straight.

Grand List—\$482,825.

Children enumerated—349.

1888.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.  
 Selectmen—Luther Eaton, Sherman  
 Benedict, John Straight.

Constables—Frederick A. Mallory,  
 Hiram I. Wildman, Fred L. Buel,  
 Charles Lee, Charles Kirk, James  
 Tobin, Wm. H. Stuart.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Jurors—George L. Seger,  
 George Roraback.

Assessors—Edward J. Ingersoll, Sher-  
 man S. Green, Charles L. Spooner.

Board of Relief—Gilbert A. Vin-  
 cent, Richard Lee, John Straight.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vin-  
 cent, Albert Roraback.

School Visitors—John Slosson, C. L.  
 Spooner, 1888; Irwin J. Beardsley,  
 Gilbert A. Vincent, 1889; George W.  
 Griffith, Reuben M. Gibbs, 1890.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J.  
 Beardsley, Luther Eaton, Marshall  
 C. Gibbs, Perry Hufcut.

Grand List—\$482,351.

Children enumerated—351.

1889.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Jesse St. John (North  
 Kent), Charles A. Eaton, John  
 Chase.

Grand Jurors—George Roraback, Bird-  
 sey G. Pratt.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Constables—Thompson Burton, Frank  
 S. Peet, Seth Monroe, Jerome Judd,  
 Wm. Searles, Wm. B. Burnett, Wm.  
 K. Stone.

Assessors—Lewis S. Northrop, James  
 H. Peters, Cook Darling.

Board of Relief—John Straight,  
 Irwin J. Beardsley, Richard Lee.

School Visitors—Irwin J. Beardsley,  
 Gilbert A. Vincent, 1889; John Wy-  
 man, Reuben M. Gibbs, 1890; Charles  
 L. Spooner, John Chase, 1891.

Registrars of Voters—Gilbert A. Vin-  
 cent, Albert Roberts.

Probate Judge—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J. Beards-  
 ley, Sherman Benedict, Thomas  
 Branch, James Barker, Walter Conn,  
 Marshall C. Gibbs, Perry Hufcut,  
 John Slosson, Charles L. Spooner,  
 Charles R. Stone.

Grand List—\$478,733.

Tax Rate—16 mills.

1890.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
 Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Samuel R. Peet (South  
 Kent), Elroy S. Jennings, Charles A.  
 Eaton.

Town Agent—Perry Hufcut.

Constables—Charles T. Chase, Olin Benedict, Daniel Tobin, Mott Darling, Thomas Barton, William Searles, Frank A. Peet.

Grand Jurors—George Roraback, Birdsey G. Pratt.

Assessors—Edward J. Ingersoll, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Clark Page, John Straight.

School Visitors—Reuben M. Gibbs, John Wyman, 1890; John Chase, Charles L. Spooner, 1891; Irwin J. Beardsley, William F. Bielby, 1892.

Registrars of Voters—Mott Darling, Albert Roberts.

Judge of Probate—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J. Beardsley, Sherman Benedict, Marshall C. Gibbs, Perry Hufcut, Charles L. Spooner.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Commissioners Superior Court—Perry Hufcut, Wellington Watson.

Deputy Sheriff—Gilbert A. Vincent.

Grand List—\$479,331.

Rate of Taxes—16 mills.

Indebtedness Funded—\$13,800.

Children enumerated—313.

Physician—John W. King.

1891.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Samuel R. Peet (South Kent), Elroy S. Jennings, Charles A. Eaton.

Constables—Charles Chase, Otis A. Benedict, Daniel Tobin, William R. Searles, Frank S. Peet, Mott Darling, William K. Stone.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Jurors—George Roraback, Birdsey G. Pratt.

Assessors—Edward J. Ingersoll, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—Richard Lee, Clark Page, John Straight.

Registrar of Voters—Mott Darling, Albert Roberts.

School Visitors—John Chase, Charles L. Spooner, 1891; William F. Bielby, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1892; Reuben M. Gibbs, Benjamin M. Wright, 1893.

Justices of the Peace—Thomas D. Barclay, Irwin J. Beardsley, Luther Eaton, Perry Hufcut, William Morey, Walter O. Page, Peter Skiff, John Slosson.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.

1892.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Samuel R. Peet, Elroy S. Jennings, Charles A. Heaton.

Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Charles Chase, Daniel Tobin, Charles A. Buckingham, Wm. K. Stone, Wm. Searles, Frank Peet.

Grand Jurors—John Straight, George Roraback.

Assessors—E. J. Ingersoll, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—John Chase, Charles Lee, Jerome Berry.

Registrar of Voters—Mott Darling, Albert Roberts.

School Visitors—Wm. F. Bielby, Irwin J. Beardsley, John Slosson, W. O. Page, John Chase, B. G. Pratt.

1893.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.  
Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Samuel R. Peet (South Kent), Elroy S. Jennings, Charles A. Eaton.

Town Agent—Perry Hufcut.

Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Daniel Tobin, Charles T. Chase, Charles A. Buckingham, Frank Peet, William L. Searles, William K. Stone.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Juror—George Roraback.

Assessors—Edward J. Ingersoll, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—John Chase, Charles Lee, Jerome Berry.

Registrars of Voters—Mott Darling, Albert Roberts.

School Visitors—Walter O. Page, John Slosson, 1893; John Chase, B. G. Pratt, 1894; William F. Bielby, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1895.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J. Beardsley, Thomas D. Barclay, Luther Eaton, Perry Hufcut, William Morey, Walter O. Page, Peter Skiff, John Slosson, William K. Stone, John Straight.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.

1894.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Charles A. Eaton, Samuel R. Peet, Elroy S. Jennings.

Constables—Frederick A. Mallory, Thompson Burton, Charles T. Chase, Eugene W. Bull, William K. Searles, Daniel Tobin, William K. Stone.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Jurors—George Roraback, Birdsey G. Pratt.

Assessors—Edward J. Ingersoll, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—John Chase, William K. Stone, Charles L. Spooner.

Registrars of Voters—Mott Darling, Charles L. Spooner.

School Visitors—John Chase, B. G. Pratt, 1894; William F. Bielby, Irwin J. Beardsley, 1895; John Slosson, Charles L. Spooner, 1896.

Justices of the Peace—Irwin J. Beardsley, Thomas D. Barclay, Luther Eaton, Perry Hufcut.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.

1895.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—Charles A. Eaton, Elroy S. Jennings, Samuel R. Peet.

Auditors—Perry Hufcut, Birdsey G. Pratt.

Constables—Frank Peet, Robert J. Boyd, Thompson Burton, Robert S. Waldron, Eugene W. Bull, Daniel Tobin, Charles T. Chase.

Collector—Charles H. Gaylord.

Grand Jurors—George L. Seger, William K. Stone.

Assessors—William E. Page, Perry Hufcut, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—John Chase, Jerome Berry, William K. Stone.

Registrars of Voters—Charles L. Spooner, Mott Darling.

School Visitors—Irwin J. Beardsley, Wm. F. Bielby, 1895; John Slosson, Charles L. Spooner, 1896; John Chase, Birdsey G. Pratt, 1897.

Justices of the Peace—Jerome Berry, Thomas D. Barclay, Thompson Burton, Fred H. Chase, Perry Hufcut, John Monroe, Samuel R. Peet, George L. Seger, Charles S. Smith, William K. Stone.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.

1896.

Clerk and Register—Jerome F. Gibbs.

Treasurer—Charles H. Gaylord.

Selectmen—George L. Seger, John A. Morehouse, Elroy S. Jennings.

Constables—Eugene W. Bull, Thomas Collier, Charles L. Chase, Daniel Tobin, Frank S. Peet, Lewis H. Ives, Robert J. Boyd.

Collector—Fred H. Chase.

Grand Jurors—Charles S. Smith, William K. Stone.

Assessors—William E. Page, Don C. Peet, Lewis S. Northrop.

Board of Relief—John Chase, Charles Lee, Charles L. Spooner.

Registrars of Voters—Mott Darling, Charles L. Spooner.

School Visitors—John Slosson, Charles L. Spooner, 1896; John Chase, Birdsey G. Pratt, 1897; Irwin J. Beardsley, Jerome Judd, 1898.

Notary Public—Jerome F. Gibbs.



BIOGRAPHICAL  
SKETCHES.



CHARLES T. WALPORT.

Charles T. Walport, of Washington, D. C., is a representative of the Stuart family, being a grandson on the maternal side of Hon. Charles Stuart, mention of whom is made on page 132. His father was Stephen Tobias of Waldpot, of whom a sketch appears on page 86.

## Biographical Sketches.

### CHARLES JAMES STEPHEN STUART.

Among the early founders of Kent, Litchfield county, Conn., we find the name of Charles James Stephen Stuart, who was undoubtedly one of the ablest men of his time. This gentleman is said to have been the son of Lord Charles Stuart (Murray), the fourth son of the first duke of Athol, who appears to have been erroneously published in the English peerage as having died in 1720. He was implicated in the Scottish revolution in 1715, was captured at Preston, court martialed and sentenced to be shot. Sir Walter Scott says: "He was with difficulty relieved owing to the influence of his friends." (Tales of a Grandfather Vol. III, p. 138.) Lord Charles Stuart Murray escaped to France with Charles and Isaac Walker, who had both "been out," and in 1720 to the American colonies. The gentlemen Walker settled in Maryland, Mr. Stuart in the New Netherlands (New York City), where he is said to have married a daughter of Col. Cosby, the governor.

The present Duke of Athol admits in an autograph letter to Mrs. Walport that he does not know where Charles Stuart Murray is buried.

Charles James Stephen Stuart was born in the great metropolis about 1734 as near as may be determined and after the death of his parents, went to Connecticut. At the time of the burning of Danbury (1777) he had been residing for some years with a Mr. Dibble, a prominent loyalist of that town, who owned the old mansion which entertained General Tyron and his officers on their expedition into Danbury, and

which also received the dying form of the gallant General Wooster. Owing to his treasonable sympathies, Mr. Dibble was taken the next day by the young men of the town, and given a ducking. After the burning of Danbury, Mr. Stuart, who naturally clung to the faith and traditions of his ancestors, buried himself in the forests of New Fairfield, where he engaged for some years in teaching, and is said to have made many friends. He was one of the chief instigators of the memorial sent to Prince Charles in 1778, asking him to come over and set up his standard in the back settlements. Sir Walter Scott told Washington Irving, "that he had seen this correspondence at Carlton House, but that it had afterward disappeared." (Mahon Hist. of England, Vol. VI, p. 180. See Visit to Abbotsford by Irving, p. 48). About this time the law was passed known as "George III.," Chap. 24, which restored the descendants of rebellious houses to their hereditary rights. Soon after, Mr. Stewart obtained an interview with Lord and Sir William Howe, both of whom assured him in the name of George III., "that if he would assist in subjugating the disorderly and rebellious colonies, his rights should be duly recognized by the English government." (Sabine's History of the Loyalists of the Revolution, says: "James Stuart of New York was an addressor of Lord and Sir William Howe.") Vol. II. The promise was never kept and it is evident that George III. used the power he had thus

obtained solely to strengthen the hitherto wavering House of Athol. Later, Mr. Stuart became possessed of considerable landed property which appears to have been confiscated by the colonial government, "he having aided and abetted the tories."

We read that about the time Mr. Stuart was so closely pursued by the enemy, that like his ancestors of old, he was forced to hide himself in a mountain cave near his home in Kent, while the country round about was being scoured in pursuit of him and that his wife, the intrepid Elizabeth Bull (the great-great-granddaughter of the great colonist—Captain Thomas Bull), braving the perils of the times, would come forth at nightfall, climb the steep mountain side carrying him his food.

This mountain has ever since been called "Bull Mountain" in remembrance of her wifely heroism, at its summit is a lake, which has been christened "Loch Elizabeth." "The Stuart Cave," ~~a lake, which has been christened~~ is still shown, and is a room fifteen feet wide by twenty long and from six to nine feet in height, solid rock, and is situated in a most inaccessible place in the mountain, a person having to lie down to crawl in. It still shows traces of fire, the rocks having scaled off in places, the effects of heat, and Elizabeth Bull must have been intrepid indeed, to have attempted so perilous an ascent. It is said that a company of Continental soldiers were encamped about half a mile from this cave and Mrs. Charles Northrop, of New Milford, informs us that her great-grandfather, Captain Jonathan Bull, entertained a number of British officers one winter, who were sent there with a squad of soldiers to protect Stephen Stuart at that time in hiding. As this was the old marching ground from the Hudson river to Hartford and a skirmish is actually known to have occurred here, the history may be correct. It was this

Captain Bull who led General Washington's horse across the stringers of Bulls Bridge which crosses the Housatonic just below Bulls Falls, the bridge being at the time in process of erection. A short distance from the cave lies a beautiful sheet of water known as Hatch's Pond, or Lake Elizabeth, which derives much interest from its associations with the noble houses of Stuart and Boleyn (Bull).

Captain Thomas Bull was born in England in 1606, and was the great-grandson of Sir James Boleyn, the uncle of Annie. The father of Sir James and Thomas Boleyn was Sir Jeffrey Bullen, a London merchant who was knighted by Richard III. and became Lord Mayor of London.

While Mr. Stuart was secreted in the cave, Elizabeth, whose wonderful voice was celebrated throughout that section, would daily walk out and sing across the waters to him. When danger was near she would warn him by selecting a plaintive air, when all was serene then her voice would ring out blithely, while she dug roots, or was absorbed seemingly in some pursuit. Sometimes she would stop to tighten her saddle girth, for she was a fine horsewoman, at others, her horse would fall lame and she would dismount and lead him. A slender petite woman, with dark shining eyes and a head of glossy dark hair, she was to be seen riding out daily, wearing a red cloak and a high steeple crowned hat. Ever the counselor, champion and friend of her husband, to whose interests she was entirely devoted and her zeal, her untiring energy, her courage, her fidelity, would form a history in itself. She, the daughter of an old colonial house, intensely patriotic, and whose family were in the service of the Continental armies. Thrice was their home laid waste and the young mother with her helpless little ones forced to flee to the mountains for



concealment and safety, guided by the light of their burning buildings.

It were impossible to depict her anguish when her two young sons were drafted into the Continental army, the youngest, Chapman Hamilton, being at that time but sixteen years of age. The elder brother, Homer, died at Fort Pickering, Salem, Mass., after a brief illness, December, 1808. A document of the time says, "He was buried with martial honors. There were muffled drums, all the men wore crape upon their arms, and seemed to feel as bad as though he had been a brother." The next year Chapman was made an officer. In a letter to his oldest brother, Charles, he asks him to call the baby Irene, that having been their countersign for the past month and the name of the wife of his captain, and which name signified "Peace." Papers in the state department show that Mr. Stuart was arrested by the marshal of Connecticut, 1814, for having furnished supplies to the enemy from the coast. His name is given as James. "A genuine Highland gentleman," said Mrs. Ruby Church of Cornwall Bridge, Conn. "Often have I seen him throw a shilling to the lad who held his stirrups, a fine horseman indeed." Mrs. Ruby Church died a few years since, aged nearly one hundred years. "I remember him well," said the late Hon. Pierpont Edwards of Kent, "and attended school with his eldest son, Charles. He was a loyalist and a man who always carried himself very high, never labored and was very proud of his blood." He has been described as a man of large and commanding figure, showing unmistakable traits of his royal Stuart blood, and is said to have had a long face, a long nose, something of a peculiarity about the eye and a sputter or stammering in his speech when excited, all marked characteristics of the Anol-Stuarts. He was an Episcopalian by faith and is said to have been a zealous churchman dur-

ing the latter part of his life. We have seen the old red pocketbook in which he used to keep his family papers and have been told how at twilight he would gather with his children round the fire, in his old age, and read them over, and sigh and lament that George III. had not kept his promise, and that his sons, "gentleman's sons" he would say "should be obliged to work for a living."

In Sabine's *Loyalists of the Revolution*, Vol. II, p. 332, quotation is made from a letter written by Charles Stuart of New York to the Earl of Galloway in England, who was connected to the Athol Stuarts both by blood and intermarriage. In Scharf's history of Maryland, Vol II, pp. 408, 433, 445, we find that Stephen Stuart gave \$379.18 to help the suffering American soldiers who were under the command of Gen. Lafayette. His name appears the sixth on the list. This was in 1781. James Charles Stephen Stuart died about 1834, aged nearly one hundred years, having outlived all his sons and is buried beside his eldest son, Charles, in the rural cemetery opposite Bull Falls in Kent, Conn.

"The lonely neglected grave of this man in whose veins flowed the blood of the royal Stuarts," says a writer of the times, "being a lasting monument to the treachery and ingratitude of George III." When one recalls the wrongs and struggles of this Prince of Scotland, continued for almost a century, his orphanage, his false position among a hostile people, exposed not only to all the evils of poverty, but to suspicion, calumny and insult, of the promises of the Howes to see him restored, of the perfidy of George III., of the persecution of the colonists, of his grief at the death of Homer, of the battle fought so near him that he heard the roar of the cannon from his secret hiding place and was only prevented from joining them by the tears and entreaties of his beautiful and courageous

wife, who had come forth before day-break to warn him. Of the confiscation and distribution of his very considerable property, one can but wonder at his patience, his forbearance and his consistency, for surely he fought the battle of life bravely and despite perils and misfortunes almost unknown in the annals of all history, he remained true to those principles, founded and implanted by his fathers.

During the latter years of his life Mr. Stuart received a small pension in lieu of his very considerable property. His wife outlived her husband many years and died about 1854, near Saratoga Springs, New York, aged 104 years. We find documentary proof that the children of Stephen and Elizabeth Stuart were Anne, Charles, Homer, Chapman, Henry and Hermon. Anne, commonly called Nancy, married a Mr. Benson and moved west.

From a letter to the township clerk of Kent, written by Stephen Stuart and also accompanied by the signature of his wife Elizabeth, and which letter bearing date of June 7, 1806 is still on file, we find that his oldest son, Charles, was born June 7, 1785. Charles Stuart remained in Litchfield county, where he married Hannah, daughter of Jehial Church, of Kent, by whom he had three daughters, Irene, Mary and Emily. He was a member of the State Legislature and an officer of the state militia. He died in 1825 in the prime of life. Had he lived he might have done his country great service, for he had a fine presence, a wondrously stored mind, and great powers of eloquence, and has been described as a very grand and handsome man, having the fine form, and the dark complexion of the Stuarts. The pillar upon whom the family depended, his death was a blow from which they never recovered. A simple stone marks his grave.

Homer died young. Nothing is known of Chapman's descendants if

any, or of Henry, commonly called Harry. Hermon, the youngest son, married Submit, the sister of Hannah Church and appears to have remained in Kent. His children were Alonzo and Marietta, both of whom left surviving issue.

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PAUL C. SKIFF, M. D.

The following sketch of Dr. Skiff is substantially taken from the History of the City of New Haven, Conn.:

Among the maney men of mark whom Litchfield Co. has contributed to New Haven, is one of the city's most popular and eminent medical practitioners, Dr. Paul C. Skiff.



PAUL C. SKIFF, M. D.

In 1761 Nathan Skiff journeyed from Tolland county into the wilds of western Connecticut. In what is now the town of Kent and on the western side of the Housatonic river, he purchased a large tract of land, including a mountain, which was named Skiff Mountain, and there the pioneer erected his log house, with only the Scat-

acook Indians as his neighbors. After five years Nathan Skiff moved from his log house into a new frame house which he had built, and into whose chimney he had inserted a large square stone bearing the date "1766." When Nathan Skiff rested from his labors, house and land descended to his son, Nathan Skiff 2nd; from him to his youngest son, Luther Skiff; again to the latter's youngest son, Samuel A. Skiff, who sold it in 1875 to his brother, the subject of this sketch.

Farm and homestead have therefore been occupied by the same family for one hundred and thirty years.

In this house on the 4th of October,

in the Revolutionary army under Captain Abraham Fuller of Kent, and responded to the defense of New York in 1776, and in aid of Danbury when raided by General Tryon in 1777. He was the son of Nathan Skiff, sr., and Thankful Eaton, and he the son of Stephen of Tolland, and Elizabeth Hatch, and he the son of Nathan and Hepsiba Codman, of Martha's Vineyard, and he the son of James and Mary Reeves, the emigrant. James Skiff, the first of the name, and undoubtedly the ancestor of all the Skiffs in America, came from England, probably London, about 1636. He removed to Saugus (now Lynn) and af-



SKIFF MOUNTAIN HOMESTEAD.

1828, Paul Cheeseborough Skiff was born. Dr. Skiff's parents, Luther Skiff and Hannah Comstock, were married April 8th, 1818, and had eleven children: Elijah, Mary Ann, Edward, Peter, Paul C., Helen, Hannah J., Giles, Samuel A., Margaret, and Mira, all born at the old homestead. As stated above Luther Skiff was the son of Nathan Skiff, jr., and Abigail Fuller. Their children were also born at the Skiff homestead, and were as follows: Elijah, Moses, Delia, Herman, Julius, Abigail, Thankful, Luther and Harriet. Nathan Skiff jr., served

terwards became one of the founders of Sandwich, also taking a very prominent and active part in the affairs of Plymouth colony. A man of strong opinions and indomitable will, his influence is shown in our histories of that settlement.

Dr. Skiff's grandmother Abigail Fuller was the daughter of Captain Zachariah Fuller and Abigail Hubbell and he the son of Joseph Fuller and Lydia Day who was one of the original grantees and incorporators of the township of Kent. Joseph Fuller came from East Haddam to Kent in

1738. He was the son of John Fuller and Mehitable Rowley of Barnstable, whose parents were Samuel Fuller and Jane, daughter of the Rev. John Lathrop of Scituate. They were married by Captain Miles Standish. Samuel Fuller with his father, Edward, and uncle Dr. Samuel Fuller, were among the Pilgrims who came in the Mayflower in 1620. Dr. Skiff's mother, Hannah Comstock, was the daughter of Peter Comstock and Hannah Platt, and he the son of Eliphalet and Sarah Pratt and he the son of Daniel, jr., and Catharine, who with his father, Daniel Comstock, sr., were also among the incorporators of Kent. Daniel, sr., was the son of Christopher Comstock, the emigrant who came to Fairfield in 1661. Dr. Skiff's maternal grandmother, Hannah Platt, was the daughter of Judge Zephaniah Platt and Hannah Davis of Plattburgh, N. Y. Zephaniah Platt, jr., was the son of Captain Zephaniah Platt, who was the son of Jonas Platt and Hannah Saxton of Huntington, L. I., who was son of Captain Epenetus Platt and Phoebe Wood and he the son of Richard Platt, the emigrant who came to New Haven in 1638 and settled in Milford. Thus it is shown that of the early families and settlers of the township of Kent, Dr. Skiff's ancestors include branches of the Comstock and Fuller line, also the families of Hubbel and Pratt, he descending from Captain Ephraim Hubbel and Joseph Pratt, additional incorporators of the town.

Dr. Skiff's boyhood was spent in working upon the ancestral farm, and in profiting by such educational facilities as the town afforded. When he was fifteen years of age his mother's sister, Mrs. Mills Bissell, a most estimable lady, living on the Western reserve in the town of Austinburg, Ohio, invited him to come and live with her, and attend school at the neighboring Grand River institute. Eagerly desiring a liberal education, he deter-

mined, in spite of many hindrances, to profit, if possible, by the offer. With his worldly goods in a small trunk, and with sixty dollars in his pocket, money given him by his grandmother Corastock, he set forth alone for what was then the far west. After a four years' course of study in Austinburg, he returned to his home in Kent and for several years combined the tasks of managing a farm, teaching and the study of medicine.

He graduated at the Yale Medical school in 1856. Afterwards he took a two years' post graduate course at the Jefferson Medical college in Philadelphia under those eminent instructors, Professors Mutter, Pancost, Meigs, and Dungleson.

Returning to New Haven in 1859 he began the practice of medicine and has resided in this city since that time.

Dr. Skiff had been educated in the tenets of the old school of medicine but even during his stay in Philadelphia his attention had been called to new theories. After a careful and conscientious study of Homoeopathy, he concluded that it was an advance upon the elder medical system, and he embraced its principles. For this development he was indebted to the suggestions of Dr. Herring of Philadelphia and largely to the influence of his cousin, Dr. Charles Skiff, the earliest homoeopathic doctor in New Haven and second in the state.

Dr. Skiff's success in his profession was speedy. From the first year of practice to the present time he has been one of the busiest of men. His varied experiences have given him an acquaintance with all sorts and conditions of men. His skill in the healing art has been supported by prompt judgment, admirable foresight, unflagging good temper, and by an independent attitude toward all theories of practice. He has contributed to various medical journals, was one of the founders of the State Homoeopathic society, and

also an incorporator of Grace hospital of New Haven, a Homoeopathic institution, and one of the most flourishing hospitals in New England, of which he is director and consulting physician.

In June 1874, he married Miss Emma McGregor Ely of Brooklyn, N. Y., whose great grandfather on her father's side was the Rev. Dr. David Ely of Lyme, Conn., and whose maternal grandfather was the Rev. Dr. Thomas Punderson of New Haven. They have one child, Pauline, born in May, 1880.

#### REV. B. G. NORTHROP.

Birdsey Grant Northrop was born in Kent July 18, 1817. He was graduated at Yale college and Yale Theological seminary. His grandfather Amos Northrop graduated at Yale in 1762. He joined the Congregational church in Kent, when fourteen years of age. For ten years he was pastor at Saxonville, Mass., for ten years agent of the Massachusetts board of education and for sixteen years state school superintendent of Connecticut. This period of twenty-six years of state work for public schools is longer than the similar service of any other person in New England. His wide educational experience early showed the close connection between the home and the school, his motto being "as is the home so is the school," and prompted a strong desire to work for the esthetic and sanitary improvement of the homes of the American people. Hence he is recognized by the press as the "Father of Village Improvement Societies," now spreading widely over the country from Maine to California. The New York Evening Post says: "There are very few men capable of working as Mr. Northrop has done for many years in a systematic effort to arouse enthusiasm for these improvements, in which his apostleship has been a beneficent influence."

Hon. J. Sterling Morton started Arbor Day for economic purposes—re-

claiming the tractless prairies of the Trans-Missouri states, but Arbor Day in schools was originated by Mr. Northrop. His resolution in favor of this measure was unanimously adopted by the American Forestry association in 1883. He has been annually re-appointed chairman of its committee to push their observance. This effort has achieved remarkable results. Arbor Day in schools is now observed in all of the United States and territories,



REV. B. G. NORTHROP.

except Delaware, Utah and the Indian territory, in all the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, and in many foreign countries including the Hawaiian Islands and Japan. Everywhere it is an adjunct of village improvement. Its school lessons are mostly applied in dooryard adornments and in planting trees by the wayside. Dr. Northrop has lectured in most of the American states, in Honolulu and Japan and twice visited Europe and in his busy life found time to write a number of timely books and pamph-

lets. The American Gardening says "The results of his teaching may be seen in thousands of towns in all parts of America. Succeeding generations will continue to appreciate the labors and bless the memory of Professor Northrop."

#### EDWARDS JOHNSON INGERSOLL.

Edwards Johnson Ingersoll, a son of Jared M. Ingersoll, was born in Kent, May 13, 1847. He received a partial education in the schools of Kent and completed it in the academy of Prof. Benjamin W. Dwight at New York. At one time he held a position in the Internal Revenue office, and afterwards filled a clerkship in New York, until his return to Kent in 1880. He was a member of the Seventh regiment, N. G. S. N. Y. for nine years.

In politics Mr. Ingersoll was a Democrat and enjoyed the confidence of his fellow townsmen. He represented the town in the state legislature in 1887, and was assessor of taxes for several years, and for a number of years just prior to his death he had been treasurer of St. Andrews Episcopal church.

October 9, 1878, he married Miss Julia Chapin, a daughter of Dr. Reuben

Chapin, of New York, with whom he lived happily until his death. He died at his home in Kent, December 17, 1893, after a short and sudden illness of only



E. J. INGERSOLL.

a few days duration. Besides a widow he left two daughters, Flora Edwards and Grace Chapin.



RESIDENCE OF E. J. INGERSOLL.

## DEACON JOHN C. BERRY.

The farm on which the late Deacon John C. Berry lived all the years of his life and now occupied by one of his



DEACON JOHN C. BERRY.

two remaining sons, Jerome Berry, is interesting as being the scene upon which six generations of Berrys have passed and are still passing their lives. During this lapse of over 150 years they have always been in possession, son succeeding son in his efforts to uphold the honored memory of the departed father. The original possessor of the lands included within the farm at North Kent, and one of the first installments of settlers of Kent was Captain Nathaniel Berry who came there from Tolland in 1739. He was great-great-grandson of William Berry who sailed from England with Captain John Mason and settled at Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1631.

The name of Berry in England is one of ancient and honorable lineage, numbering among its line of ancestors

many of the leading men and high officials of County Devon.

Deacon John Berry, recently deceased, was a familiar figure in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town and relating to the church and was well known and beloved by all.

The old farm is at present occupied by his son Jerome Berry, the fifth descendant, and by his family, his children making the sixth generation on the place. Jerome Berry married Flora E. Smith October 10, 1871. They are the parents of four children, viz: Frederick Marsh, Caroline Britton, Margaret Pratt and Mary Rebecca.

## GEORGE M. PAGE.

George M. Page, a son of Clark Page, was born in Kent April 13, 1861. After receiving such instruction as the



GEORGE M. PAGE.

public schools afforded he completed his education at the Oneida Conference academy at Cazenovia, N. Y. He

then turned his attention to farming for a while and afterward to mining interests, and made several prospecting tours through the west, visiting the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California, the Black Hills, etc., etc. During these expeditions he experienced many thrilling adventures. At one time while crossing Sioux Reservation Mr. Page and his party found themselves only three days behind another party who were all murdered by the Indians, their goods stolen and destroyed and wagons burned.

His first trip was to Western Dakota and was made in 1879, but since that time he has made no less than nine trips through the west, during which he became interested in the celebrated Coeur d'Alene mining scheme and took up emigrant claims in Wyoming.

Though Mr. Page still owns interests in the west he has lived since 1890 in North Kent, where in addition to carrying on farming he runs a large saw and grist mill.

One needs to converse with Mr. Page but a short time in order to find him thoroughly posted on all the topics of the day, a keen observer and a practical business man, and of course it is needless to say a successful man.

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#### CLARK P. LANE.

Clark P. Lane, a son of Edward B. Lane and Hannah Wolcott Lane, born in Bull's Bridge in the southern part of the town of Kent, on December 21, 1842. He received his education in the public school at that place, after which he became a farmer. He followed that calling until he was twenty-three years old, when he entered the service of the Housatonic Railroad company. He began at the foot of the ladder, by working on a section of track, but has steadily mounted rung after rung until he now has a responsible position. He has served during

the past thirty years as brakeman, baggage master, freight conductor, and for a number of years has run passenger trains between Bridgeport, Conn., and Pittsfield, Mass. During this long term of service he has had a number of thrilling experiences and hair breadth escapes. Once while attempting to couple two cars the bumpers slipped by and cracked three of his ribs.

At another time about ten years ago a very singular thing happened to his



CLARK P. LANE.

train. He was running a north-bound express train from Bridgeport, and going at the rate of fifty miles per hour. At Brookfield a bolt or other piece of iron had got wedged in the switch, thus leaving it half open and half closed. The result was that the forward cars kept the main track, while the rear car containing a funeral party took the switch and another car near the middle of the train jumped the track. When the train was brought to a standstill several rods beyond the switch all the



cars were on the main track. The rear car had safely followed the switch without allowing its occupants to mistrust their danger, and the middle car after receiving a considerable damage had returned to the track in the same manner that it left it. The damaged car was kicked on the siding and in ten minutes the train was on its way again.

Mr. Lane is perhaps the most popular conductor on the Berkshire division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad. He is always polite and obliging to passengers, making all needed explanations and answering all questions, no matter how foolish they may be. This he is quite able to do for he seemingly knows every inch of the way between Pittsfield and Bridgeport. He is of the jolly nature and can tell a good story or enjoy a hearty laugh as well as the next one. On December 21, 1870, he married Miss Sarah E. Goodsell of Kent, a daughter of Isaac Goodsell, by whom he has had five children, Hugh Franklin, Charles Edward, Edith Cornelia, Clark Preston, and Rollie Goodsell. All are living except Edith, who died in 1880.

#### REV. MARK B. HOWLAND.

Rev. Mark B. Howland was born in Kent, October 29, 1846. He received his early education in the district

school near his father's home on Kent mountain, and later enjoyed the advantages of Whittlesey's academy in New Preston.



REV. MARK B. HOWLAND.

On November 11, 1869, Mr. Howland married Miss Sarah Wilson, a daughter of John and Eliza Wilson, with whom he now lives and by whom he has three living children, Ralph, Howard and



RESIDENCE OF REV. MARK B. HOWLAND.

Harriet. He never held office for the reason that he is not an office seeker and would not accept of office.

He has been a farmer from his youth up which avocation he still follows. In February, 1888, he was licensed by the M. E. conference as a local preacher, after having first served as an exhorter. Since that time he has preached for several denominations, at one time taking a charge. He has driven sometimes forty miles in a day to conduct a service. For the last eight years Mr. Howland has stood ready to go and carry the Gospel message and point the road to heaven, whether sun shone or cloud lowered.

At one time when Mr. Howland wished to raise a barn it was hinted to him that it would be impossible to do it unless he furnished some strong drink, it being the time honored custom to have it at a raising. But he insisted that he would raise the barn without strong drink even if he had to invite every minister in conference to help do it. It is needless to say that the barn was raised.

#### LEWIS HENRY IVES

Lewis Henry Ives, a son of Joseph Ives, jr., and Sally (Johnson) Ives was born in Kent, December 28, 1841.

His grandfather, Joseph Ives, sr., passed his childhood in Pennsylvania where on arriving at the proper age he learned the trade of a cooper. He afterward removed to Kent bringing with him his son, Joseph Ives, jr., then a little boy. The latter on reaching manhood married Sally Johnson, a daughter of Eliphalet Johnson, who was a soldier in the patriot army in the Revolutionary war. Their union was blessed with only one son, Lewis Henry, the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Ives received his education in the public schools of the town, and afterward took up farming for a life work.

On July 13, 1874, he married Miss

Jennie Beebe, a daughter of Richard and Ann M. Beebe. Their union has been blessed with one daughter, Josephine, who was recently married to George R. Simpson of Thomaston.

Mr. Ives has held the office of constable and has a number of times been a jurymen. Since 1890 he has had charge of the town house and its inmates, who certainly could not have fallen into better hands. Both he and Mrs. Ives are as kind to them and as



MR. AND MRS. LEWIS H. IVES.

considerate of their wants as if they were their own children. In fact the writer could name children who are not treated as kindly by their own parents as are the present inmates of the Kent town house.

Mr. and Mrs. Ives are people whom it is always a pleasure to meet. Their guests are made to feel perfectly at home and certain that they are in the hands of friends.

Mr. Ives is a Republican in politics, a Congregationalist in religion and a member of the Masonic order.

## JARED M. INGERSOLL.

Jared Meritt Ingersoll was born in Sharon, Conn., August 29, 1824. He received his education at the Amenia seminary, Amenia, N. Y.



JARED M. INGERSOLL.

July 28, 1844, he married Miss Julia E. Smith, a daughter of Harvey Smith of Kent.

He was for some years a prosperous merchant at the furnace store in Macedonia, and later conducted a mercantile business at the depot in Kent.

About 1860 he moved to New York, where for thirty years he was general salesman with Tefft, Welles & Co., attending to his duties until within a month of his death, which occurred at Kent, October 16, 1893, caused by Bright's disease.

## ELMER ANDREW POTTER.

Elmer Andrew Potter, a son of Elisha Potter, was born in Sherman,

Fairfield county, Conn., December 22, 1864. While he was quite young his father moved to Bulls Bridge in the town of Kent where he received his education in the public school. He was a general favorite with the rest of the pupils and ranked well in his class. He was also fond of sports and at swimming and diving could beat the best.

On April 25, 1888, Mr. Potter married Miss Emma Jane Terwillegar and in the spring of 1890 moved to Madison, Neb., where he followed farming for a while and afterward became a merchant. In 1893 he returned to Con-



ELMER A. POTTER.

necticut because of the entreaties of his aged parents and settled in South Britain where he is now an enterprising and prosperous merchant. Mr. Potter has one daughter.

## HON. CHARLES EDWARDS.

Hon. Charles Edwards was born in Kent, Conn., February 17, 1811. He received his education in the public



HON. CHARLES EDWARDS.

schools of Kent, to which he subsequently added much by diligent study and keen observation.

In early life he was a farmer but at one time he held a clerkship in the employ of Sylvanus Merwin at Merwinsville. Later he took up the main business of his life—the iron industry. He was a practical iron manufacturer and thoroughly understood the business from the mine to the pig. He successfully conducted the business at Kent for many years, giving employment to and bringing up a number of young men who have since become prominent citizens. He retired from business about 1860 with a competency, and died at his home in Kent December 14, 1878.

On January 1, 1833, he married Miss Flora Ann Smith, a daughter of Har-

vey Smith of Kent and who is still living.

Mr. Edwards was an old time Democrat and enjoyed the fullest confidence of his fellow citizens. Those who remember him still quote his sayings. He served the public as state senator and representative and held almost every town office in existence.

## SAMUEL RILEY PEET.

Samuel Riley Peet was born in the town of New Milford, Conn., January 10, 1827. He is a lineal descendant of John Peet who came from Duffield Co., England, in the ship Hopewell, and settled in Stratford, Conn., in 1635. Samuel Peet was a representative of the third generation from John Peet, lived on the present Peet farm and



SAMUEL RILEY PEET.

was a hermit. He spent nearly all his life after he was forty years old in prayer at what is called "The Old Altar Rock." It is said that he continuously used one place and position so

long that his knees and toes have left their imprint in the solid rock. He was something of an astronomer and his researches into that science brought him such fame that his effigy was placed in one of the houses of Parliament, London.

It was his request that he be buried beneath the exact spot where he had spent so many years in prayer but as the rock made interment there practically impossible he was buried within a few feet of the place. The "Old Altar Rock" is still there and is a curiosity well worthy of a journey to see.

The subject of this sketch is the great grandson of the hermit. He re-

held a number of offices by their bestowal. He has represented his town in the Legislature, has been selectman several times and once seven years in succession. Among the other offices held we note tax assessor and member of board of relief.

There is a mineral spring on Mr. Peet's farm known as "The Pool" which is said to have wonderful medicinal properties.

#### JOHN W. NEWTON.

John W. Newton, who resides in a comfortable farm house on the road from Kent to Bulls Bridge, was born



RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. NEWTON.

ceived his education in the public schools of Kent and the Amenia seminary of Amenia, N. Y.

On November 13, 1849, he married Miss Laura H. Tompkins, a daughter of Benjamin Tompkins of Kent Hollow by whom he has had six children, four of whom are living.

He has been a farmer from his youth up and is a fair representative of that most important class of our population—the honest, upright American farmer.

Mr. Peet enjoys the fullest confidence of his fellow townsmen and has

in Kent October 9, 1860. He was educated in the public school and has followed farming for an occupation, and was at one time president of the Cemetery association at Bulls Bridge. On December 18, 1895, he married Miss Grace Hendrix of Gaylordsville.

#### THE JUDD FAMILY.

Surnames to distinguish families were first taken in England by men of rank but began to be used by the common people in the 13th century. It is supposed that the surname Judd came

from the Christian name Jude just as many other surnames were formed from Christian names, as Peters from Peter. It is supposed that the change was made in this manner: A person called John the son of Jude changed his name to John Jude or Judd.

There are two Judds mentioned in the "Rotuli Hundredorum" or Rolls of the Hundreds made by commissioners about 1275 viz: Henry Judde of the county of Kent and John Judde of Oxfordshire. It is said that one of the companions of Wat Tyler was a Judde. John Judd appears in 1529 and 1533 and seems to have been in office under Henry VIII. Sir Andrew Judd of the

a few dollars in either Boston or New York.

Many Judds have died above the age of ninety, and a larger number above eighty, though none have reached 100.

In this country the first Judds to receive a collegiate education were Jonathan and Reuben, who were graduates of Yale college in 1741 and were the first of the name to become pastors of churches. Benjamin Judd of Westbury was the first physician and William Judd of Farmington the first lawyer.

During the Revolution four Judds in Fairfield county, Conn., disgraced the name by declaring for the British and



RESIDENCE OF MOTT JUDD.

county of Kent was a knight and became Mayor of London in 1550. He was wealthy and endowed a Grammar school at Tunbridge.

The name is sometimes seen in English history and still continues in England. A part of those bearing it are men of fortune and figure and are denominated gentlemen. It is quite common in Essex and is sometimes found among the officers of the army and navy.

Two Judd coats of arms are described in Burke's General Armory of England, Scotland and Ireland in heraldic language which few understand. A Judd coat of arms can be obtained for

joining the Reading association, but almost all were on the side of their country and helped to fight its battles. Reuben Judd of Weston was a Revolutionary soldier and a sentinel not far from Major Andre when he was executed.

Thomas Judd, from whom the Judds in America are descended, came from England in 1633 or 1634 and settled at Cambridge, Mass. He removed to Hartford in 1636 and it is not improbable that he was one of that company of about a hundred men, women and children who departed from Cambridge on the last day of May, 1636, and trav-

eled through the wilderness to the Connecticut river.

He had six sons and three daughters. Mott Judd, a son of Ira and Fanny Judd and a representative of the eighth generation from Thomas Judd is descended through Philip, the fifth son of Thomas Judd, all of whose children settled in Danbury before 1720. The records in Danbury were burnt by the British in April, 1777, which makes it very difficult to trace family records, but the descendants of Philip Judd may be denominated the Danbury and Kent Branch.

Mott Judd was born in Bull's Bridge, May 13, 1832. He has always been a farmer. He was twice married. His first wife was Sylvia W. Geer of Kent and his second, Christina Swart of Schoharie, N. Y. By his first wife he had two sons, Jerome and Charles. Both are living. Jerome is a teacher and Charles is a clergyman in Stamford.

#### JOHN WESLEY KING, M. D.

John Wesley King, M. D., son of Orson and Idalah (Wheeler) King, was born in Egremont, Mass., August 25, 1845. He received a common school education, studied at the Berkshire Medical college, Dr. Beebe being his preceptor and graduated October, 1867. A promising outlook for a young physician presenting itself in Kent he located here May, 1868, at the early age of twenty-three years.

Kent has been specially favored for years with physicians of the old school and several young men have attempted to locate here, but soon removed. Dr. King began his career with sincere, earnest desire to secure the confidence of his patients and was soon rewarded, for his success was so marked we seldom asked for counsel and his practice extended to adjoining towns. He was the only physician in the town the greater part of the twenty-six years

of his practice, but not without other young men trying to locate here who were soon discouraged, for the people of Kent were not easily led from one who had won their hearts and confidence as Dr. King had. His portly figure, most genial countenance, gentle manner, and sympathetic nature endowed him with a remarkable power that gave him the confidence and love of a people that to-day mourn his early death as untimely. Indeed, he was a physician and man that few country



DR. JOHN W. KING.

towns are blessed with. He is mourned from the hearthstone of many as a personal friend. When Kent knew their loved physician was seriously ill we felt he must yet be spared to us; he looked so strong, was ever ready for every call of duty, at night or day; in storm, or sunshine; to rich or poor alike he gave his best service, but his life work was ending, he had worked faithfully and well, and it was finished at the early age of forty-nine

years. He is survived by a daughter, Mary L., by a first wife, Ida Howland; his second wife, Mary Bell (Banks), and their children, Louise M., Wheeler B., Charlotte B. He died November 14, 1894, and was laid to rest in Kent, his newly made home and among his trusting, loving friends.

"In memoriam to Dr. J. W. King:

He has done the work of a true man  
Crown him, honor him, love him;  
Weep over him tears of woman,  
Stoop manliest braves above him.

No duty could overtask him,  
No need his will outrun;  
Or ever our lips could ask him,  
His hands the work had done.

Nov. 1894."

#### LUTHER EATON.

Luther Eaton, a son of Ira Eaton, was born in Kent January 4, 1826. He was educated in the public schools of the town and J. C. Howard academy in Warren, Conn. On March 26, 1856, he married Miss Sophronia E. Tobey, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., his present wife. From his youth up Mr. Eaton has been a farmer and still has something to do in overseeing his farms, and for thirty years he has been a packer and dealer in Connecticut leaf tobacco. In politics has always been a strong Democrat, both for sound money and protection, what has been fitly called a Samuel J. Randall Democrat. Mr. Eaton has always been one of the public men of Kent, and has held nearly every town office, besides representing the town in the Legislature in 1865, and with others had very much to do in 1881 in forming the Kent Water company, which succeeded in furnishing the village with an abundance of good water. Mr. Eaton has been president of the Water company since 1882, and there has been no public enterprise started in the

town of Kent but what Mr. Eaton has done his full share in both paying out money and in seeing to it that it was done as it should be. The family of



LUTHER EATON.

Eatons came to Kent about 1757 from the town of Tolland, Tolland county, Connecticut.

#### CHARLES S. SMITH.

Charles S. Smith, the station agent at Kent, was born at Stratford November 5, 1848, and was married to Miss Ella C. Willard of Ravenna, Ohio, March 16, 1871. He was educated at the Stratford academy and has been in the employ of the railroad company since he became of age. He has been tax collector, constable, justice of the peace, and member of the Legislature twice. He is also interested in the grain and milling business and was one of the first to introduce gasoline engines in the state.



## MARTIN B. LANE.

Martin B. Lane, a son of Edward B. Lane, was born in Kent, January 4, 1841. He received his education in the public schools of the town and quite early in life became a railroad man. At first he was in the service of the Naugatuck company, but later entered that of the Housatonic, where he was an efficient conductor for twenty years, in the course of which time he ran every train on the road.

In 1881 he left the road and purchased a farm in Bulls Bridge, where he now lives. On September 1, 1884, Mr. Lane was appointed by Judge Warner of the Court of Common Pleas, Indian agent for the Scatacook tribe of Indians at Bulls Bridge. The appointment was made at the request of the Indians and has been held by Mr. Lane ever since. Mr. Lane is one of the prominent and most public spirited men of Bulls Bridge. If the roads became blocked with snow in winter his men and teams appeared first on the scene, or if some poor person is in need of help he is the first to extend a helping hand.

For several years Mr. Lane has been president of the Bulls Bridge Cemetery association, and the cemetery un-

der his administration compares favorably in appearance with any cemetery in the state.

On October 15, 1863, he married Miss Julia M. Lane. Four children have



MARTIN B. LANE.

blessed their union, Maud E., Frederick R., George S. and Willard M. The last three are living.



RESIDENCE OF MARTIN B. LANE.

## LUMAN J. GALE.

Luman J. Gale has been a resident of Kent since 1876. He was born July 10, 1854, in Dutchess county, N. Y. His mother came from Ireland in 1850.



LUMAN J. GALE.

His father was an American. He died early in life in 1861, leaving a family of four small boys of whom the subject of this sketch was next oldest. The family was soon separated and it

fell to his lot to be bound to a farmer at Clinton Dale, Ulster county, N. Y. His life there practically was similar to American slavery, void of consideration and educational advantages, subject to hard labor and cruel treatment. At the age of fourteen it became unbearable and he ran away, making his way to Illinois, where he remained until 1876, working at various occupations such as farming, clerk in country store, brickmaking and carpentry. He married November 1, 1883, Miss Welthia A. Hallock, an estimable girl of South Kent, daughter of Isick E. Hallock. She died March 26, 1884. Mr. Gale has been for a number of years in the employ of Evans Brothers, contractors and builders, formerly of Merwinsville, now of Great Barrington. He is a fair type of a reliable citizen.

## JEROME F. GIBBS.

Jerome F. Gibbs was born in Kent May 9, 1836. He received his education in the public schools of Kent, after which he traveled for several years in the west partly if not mainly in search of adventure.

Shortly after his return on December 25, 1860, he married Miss Emma F. Hoag, his present wife, after which he bought his present business which



RESIDENCE OF JEROME F. GIBBS.

consists of household furnishings and to which he has added a tin shop.

Mr. Gibbs is at present senior warden of St. Andrew's church and has been a vestryman for the past twenty-five years. He represented the town in the Legislature in 1886, has filled the office of town clerk since 1865 and that of judge of probate for twenty-two years.

He enjoys the unbounded confidence of his fellow townsmen and is selected to office year after year, often with no opposing candidate in the field.

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#### REV. E. B. HAWLEY.

Rev. E. B. Hawley is of Scotch and English descent. His father was Truman Hawley, who came to this country when a young man to work at his



REV. E. B. HAWLEY.

trade as an iron and steel worker. He had six brothers, all of whom were captains of ships and all were lost at sea. He first married Mehitable Walker to whom were born three chil-

dren, Garwood, William and Betsey. His second wife was Lucinda Bronson, who was formerly married to Silas Davis of Westport, the children of this marriage being Polly, Betsey and Silas Davis. She was the mother of Rev. E. B. Hawley, who was born in Kent July 4, 1833, where he attended school until sixteen years of age, when he went to Cheshire to serve his time with Stephen Morse as carpenter. Later he became a brakeman on the Housatonic road, then fireman and for about twenty-five years was an engineer.

During this time he attended a prayer meeting which converted him, and after laboring for some time in the vineyard of the Lord he went to Bull's Bridge where he held meetings which resulted in the organization of the Union Gospel Mission which still flourishes. He has been chairman of the board of trustees ever since, and still preaches the gospel from place to place to do good and save souls.

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#### SPOONER FAMILY.

William Spooner of Colchester, county of Essex, arrived in New Plymouth, Mass., early in 1637, probably from England, where there were many families of Spooners. He was about sixteen years of age, and was apprenticed to John Coombs, a well to do citizen of that town.

Upon attaining his majority Mr. Coombs was to give him "One comely suite of Apparrell for Holy days," "One suite for working days," "Twelve bushels of Indian wheat," "A good serviceable muskett, bandaliers, and sword fit for service." "From various orders of court we conclude he was a faithful and competent steward, entrusted with the administration of his master's estate, and the custody of his children."

He resided in Plymouth until 1660, when he removed to Dartmouth, Mass.

By his first wife Elizabeth Partridge he had one child, John (2nd Gen.) born in 1646. Wm. S. died March 10, 1683. Wm. Spooner (3rd Gen.) and second of John's children was born May 11, 1680, grew up to be a farmer and resided at Dartmouth. He married Alice Blackwell, who was born May 8, 1681. They had twelve children. The youngest of these was Ebenezer (4th Gen.) born May 29, 1724. He was a farmer and resided in Warren, Conn. He served in the Continental army during the French and Indian war. Was in privateer service in the Revolutionary war on the sloop "Charming Polly" which was captured by the British May 16, 1777, was confined at "Old Mill Prison," Plymouth, England, from which he escaped and finally reached home.

He married Jan. 29, 1745, Sarah, daughter of James and Patience (Ruggles) Robinson. She was born Feb. 9, 1720, and died in March, 1807. Her husband died in 1800. Their family consisted of eleven children. The third was Ebenezer (5th Gen.) born March 24, 1751, at Warren, Conn. He served with his father in the war, was captured, confined and escaped with him. Began life poor, but by hard work and honorable dealing accumulated a fine property, owning three hundred acres of land on the east side of the Housatonic river, in the southern part of Kent. A part of this land known as Spooner Hill, has been in the possession of the family ever since. He married April, 1774, his cousin, Rebecca, daughter of Wm. and Rachel (Noble) Spooner, born October 20, 1753. They had nine children and as far as their means and the circumstances of the times would allow, gave them a thorough education. He died Feb. 8, 1827. Their fifth child was Lewis, (6th Gen.) born July 14, 1783, married Oct. 17, 1809. Elizabeth, daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth (Hubbel) Slos-

son of Kent, who was born May, 1784, died July 10, 1827. They lived on the home farm. Had five children. He died Dec. 31, 1852. Their third child was Lewis (7th Gen.), born April 30, 1814. Married February 13, 1840, Editha, daughter of Barnabas and Mary (Botsford) Hatch of Kent, who was born March 21, 1813, died July 11, 1860. They also lived on same farm. Had four children. Lewis S. died June 12, 1874. Their oldest child was Charles L. (8th Gen.) born March 20, 1845, married December 29, 1870, Edna A., daughter of Edgar and Eliza (Tibbits) Gregory of Sherman, Conn. They have three children, Lewis G., born February 14, 1873, Clifford C., born October 1, 1878, and William Henry, born April 12, 1884.

Spooner Hill, so called because for a hundred and twenty years the Spooner family have resided there, is noted for the beautiful outlook one may have in all directions from its summit. Standing on the hill-top, midway between Hatch Pond and the Housatonic River, the view unobstructed by tree or building, we can see parts of two states, New York and Connecticut, three counties, Dutchess, Fairfield and Litchfield, and eight townships, Pawling, Dover and Amenia in New York, and Sherman, New Milford, Sharon, Cornwall and Kent in Connecticut.

The old-fashioned story and a half dwelling erected in 1790, standing a few rods west of the top of the hill, has sheltered four generations of Spooners. No lock was ever used on it.

Charles L., the present owner and occupant of the Spooner Hill farm, has held various town offices, represented the town in the General Assembly of 1891 and 1892, is secretary of the Town Board of Education, a Congregationalist, a temperance man and a Republican.

## JOHN SLOSSON.

John Slosson, son of William, jr., and Margaret (Viets) Slosson, was born in Kent, January 9, 1844, is a farmer, and since 1875 has resided on the homestead of his paternal ancestors. The homestead was bought November 11, 1738, and the deed is now in possession of said John Slosson and says "Nathaniel Slosson bought of Ebenezer Bishop of Stamford (Stamford) Colony of Connecticut in New England, one right Part, Share or Allotment in the Township of Kent lately sold by ye Government which is in said colony, the same being divided in fifty-three Shares or Allotments of the land granted to the Colony, and covenanted in said deed to build and finish a house within a space of one year and four months from the date hereof, and to continue thereon for three successive years." He drew Lot No. 21 and came to Kent from Norwalk, Conn., May 1, 1739. He was one of the first settlers of the town called "Proprietors"; was chosen Constable December 4, 1739; the second town meeting was held at his house September 1, 1740; he was a lister in 1744; a committee of the first schools; committee on land questions, etc., and died in 1787, aged 91. The homestead succeeded to his tenth child, Nathan; to his son Nathan, jr., in 1821, and three maiden sisters, each to the other till the death of Hannah in 1877, aged 91, when John Slosson of the fifth generation secured the homestead, making a continual possession since 1739. A long line of long lived descendants has gone from this small home, giving prominent men in state and town where located, but the only one of the name now in Kent is John Slosson, although there are descendants of a daughter of Nathan, sr. The first house was built in 1739 as required by deed; a second was built in 1774 and is now in good preservation, was enlarged in 1879-1883, and is good

for generations to come. He married Anna Tomlinson Banks, January 25, 1866, of Bridgeport, born in Danbury. Their sons, Frank Spooner and William Bell, born in Kent, reside in Bridgeport, Conn. When William B. was born, November 21, 1876, there had not been a birth at the homestead since that of Mary, April 14, 1793, and there has been no marriage since that of Elizabeth, May 30, 1784, daughter of Nathan, sr. Old deeds and records give the name Slawson, Slasson, but Nathaniel signed his Slosson.

## ABEL TURRILL.

Abel Turrill resides on his farm in Kent Hollow. He was born November 24, 1834, and was married to Miss So-



ABEL TURRILL.

phia Beardsley, now deceased. He was educated in the public schools and at a private school in New Milford. He has always followed the occupation of farming.

## GEER FAMILY.

George and Thomas Geer were born in Hevitree, Devon county, England, and being left orphans at an early age were cared for by their uncle. They were heirs to a large property and their uncle being a very avaricious man, wished to get them out of the way that the inheritance might be his. Accordingly he plotted with a friend who was a sea captain to take the boys to America. In order to get them on board the vessel he sent them to the captain with a letter with instructions to wait for a reply. They remained as directed, but to their surprise while waiting found themselves the victims of deception and already on their passage without the possibility of returning.

The ship on board of which they found themselves unexpected prisoners arrived in Boston in 1635. George was then fourteen and Thomas twelve. They were put on shore in a new country without money and without friends to counsel them. But though young it seems they soon perceived that they were in a land open to enterprise and adventure. For several years after their arrival in Boston we find no history of their lives. It was a time in which the affairs of the infant colonies were in an unsettled state and the colonists were often called to arms by the sound of the Indian war whoop. But if this unrecorded part of the lives of George and Thomas Geer compares favorably with the subsequent portion which is recorded they shared their part of the duties and dangers both manfully and nobly.

There is a tradition that George was one of that noble and daring band under Captain John Mason who attacked and destroyed the Pequot fort in Mystic, June 5, 1637. He came to New London in company with Robert Allyn and others in 1651 and settled there.

Thomas went to Salem, Mass., at an

uncertain date and remained there till after the death of King Phillip in 1676. He afterwards settled in Enfield in 1682.

George Geer married Sarah, daughter of Robert Allyn, on February 17, 1658. They had several children, among them Joseph Geer, born October 14, 1664. He married Sarah Howard, by whom he had several children, among them Ezra Geer. He married and settled in Kent about 1750. His children were Nathaniel, Susan, Sarah, Ezra, jr., John, Elias, Elijah, Patience, David, Gardner, Alpheus, who was drowned in the North River while in the service of his country in the Revolutionary war, Margaret, Hannah and Elizabeth.

David and Gardner remained in Kent and perhaps others. David had nine children, Sally, an infant, who died young, Welcome, Parmelia, Eliza, Cynthia, Armalina, Azuba and Phebe Ann. Welcome married Sylvia Bishop in 1819, by whom he had the following children: Nathaniel, David, Eveline R., Louisa M., Mary O., Charlotte and William, who both died very young, Charlotte A. and Sylvia W. Sylvia was married to Mott Judd of Bull's Bridge. They had two sons, Jerome and Charles. Both are living.

The following story is told of John Geer, a son of Ezra Geer, who had settled on Geer mountain in Kent.

On becoming of age he asked his father for his portion. His request was granted on condition that he accept as such a horse and saddle and five pounds in money. He accepted the conditions and married the girl of his choice, who was then fourteen years old, and whose earthly possessions consisted of one feather bed. They started out in the spring not knowing where they were going and took horse, saddle and feather bed with them. They went to the corner near where Elroy Jennings now lives and after prayer for guidance, set up

a stick whose fall was to determine the direction they were to take. It fell to the north. Accordingly they went to the north. At the end of the second day out they stopped for the night in the town of Peru, Berkshire county, Mass. In the morning they hired out to a farmer for the summer. When their term of service had expired, Mr. Geer built a log house in which they lived through the winter, using sawed off logs for tables and chairs. They ultimately made their permanent home in Peru, raised a large family of children and gave each a farm. It is said that when John Geer died he was one of the wealthiest men in Berkshire county. After he became a money lender he took a large quantity of indigo for debt. Then in order to get rid of the indigo he made it a rule to lend money only to his customers for indigo. Of course many became indigo customers in order to get money and in that way he disposed of it all.

#### FRED H. CHASE.

Fred H. Chase, a son of John Chase, was born in Kent February 11, 1855. He received his education at Crosby's academy in the village, after which he turned his attention to farming.

On December 30, 1879, he married Miss Clara W. Smith, a daughter of Stephen Smith, by whom he has three living children, Jessie M., Nina M. and Frank P.

In 1883 he bought out William Geer's mercantile business in South Kent, which he still owns and successfully conducts, having added several departments to the business, among which the feed business is certainly not the least. He is also postmaster and station agent and has been tax collector for the town for nine years—eight of them being in succession.

#### REV. JOHN T. WALSH.

Rev. John T. Walsh is in charge of the Catholic mission. He writes as follows concerning the early and present history of the church in Kent:

As you cross the river to enter the village of Kent, a small house stands on the right almost on the water's edge. In the year 1852 this house was occupied by John King, and beneath its roof in that year the first mass was celebrated in the town of Kent. The clergyman who officiated on the occasion was Father O'Gorman of Falls Village. Only once, as far as can now be ascertained, was mass said there.



RESIDENCE AND STORE OF FRED H. CHASE, SOUTH KENT.

Afterwards and until the year 1866 the Catholic people were accustomed to assemble in a house just east of the present railroad station; and in that house, which was then the residence of Mr. Davis Tobin, mass was celebrated about once in three months. During those years the mission of Kent was not regularly attached to any parish, being attended sometimes from Falls Village and sometimes from Newtown. From '66 to '72 religious services for the Catholics of Kent township were held in a hall attached to the hotel just south of the depot and but a few yards distant from the residence of Mr. Tobin just mentioned.

In 1871 New Milford parish was established. Kent became a mission thereof, being afterwards regularly attended from that place. Mass was said more frequently now—perhaps once a month. In 1872 Charles Edwards in a democratic spirit of liberality—and being at the time school committee, placed the district school at the disposal of the Catholics. The building still stands within about one hundred yards of the Soldiers' monument. According to Mr. Edwards as "the school was erected for educational and religious purposes the Catholic denomination, or any other, was entitled to its free use upon the Sabbath"—of course for religious services only. The schoolroom was the scene of their pious and humble worship until the fall of 1884. In 1883 the Parish of Cornwall Bridge was erected and Kent mission was taken from New Milford and attached to the newly established parish to which it belongs at present.

Father William O'R. Sheridan became its first pastor and built the church edifice which was dedicated to religious worship in the autumn of 1884 by the late Vicar General Hughes. The Catholic population numbers over one hundred souls scattered through the district. During the last thirteen years they have been ministered to by

the following clergymen in succession to Father Sheridan, viz: Rev. Wm. J. Doolin, during four years, Rev. M. Sheehan remained but a year, his health having failed, Rev. M. F. Rigney two years and Cray one. The present pastor, Rev. John T. Walsh arrived in 1894 and during his ministration the parochial residence was transferred from Cornwall Bridge to Sharon—the parish remaining the same, Kent being now a mission of Sharon.

#### ALMON C. BRADLEY.

Almon C. Bradley, a son of Alfred G. Bradley, was born in Bantam, Conn., July 22, 1863. While he was quite



ALMON C. BRADLEY.

young his father removed to Kent, where he acquired his education in the public schools.

On March 3, 1886, Mr. Bradley married Miss Ettie M. Sherman of Trumbull. Their union has been blessed



with three children, Grover, Flora and Ethel.

His early occupation was farming, but he exchanged it for a clerkship with William Geer, at that time a merchant at South Kent. When Geer sold out his business and moved to Stepeny Mr. Bradley went with him and continued in his employ for some time. Later he had charge of a mill and store in the employ of A. B. Curtiss of that place. Next Mr. Bradley removed to Brookfield junction, where he served two years as night telegraph operator and five years as station agent.

When Lee & Seabrook built a large creamery at South Kent in 1894, Mr. Bradley was selected to have its general oversight and accordingly returned to that place, where he now lives. He is also interested in fancy poultry, having a number of breeds constantly on hand.

Mr. Bradley is very popular, having always a good word or a joke for every one, and in short is one of those people whom it is always a pleasure to meet.

#### GERMAN BENEDICT.

German Benedict was born in Kent April 21, 1826.

When a boy he attended school at

the Geer Mountain district, and when he became a man took up farming. Later he dealt in horses and cattle, of which he was a splendid judge and ac-



GERMAN BENEDICT.

quired a competency. He was kind to the sick and needy, never turning a deaf ear to their wants.

On April 14, 1865, he married Miss Flora Louise Parsels, a daughter of



RESIDENCE OF MRS. GERMAN BENEDICT.

Daniel Allen Parsels of Paterson, Putnam Co., N. Y. Mr. Parsels is still living, though over eighty years of age. He owns a farm of 300 acres and during the past summer mowed in the field with the men.

Mr. Benedict was smitten with a shock in April of 1887 from the effects of which he died on the 18th of the following October.

Mr. Benedict left two daughters, Sarah B., who has become Mrs. Clarence A. Bigelow and lives in New Fairfield, Conn., and Miss Cora, who is at present attending school at the Courtland school for Young Ladies in Bridgeport.

#### FREDERICK INGRAHAM.

Frederick Ingraham, a son of William Henry Ingraham, was born in Kent, June 20, 1861. He was educated in the public schools of the town and quite early in life selected agriculture for his occupation, which calling he has followed ever since with the exception of three months when in the employ of Scott & Granniss of Terryville, Conn., he drove team and otherwise handled horses. He has always lived in Kent with the exception of the three months spoken of and seven

months besides when he was farming in Terryville.

On October 10, 1893, he married Miss Emma G. Cummings, a daughter of George and Harriet Cummings, of Kent, by whom he has had several children.

Mr. Ingraham is a careful, practical farmer, who thoroughly understands the business and makes a success of it. He is at present in charge of the farm of Luther Eaton.

#### REV. W. G. ANDREWS, D. D.

William Given Andrews, eldest son of Rev. William Watson and Mary Anne (Given) Andrews, was born in Kent, October 8, 1835; graduated at Marietta college, Marietta, Ohio, 1855; teacher in Peekskill, N. Y., and Fairfield and Hamden, Conn., 1855-59; student at Princeton theological seminary, Princeton, N. J., 1859-61; tutor at Marietta college, 1861-62; ordained deacon in the Protestant Episcopal church, September 26, 1862, and priest, January 3, 1864, both in Trinity church, Princeton, N. J.; missionary near Princeton and minister in charge at Trinity church, Rocky Hill, N. J., 1862-66; teacher in Rectory school and rector's assistant in Grace church, Ham-



RESIDENCE OF FREDERICK INGRAHAM.

(Owned by Luther Eaton.)

den, Conn., 1866-67; in Europe July to November, 1867; missionary at St Paul's chapel, New Haven, February to October, 1868; rector of the Church of the Ascension, New Haven (the same congregation) October 8, 1868 to November 28, 1879; continued as minister in charge, December 4, 1879 to May 16, 1880; officiated at Trinity church, Princeton, N. J., June to December, 1880; officiated at Christ church, Guilford, Conn., January to April, 1881; rector of same church since April 24, 1881.

He has published the following pamphlets: Sermon on "Christ's Method of Dealing With Impurity," 1870; oration before the Alumni of Marietta college on "The Relations of the Scholar to Labor and Capital," 1872; address before literary societies of Marietta college on "Culture and Government in America," 1885; paper read before the New Haven Colony Historical society on "The Trading House on the Paugassett," 1888; paper read before the Fairfield County Historical society on "William Samuel Johnson and the Making of the Constitution," 1890; sermon on "The Blessing of the Peacemakers," in commemoration of Lorenzo T. Bennett, D. D. late rector-emeritus of Christ church, Guilford, 1890; sermon on "The Early History of Christ Church, Guilford, Conn.,"

(preached September 16, 1894), 1895; address before the Sons of the Revolution, Wilkesbarre, Penn. (July 4, 1895) on "The Connecticut Charter and the Declaration of Independence," 1895. Also many articles chiefly historical, in magazines, newspapers and elsewhere.

He is a life-member of the New Haven Colony Historical society (of which he was secretary from 1873 until 1880), and a member of the American Historical association. He has been archdeacon of New Haven (having oversight of missionary work in New Haven county), since 1893; received the degree of doctor of divinity from Marietta college, 1885.

#### MOTT DARLING.

Mott Darling, who owns a large farm and dairy about a mile above South Kent, came from Amenia, Dutchess county, New York, where he was born April 16, 1851, and educated in the public schools. He was married July 4, 1872, to Harriet M. Orton. He first lived in Kent when he was twenty-one years old, later moved back to his former home and twelve years ago returned again. He is registrar of voters and school committeeman for six years. He has the distinction of at one time for several years shipping the most cans of milk of any one along the line of the Housatonic road.



RESIDENCE OF MOTT DARLING.

### GEORGE L. SEGER.

George L. Seger, the present first selectman of the town, is a son of Ira Seger, and was born August 16, 1838, in Amenia, N. Y.

While Mr. Seger was quite young his father returned to Kent from whence he had moved to Amenia and the subject of this sketch enjoyed the educational advantages of the Flanders academy, at that time the most noted educational institution in the town and situated in Flanders.

On October 6, 1863, he married Miss Alzora J. Hall of Kent, by whom he has had seven children, five of whom are now living.

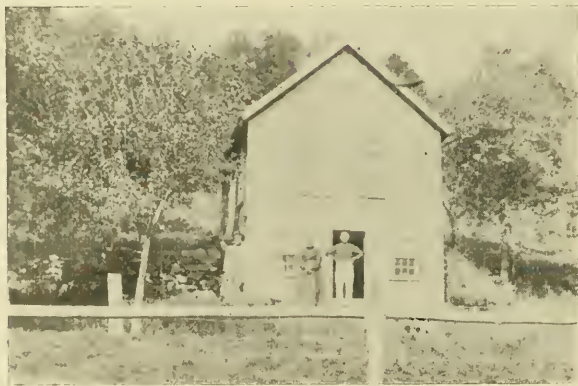
Mr. Seger at one time held a clerkship in the employ of his uncle, Hiram Seger, at that time the merchant at South Kent, but the main business portion of his life has been devoted to agriculture. He is the sturdy, honest type of the American farmer and American manhood, and enjoys the confidence of his fellow townsmen.

Besides holding the office of selectman he has held those of road inspector, member of board of relief, grand juror, and was the first registrar of electors for the town, holding the last named office for sixteen years in succession.

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### DAVID HENRY RODGERS.

David Henry Rodgers was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., August 16, 1838. He was educated in the public schools of that place. He finally moved to Kent and followed farming for a while. On July 4, 1862, he married Miss Catharine Hill, a daughter of Henry S. Hill, of Kent. He enlisted in the United States army in 1862 and served till the close of the war for the Union. He was wounded several times, and once at Petersburg, Va., while taking part in a bayonet charge, was knocked senseless with the butt of a musket. At present he is agent for W. P. Rupert & Son, nurserymen of Seneca, N. Y.



RESIDENCE OF DAVID H. RODGERS.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. MARY WATSON.



# INDEX.

|                                |                    |                                     |                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ackley, Benj. ....             | 35, 113            | Barn, Josiah .....                  | 17             |
| Adams, Andrew .....            | 27                 | Barnes, Stephen .....               | 33             |
| Adams, Joseph .....            | 16                 | Barnes, Willis .....                | 39             |
| Adams, Lucretia Almira .....   | 62                 | Barnes, Wm. ....                    | 45             |
| Agard, Alma .....              | 61                 | Barnum, Abigail .....               | 56             |
| Agard, Anah .....              | 60                 | Barnum, Abel .....                  | 17, 20         |
| Algur, Andrew .....            | 57                 | Barnum, Amos .....                  | 59             |
| Allen, David .....             | 33                 | Barnum, Amos .....                  | 24, 37, 60     |
| Allen, Ethan .....             | 86                 | Barnum, Anna .....                  | 56, 59         |
| Allen, Mary E. Benedict .....  | 66                 | Barnum, Catherine J. ....           | 66             |
| Allyn, Robt. ....              | 152                | Barnum, David .....                 | 19             |
| Allyn, Sarah .....             | 152                | Barnum, Ebenezer .....              |                |
| Ames, Robert W. ....           | 41                 | .....17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 49, 56, 59 |                |
| Andrews, Benj. ....            | 32                 | Barnum, Mrs. Ebenezer .....         | 59             |
| Andrews, Chas. B. ....         | 47                 | Barnum, Elizabeth .....             | 57             |
| Andrews, Jos. ....             | 32                 | Barnum, Mrs. Frances .....          | 99             |
| Andrews, Mary Ann .....        | 62, 156            | Barnum, Gideon .....                | 18, 24, 49, 56 |
| Andrews, Rev. Geo. B. ....     | 69                 | Barnum, Jehiel .....                | 18, 19, 24, 57 |
| Andrews, Rev. Samuel J. ....   | 54                 | Barnum, Jemima .....                | 57             |
| Andrews, Rev. Wm. W. ..        | 47, 53, 55, 156    | Barnum, Joshua .....                | 18             |
| Andrews, Samuel .....          | 32                 | Barnum, Julia .....                 | 62, 64         |
| Andrews, Wm. G. ....           | 156                | Barnum, Mary .....                  | 57             |
| Anteney, John .....            | 76                 | Barnum, Matthew S. ....             | 62             |
| Ashmond, Frank .....           | 95                 | Barnum, Nathaniel .....             | 17, 20         |
| Atwater, Rev. H. S. ....       | 70                 | Barnum, Richard .....               | 23             |
| Atwell, Rev. Wm. ....          | 69                 | Barnum, Sarah .....                 | 60             |
| Austin, Andrew J. ....         | 45                 | Barnum, Sarah Jane .....            | 64             |
| Austin, Elvira R. ....         | 67                 | Barnum, Stephen .....               | 36             |
| Austin, Geo. C. ....           | 44                 | Barnum, Wm. ....                    | 19, 23         |
| Austin, Hannah .....           | 65                 | Barnum, Wm. H. ....                 | 82             |
| Austin, Mary E. ....           | 67                 | Barre, Josiah .....                 | 17             |
| Averill, Capt. Moses .....     | 113                | Barton, Chas. ....                  | 65             |
| Avery, Daniel .....            | 36                 | Barton, Mrs. Chas. ....             | 65             |
| Avery, Humphrey ...            | 15, 16, 17, 20, 22 | Barton, Elmore .....                | 64             |
| Avery, Thos. ....              | 32                 | Barton, Everett .....               | 66             |
| Bailey, Mrs. ....              | 63                 | Barton, Hannah Jane .....           | 65             |
| Baily, Michael .....           | 37                 | Barton, Henry .....                 | 66             |
| Baldwin, Rachel .....          | 58                 | Barton, John .....                  | 66             |
| Banks, Anna Tomlinson .....    | 151                | Barton, Joseph .....                | 66             |
| Banks, Mary Bell .....         | 146                | Barton, Mary W. ....                | 65             |
| Barclay, Frederick White ..... | 67                 | Barton, Sarah E. ....               | 64             |
| Barclay, Helen .....           | 66                 | Barton, Sherman .....               | 66             |
| Barclay, Mary R. ....          | 66                 | Barton, Thompson .....              | 65             |
| Barclay, Thos. D., Rev. ....   | 55                 | Barton, Virginia Bronson .....      | 67             |
| Barker, Cornelia .....         | 66                 | Barton, Wilhelmina .....            | 66             |
| Barker, Elizabeth .....        | 63                 | Barton, Wm. ....                    | 40, 41         |
| Barker, Emma .....             | 65                 | Bartram, Maria .....                | 63             |
| Barker, Harriet .....          | 65                 | Bates, Adah .....                   | 58             |
| Barker, James .....            | 64, 86             | Bates, Barnabas .....               | 58             |
| Barker, Polly .....            | 64                 | Bates, Mrs. Barnabas .....          | 58             |
| Barker, Watson Andrews .....   | 67                 | Bates, Cynthia .....                | 61             |
| Barlow, John .....             | 36                 | Bates, Deacon .....                 | 91             |
| Barman, Thomas .....           | 17                 | Bates, Mrs. Hannah .....            | 62             |

- Bates, Harriet ..... 63  
 Bates, John ..... 59  
 Bates, Joseph ..... 32, 59  
 Bates, Mrs. Joseph ..... 59  
 Bates, Nathaniel ..... 59  
 Bates, Reuben ..... 61  
 Bates, Thomas ..... 58  
 Bates, Villilitty ..... 59  
 Batts, Sam'l .... 18, 23, 36, 49, 56, 58  
 Batts, Rachael ..... 58  
 Beach, Abel ..... 111  
 Beach, Mary ..... 62  
 Beach, Nancy ..... 62  
 Beaudry, Joseph ..... 26  
 Beardsley, Agur ..... 114  
 Beardsley, Birdsey ..... 114  
 Beardsley, Chauncey ..... 62  
 Beardsley, Ephraim ..... 59  
 Beardsley, Irena Jennett ..... 62  
 Beardsley, Irwin J. .... 114  
 Beardsley, Mrs. Juanna ..... 62  
 Beardsley, Marjory ..... 62  
 Beardsley, Martha ..... 59  
 Beardsley, Sophia ..... 151  
 Beardsley, Thalia ..... 60  
 Beardsley, Wells ..... 32, 114  
 Bebee, Ruth ..... 56  
 Beebe, Ann M. .... 140  
 Beebe, Daniel ..... 32, 58  
 Beebe, Esther ..... 58  
 Beebe, Jennie ..... 140  
 Beebe, John ..... 17, 18, 20, 24, 57  
 Beebe, John Jr. .... 57  
 Beebe, Richard ..... 140  
 Beebe, Salby ..... 62  
 Beecher, Abraham ..... 59  
 Beecher, Mrs. Abraham ..... 59  
 Beecher, Abraham, Jr. .... 59  
 Beecher, Catherine ..... 62  
 Beecher, Emily Diadama ..... 64  
 Beecher, Lois Ann ..... 65  
 Beecher, Dr. Lyman ..... 53  
 Beecher, Lydia Day ..... 59  
 Beecher, Samuel ..... 59  
 Beecher, Mrs. Samuel ..... 59  
 Beeman, Ebenezer ..... 21, 24  
 Beeman, Edwin D. .... 42  
 Beeman, Friend ..... 21  
 Beeman, John ..... 21  
 Beeman, Joseph ..... 20  
 Beeman, Thomas .... 17, 18, 19, 23, 32  
 Beeman, Timothy ..... 21  
 Beeman, Tracy ..... 37  
 Beeman, Truman ..... 33  
 Beement, Clark ..... 37  
 Beilby, Rev. W. F. .... 70  
 Beman, Daniel ..... 24  
 Beman, Matthias ..... 36  
 Bemont, Lemuel ..... 36  
 Benedict, Chas. B. .... 41  
 Benedict, Cora ..... 156  
 Benedict, Frank L. .... 65  
 Benedict, Gorman ..... 155, 156  
 Benedict, Sarah B. .... 156  
 Benedict, Sherman ..... 114  
 Bennerdick, Abijah ..... 32  
 Bennet, John ..... 32  
 Bennett, Mary ..... 66  
 Benson, Lucy ..... 66  
 Benson, Wm. A. .... 66  
 Bentley, John ..... 24  
 Bentley, Mary ..... 56  
 Benton, Daniel J. .... 56  
 Benton, Isaac ..... 23, 57  
 Benton, Jehial ..... 24  
 Benton, Jehiel ..... 56  
 Benton, Ruth ..... 57  
 Benton, Sarah ..... 56  
 Berrey, John ..... 32  
 Berry, Barnabas ..... 32  
 Berry, Abijah ..... 60  
 Berry, Ann ..... 63  
 Berry, Caroline ..... 64  
 Berry, Caroline B. .... 137  
 Berry, Caroline Britton ..... 67  
 Berry, Diadema ..... 60  
 Berry, Ebenezer ..... 59  
 Berry, Flora E. .... 65  
 Berry, Frank ..... 47  
 Berry, Frederick M. .... 64  
 Berry, Frederick M. .... 137  
 Berry, Hannah ..... 59  
 Berry, Jehial ..... 61  
 Berry, Jerome ..... 64, 137  
 Berry, John C. .... 63, 137  
 Berry, Jonathan ..... 57  
 Berry, Joseph ..... 57  
 Berry, Margaret P. .... 137  
 Berry, Margaret Pratt ..... 67  
 Berry, Mary Rebecca ..... 137  
 Berry, Nancy ..... 60  
 Berry, Nathaniel .... 17, 18, 19, 20, 23,  
 25, 30, 31, 35, 49, 56, 58, 91, 113, 137  
 Berry, Mrs. Nat'l ..... 58  
 Berry, Nathaniel Jr. .... 113  
 Berry, Ruth ..... 59, 62  
 Berry, Sophia P. .... 64  
 Berry, Thankful ..... 60  
 Berry, Widow ..... 58  
 Berry, Wm. .... 137  
 Besler, Martin R. .... 41  
 Betts, Widow ..... 59  
 Bierce, Ruth Ann ..... 65  
 Bierce, William ..... 61  
 Bigelow, Mrs. Clarence A. .... 156  
 Billings, Moses ..... 21  
 Birch, John ..... 42  
 Birge, Henry W. .... 29  
 Bishop, Sylvia ..... 152  
 Bissell, Luman P. .... 63  
 Bissell, Mrs. Luman ..... 63  
 Bissell, Mrs. Mills ..... 134  
 Bissell, Sarah J. .... 65  
 Blackman, Edward ..... 32  
 Blackman, Sarah ..... 62  
 Blackwell, Alice ..... 150  
 Blair, Asa ..... 52, 55



- Blinn, C. D. . . . . 39  
 Blythe, John O. . . . . 63  
 Boardman, Sherman . . . . . 21  
 Bolles, J. A. . . . . 5  
 Bolton, Cornelius . . . . . 65  
 Booth, Reuben . . . . . 68  
 Bordwell, Jane . . . . . 21, 59  
 Bordwell, Joel . . . . . 51, 52, 55, 90  
 Bordwell, Lavinia . . . . . 60  
 Bordwell, Mary . . . . . 60  
 Bordwell, Mills . . . . . 63, 114  
 Bordwell, Mills, 2nd . . . . . 63  
 Bordwell, Mrs. . . . . 58  
 Bordwell, Polly . . . . . 60  
 Bordwell, Rev. Joel . . . . . 21  
 Bordwell, Samuel . . . . . 60  
 Bostwick, John . . . . . 30  
 Bostwick, Nathaniel . . . . . 18, 19, 20  
 Bosworth, Nathaniel . . . . . 21  
 Botsford, Fanny . . . . . 60  
 Botsford, Sam'l . . . . . 33  
 Boyd, Robt. . . . . 100  
 Bradley, Alfred G. . . . . 154  
 Bradley, Almon C. . . . . 154, 155  
 Bradley, David . . . . . 59  
 Bradley, Mrs. David . . . . . 59  
 Bradley, Ethel . . . . . 155  
 Bradley, Flora . . . . . 155  
 Bradley, Grover . . . . . 155  
 Bradley, Zachariah . . . . . 59  
 Bradshaw, Electa . . . . . 61  
 Bradshaw, Emili . . . . . 62  
 Bradshaw, Jesse . . . . . 61  
 Bristol, Cornelia R. . . . . 64  
 Bronson, Hiram L. . . . . 42  
 Bronson, Lucinde . . . . . 149  
 Brown, Anna . . . . . 61  
 Brown, Arvin . . . . . 61  
 Brown, Disa . . . . . 61  
 Brown, Eleanor . . . . . 59  
 Brown, Elizabeth W. . . . . 65  
 Brown, Herman . . . . . 32  
 Brown, Hobby . . . . . 45  
 Brown, John . . . . . 34, 36  
 Brown, Nathaniel . . . . . 21  
 Brown, Peggy . . . . . 61  
 Brown, Sally . . . . . 61  
 Brown, Wm. . . . . 44  
 Brownson, Benj. 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 32, 56  
 Brownson, Daniel . . . . . 56  
 Brownson, John . . . . . 35  
 Brownson, Martha . . . . . 56  
 Brownson, Mary . . . . . 56  
 Brownson, Nathaniel . . . . . 56  
 Brownson, Ruth . . . . . 56  
 Brownson, Silas . . . . . 32  
 Bruce, Rev. Rufus . . . . . 70  
 Bruster, Peleg . . . . . 20  
 Buckley, Calvin . . . . . 37  
 Buell, Abigail . . . . . 59  
 Buell, Ozias . . . . . 59  
 Buell, Sally . . . . . 60  
 Bull, Aritta S. . . . . 65  
 Bull, Caroline L. . . . . 67  
 Bull, Elizabeth . . . . . 130  
 Bull, Edith M. . . . . 67  
 Bull, Eugene W. . . . . 56, 66  
 Bull, Geo. R. . . . . 56, 66, 83, 90  
 Bull, Mrs. Geo. W. . . . . 63  
 Bull, Jacob . . . . . 23, 34, 96  
 Bull, John . . . . . 32, 37  
 Bull, Jonathan . . . . . 130  
 Bull, Julia . . . . . 62, 66  
 Bull, Mrs. Lemuel . . . . . 63  
 Bull, Lois . . . . . 65  
 Bull, Louis . . . . . 60  
 Bull, Margaret M. . . . . 66  
 Bull, Mr. . . . . 82  
 Bull, Ralph W. . . . . 65  
 Bull, Sarah M. . . . . 65  
 Bull, Thomas . . . . . 130  
 Buman, Thos. . . . . 20  
 Bump, Wm. H. . . . . 66  
 Burkhardt, John . . . . . 100, 101  
 Burnes, James . . . . . 41  
 Burnham, Wm. . . . . 18, 19, 20, 21  
 Burnhaunce, Isabel . . . . . 66  
 Burr, Peter . . . . . 26  
 Burton, Almeron . . . . . 42  
 Burton, Lewis . . . . . 41  
 Burton, Naomi . . . . . 37  
 Burton, Silas . . . . . 42  
 Cable, Hiram . . . . . 44  
 Cahoon, Grace . . . . . 57  
 Caldwell, Mr. . . . . 54  
 Camp, Caroline . . . . . 61  
 Camp, Ellen F. Monroe . . . . . 66  
 Camp, Isaac . . . . . 21  
 Camp, Josiah . . . . . 35  
 Camp, Levy . . . . . 33  
 Camp, Mrs. O. R. . . . . 70  
 Camp, Walter B. . . . . 114  
 Campbell, Isabel . . . . . 65  
 Campbell, Margaret . . . . . 59  
 Candee, Mary . . . . . 65  
 Canfield, Mary . . . . . 56  
 Canfield, Samuel . . . . .  
     . . . . . 17, 18, 20, 23, 32, 38, 56  
 Capson, Thomas . . . . . 17  
 Carey, Lockwood . . . . . 62  
 Carhart, Barbara L. . . . . 66  
 Carpenter, John . . . . . 45  
 Carson, Thomas . . . . . 17, 18, 20  
 Carter, Benoni . . . . . 32  
 Carter, Betsey . . . . . 63  
 Carter, Capt. Joseph . . . . . 113  
 Carter, Cassius M. . . . . 66  
 Carter, Dorcas . . . . . 61, 63  
 Carter, Eleazer . . . . . 32  
 Carter, Ethiel . . . . . 59  
 Carter, Heman . . . . . 37  
 Carter, Israel . . . . . 58  
 Carter, Jerusha . . . . . 58, 65  
 Carter, Joseph . . . . . 26, 30, 32, 34, 35  
 Carter, Lavinia . . . . . 62, 65  
 Carter, Lucy . . . . . 59  
 Carter, Lucy J. . . . . 64

|                           |                |                          |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carter, Mary              | 65             | Church, Elias            | 58                                  |
| Carter, Mary J.           | 64             | Church, Hannah           | 132                                 |
| Carter, Newton            | 64             | Church, Jehial           | 132                                 |
| Carter, Orlo              | 63             | Church, Mary J.          | 61                                  |
| Carter, Samuel            | 20, 21         | Church, Mrs. Ruby        | 131                                 |
| Carter, Theresa Gibbs     | 65             | Church, Submit           | 132                                 |
| Carver, Jonathan          | 58             | Clark, Cyrenus           | 59                                  |
| Carver, Mrs. Jonathan     | 58             | Clark, Harmon            | 42                                  |
| Cary, John                | 18, 19         | Clark, Harvey            | 43                                  |
| Cary, Joseph              | 18, 19, 20, 21 | Clark, John              | 45                                  |
| Case, Aaron               | 33             | Clark, Rhoda             | 59                                  |
| Case, Van Ness            | 100            | Clark, Samuel            | 68                                  |
| Cass, Joseph C.           | 61             | Clemens, Mrs.            | 61                                  |
| Castle, Mary              | 56             | Clemmons, John           | 18                                  |
| Caswell, Anna             | 59, 60         | Closson, Nathaniel       | 18                                  |
| Caswell, Josiah           | 59             | Cobb, John               | 36                                  |
| Caswell, Mrs. Josiah      | 59             | Codman, Hepsiba          | 133                                 |
| Caswell, Julius           | 21, 59         | Coester, C. Fred         | 67                                  |
| Caverly, John             | 20             | Coester, Lillian W.      | 67                                  |
| Caverly, Philip           | 17, 18, 19, 20 | Coggsell, George         | 79, 97                              |
| Celley, Crag              | 32             | Coggsell, Archibald      | 79                                  |
| Chaffee, Lydia Ann        | 66             | Cogshall, Jay            | 64                                  |
| Chamberlain, Annette      | 67             | Cogshall, Mary L.        | 64                                  |
| Chamberlain, Bartlet      | 32             | Cogswell, John           | 19                                  |
| Chamberlain, Chloe        | 61             | Cogswell, Roger          | 21                                  |
| Chamberlain, Mrs. Cybil   | 59             | Cogswell, Wm.            | 32                                  |
| Chamberlain, Dwight       | 98             | Coksuer, Samuel          | 76                                  |
| Chamberlain, Eleazer      | 32, 59         | Coleman, Aaron           | 59                                  |
| Chamberlain, Elizur       | 59, 61         | Coleman, Lois            | 59                                  |
| Chamberlain, Erastus      | 38, 61         | Collins, Edward          | 32                                  |
| Chamberlain, Geo.         | 40, 44         | Comstock, Abel           | 21, 24, 32, 57                      |
| Chamberlain, Isaac        | 61             | Comstock, Abijah         | 59                                  |
| Chamberlain, Jerusha      | 59             | Comstock, Anson          | 61                                  |
| Chamberlain, Mary Ann     | 64             | Comstock, Betsey         | 60                                  |
| Chamberlain, Nathan Bates | 64             | Comstock, Caroline       | 62                                  |
| Chamberlain, Nat'l        | 59             | Comstock, Catherine      | 56                                  |
| Chamberlain, Peleg        | 32, 57, 58     | Comstock, Christopher    | 134                                 |
| Chamberlain, Mrs. Peleg   | 58             | Comstock, Daniel         | 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 49, 56, 134 |
| Chamberlain, Reander      | 37             | Comstock, Daniel M.      | 60                                  |
| Chamberlain, Samuel       | 36, 59         | Comstock, Mrs. Daniel M. | 60                                  |
| Chamberlain, Sarah M.     | 64             | Comstock, Daniel Sr.     | 17, 18, 19, 24, 56, 134             |
| Chamberlain, Solomon      | 38             | Comstock, David          | 24, 63, 113                         |
| Chamberlain, Swift        | 37             | Comstock, David 2nd.     | 62                                  |
| Chamberlain, Widow        | 61             | Comstock, Eliphalet      | 35, 58, 113, 134                    |
| Chamberlain, Zelia        | 63             | Comstock, Gersham        | 21                                  |
| Chambers, Jane            | 63             | Comstock, Gershon        | 57, 59                              |
| Chickens, Benjamin        | 79             | Comstock, Hannah         | 133, 134                            |
| China, Richard            | 33             | Comstock, Heman          | 33                                  |
| Chittenden, Dr. Sam'l     | 61             | Comstock, Lydia          | 59                                  |
| Chittenden, Lavinia       | 61             | Comstock, Mary           | 56                                  |
| Chapin, Chas W.           | 65             | Comstock, Peter          | 113, 134                            |
| Chapin, Julia             | 136            | Comstock, Rachael        | 59                                  |
| Chapin, Dr. Reuben        | 136            | Comstock, Rachel         | 58                                  |
| Chapman, Elijah           | 36             | Comstock, Ruth           | 61                                  |
| Chapman, Israel           | 33             | Comstock, Sally          | 60                                  |
| Chase, Chas.              | 65             | Comstock, Samuel         | 24                                  |
| Chase, Frank P.           | 153            | Comstock, Sarah          | 58                                  |
| Chase, Fred H.            | 100, 153       | Con—, Abigail            | 58                                  |
| Chase, Gertrude E.        | 67             | Conn, Jeanette           | 64                                  |
| Chase, Jessie M.          | 153            | Conn, Mary G.            | 64                                  |
| Chase, Mary F.            | 65             |                          |                                     |
| Chase, Nina M.            | 153            |                          |                                     |
| Church, Daniel            | 57             |                          |                                     |

- Conn, Samuel C. . . . . 55, 63  
 Converse, Hiram . . . . . 114  
 Converse, Widow Sarah . . . . . 63  
 Cook, Edward . . . . . 66  
 Coombs, John . . . . . 149  
 Crane, Betsy . . . . . 60  
 Crane, Elijah . . . . . 32  
 Crane, Joseph . . . . . 60  
 Crane, Mrs. . . . . 60  
 Crawfut, Seth . . . . . 32  
 Crosby, Rev. Arthur . . . . . 55  
 Crosby, Mrs. Arthur . . . . . 65  
 Crosby, Wm. G. . . . . 65  
 Crosby, Mrs. Wm. G. . . . . 65  
 Cross, Daniel . . . . . 24  
 Cuksuer, Thomas . . . . . 76  
 Cummings, Emma . . . . . 156  
 Cummings, Geo. . . . . 156  
 Cummings, Harriet . . . . . 156  
 Curtis, Ebenezer, Jr. . . . . 21  
 Curtis, Eleazer . . . . . 30, 32, 35, 113  
 Curtis, Joshiah . . . . . 58  
 Curtis, Mrs. Joshiah . . . . . 58  
 Curtis, Lican Der . . . . . 33  
 Cushman, Nathaniel . . . . . 18, 19, 20  
 Daine, Fred E. . . . . 66  
 Dakins, Edwards . . . . . 100  
 Danes, David . . . . . 36  
 Darish, Isaac . . . . . 32  
 Darling, Clarissa . . . . . 67  
 Darling, Mott . . . . . 101, 157  
 Davidson, Polly . . . . . 61  
 Davies, Rev. Thomas . . . . . 68  
 Davis, John . . . . . 19, 20  
 Davis, Henry F. . . . . 64  
 Davis, Hannah . . . . . 134  
 Davis, Silas . . . . . 149  
 Day, Lydia . . . . . 133  
 Dayton, Daniel . . . . . 114  
 Dayton, Isaac . . . . . 81  
 Delano, Anna Slosson . . . . . 60  
 Delano, Nathan . . . . . 24  
 Devotion, Ebenezer . . . . . 18, 19, 20  
 Dewey, Abby . . . . . 61  
 Dewey, Joseph E. . . . . 42  
 Dewey, Ruby Ann . . . . . 62  
 Dickenson, Joseph . . . . . 36  
 Dodge, Calvin . . . . . 59  
 Dodge, Gardiner . . . . . 60  
 Dodge, Mrs. Gardiner . . . . . 60  
 Dodge, Stephen . . . . . 37, 113  
 Donnelly, David . . . . . 41  
 Doolin, Rev. Wm. J. . . . . 154  
 Douglas, Anna . . . . . 60  
 Douglas, Reuben H. . . . . 45, 47  
 Douglas, Salmon . . . . . 61  
 Drew, Peter . . . . . 37  
 Dunbar, Everett . . . . . 46  
 Duncan, John . . . . . 98  
 Duncan, John M. . . . . 46  
 Duncumb, Chas. . . . . 18, 19, 20  
 Dunham, Hiram . . . . . 61  
 Dunham, Jonathan . . . . . 17, 18, 20, 22  
 Dunning, John . . . . . 56  
 Dunning, Hannah . . . . . 56  
 Dupont, Felix, . . . . . 41  
 Durkee, Jedediah . . . . . 25  
 Dutcher, Henriette F. . . . . 63  
 Dwy, Henry C. . . . . 65  
 Dwy, Nathaniel . . . . . 101  
 Dwy, Josie . . . . . 66  
 Dye, Daniel . . . . . 32  
 Dye, Patience . . . . . 60  
 Eaton, Alice B. . . . . 67  
 Eaton, Benj. . . . . 58  
 Eaton, Burritt . . . . . 30, 66, 83, 90  
 Eaton, Burritt, Jr. . . . . 66  
 Eaton, Chas A. . . . . 114  
 Eaton, Earl R. . . . . 67  
 Eaton, Edward . . . . . 71  
 Eaton, Ezra . . . . . 92  
 Eaton, Ira . . . . . 114  
 Eaton, Joseph . . . . . 60  
 Eaton, Julia Baily . . . . . 66  
 Eaton, Kate . . . . . 67  
 Eaton, Lillie Amelia . . . . . 65  
 Eaton, Lucretia Mosher . . . . . 65  
 Eaton, Luther . . . . . 64, 88, 114, 146  
 Eaton, Moses . . . . . 59  
 Eaton, Mrs. Moses . . . . . 59  
 Eaton, Phebe . . . . . 60  
 Eaton, Rachel . . . . . 60  
 Eaton, Reuben . . . . . 66, 114  
 Eaton, Mrs. Russell . . . . . 56  
 Eaton, Ruth Ann Bennett . . . . . 67  
 Eaton, Saphronia E. . . . . 64  
 Eaton, Sarah A. . . . . 71  
 Eaton, Sophia R. Judd . . . . . 64  
 Eaton, Thankful . . . . . 133  
 Edwards, Almeda Lane . . . . . 66  
 Edwards, Chas. . . . . 97, 99, 114  
 Edwards, Flora Ann Smith . . . . . 62  
 Edwards, Harmon T. . . . . 43  
 Edwards, Hon. Chas. . . . . 142, 154  
 Edwards, Hon. Pierpont . . . . . 131  
 Eldrid, Jehoshaphat . . . . . 20, 21, 35  
 Edwards, Josiah . . . . . 32  
 Edwards, Susan . . . . . 61  
 Eldridge, Judah . . . . . 32  
 Ellil, Robert . . . . . 41  
 Eliot, Nathan . . . . . 30, 113, 114  
 Elliott, Matthew . . . . . 113, 114  
 Elwell, Rebekah . . . . . 59, 61  
 Ely, Emma McGregor . . . . . 135  
 Ely, Dr. David . . . . . 135  
 Engersoll, Joel . . . . . 33  
 Erb, Eugene . . . . . 41  
 Erwin, Mrs. L. . . . . 62  
 Erwin, William . . . . . 62  
 Evetts, Edwin . . . . . 46  
 Fairchild, Abigal . . . . . 59  
 Fairchild, Levi . . . . . 32  
 Fairchild, Sam'l . . . . . 36, 59  
 Fairweather, Benj. . . . . 26  
 Falkner, Ebenezer . . . . . 60  
 Fanton, Emiline . . . . . 100

- Fash, Rev. Mr. . . . . . 69  
 Fenn, Frederick J. . . . . 95  
 Fenn, Gamaliel . . . . . 59  
 Fenn, Geo. . . . . 114  
 Fenn, Hannah . . . . . 61  
 Fenn, Lois . . . . . 59  
 Fenton, Francis . . . . . 17, 18, 20, 21  
 Ferris, David . . . . . 20, 21  
 Ferriss, Joel . . . . . 21  
 Ferriss, Amaziah . . . . . 21  
 Finney, Eleazer . . . . . 32  
 Finney, John . . . . . 20  
 Finney, John Jr. . . . . 21  
 Fitch, John . . . . . 19  
 Fitch, Prentice . . . . . 36  
 Fletcher, Sarah Pratt . . . . . 64  
 Foot, John . . . . . 21, 33  
 Foote, Rev. Geo. L. . . . . 69  
 Forgues, Ebenezer . . . . . 37  
 Fowler, Benj. . . . . 33  
 Fowler, Lucy Frear . . . . . 65  
 Frear, Eliza . . . . . 65  
 Freeman, Call . . . . . 36  
 Freeman, Clara . . . . . 62  
 Freeman, Cuff . . . . . 36  
 Freeman, Louise Mattie . . . . . 66  
 Freeman, Marcus . . . . . 65  
 French, John . . . . . 19, 20, 21  
 Friar, Frank . . . . . 44  
 Frier, Oliver . . . . . 44  
 Frink, Austin L. . . . . 44  
 Frink, Harriet E. . . . . 67  
 Frink, Polly . . . . . 60  
 Frisbie, James . . . . . 33  
 Frisbie, Mabel E. . . . . 67  
 Frisbie, Randolph . . . . . 67  
 Fry, Henry . . . . . 44  
 Fry, Rev. Jeremiah . . . . . 71  
 Fuller, Abel . . . . . 33  
 Fuller, Abigail . . . . . 133  
 Fuller, Abraham . . . . .  
     . . . . . 26, 32, 34, 35, 58, 63, 77, 78, 133  
 Fuller, Adaline . . . . . 61  
 Fuller, Alice . . . . . 58  
 Fuller, Alpheus . . . . . 69, 114  
 Fuller, Ann R. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Ashbel . . . . . 32, 62  
 Fuller, Bemis . . . . . 60  
 Fuller, Benajah . . . . . 59  
 Fuller, Mrs. Benajah . . . . . 59  
 Fuller, Botsford . . . . . 49  
 Fuller, Caroline . . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Chas. J. . . . . 114  
 Fuller, David B. . . . . 64  
 Fuller, David N. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Dolly . . . . . 62  
 Fuller, Edward . . . . . 134  
 Fuller, Ellen C. . . . . 65  
 Fuller, Emily M. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Ephraim . . . . . 32, 35, 59, 60  
 Fuller, Henry I. . . . . 114  
 Fuller, James . . . . . 61  
 Fuller, Jeremiah . . . . . 59, 60, 63, 69  
 Fuller, Mrs. Jeremiah . . . . . 64  
 Fuller, Jerusha . . . . . 64  
 Fuller, Jesse . . . . . 63  
 Fuller, John M. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, John Ransom . . . . . 60, 134  
 Fuller, Joseph . . . . . 18, 19, 24, 49, 56, 133  
 Fuller, Julia . . . . . 61  
 Fuller, Lavina . . . . . 64  
 Fuller, Lizzie . . . . . 66  
 Fuller, Loisa . . . . . 60  
 Fuller, Luther C. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Lydia . . . . . 56, 58, 65  
 Fuller, Margaret B. . . . . 64  
 Fuller, Maria . . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Mary Catherine . . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Miss M. L. . . . . 70  
 Fuller, Mrs. . . . . 53  
 Fuller, Mrs. Catherine . . . . . 88  
 Fuller, Nathaniel . . . . . 20  
 Fuller, Olive . . . . . 65  
 Fuller, Olive C. . . . . 63  
 Fuller, Dr. Oliver . . . . . 59, 60  
 Fuller, Mrs. Oliver . . . . . 59, 60  
 Fuller, R. G. . . . . 70  
 Fuller, Rebeckah . . . . . 59  
 Fuller, Revillo . . . . . 60, 61  
 Fuller, Mrs. Revillo . . . . . 60  
 Fuller, Rufus . . . . . 63, 99  
 Fuller, Rufus Jr. . . . . 114  
 Fuller, Ruth . . . . . 59  
 Fuller, Samuel . . . . . 134  
 Fuller, Dr. Samuel . . . . . 134  
 Fuller, Simeon . . . . . 21  
 Fuller, William . . . . . 64  
 Fuller, Zachariah . . . . . 133  
 Fullets, Mrs. . . . . . 61  
 Galusha, Jacob . . . . . 24  
 Gaylord, C. H. . . . . 88  
 Gaylord, Ellen F. . . . . 66  
 Geer, Alpheus . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Anna L. . . . . 62  
 Geer, Armalina . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Azuba . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Charlotte . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Charlotte A. . . . . 152  
 Geer, Cynthia . . . . . 59, 62, 152  
 Geer, David . . . . . 59, 152  
 Geer, Elias . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Elijah . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Eliza . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Eveline R. . . . . 152  
 Geer, Ezra . . . . . 59, 152  
 Geer, Mrs. Ezra . . . . . 59  
 Geer, Ezra Jr. . . . . 152  
 Geer, Gardner . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Geo. . . . . 152  
 Geer, John . . . . . 33  
 Geer, John . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Joseph . . . . . 152  
 Geer, Louisa M. . . . . 152  
 Gale, Luman J. . . . . 148  
 Geer, Margaret . . . . . 60  
 Geer, Mary O. . . . . 152

- Geer, Milo ..... 69  
 Geer, Nat'l ..... 32, 152  
 Geer, Pamela ..... 152  
 Geer, Patience ..... 152  
 Geer, Phebe Ann ..... 152  
 Geer, Sally ..... 152  
 Geer, Sarah ..... 152  
 Geer, Silas ..... 19, 20  
 Geer, Susan ..... 152  
 Geer, Sylvia ..... 62  
 Geer, Sylvia W. .... 145, 152  
 Geer, Thos. .... 152  
 Geer, W. .... 70  
 Geer, Welcome ..... 152  
 Geer, Wm. .... 100, 152, 155  
 Geltson, Rev. .... 52  
 Gibbs, Catherine ..... 63  
 Gibbs, Emma ..... 66  
 Gibbs, Eunice ..... 64  
 Gibbs, J. F. .... 28, 114, 148, 149  
 Gibbs, Louise ..... 66  
 Gibbs, Marshall C. .... 55, 63, 114  
 Gibbs, Mary Ann ..... 66  
 Gibbs, Reuben ..... 63  
 Gibbs, Reuben M. .... 66  
 Gibbs, Rhoda ..... 63  
 Gibbs, Roxanna Brooks ..... 66  
 Gibbs, Sarah E. .... 63  
 Gibbs, Tillotson ..... 64  
 Gilbert, Allen ..... 63, 98  
 Gilbert, Amelia ..... 62  
 Gilbert, Anna M. .... 67  
 Gilbert, Caroline ..... 63  
 Gilbert, David ..... 61  
 Gilbert, Edith L. .... 67  
 Gilbert, Francis A. .... 64  
 Gilbert, Frederick H. .... 64, 98  
 Gilbert, Henry ..... 98  
 Gilbert, John ..... 33  
 Gilbert, John ..... 61, 98  
 Gilbert, Maria ..... 62  
 Gilbert, Mrs. .... 61  
 Gilbert, Mrs. Allen ..... 63  
 Gilbert, Sabra ..... 64  
 Gilbert, Rev. Sturgis ..... 68, 69  
 Gilbert, Truman ..... 32  
 Gillett, Rhoda ..... 58  
 Gold, Nathaniel ..... 26  
 Goodsell, Isaac ..... 139  
 Goodsell, Sarah E. .... 139  
 Gordon, Mrs. .... 65  
 Gove, Moses ..... 16  
 Grant, Mary ..... 65  
 Gray, Elijah ..... 37  
 Gray, Timothy ..... 58  
 Greenwood, Mr. .... 53  
 Gregory, Edgar ..... 150  
 Gregory, Edna ..... 150  
 Gregory, Edward ..... 97  
 Gregory, Eliza T. .... 150  
 Gregory, Elizabeth ..... 61  
 Gregory, Stephen ..... 61  
 Gregory, Mrs. Stephen ..... 61  
 Gregory, Winifred ..... 67  
 Greggs, John S. .... 65  
 Greggs, Mary L. .... 65  
 Griffin, James ..... 44  
 Griffin, Simeon ..... 101  
 Griffith, Rev. Geo. .... 70  
 Griswold, Arthur W. .... 67  
 Griswold, Josiah ..... 19, 20  
 Griswold, Rose D. .... 67  
 Guthrie, Ephraim ..... 25  
 Guthrie, Joseph ..... 30  
 Guthrie, Wm. .... 25  
 Hait, Ebenezer ..... 32  
 Hatch, Abigail ..... 63  
 Hatch, Almira ..... 60  
 Hatch, Barnabas .....  
     ..... 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 32, 57, 60, 150  
 Hatch, Betsy ..... 61  
 Hatch, Camp ..... 61  
 Hatch, Clark ..... 59  
 Hatch, Deborah ..... 56  
 Hatch, Editha ..... 62, 150  
 Hatch, Elizabeth ..... 133  
 Hatch, Fanna ..... 62  
 Hatch, Fannie ..... 66  
 Hatch, James ..... 58  
 Hatch, Jedida ..... 56  
 Hatch, Jennie ..... 65  
 Hatch, Jethro .. 21, 24, 32, 35, 57, 113  
 Hatch, Joseph ..... 17, 18, 21  
 Hatch, Julia ..... 64  
 Hatch, Lucinda ..... 63  
 Hatch, Martha ..... 57  
 Hatch, Mary ..... 62  
 Hatch, Mary B. .... 66, 150  
 Hatch, Mrs. Clark ..... 59  
 Hatch, Mrs. Thomas ..... 58  
 Hatch, Nathaniel ..... 35  
 Hatch, Nellie Chamberlain ..... 67  
 Hatch, Orville ..... 31  
 Hatch, Phebe ..... 57  
 Hatch, Polly ..... 60  
 Hatch, Thomas ..... 58  
 Hatch, Timothy .....  
     ..... 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 30, 56, 59  
 Hatch, Sylvanius ..... 19, 21, 56  
 Hatch, Walter B. .... 66  
 Hall, Alfred E. .... 66  
 Hall, Alzora J. .... 158  
 Hall, Ariminta V. .... 66  
 Hall, Betsey ..... 61  
 Hall, Catherine ..... 62  
 Hall, Curtis ..... 41  
 Hall, Daniel ..... 32  
 Hall, Geo. B. .... 64  
 Hall, Homer ..... 45  
 Hall, Julia R. .... 64  
 Hall, Lucy ..... 64, 67  
 Hall, Luther ..... 42  
 Hall, Northrop ..... 62  
 Hall, Pataline ..... 61  
 Hall, Sarah F. .... 64  
 Hall, Widow Mary ..... 81

- Hallock, Dwight ..... 41  
 Hallock, Isick E. .... 148  
 Hallock, Welthia A. .... 148  
 Hambleton, Benj. .... 57  
 Hambleton, Esther ..... 56  
 Hamilton, Benj. .... 24  
 Hamilton, Susan Slosson ..... 58  
 Hammond, Seneca ..... 45  
 Harrington, Edwin ..... 40, 43  
 Harris, James ..... 79  
 Harris, Henry ..... 72, 79  
 Hassell, J. .... 24  
 Hawley, Betsey ..... 149  
 Hawley, Garwood ..... 149  
 Hawley, Lucy ..... 62  
 Hawley, Mehitable ..... 62  
 Hawley, Mrs. .... 61  
 Hawley, Polly ..... 149  
 Hawley, Rev. E. B. .... 95, 149  
 Hawley, Sally ..... 60  
 Hawley, Sam'l ..... 32  
 Hawley, Silas D. .... 149  
 Hawley, Sylvester ..... 61  
 Hawley, Talcot ..... 33  
 Hawley, Truman ..... 62, 149  
 Hawley, Mrs. Truman ..... 62  
 Hawley, Wm. .... 149  
 Haxton, Mrs. .... 88  
 Haymond, Hannah ..... 58  
 Hector, Gilead ..... 33  
 Hector, Wm. .... 33  
 Henderson, John ..... 19  
 Henderson, John ..... 23  
 Hendrix, Grace ..... 143  
 Hickok, Eliza ..... 62  
 Hickok, Laurens P. .... 52, 53, 55  
 Hill, Catherine ..... 158  
 Hill, Ebenezer ..... 36  
 Hill, Ebenezer Jr. .... 37  
 Hill, Henry S. .... 158  
 Hill, Sally ..... 61  
 Hillard, Rev. E. B. .... 5  
 Hines, Peter ..... 33  
 Hinman, Benj. .... 31  
 Hinman, Justice ..... 33  
 Hinman, R. S. .... 103  
 Hinckley, Solomon ..... 40, 42  
 Hitchcock, Capt. John ..... 113  
 Hoit, Electrons ..... 28  
 Hoit, Mrs. .... 59  
 Hoag, Caroline ..... 62  
 Hoag, Emma F. .... 148  
 Hoag, Luman ..... 44  
 Hoag, Mary ..... 64  
 Holmes, Gershom ..... 32, 35  
 Hopkins, Judah ..... 32  
 Hopkins, Lima ..... 63  
 Hopper, Mary ..... 62  
 Hopson, Ann E. .... 65  
 Hopson, Catherine Mills ..... 66  
 Hopson, Geo. .... 68, 88  
 Hopson, John ..... 65, 88  
 Hopson, Mrs. John ..... 56  
 Hopson, John Jr. .... 65  
 Hopson, Julia ..... 66  
 Hopson, Miss Mary A. .... 56  
 Hopson, Mary A. .... 65  
 Hopson, Mr. .... 82, 84  
 Hopson, Rebecca Jane ..... 65  
 Hopson, Seth W. .... 114  
 Hopson, Wm. T. .... 114  
 Houghton, Maria ..... 71  
 Hotchkiss, Sam'l ..... 20  
 Hollister, Benjamin ..... 76  
 Howland, Cyrus ..... 44  
 Howland, Harriet ..... 140  
 Howland, Howard ..... 139  
 Howland, Ida ..... 146  
 Howland, J. E. .... 65  
 Howland, Rev. Mark B. .... 139  
 Howland, Ralph ..... 139  
 Howland, Sarah ..... 152  
 Hubbard, James ..... 40  
 Hubbel, Alice ..... 58  
 Hubbel, Ebenezer ..... 22, 24  
 Hubbel, Ephraim .....  
     ..... 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 58, 134  
 Hubbel, Jediah ..... 21, 30, 113  
 Hubbel, Jonathan ..... 17, 18, 21  
 Hubbel, Peter ..... 17, 18, 21  
 Hubbel, Richard .. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26  
 Hubbel, Silas ..... 32  
 Hubbell, Abigail ..... 133  
 Hubbell, Abijah ..... 32  
 Hubbell, Ephraim Jr. .... 113  
 Hubbell, Esbon ..... 59  
 Hubbell, Mehitable ..... 59  
 Hubbell, Rachel ..... 61  
 Hubbell, Zalmon ..... 61  
 Hubble, Fear ..... 60  
 Hubble, Mehitable ..... 57  
 Hubble, Ruth ..... 57  
 Hubble, Samuel ..... 57, 59  
 Hucker, Wm. .... 33  
 Hungerford, Emma ..... 65  
 Hunt, Samuel ..... 33  
 Hunter, Flora Jane ..... 64  
 Huntington, Hezekiah ..... 16  
 Huntington, Jonathan ..... 15, 16  
 Hurd, Betsey ..... 60  
 Hurd, Jabez ..... 81  
 Hurd, John ..... 69  
 Hurlburt, Joseph ..... 11  
 Hurlbut, Weight ..... 33  
 Hutchins, John B. .... 45  
 Ingraham, Fred'k ..... 156  
 Ingraham, Wm. H. .... 42, 156  
 Ingersoll, Edwards J. .... 114, 136  
 Ingersoll, Grace C. .... 136  
 Ingersoll, Flora E. .... 136  
 Ingersoll, Jared M. .... 136, 141  
 Ingersoll, Julia E. .... 67  
 Ingersoll, Mrs. .... 88  
 Ives, Almira ..... 66  
 Ives, Carrie ..... 65  
 Ives, Joseph, Sr. .... 140

- Ives, Joseph Jr. ....140  
 Ives, Lewis H. ....140  
 Ives, Sally Johnson .....140  
 Jackson, Michael ..... 61  
 Jelluf, Rev. Hiram ..... 69  
 Jenks, Elmore F. .... 44  
 Jennings, Elroy ..... 44, 152  
 Jennings, Lovina ..... 60  
 Jennings, Myron M. .... 43  
 Johnson, Catherine ..... 64  
 Johnson, Chas. R. .... 67  
 Johnson, Daniel ..... 61  
 Johnson, Eliphalet .....140  
 Johnson, Henry F. .... 44  
 Johnson, Jerome ..... 40, 43  
 Johnson, Mary ..... 66  
 Johnson, Sally .....140  
 Johnson, Sam'l Wm. .... 20, 21  
 Johnson, Timothy ..... 33  
 Jones, Luman ..... 61  
 Jones, Polly ..... 61  
 Jones, Rev. Ezra ..... 70  
 Joray, Sarah E. .... 67  
 Judd, Abigail ..... 57  
 Judd, Abiah ..... 60  
 Judd, Alice H. .... 64  
 Judd, Benj. ....144  
 Judd, Betsy R. .... 63  
 Judd, Chas. ....145, 152  
 Judd, Chloe ..... 62  
 Judd, Fanny .....145  
 Judd, Ira .....145  
 Judd, Jerome ..... 5, 94, 145, 152  
 Judd, Jerusha ..... 59  
 Judd, John .....100, 144  
 Judd, Jonathan .....144  
 Judd, Lewis ..... 38  
 Judd, Mott ..... 94, 145, 152  
 Judd, Mrs. Edward ..... 65  
 Judd, Nancy M. Howland ..... 64  
 Judd, Philip .....  
     .....17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 32, 57, 145  
 Judd, Philip Jr. .... 59  
 Judd, Rev. Reuben ..... 11, 144  
 Judd, Russell .....114  
 Judd, Sir Andrew .....144  
 Judd, Thos. ....144, 145  
 Judd, Wm. ....144  
 Judd, Wm. M. .... 64, 114  
 Judd, ——— ..... 37  
 Judson, Ebenezer ..... 32  
 Keelor, Lewis ..... 33  
 Keelor, Matthew ..... 33  
 Kellogg, Betsey ..... 62  
 Kellogg, Elisha S. .... 40  
 Keeny, John ..... 21  
 Keney, Alexander ..... 25  
 Kidder, Almeda ..... 61  
 Killson, Value ..... 79  
 King, Charlotte B. ....146  
 King, Chas. Wesley .....145, 146  
 King, Idalah Wheeler .....145  
 King, John .....153  
 King, Louise M. ....146  
 King, Mary L. ....146  
 King, Orson .....145  
 King, Wheeler B. ....146  
 Kingsbury, Joseph .....19, 20, 21  
 Kingsley, Nathaniel ..... 19, 20  
 Kirk, Chas. F. .... 66, 71  
 Kirk, Lillian Ruth Newton ..... 66  
 Kirk, Rev. Wm. H. .... 70  
 Knapp, John ..... 17, 18, 21  
 Knapp, Miss A. W. .... 70  
 Knapp, Moses ..... 35  
 Knell, Mitchell ..... 17, 18, 19, 20  
 Lacy, Alonson ..... 61  
 Lacy, Eleazer ..... 60  
 Laid, James ..... 19  
 La Jue, Luman ..... 63  
 Lake, John ..... 58  
 Lake, Rogers ..... 37  
 Lampkin, Benj. .... 36  
 Lamson, Emelena B. .... 64  
 Lane, Adaline ..... 66  
 Lane, Adeline L. .... 67  
 Lane, Chas. Edw. ....139  
 Lane, Clark P. ....138  
 Lane, Clark P. Jr. ....139  
 Lane, Daniel P. ....114  
 Lane, Edith C. ....139  
 Lane, Edward .....138  
 Lane, Edw. B. ....147  
 Lane, Fred'k R. ....147  
 Lane, Geo. S. ....147  
 Lane, Hannah Wolcott .....138  
 Lane, Hugh F. ....139  
 Lane, John S. .... 44  
 Lane, John W. .... 66  
 Lane, Julia M. ....147  
 Lane, Leman S. .... 38  
 Lane, Leman G. .... 44  
 Lane, Martin B. .... 97, 147  
 Lane, Maud E. ....147  
 Lane, Rollie G. ....139  
 Lane, Sarah Ann Bierce ..... 65  
 Lane, Willard M. ....147  
 Lannigan, Samuel ..... 57  
 Lasell, Elizabeth ..... 56  
 Lasell, Joshua ..... 56  
 Lathrop, Jane .....134  
 Lathrop, M. .... 24  
 Lathrop, Mary ..... 56  
 Lathrop, Rev. John .....134  
 Latham, Samuel ..... 57  
 Lattean, Samuel ..... 24  
 Lazel, Joshua ..... 19, 20  
 Lazel, James ..... 19  
 Lee, Almira ..... 64  
 Lee, Charles ..... 97, 114  
 Lee, Daniel .....113  
 Lee, Ida F. .... 66  
 Lee, Israel ..... 32  
 Lee, John ..... 44  
 Lee, Mattie ..... 66  
 Lee, Rev. T. J. .... 47

|                           |                                 |                        |  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Leonard, Adele B. Willard | 66                              | McNab, Michael         | 45                                       |
| Leonard, Burton           | 66                              | Mead, Neamah           | 19, 20                                   |
| Leonard, Jerome           | 101                             | Merrit, Ephraim        | 101                                      |
| Leonard, Lucy             | 60                              | Merry, Benj.           | 32                                       |
| Leonard, Nelson           | 63                              | Merry, John            | 57                                       |
| Leonard, Silas            | 37                              | Merwin, Ezra M.        | 47                                       |
| Leonard, Susan            | 66                              | Merwin, Fred'k S.      | 64                                       |
| Leonard, Wm. Russell      | 66                              | Millard, Anna          | 60                                       |
| Lewis, Mercy              | 56                              | Millard, John          | 58                                       |
| Lewis, Samuel             | 17, 18, 49, 56                  | Millard, Mrs. John     | 58                                       |
| Lewis, Susan              | 65                              | Millard, Rebeckah      | 58                                       |
| Lewis, Wm.                | 65                              | Millard, Rufus         | 61                                       |
| Lilly, Elisha             | 19, 20                          | Millard, Mrs. Rufus    | 61                                       |
| Lineberg, Catherine       | 65                              | Miller, Dolly          | 61                                       |
| Lineberg, Mary Janes      | 65                              | Miller, Etta Waldron   | 66                                       |
| Lineberg, Susan           | 65                              | Miller, Hubbell        | 114                                      |
| Lincoln, James            | 32                              | Mills, Abilene         | 59                                       |
| Loff, David               | 34, 36                          | Mills, Bradley         | 62                                       |
| Lozer, Thos.              | 21                              | Mills, Catherine       | 64                                       |
| Lyman, Caroline           | 66                              | Mills, Charlotte J.    | 62                                       |
| Lyman, Ebenezer           | 18, 49, 56                      | Mills, Chloe           | 62                                       |
| Lyman, Lydia              | 56                              | Mills, Edmund          | 58, 114                                  |
| Lyn, James                | 32                              | Mills, Edmund H.       | 64                                       |
| Lynds, Rebeckah           | 59                              | Mills, Florilla        | 60                                       |
| Lyon, Amaziah             | 21                              | Mills, Francis J.      | 64                                       |
| Lyon, David               | 32                              | Mills, Hannah          | 60, 61                                   |
| Maim, Jonathan            | 32                              | Mills, Hannah P.       | 61                                       |
| Main, Caleb               | 59                              | Mills, Jane            | 56                                       |
| Main, Mrs. Caleb          | 59                              | Mills, John            | 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 30, 56, 62, 114  |
| Maine, Phebe              | 60                              | Mills, Lemyra A. Swift | 65                                       |
| Mairel, Henry L. V.       | 39, 44                          | Mills, Lewis           | 26, 32, 34, 38, 58, 61, 62, 90, 113, 114 |
| Mallory, Alonso           | 94                              | Mills, Mrs. Lewis      | 58                                       |
| Mallory, Frederick        | 102, 114                        | Mills, Margaret        | 58                                       |
| Mansfield, Maria          | 62                              | Mills, Mary Ann        | 62                                       |
| Mansfield, Sally          | 60                              | Mills, Mary C.         | 63                                       |
| Marsh, Carrie J. Hatch    | 66                              | Mills, Mrs.            | 58                                       |
| Marsh, Cyrus              | 19, 49, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 113 | Mills, Mrs. L. W.      | 63                                       |
| Marsh, Ebenezer           | 18, 19, 20, 21                  | Mills, Peter           | 35, 58                                   |
| Marsh, John               | 7                               | Mills, Philo           | 30, 90                                   |
| Marsh, Mrs. Hannah        | 58                              | Mills, Philo G.        | 64, 114                                  |
| Marsh, Palatiah           | 20                              | Mills, Rev. Edmund     | 55                                       |
| Marsh, Rev. Truman        | 68                              | Mills, Rev. S.         | 52                                       |
| Marsh, Wm.                | 21                              | Mills, Rhoda           | 60                                       |
| Marshall, Daniel G.       | 43                              | Mills, Samuel J.       | 52, 54, 58                               |
| Marshall, Ezra S.         | 45                              | Mills, Rev. Samuel J.  | 54                                       |
| Marshall, Ira             | 39, 45                          | Millspaugh, Mrs. Flora | 94                                       |
| Marshall, Henry M.        | 42                              | Millspaugh, Petheul    | 114                                      |
| Marshall, Polly           | 63                              | Minor, Jerusha         | 21                                       |
| Marvin, Uriah             | 32                              | Minor, Samuel          | 17, 18                                   |
| Mason, John               | 137, 152                        | Minor, Joseph          | 30                                       |
| Massay, John              | 25                              | Mitchell, Chas.        | 45                                       |
| Mauwee, Eunice            | 63                              | Mitchell, John         | 17, 18, 21, 22                           |
| Mauwehu, Eunice           | 79                              | Mitchell, Knell        | 21                                       |
| Mauwehu, Gideon           | 73                              | Monroe, Jarin          | 43                                       |
| Mauwehu, Joseph           | 78                              | Monroe, Seth           | 101                                      |
| Mauwehu, Rachel           | 79, 80                          | Morehouse, Austin      | 114                                      |
| Mayhew, Capten            | 76                              | Morey, Elijah          | 58                                       |
| Mayhew, Jobe              | 76                              | Morey, Harriet         | 64                                       |
| McArdle, Fred'k           | 44                              | Morey, Stephen         | 37                                       |
| McBirney, Geo. H.         | 42                              | Morgan, Delight        | 61                                       |
| McCabe, James             | 44                              | Morgan, Gideon         | 21                                       |
| McCoy, John               | 102                             | Morgan, Jonathan Jr.   | 17                                       |
| McDongal, Rev. Howard     | 70                              |                        |  |
| McGarry, Patrick          | 94                              |                        |  |



|                              |                               |               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Morgan, Jonathan Sr. ....    | Odell, Sally .....            | 63            |
| ..... 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24 | Odell, Wm. H. ....            | 46            |
| Morgan, Mabel .....          | Olmsted, David .....          | 32            |
| 61                           | Orton, Harriet M. ....        | 157           |
| Morris, Abigail .....        | Orton, John .....             | 101           |
| 62                           | Osborn, Elida .....           | 114           |
| Morris, David .....          | Osborn, Temperance .....      | 64            |
| 32                           | Osborne, — .....              | 61            |
| Morris, Garry .....          | Pack, Cybil .....             | 59            |
| 63                           | Page, Clark .....             | 64, 114, 137  |
| Morris, Vesta .....          | Page, Daniel O. ....          | 40, 42        |
| 63                           | Page, Geo. B. ....            | 91            |
| Morriss, Thomas .....        | Page, Geo. M. ....            | 137           |
| 20, 24, 57                   | Page, Helen J. ....           | 64            |
| Morse, Stephen .....         | Page, Walter .....            | 100           |
| 149                          | Page, Rev. Wm. W. ....        | 55            |
| Mory, Lewis .....            | Paine, Daniel .....           | 58            |
| 42                           | Paine, Joannah .....          | 58            |
| Moseley, Increase Jr. ....   | Palmer, Rev. Solomon .....    | 67, 68        |
| 31                           | Park, Ebenezer .....          | 24            |
| Mosher, Alice E. ....        | Parks, Joseph .....           | 21, 59        |
| 67                           | Parks, Julia .....            | 60            |
| Mosher, Florence J. ....     | Parks, Margaret .....         | 59            |
| 67                           | Paris, Stephen .....          | 24            |
| Mosher, Henry T. ....        | Parish, Asa .....             | 59            |
| 67                           | Parish, Oliver .....          | 33            |
| Mosier, John .....           | Parish, Mrs. Asa .....        | 59            |
| 59                           | Parish, Mindwell .....        | 57            |
| Moss, Daniel .....           | Parker, Joseph .....          | 21            |
| 57                           | Parsels, Daniel A. ....       | 156           |
| Mudio, Rev. Howard .....     | Parsels, Flora L. ....        | 155           |
| 55                           | Partridge, Elizabeth .....    | 150           |
| Mullins, Michael .....       | Patterson, Emma Waldron ..... | 66            |
| 45                           | Payn, John .....              | 59            |
| Murphy, Alfred .....         | Payn, Mrs. John .....         | 59            |
| 44                           | Payne, Florence Barton .....  | 66            |
| Murphy, Alfred J. ....       | Payson, Grace W. ....         | 65            |
| 64                           | Payson, Rev. E. P. ....       | 47, 55        |
| Murphy, Henry .....          | Peck, Abel .....              | 33            |
| 42                           | Peck, Benjamin .....          | 56            |
| Murphy, Henry 2nd. ....      | Peck, Bennoni .....           | 58            |
| 43                           | Peck, Ebenezer .....          | 26, 56, 58    |
| Murphy, Hiram .....          | Peck, Mrs. Ebenezer .....     | 58            |
| 43                           | Peck, Joseph .....            | 18, 32, 56    |
| Murray, Jehiel .....         | Peck, Margaret .....          | 56            |
| 20, 57                       | Peck, Mrs. ....               | 58, 61        |
| Murphy, Lewis .....          | Peck, Ruth .....              | 57            |
| 44                           | Peck, Sally .....             | 61            |
| Murphy, Lucy .....           | Peck, Stephen .....           | 33            |
| 66                           | Peck, Walston .....           | 41            |
| Murray, Mary .....           | Peck, Wilbur .....            | 67            |
| 57                           | Peck, — .....                 | 61            |
| Murray, Reuben .....         | Peet, Alanson .....           | 43            |
| 35                           | Peet, Anna Hall .....         | 66            |
| Murphy, Wm. H. ....          | Peet, Frank S. ....           | 66            |
| 39, 46                       | Peet, John .....              | 142           |
| Nash, Jonathan .....         | Peet, Lauren .....            | 43            |
| 33                           | Peet, Mary Newton .....       | 67            |
| Negro, Rose .....            | Peet, Mary S. Fuller .....    | 54            |
| 58                           | Peet, Samuel R. ....          | 114, 142, 143 |
| Nettleton, I. F. ....        | Peet, Wm. H. ....             | 64            |
| 46, 47, 64                   | Pender, Fred'k W. ....        | 46            |
| Newcomb, Benj. ....          | Pennell, Isaac .....          | 34, 35        |
| 24, 57                       | Perry, Ann Jane .....         | 62            |
| Newcomb, Hannah .....        |                               |               |
| 56                           |                               |               |
| Newcomb, James .....         |                               |               |
| 21                           |                               |               |
| Newcomb, Thomas .....        |                               |               |
| 17, 18, 21, 22               |                               |               |
| Newton, Alice .....          |                               |               |
| 66                           |                               |               |
| Newton, Carrie Hatch .....   |                               |               |
| 67                           |                               |               |
| Newton, Frank L. ....        |                               |               |
| 66, 67                       |                               |               |
| Newton, Geo. ....            |                               |               |
| 66                           |                               |               |
| Newton, John .....           |                               |               |
| 97                           |                               |               |
| Newton, John W. ....         |                               |               |
| 143                          |                               |               |
| Newton, Lillian .....        |                               |               |
| 71                           |                               |               |
| Newton, Mary Ida King .....  |                               |               |
| 67                           |                               |               |
| Newton, Mattie Aura .....    |                               |               |
| 67                           |                               |               |
| Newton, Wm. ....             |                               |               |
| 101                          |                               |               |
| Nichols, Anson B. ....       |                               |               |
| 43                           |                               |               |
| Nichols, Dorcas .....        |                               |               |
| 62                           |                               |               |
| Nichols, Sam'l .....         |                               |               |
| 33                           |                               |               |
| Noble, Thomas .....          |                               |               |
| 81                           |                               |               |
| Nolles, Jonathan .....       |                               |               |
| 24                           |                               |               |
| Nolles, Stephen .....        |                               |               |
| 24                           |                               |               |
| Noney, Esther .....          |                               |               |
| 63                           |                               |               |
| Noney, Mercy .....           |                               |               |
| 62                           |                               |               |
| North, Salome .....          |                               |               |
| 60                           |                               |               |
| Northrop, Amos .....         |                               |               |
| 135                          |                               |               |
| Northrop, Aurelia .....      |                               |               |
| 60                           |                               |               |
| Northrop, Rev. B. G. ....    |                               |               |
| 47, 55, 62, 135              |                               |               |
| Northrup, Mrs. Chas. ....    |                               |               |
| 37, 130                      |                               |               |
| Norton, Barsheba .....       |                               |               |
| 59                           |                               |               |
| Norton, Silas .....          |                               |               |
| 59                           |                               |               |
| Oakland, John .....          |                               |               |
| 37                           |                               |               |
| O'Conner, Michael .....      |                               |               |
| 45                           |                               |               |
| Odell, Geo. ....             |                               |               |
| 44                           |                               |               |
| Odell, Myron .....           |                               |               |
| 44                           |                               |               |

|                            |                         |                       |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Perry, Charlotte           | 62                      | Raymond, Hannah       | 62          |
| Perry, Elisha              | 23                      | Raymond, Jeremiah Due | 59          |
| Perry, Mrs.                | 62                      | Raymond, John         | 38, 59, 61  |
| Perry, Nathaniel P.        | 38, 62, 113, 114        | Raymond, John M.      | 60, 70, 114 |
| Peters, Eber S.            | 99                      | Raymond, Joshua       | 33          |
| Peters, J. H.              | 99                      | Raymond, Mercy        | 56, 58      |
| Phillips, Jennie Clark     | 67                      | Raymond, Mira Ann     | 60          |
| Pierce, Timothy            | 15, 16                  | Raymond, Newcomb      | 33, 37      |
| Piper, Emeline             | 64                      | Reed, Eveline         | 66          |
| Platt, Epenetus            | 134                     | Reed, Hezekiah        | 59          |
| Platt, Eudora Sarles       | 66                      | Reed, Martha          | 59          |
| Platt, Jephania            | 134                     | Reed, Phebe           | 59          |
| Platt, Jonas               | 134                     | Reeves, Mary          | 133         |
| Platt, Richard             | 134                     | Reid, Cornelia S.     | 65          |
| Porter, Benj.              | 33                      | Reynolds, Wm. H.      | 45          |
| Porter, Elsie Crane        | 66                      | Reynolds, Rev. Wm.    | 69          |
| Porter, John               | 17, 18, 21              | Rice, Mrs. Esau       | 58          |
| Porter, Rev. Elbert S.     | 47, 55                  | Rice, Sophia          | 64          |
| Porter, Rev. Elbert S. Jr. | 66                      | Richey, Rev. Albion   | 70          |
| Post, Ida Wolcott          | 65                      | Rigney, Rev. M. F.    | 154         |
| Potter, Elisha             | 94, 95, 141             | Rily, Lucretia        | 65          |
| Potter, Elmer A.           | 141                     | Ripley, David         | 19, 20      |
| Potter, Oliver             | 39, 45                  | Roach, John           | 45          |
| Potter, Simon              | 46                      | Road, Lester          | 21          |
| Pouslett, Louis            | 44                      | Roberts, Albert       | 90          |
| Pratt, Ann Aurillia        | 62                      | Roberts, Eliza        | 63          |
| Pratt, Azariah             | 18, 24, 49, 56, 58      | Roberts, Helen M.     | 64          |
| Pratt, Birdsey G.          | 98                      | Roberts, John         | 18, 19      |
| Pratt, Daniel              | 19, 20, 21              | Roberts, John L.      | 83, 114     |
| Pratt, Editha              | 57                      | Roberts, Julia Barker | 66          |
| Peter, Franz               | 45                      | Roberts, Mary         | 58          |
| Pratt, Hannah              | 56, 58, 134             | Roberts, Nathaniel    | 24, 56      |
| Pratt, Hopson              | 38, 112, 114            | Roberts, Rebekah      | 56          |
| Pratt, Jesse               | 24                      | Roberts, Sarah        | 57          |
| Pratt, Joseph              | 134                     | Roberts, Susan M.     | 67          |
| Pratt, Joseph H.           | 46, 57, 58, 113         | Roberts, Wm.          | 56          |
| Pratt, Joseph Jr.          | 21, 26, 30, 39          | Robinson, Almira      | 66          |
| Pratt, Mrs. Sarah          | 58, 59                  | Robinson, James       | 150         |
| Pratt, Orinda N.           | 64                      | Robinson, Patience R. | 150         |
| Pratt, Patty W.            | 62                      | Rockwell, Noah        | 17, 18, 21  |
| Pratt, Peter               | 21, 30, 58, 59, 62, 113 | Rockwell, Silas       | 33          |
| Pratt, Peter Jr.           | 61                      | Rockwell, Wm.         | 33          |
| Pratt, Ralph               | 65                      | Rodgers, David H.     | 158         |
| Pratt, Ruth                | 58                      | Rodgers, John         | 43          |
| Pratt, Sarah               | 62, 134                 | Root, Gideon          | 57          |
| Pratt, Sherman             | 60                      | Root, Ira             | 61          |
| Pratt, Sophie              | 62                      | Root, Lura Ann        | 63          |
| Preston, Wm.               | 30                      | Root, Mrs.            | 58          |
| Punderson, Rev. Dr. Thos.  | 135                     | Root, Sally           | 61          |
| Putnam, Luke I.            | 114                     | Roots, Mrs. Lewis     | 61          |
| Quain, Francis             | 45                      | Roraback, Helen       | 67          |
| Ramson, John               | 113                     | Roraback, Polly Ann   | 65          |
| Ranch, Christian Henry     | 71                      | Rowley, Abigail       | 57          |
| Randall, Wealthy           | 61                      | Rowley, Jabez         | 57          |
| Randol, Mary               | 62                      | Rowley, Jonathan      | 57, 58      |
| Randol, Walter             | 62                      | Rowley, Mrs. Jonathan | 58          |
| Ransom, Bethiah            | 56                      | Rowley, Mary          | 57          |
| Ransom, John               | 18, 24, 35, 51, 58      | Rowley, Mehitable     | 134         |
| Ransom, John Sr.           | 57                      | Rowley, Moses         | 24, 25      |
| Ransom, Rebecca            | 58                      | Rowley, Seth          | 34, 36      |
| Ransom, Robert             | 59                      | Rowley, Tabitha       | 57          |
| Raymond, Abram             | 24, 56                  | Rowley, Thos.         | 20          |
| Raymond, Abraham Jr.       | 58                      | Rudd, Jonathan        | 19, 20      |
| Raymond, Dr.               | 102                     | Russell, Chas. L.     | 38          |

|                           |                    |                          |   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Rust, Levy                | 33                 | Skiff, Hannah J.         | 133                                     |
| Rust, Mrs.                | 61                 | Skiff, Harriet           | 133                                     |
| Rust, Simeon              | 58                 | Skiff, Helen             | 133                                     |
| Rust, Mrs. Simeon         | 58                 | Skiff, Heman             | 133                                     |
| Ryan, Flora Roraback      | 67                 | Skiff, Hopson P.         | 63                                      |
| Sackett, Alexander        | 32                 | Skiff, James             | 133                                     |
| Sackett, Benj.            | 33                 | Skiff, Jeremiah          | 59                                      |
| Sackett, Capt. Justus     | 113                | Skiff, Joseph            | 20, 114                                 |
| Sackett, Reuben           | 35                 | Skiff, Josiah            | 19                                      |
| Saltenstall, Gurdon       | 31                 | Skiff, Julius            | 133                                     |
| Sanford, Elizabeth        | 56                 | Skiff, Luther            | 133                                     |
| Sanford, Nathaniel        | 18, 19, 56         | Skiff, Margaret          | 133                                     |
| Sarles, Laura Page        | 65                 | Skiff, Mary Ann          | 133                                     |
| Sawyer, Allen             | 42                 | Skiff, Mira              | 133                                     |
| Sawyer, Orville R.        | 43                 | Skiff, Moses             | 133                                     |
| Saxton, Hannah            | 134                | Skiff, Nathan            | 32, 132, 133                            |
| Schermerhorn, Edward      | 99                 | Skiff, Nathan Jr.        | 133                                     |
| Schroder, Rev. Mr.        | 69                 | Skiff, Dr. Paul C.       | 132, 133                                |
| Scott, Elias              | 46                 | Skiff, Pauline           | 135                                     |
| Scott, Mortimer H.        | 46                 | Skiff, Peter             | 114, 133                                |
| Scudder, Everts           | 54, 55             | Skiff, Polly             | 60                                      |
| Scudder, Sarah Lamson     | 64                 | Skiff, Samuel A.         | 133                                     |
| Sealy, Ebenezer           | 57                 | Skiff, Stephen           | 32, 59, 133                             |
| Sealy, Elizabeth          | 57                 | Skiff, Mrs. Stephen      | 59                                      |
| Seely, John               | 17, 18, 21         | Skiff, Thankful          | 133                                     |
| Segar, Edith              | 67                 | Slade, Asa               | 62, 102                                 |
| Segar, Herman             | 114                | Slade, Charlotte         | 63                                      |
| Segar, Rebekah            | 56                 | Slade, Susan             | 62                                      |
| Sege, George L.           | 158                | Slawson, Deliverance     | 33                                      |
| Seger, Hiram              | 158                | Sloper, Nathan           | 33                                      |
| Seger, Ira                | 158                | Slosson, Abigail         | 60                                      |
| Seger, Joseph             | 37                 | Slosson, Alice Catherine | 64                                      |
| Segur, Chas. H.           | 42                 | Slosson, Anna T.         | 65                                      |
| Serrill, Maria            | 62                 | Slosson, Betsey          | 60                                      |
| Seymour, Arthur           | 44                 | Slosson, Borzillai       | 113                                     |
| Seymour, Ira              | 114                | Slosson, Catherine       | 63                                      |
| Seymour, Moses            | 34                 | Slosson, David           | 58                                      |
| Sheehan, Rev. M.          | 154                | Slosson, Elizabeth       | 60, 151, 152                            |
| Sheridan, Fr. Wm. O'R.    | 154                | Slosson, Enoch           | 57, 58                                  |
| Sherman, Abilal           | 59                 | Slosson, Frank S.        | 151                                     |
| Sherman, Ettie M.         | 154                | Slosson, Hannah          | 63, 151                                 |
| Sherman, David            | 77                 | Slosson, John            | 151                                     |
| Shew, Hannah              | 64                 | Slosson, John W.         | 65, 90                                  |
| Silliman, Robt.           | 26, 49, 50         | Slosson, Margaret        | 56, 63, 151                             |
| Silsby, Henry             | 19                 | Slosson, Mary            | 61, 151                                 |
| Silsby, John              | 57                 | Slosson, Mary Hatch      | 64                                      |
| Silsby, Samuel            | 20                 | Slosson, Mrs.            | 58                                      |
| Simons, Enoch             | 33                 | Slosson, Nathan Sr.      | 60, 151                                 |
| Skeal, Samuel             | 24                 | Slosson, Nathan Jr.      | 60, 114, 151                            |
| Skeel, Lydia              | 57                 | Slosson, Nathaniel       | 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 28, 56, 90, 151 |
| Skeel, Prudence (Slosson) | 57                 | Slosson, Sarah           | 57                                      |
| Skeeles, Thomas           | 17, 18, 21, 22, 57 | Slosson, Wm. Jr.         | 151                                     |
| Skeels, Abigail Slosson   | 57                 | Slosson, Wm. B.          | 151                                     |
| Skiff, Abigail            | 133                | Small, Jesse             | 25                                      |
| Skiff, Benj.              | 58                 | Smart, Christina         | 145                                     |
| Skiff, Della              | 133                | Smith, Almira L.         | 62                                      |
| Skiff, Dr. Charles        | 134                | Smith, Amelia F.         | 63                                      |
| Skiff, Edward             | 133                | Smith, Arthur W.         | 67                                      |
| Skiff, Elijah             | 133                | Smith, Asa               | 59                                      |
| Skiff, Esther             | 59                 | Smith, Mrs. Asa          | 59                                      |
| Skiff, Flora              | 62                 | Smith, Azariah           | 33                                      |
| Skiff, Giles              | 133                | Smith, Betsey            | 61                                      |
| Skiff, Geo. A.            | 40                 | Smith, Cassandana        | 63                                      |
| Skiff, Geo. R.            | 42                 |                          |   |

- Smith, Charlotte B. .... 64  
 Smith, Chas. S. .... 65, 114, 146  
 Smith, Chauncey ..... 32  
 Smith, Clara W. .... 153  
 Smith, David ..... 19, 20  
 Smith, Desire ..... 59  
 Smith, Edward ..... 63  
 Smith, Edward J. .... 67  
 Smith, Elias ..... 59  
 Smith, Elizabeth S. .... 64  
 Smith, Ella C. .... 65  
 Smith, Elmore ..... 63  
 Smith, Ely ..... 33  
 Smith, Flora A. .... 142  
 Smith, Flora E. .... 137  
 Smith, Harriet ..... 63  
 Smith, Harvey ..... 60, 141, 142  
 Smith, Henry C. .... 64  
 Smith, Jabez ..... 77  
 Smith, John ..... 17, 18, 20, 21, 60, 68  
 Smith, Julia E. .... 141  
 Smith, Leander ..... 63  
 Smith, Mrs. Leander ..... 63  
 Smith, Marcus ..... 63  
 Smith, Margaret F. .... 64  
 Smith, Marvin ..... 60  
 Smith, Nathaniel ..... 20  
 Smith, Noah ..... 59  
 Smith, Mrs. Noah ..... 59  
 Smith, Orange ..... 46  
 Smith, Orpha J. .... 63  
 Smith, Reuben ..... 60, 63  
 Smith, Rev. Walter ..... 55  
 Smith, Richard ..... 86  
 Smith, Sabra ..... 61  
 Smith, Stephen ..... 153  
 Smith, Timothy St. John ..... 63  
 Smith, Wm. C. .... 67  
 Smith, Wm. R. .... 65  
 Smith, Mrs. Wm. R. .... 65  
 Snedeker, Stephen ..... 43  
 Snedeker, Uriah F. .... 40, 43  
 Snow, Julius ..... 67  
 Snow, Mrs. Julius ..... 67  
 Sokenoge, John ..... 76  
 Somers, Daniel T. .... 43  
 Soule, Cora Newton ..... 66  
 Soule, Louise Lineberg ..... 67  
 Spears, Betsey ..... 60  
 Spears, Rev. A. G. .... 70  
 Spooner, Chas. .... 65  
 Spooner, Chas. L. ... 55, 56, 101, 114, 150  
 Spooner, Clifford C. .... 150  
 Spooner, Cornelia ..... 62  
 Spooner, Ebenezer ..... 150  
 Spooner, Edna A. .... 65  
 Spooner, Hannah ..... 61  
 Spooner, Henry ..... 97  
 Spooner, Jane ..... 62  
 Spooner, John ..... 63, 101, 114, 150  
 Spooner, Julia E. .... 64  
 Spooner, Lewis ..... 49, 60, 64, 150  
 Spooner, Lewis G. .... 67, 71, 150  
 Spooner, Lewis S. .... 150  
 Spooner, Maria ..... 62  
 Spooner, Nat'l ..... 33  
 Spooner, Phoebe ..... 64  
 Spooner, Rachel ..... 57  
 Spooner, Rachel Noble ..... 150  
 Spooner, Rebecca ..... 60, 150  
 Spooner, Ruth ..... 62  
 Spooner, Sally ..... 62  
 Spooner, Wm. ... 24, 26, 57, 61, 65, 149  
 Spooner, Wm. Henry ..... 150  
 Spooner, Wm. S. .... 150  
 Sprague, Asa ..... 36  
 Sprague, Benj. .... 32  
 Sprague, Eunice ..... 59  
 Sprague, Homer B. .... 40  
 Sprague, James ..... 37  
 Sprague, Martha Lane ..... 67  
 Stalker, Grace ..... 58  
 Standard, Henry ..... 28  
 Standish, Capt. Miles ..... 134  
 Stanley, John ..... 7  
 Stanley, Wm. .... 45  
 Stanton, Widow ..... 59  
 Starkweather, Stephen ..... 25  
 Starr, Josiah ..... 17, 18, 19, 21  
 Stephens, Henry ..... 76  
 Sterling, Rev. Mr. .... 63  
 Sterry, Ferdinand ..... 67  
 Sterry, Geo. L. .... 41  
 Sterry, Henry ..... 42  
 Sterry, Harry ..... 67  
 Sterry, Harvey ..... 44  
 Sterry, Myron R. .... 41  
 Stevens, Minot ..... 94  
 Stevens, Thos. .... 32  
 Stevenson, Fred'k ..... 44  
 Stewart, Elona ..... 56  
 Stewart, Jean ..... 24  
 Stewart, Jerusha ..... 60  
 Stewart, Mrs. M. L. .... 87  
 St. John, Anna ..... 58  
 St. John, Aurelia ..... 61  
 St. John, Austin ..... 114  
 St. John, Dolly ..... 64  
 St. John, Edith R. .... 67  
 St. John, Elizabeth ..... 63  
 St. John, Jesse ..... 114  
 St. John, John T. .... 64  
 St. John, Lewis ..... 43, 68  
 St. John, Mattie ..... 67  
 St. John, Oliver S. .... 63  
 St. John, Ruth ..... 60, 62  
 St. John, Sarah E. Gibbs ..... 66  
 St. John, Timothy ..... 58  
 Stockwell, Hannah ..... 57  
 Stoddard, Curtis ..... 33  
 Stone, Betsey ..... 61  
 Stone, Charles ..... 94  
 Stone, Daniel ..... 37  
 Stone, Fairehild W. .... 65  
 Stone, Hannah ..... 59  
 Stone, Hiram ..... 61, 65  
 Stone, Laura ..... 63, 64  
 Stone, Leoville ..... 59

1744.

Isaac Benton,  
Ruth Benton,  
John Merry,  
Mary Rowley,  
Joseph Pratt,  
Editha Pratt,  
Elizabeth Lasell,  
Phebe Hatch.

1745.

Joshiah Thomas,  
Abigail, wife of Jabez Swift,  
Mary Thomas,  
Anne Thomas.

1746.

Jabez Rowley,  
Tabitha Rowley,  
Jemima Barnum.

1747.

Jonathan Rowley,  
Abigail Rowley.

1748.

Martha Hatch.

1749.

Thomas Woodward,  
Joanna Woodward,  
Lydia Skeel,  
John Silsby.

1750.

Mary, wife of Jehiel Murrey,  
Gideon Root,  
Daniel Church and his wife.

1751.

Samuel Waller and Joanna his wife.

1752.

Elisabeth, wife of Ebenezer Sealy,  
Rachel, wife of William Spooner.

1754.

Nehemiah Sturtevant and Fear  
his wife.

The following is a list of those admitted to special ordinance by Cyrus Marsh, pastor:

1741.

Patience Washburn,  
Benjamin Hambleton,  
Abel Comstock.

1742.

Ruth Peck,  
John Beeby,  
Andrew Algur,  
Mehitable Hubble,  
Jehiel Barnum,  
Samuel Latham,  
Philip Judd,  
Abigail Judd,  
Thomas Skeel,  
Prudence Skeel (Slosson).

1745.

Barnabas Hatch,  
Samuel Hubble,  
Ruth Hubble.

1747.

Jethro Hatch,

Thomas Morris,  
Mary Barnum.

1748.

Gershon Comstock,  
Grace Cahoon.

1749.

Hannah Stockwill,  
Elizabeth Barnum,  
Benjamin Newcomb,  
Mindwell Parish.

1750.

Sarah Roberts.

1751.

James Walling,  
Daniel Moss and his wife.

1753.

Jonathan Berry,  
John Beebe, Jr.

1754.

Joseph Berry.

An account of those admitted to ordinances in ye church of Christ at Kent, by Joel Bordwell, pastor:

1758.

Zeruiah Thankful and Ruth,  
Peleg Chamberlain,

Widow Abigail Slosson Skeels,  
Sarah, wife of Enoch Slosson,  
John Ransom, Sr.,

- Elijah Morey and his wife,  
The wife of Eli Thomson,  
Jabez Swift, Sr.  
1760.  
Elias Church,  
Sarah, wife of Jira Swift,  
Mr. Cyrus Marsh,  
The wife of Esau Rice.  
1761.  
The Widow Berry,  
Enoch Slosson,  
Mrs. Bordwell, wife of Rev. Mr.  
Bordwell,  
The wife of Israel Warner.  
1762.  
Peter Mills and his wife,  
Susan Slosson Hamilton,  
Bennoni Peck's wife,  
David Slosson's wife.  
1763.  
Lewis Mills and his wife,  
Rose Negro,  
Nathaniel Berry's wife,  
Benjamin Eaton,  
John Williams.  
1764.  
Peleg Chamberlain's wife,  
Ebenezer Peck's wife,  
Jonathan Rowley's wife.  
1765.  
Samuel Mills,  
Simeon Rust and his wife,  
Mrs. Fuller.  
1766.  
Job Swift,  
Mr. Root's wife.  
Peleg Chamberlain and wife.  
1767.  
Lieut. Benjamin Skiff,  
Abraham Fuller and Lydia his wife,  
Eliphalet Comstock and Sarah his wife.  
1768.  
Rachael, wife of Samuel Bates,  
Capt. Joseph Pratt and Hannah his  
wife,  
Barnabas Bates and his wife,  
Mr. Peter Pratt and his wife,  
Widow Hannah Tanner,  
Elias Church.  
1769.  
John Millard and his wife,  
Thomas Hatch and his wife,  
Anna, wife of Timothy St. John,  
Daniel Paine and Joannah his wife.  
1770.  
Mrs. Hannah Marsh,  
J. Stuart and his wife,  
Daniel Wrexford,  
Rhoda Gillett.  
1771.  
Israel Carter and Jerusha his wife,  
Joshiah Curtis and his wife.  
1772.  
Grace Stalker,  
Sara, wife of Lieut. James Stuart.  
1773.  
Daniel Beebe and Esther his wife.  
1774.  
Ephraim Hubble, Esq.,  
Timothy Gray,  
Jonathan Carver and his wife,  
Elizabeth Walter,  
Mr. Seth Swift.  
1775.  
Alice Hubbel,  
Nathan Stuart,  
John Lake,  
wife of John Millard, Sr.  
1776.  
Alice Fuller,  
Rachael Comstock,  
Widow Rebeckah Millard,  
Ruth, wife of Azariah Pratt,  
Rebecca, wife of John Ransom,  
Widow Anna Thomas.  
1778.  
Mr. James Hatch,  
Mr. Edmund Mills,  
Widow Hannah Haymond,  
Margaret Mills,  
Rachel Baidwin.  
1779.  
\*Abigail Con—,  
Thomas Bates,  
Adah Bates,  
Abraham Raymond, Jr.,  
Mercy Raymond,

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\* Name illegible in Record.

- Eliazar Chamberlain,  
Samuel Beecher and his wife,  
Robert Ransom,  
1780.  
Mrs. Waterman.  
Jerusha Judd,  
Noah Smith and his wife,  
Philip Judd, Jr.  
1783.  
John Mosier,  
Eunice Sprague,  
Deacon Josiah Caswell and his wife,  
Ebenezer Barnum's wife,  
Cybil Pack,  
Steven Skiff and his wife,  
Joseph Bates and his wife,  
Martha Reed.  
1784.  
Tim Hatch,  
Benajah Fuller's wife,  
Abram Beecher and his wife,  
Luke Stuart,  
Leoville Stone's wife Hannah,  
Dr. Oliver Fuller and his wife,  
Lois Coleman,  
Aaron Coleman,  
Abijah Comstock,  
Rachael Comstock,  
Ezbon Hubbel,  
Anna, wife of Amos Barnum,  
Widow Betts.  
1785.  
Silas Norton and his wife Barsheba,  
Hezekiah Reed and his wife Phebe,  
Silas Stuart's wife.  
1786.  
Ezra Geer's wife,  
Mr. Hoit's wife.  
1790.  
Ephraim Fuller's wife Rebeckah,  
Samuel Fairchild's wife Abigal,  
Julius Caswell and his wife Anna,  
Samuel Hubbell's wife Mehittable,  
Jeremiah Fuller's wife Ruth,  
Rebeckah Lynds.  
1791.  
Ebenezer Berry and his wife Ruth,  
John Payn's wife,  
Hannah Berry,  
Elias Smith and his wife Desire.
1792.  
Widow Stanton,  
Asa Parish's wife Sara,  
Caleb Main's wife.  
1793.  
Daniel Thomson's wife Lydia,  
Samuel Chamberlain and his wife  
Cybil,  
Noah Smith,  
Peter Pratt's wife, Sarah Day,  
John Raymond's wife, Zeruah Due,  
Abilene Mills,  
Jane Bordwell.  
1794.  
Calvin Dodge,  
Clark Hatch and his wife.  
1795.  
Ephraim Beardsley and his wife  
Martha,  
Lydia Day, wife of Abraham Beech-  
er, Jr.,  
Cyrenus Clark's wife Rhoda,  
Gershom Comstock's wife Lydia.  
1796.  
Mr. Elwell's wife Rebeckah.  
1800.  
Nathan Chamberlain,  
Ozias Buell and his wife Abigail,  
Ethiel Carter and his wife Lucy,  
John Bates and his wife Villilitty,  
Nathaniel Bates,  
Louisa Webber,  
Margaret Campbell,  
Phebe Reed,  
Nathaniel Chamberlain's wife Jerusha,  
David Bradley and his wife,  
Eliezer Thomson,  
Abilal Sherman,  
Moses Eaton and his wife,  
Mr. Parks,  
Margaret Parks,  
Zachariah Bradley,  
Gamaliel Fenn and his wife Lois,  
Jeremiah Skiff's wife Esther,  
Widow Hepsibah Skiff,  
Asa Smith's wife.  
1801.  
Widow Eleanor Brown,  
David Geer,  
Cynthia Geer,

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Margaret Geer,<br>Amos Barnum's wife Sarah.  | Daniel M. Comstock,<br>Betsey Hurd.   |
| 1802.  | 1807.   |
| Patience Dye.  | Elisabeth Slosson,<br>Nathan Slosson, Sr.,<br>Nathan Slosson, Jr.,<br>Dr. Oliver Fuller and his wife,<br>Aurelia Northrop,<br>Betsey Slosson,<br>Anna Slosson Delano. |
| 1803.  | 1808.   |
| Jeremiah Fuller.   | Lavinia Bordwell,<br>Ebenezer Falker,<br>Jerusha Stewart.   |
| 1804.  | 1809.   |
| Mr. Straight's wife.   | Rebecca Spooner.  |
| 1805.  |   |
| Nancy Berry,<br>Anah Agard.  |   |
| 1806.  |   |
| Gardiner Dodge and his wife,<br>Daniel M. Comstock's wife,<br>Capt. Revillo Fuller's wife, |   |

Record is incomplete previous to 1812, and there is no means by which the manner of removal from the church can be ascertained.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1812.  | Loisa Fuller, <sup>4</sup>  |
| Anna Caswell,<br>Joseph Eaton,<br>Abijah Berry,<br>Harvey Smith,<br>Marvin Smith,<br>John Smith,<br>Reuben Smith,<br>Barnabas Hatch,<br>Eleazer Lacy,<br>Sherman Pratt,<br>Lewis Spooner,<br>John Ransom Fuller, <sup>4</sup><br>John M. Raymond,<br>Ephraim Fuller,<br>Mira Ann Raymond,<br>Abigail Slosson,<br>Bemis Fuller,<br>Betsey Comstock,<br>Phebe Eaton,<br>Florilla Mills,<br>Abiah Judd,<br>Ruth St. John,<br>Rhoda Mills,<br>Anna Douglas,<br>Salome North,<br>Sally Buell,<br>Polly Skiff,<br>Anna Millard,<br>Dorcas Underwood,<br>Julia Parks, | Sally Comstock,<br>Rachel Eaton,<br>Hannah Mills,<br>Sally Mansfield,<br>Mary Bordwell,<br>Lovina Jennings,<br>Fear Hubble.   |
|  | 1813.   |
|  | Polly Bordwell,<br>Mrs. Crane,<br>Diadema Berry,<br>Sally Hawley,<br>Phebe Maine.   |
|  | 1814.   |
|  | Thalia Beardsley,<br>Betsy Spears,<br>Sophia Fuller Stone,<br>Polly Hatch,<br>Fanny Botsford,<br>Betsy Crane,<br>Almira Hatch,<br>Joseph Crane,<br>Samuel Bordwell,<br>Louis Bull,<br>Thankful Berry,<br>Lodemia Swift,<br>Polly Frink,<br>Lucy Leonard,<br>Mary Stone. |



1815.  
Salmon Douglas.

1816.  
Mrs. Fullets,  
William Bierce,  
Ruth Comstock,  
Disa Brown,  
Electa Bradshaw,  
Betsy Hall,  
Dorcas Carter,  
Peggy Brown,  
Aurelia St. John,  
Adaline Fuller,  
Betsy Hatch,  
Sally Brown,  
Anna Brown,  
Polly Jones,  
Sabra Smith,  
Hannah Fenn,  
Hannah P. Mills,  
Pataline Hall,  
Cynthia Bates,  
Sally Hill,  
Harriet Sturtevant,  
Almeda Kidder,  
Anson Comstock,  
Jesse Bradshaw,  
Zalmon Hubbell,  
William Spooner,  
Hiram Dunham,  
Luman Jones,  
Arvin Brown,  
Reuben Bates,  
Joseph C. Cass,  
Peter Pratt, Jr.,  
Ira Root,  
Erastus Chamberlain,  
Russel Stone,  
William Brown,  
Esther Chamberlain,  
Rachel Hubbell,  
Alma Agard,  
Sally Root,  
Sally Peck,  
—— Peck,  
Abby Dewey,  
Julia Fuller,  
Michael Jackson,  
Stephen Gregory,  
Mrs. Stephen Gregory,  
Elizabeth Gregory,

Daniel Johnson,  
Alanson Lacy,  
Widow Wilson,  
Polly Davidson,  
Mrs. Rust,  
Delight Morgan,  
Camp Hatch,  
Orville Hatch.

1817.

Lewis Mills,  
Hannah Mills,  
Widow Chamberlain,  
Wealthy Randal,  
Dolly Miller,  
Betsy Smith.

1819.

—— Osborne,  
Mabel Morgan,  
Ira Swift,  
Grace Swift,  
Mrs. Gilbert.

1821.

Mary Slosson,  
David Gilbert,  
Hannah Spooner,  
Mrs. Peck,  
Mrs. Hawley,  
Caroline Camp,  
Rebecca Elwell,  
Dr. Samuel Chittendon,  
Lavinia Chittendon,  
Eli Chamberlain,  
Chloe Chamberlain,  
Sylvester Hawley,  
Mrs. Clemens,  
Isaac Chamberlain,  
Luania Williams,  
Dr. John Raymond,  
Rufus Millard,  
Reville Fuller,  
John Gilbert,  
Mrs. Rufus Millard,  
Mrs. Lewis Roots,  
Susan Edwards.

1822.

James Fuller,  
Jehiel Berry,  
Hiram Stone,  
Mary J. Church,  
Betsy Stone,

Mrs. Russell Stone,  
Chloe Judd,  
Marjory Beardsley.

1823.

Bradley Mills,  
Peter Pratt,  
Mary Ann Stone.

1824.

Salby Beebe,  
Sarah Blackney,  
Mary Ann Mills,  
Charlotte J. Mills,  
Maria Mansfield,  
Chloe Mills.

1825.

Eliza Hickok.

1826.

Maria Serrill,  
Truman Hawley and his wife,  
Mehitable Hawley,  
Mary Hopper, alias Miller,  
Mrs. Hannah Bates.

1827.

Catharine Beecher,  
Sylvia Geer,  
Maria Spooner,  
Sophie Pratt,  
Sarah Pratt,  
Mary Beach,  
Flora Skiff,  
Lockwood Carey,  
Ruth D. St. John,  
Ruby Ann Dewy,  
Cynthia Geer.

1828.

Mrs. Perry,  
Susan Slade,  
Maria Gilbert,  
Sally Spooner.

1829.

Julia Bull.

1831.

Lucretia Almira Adams,  
Nathaniel P. Perry,  
William Erwin,  
Walter Randol,  
Asa Slade,  
Lewis M. Mills,  
Ashbel Fuller,

Birdsey G. Northrop,  
Northrop Hall,

Dolly Fuller,  
Mary Randol,  
Ann Aurillia Pratt,  
Ann Jane Perry,  
Editha Hatch,  
Cornelia Spooner,

Fanna Hatch,  
Jane Spooner,  
Mercy Noney,  
Charlotte Perry,  
Mary Hatch,  
Flora Ann Smith Edwards (Charles),  
Emili Bradshaw,  
Hannah Raymond,  
Nancy Beach,  
Almira L. Smith,  
Ruth Ann Berry,  
Lavinia Carter.

1832.

John Mills,  
Chancey Beardsley,  
David Comstock, 2d,  
Mrs. Juanna Beardsley,  
Caroline Comstock,  
Betsy Kellogg,  
Chloe Winegar,  
Dorcas Nichols,  
Ruth Spooner,  
Amelia Gilbert,  
Lucy Hawley,  
Clara Freeman,  
Catherine Hall,  
Irena Jennett Beardsley,  
Jerusha Sturtevant,  
Patty W. Pratt.

1833.

Mrs. L. Erwin,  
Anna L. Geer.

1834.

Caroline D. Taylor.

1835.

Matthew S. Barnum,  
Julia Barnum,  
Mary Ann Andrews,  
Abigail Morris.

1836.

Abby Stuart,  
Caroline Hoag,

Mary C. Mills,  
Widow Sarah Converse.  
1837.

Samuel Wildman Stone,  
Laura Stone,  
Garry Morris,  
Vesta Morris,  
Amelia F. Smith,  
Margaret Slosson,  
Mrs. Allen Gilbert.  
1838.

Dorcas Carter,  
Elizabeth St. John,  
Marcus Smith,  
Timothy St. John Smith,  
Orlo Carter,  
Hopson P. Skiff,  
Marshall C. Gibbs,  
Lucinda Hatch,  
Abigail Hatch,  
Betsy Carter,  
Mills Bordwell,  
Samuel C. Conn,  
Luman La Jue,  
Jesse Fuller,  
Luna Hopkins,  
Melissa Youngs,  
Elizabeth Barker,  
Lura Ann Root,  
Polly Marshall,  
Esther Noney,  
Sarah E. Gibbs.  
1839.

John C. Berry,  
Ann Berry,  
John O. Blythe,  
Oliver S. St. John,  
Zelia Chamberlain,  
Rebecca Stone,  
Mrs. George W. Bull,  
George W. Bull,  
John Spooner,  
Mills Bordwell, 2d.,  
Mrs. Bailey,  
Harriet Bates,  
Mrs. Russell Stone,  
Olive C. Fuller,  
Jane Chambers,  
Luman P. Bissell,  
Harriet Smith,

1844.

Henrietta F. Dutcher,  
Nancy Stone,  
Cassandana Smith,  
Edward Smith,  
Sally Odell,  
David Comstock,  
Betsy R. Judd,  
Leander Smith,  
Ann R. Fuller,  
Eunice Mauwee (Last of the Pequots),  
Nelson Leonard.

1847.

Hannah Slosson,  
Catharine Slosson,  
Maria Fuller,  
John M. Fuller,  
Emily M. Fuller,  
David N. Fuller,  
Luther C. Fuller,  
Rufus Fuller,  
Charlotte P. Slade.

1848.

Eliza Roberts,  
Allen Gilbert,  
Caroline Gilbert,  
Levi W. Stone,  
Lucy Stone,  
Reuben Smith,  
Maria Bartram,  
Abraham Fuller,  
Jeremiah Fuller,  
Mary Catharine Fuller,  
Olive Fuller,  
Mrs. Luman P. Bissell,  
Mrs. Lemuel B. Bull.

1849.

Reuben M. Gibbs,  
Catharine Gibbs.

1850.

Caroline Fuller,  
Mrs. Leander Smith.

1851.

Mrs. L. W. Mills.  
1852.

Mrs. Levi Stone,  
Elmore Smith,  
Orpha J. Smith,  
Rhoda Gibbs.

- Lavinia Fuller,  
Julia Hatch.  
1854.
- Laura Stone,  
Hannah J. Shew,  
Francis A. Gilbert,  
Charlotte B. Smith,  
Henry C. Smith,  
Flora Jane Hunter.  
1856.
- Lewis Spooner,  
Phoebe Tyler,  
Jeanette Conn,  
Harriet Morey,  
Cornelia A. Bristol,  
Alice Catharine Slosson,  
Frederick S. Merwin,  
Mrs. Jeremiah Fuller.  
1857.
- Saphronia E. Eaton (Luther).  
Temperance Osborn,  
Sophia Rice,  
Margaret B. Fuller.  
1858.
- Luther Eaton,  
Sophia P. Berry,  
George B. Hall,  
David B. Fuller,  
Jerusha Fuller,  
Mary Sophia Fuller Peet (William),  
John T. St. John,  
Dolly St. John,  
Jay Cogshall,  
Mary Louisa Cogshall,  
Newton Carter,  
Sarah Maria Chamberlain,  
David Vincent,  
Helen Vincent,  
Frederick H. Gilbert,  
Frederick M. Berry,  
Henry F. Davis,  
Philo G. Mills,  
Tillotson Gibbs,  
Eunice Gibbs,  
William M. Judd,  
Alice H. Judd,  
Catherine Mills,  
Francis J. Mills,  
Julia R. Hall,  
Mary J. Carter,
- Lucy J. Carter,  
Lucy Hall,  
Sarah F. Hall,  
Alfred J. Murphy,  
Helen M. Roberts (Albert).  
1859.
- Margaret F. Smith,  
Elizabeth S. Smith,  
James Barker,  
Polly Barker,  
Edmund H. Mills,  
Nathan Bates Chamberlain,  
Almira Lee,  
Mary Ann Chamberlain,  
Sarah Jane Barnum,  
Emily Diadama Beecher.  
1860.
- Sarah Lamson Scudder,  
Elmore Barton,  
Sarah E. Barton (Elmore),  
Nancy M. Howland Judd (G. L.),  
Catharine Johnson,  
William H. Peet.  
1861.
- Julia E. Spooner,  
Sabra Gilbert.  
1862.
- Isaac Fuller Nettleton.  
1863.
- Mary Hoag,  
Phoebe Spooner.  
1864.
- Charlotte Francis Walling,  
Maria Louisa Walling,  
Julia Barnum,  
Emeline Piper,  
Mary G. Conn (Samuel C.).  
1865.
- Mary Hatch Slosson,  
Clark Page,  
Helen J. Page (Clark),  
William Fuller.  
1866.
- Jerome Berry,  
Caroline Berry,  
Emilena B. Lamson,  
Sarah Pratt Fletcher,  
Orinda N. Pratt,  
Sophia R. Judd Eaton,

Mary Grant,  
Charles Spooner,  
William Spooner.

1867.

Elisabeth W. Brown,  
Sarah J. Bissell,  
J. E. Howland,  
Jerusha A. Carter,  
Lavinia B. Carter,  
Mary A. Carter,  
Cornelia S. Reid.

1868.

Charles Barton,  
Mrs. Charles Barton,  
Florilla Barton,  
James Stuart,  
William R. Smith,  
Mrs. William R. Smith,  
Mary Jane Waldron,  
Grace W. Payson,  
William Lewis,  
Susan Lewis,  
Polly Ann Roraback (George),  
Lois Ann Beecher,  
Charles S. Smith,  
Theodore Thomas,  
Laura Page Sarles (William),  
Marcus Freeman,  
Elias Waldron,  
Julia Waldron (Elias),  
Lucretia Riley,  
Cornelius Bolton,  
John Hopson,  
Rebecca Jane Hopson (John),  
John Hopson, Jr.,  
Ellen C. Fuller,  
George W. Walling.

1869.

John W. Slosson,  
Anna T. Slosson (John),  
Emma Hungerford,  
Lois Bull,  
Aritta S. Bull,  
Martha Richards,  
Eliza Frear,  
Lucy Frear Fowler,  
Mary Candee,  
Lydia A. Fuller,  
Fairchild W. Stone,  
Mary Stone (F. W.),  
Fannie E. Vradenburg.

1870.

Harriet Barker (James),  
Emma Barker,  
Mary Janes Lineberg (Edward),  
Catherine Lineberg,  
Susan Lineberg (Alfred),  
Lucy Waldron,  
Flora Waldron,  
Ida Wolcott Post (Henry),  
Henry C. Dwy.

1871.

Edna A. Spooner (Charles L.),  
Lillie Amelia Eaton,  
William G. Crosby,  
Mrs. William G. Crosby,  
Thompson Barton,  
Mrs. Edward Judd.

1872.

Flora E. Berry (Jerome),  
Hannah Jane Barton,  
Olive Fuller,  
Ella C. Smith (Charles S.),  
Mrs. Arthur Crosby,  
Mary W. Barton (Thompson),  
Mrs. Gordon,  
Hannah Austin (Edward).

1873.

Jennie Hatch (Barnabas),  
Lucretia Mosher Eaton,  
Ralph W. Bull,  
Sarah M. Bull (Ralph),  
Ruth Ann Bierce,  
Sarah Ann Bierce Lane (George L.),  
Hiram Stone,  
Mary I. Stone (Hiram),  
Cynthia Wakeman,  
Isabel Campbell.

1874.

Theresa Gibbs Carter (Buel),  
Mary F. Chase,  
Ann E. Hopson (George),  
Mary A. Hopson,  
Lemyra A. Swift Mills,  
Charles Chase.

1875.

John S. Greggs,  
Mary L. Greggs,  
Charles W. Chapin,  
Frank L. Benedict,  
Ralph Pratt,

- Lydia Ann Chaffee,  
Mary R. Barclay (Rev. T. D.),  
1876.  
Burrirt Eaton, Jr.,  
Sarah E. Gibbs St. John,  
Reuben M. Gibbs,  
Mary Ann Gibbs (M. C.),  
Eugene W. Bull,  
Ernest D. Ward,  
Julia Hopson,  
Lucy Benson.  
1877.  
Alice Newton (George),  
Louise Mattie Freeman,  
Catherine Mills Hopson,  
Imogene Stuart.  
1878.  
Josie Dwyer,  
Mattie Lee,  
Eveline Reed,  
Almira Robinson,  
Julia Bailey Eaton (Charles A.),  
Lizzie Fuller,  
Mary Johnson (Charles H.),  
Everett Barton,  
John Barton,  
Henry Barton,  
Burrirt Eaton,  
William H. Stuart,  
Jennie Stuart (William H.),  
Carrie J. Hatch Marsh,  
Ellen F. Gaylord (Charles),  
Adele B. Willard Leonard,  
Mary Ann Gibbs,  
Roxanna Brooks Gibbs,  
Almira Ives,  
George Newton,  
Edward Cook.  
1880.  
Emma M. Gibbs,  
Louise Gibbs.  
1881.  
Mary E. Benedict Allen (Henry),  
Helen S. Straight.  
1882.  
Caroline Lyman (Charles R.),  
Alfred E. Hall,  
Ariminta V. Hall,  
Melinda B. Stuart,  
Ann Eliza Stuart,  
John W. Lane,  
Adaline Lane (John W.),  
George R. Bull,  
Margaret M. Bull (George R.),  
William H. Bump.  
1883.  
Susan Leonard (Jerome),  
Reuben Eaton,  
Bertha Waldron,  
Almeda Lane Edwards (Charles).  
1884.  
Barbara L. Carhart,  
Walter B. Hatch,  
Mary B. Hatch,  
Rev. Elbert S. Porter, Jr.,  
Julia M. Bull (Eugene W.),  
William Russell Leonard,  
Catharine J. Barnum,  
Lucy Murphy,  
Florence Barton Payne.  
1885.  
Burton Leonard,  
William A. Benson,  
Frank S. Peet,  
Joseph Barton,  
Frank L. Newton,  
Sherman Barton,  
Anna Hall Peet (Frank S.),  
Carrie Ives,  
Eudora Sarles Platt,  
Etta Waldron Miller,  
Frances Waldron,  
Gertrude Skiff Swift (S. R.),  
Julia Barker Roberts (A. Watts),  
Rose Thorp,  
Ellen F. Monroe Camp,  
Sarah D. Ward,  
Fred E. Daine,  
Lillie Ives Waldron (Samuel),  
Mrs. G. H. Yutzler,  
Cora Newton Soule (Millard),  
Emma Waldron Patterson,  
Adelaide Waldron,  
Isabel Burnhaunce,  
Cassius M. Carter,  
Wilhelmina Barton,  
Cornelia Barker (James),  
Elsie Crane Porter (Rev. E. S.),  
Ida F. Lee (Charles),  
Lillian Ruth Newton Kirk (Charles),  
Charles F. Kirk.

1889.

Julia E. Ingersol (Jared),  
Benjamin M. Wright.

Watson Andrews Barker,  
Caroline Britton Berry,  
Margaret Pratt Berry.

1890.

Susan M. Roberts (John L.),  
Helen Roraback (John),  
Nellie Bolles Vincent,  
Randolph Frisbie,  
Mabel E. Frisbie (Randolph),  
Harry Sterry,  
Mary Ida King Newton (Frank L.),  
Sarah E. Joray,  
Louise Lineberg Soule (John E.),  
Martha Lane Sprague (Clifford),  
Mary Newton Peet (Ralph),  
Ruth Ann Bennett Eaton (Russell),  
Flora Roraback Ryan,  
Mattie St. John,

1893.  
Wilbur S. Peck,  
Frank L. Newton,  
C. Fred Coester,  
Lillian W. Coester (C. Fred),  
Clarissa Darling,  
Carrie Hatch Newton,  
Mattie Aura Newton,  
Florence J. Mosher,  
Henry T. Mosher,  
Alice E. Mosher,  
Winifred Gregory,  
Adeline L. Lane,  
Gertrude E. Chase.

1891.

Mary Bennett,  
Helen Barclay,  
Fannie Hatch,  
Jennie Clark Phillips,  
Charles R. Johnson,  
William Wolcott,  
Mary J. Wolcott (William),  
Ferdinand Sterry,  
Annette Chamberlain,  
Nellie S. Chamberlain Hatch (Calvin D.),  
Harriet E. Frink,  
Lilly Waldron Wolcott (Oliver),  
Julius Snow,  
Mrs. Julius Snow,  
Emily J. Wright (Rev. B. M.),  
Anna M. Gilbert (Fred H.).

1894.  
Arthur W. Smith,  
Edward I. Smith,  
William C. Smith,  
Elvira R. Austin,  
Mary E. Austin,  
Virginia Bronson Barton (Sherman),  
Edith Segar (Clinton),  
Kate Eaton (Burritt),  
Caroline L. Bull,  
Edith M. Bull,  
Lucy E. Hall.

1895.

1892.

Albert L. Tuttle,  
Laura S. Tuttle (A. L.),  
Frederick White Barclay,

Arthur W. Griswold,  
Rose D. Griswold (A. W.),  
Earl R. Eaton,  
Alice B. Eaton,  
Edith R. St. John,  
Edith L. Gilbert,  
Ella L. Mansfield Vincent (Gilbert A.),  
Lelia A. Welch.

1896.

Lewis G. Spooner.

### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

St. Andrew's Episcopal church of Kent is the result of the missionary labors of Rev. Solomon Palmer, who for fourteen years was a Congregational minister at Cornwall, but who in 1754 identified himself with the Episcopal denomination and as one of the twelve missionaries at work in Connecticut for the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel" had charge of the missions of Litchfield county.\* He went to England for ordination and

\*From an historical sermon by Rev. Albion Richey. Aug. 23, 1805.

on his return took up his abode at New Milford. He extended his labors to New York and Massachusetts. After five years he removed to the town of Litchfield, thence to New Haven in 1762. He returned to Litchfield in 1766 where he died five years later in 1771. He is described as one of the most famous of the early missionaries, full of good works and labors of love. It is from a letter of his to the society under which he labored that the first date is obtained in connection with the church in Kent, though a Mr. Buttner, a Moravian missionary, is supposed to have preached to the Indians at Scatacook some time prior to this letter, which is dated 1760, and giving a report of his society, in which he says: "Subscriptions are raising for the building of a church in Kent, which they design to forward as fast as they can at a place convenient for about fifty families to meet from several towns. These were not times when the distance could be traveled in easy wagons but when the journey was made the parents upon one horse and children upon another.

While Mr. Palmer was in New Haven it is supposed that his place was taken by Rev. Thomas Davies, but on the other hand it is claimed that the latter preached in Kent before Mr. Palmer, as a missionary from the English society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts. At any rate there is not much known of his work. He died quite young in 1765.

The next rector was Samuel Clark, who went to New Milford in 1768. He was a native of West Haven and a graduate of Yale college. Under him the first real attempts at organization were made. They are upon the parish register two very old documents of his day; they are the earliest records the parish now possesses. The first of these papers is dated at New Milford February 7, 1770; it is a receipt to Reuben Swift for his ministerial (church tax) for the year 1769. The second is dated Dec. 2, 1771, and shows that occasional services were being kept. It is a notice of Mr. Clark's intention to preach in Kent the coming Sunday. It was owing to the co-operation of this worthy layman, Reuben Swift, that the church for which Mr. Palmer began to gather subscriptions in 1760, was finally built in 1772 or early in 1773. Mr. Swift lived just to see it finished as he died the same year. This ancient building stood about thirty yards to the south of the present church. It was afterwards converted into a town hall, and still later the frame was used for a barn, now the property of George Hopson.

Mr. Clark remained at his post until 1787 when he migrated to Nova Scotia. The years 1768-87 covered by Mr. Clark's ministry were dark days for the church in America. The nearest bishop was 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. It was not until 1785 that a bishop set foot upon these shores. Besides the want of a bishop there were other hardships to bear. The church was small in numbers; she was hated and despised by the multitude who regarded Episcopacy as hostile to civil as well as religious liberty. When the war really broke out many of the clergy had to flee, others were persecuted and imprisoned, churches were closed, many of them desecrated and defiled by the mob.

In 1790 Rev. Truman Marsh was stationed at New Milford and remained for nine years, and it is probable he looked after the church in Kent. In February, 1808, the parish was duly organized according to the state laws, the first officers being Lewis St. John, clerk; Reuben Booth, moderator; John Smith, treasurer. In May following Rev. Sturgis Gilbert was offered \$6 to preach every third Sunday during the summer. May 4, 1809, a



meeting was called to see whether the society would adopt the constitution of the church in America as set forth by general convention. From 1808 to 1816 yearly meetings were held on the great plain of Kent as it was then called. In the latter year the old church was renovated. In September Mr. Gilbert was released from his contract. The records are broken from here until 1819, when in April of that year at the annual meeting the committee of the church were authorized to lay out the present subscriptions lately obtained in hiring, as it was said, Rev. George B. Andrews to officiate as clergyman. Under him the old church which had been built nearly fifty-two years in 1820 was consecrated. Mr. Andrews immediately afterward set to work to build the present edifice. On September 30, 1822, a meeting was called to adopt plans for building. Jeremiah Fuller, John H. Swift, Garrett Winegar, Alpheus Fuller, and John Hurd, were chosen as a building committee. The original papers, contracts, etc., are still preserved. Various subscription papers tell of the struggles of the faithful few to get the church built. Those who had no money to give gave of their goods, timber, stone, brick, or lime, anything in short, that would prove available as building,



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

some gave even the labor of their hands. At length after five years the church was built and in 1827 was consecrated by Bishop Brownwell. This was the fourth church erected by this worthy rector. Churches were built at Sharon, Salisbury and New Preston; to these doubtless he gave largely of his own means as he did to Kent. Mr. Andrews remained until 1829. His death occurred in the diocese of New York not far from the state line of Connecticut.

For the next fourteen years the records afford no positive information. It is presumed that Rev. Mr. Sterling, Rev. George L. Foote, and Rev. Mr. Fash, who had charge of Canaan, filled the pulpit.

In March, 1847, Rev. Wm. Atwill was called to the parish in connection with the work at North Canaan. He remained until 1850 when he removed to New York. In his day a Sunday school flourished in Geer Mountain under the care of Milo Geer. During the following vacancy the supplies were Rev. Hiram Jelluf, Rev. Mr. Schroder of New Milford and Rev. William Reynolds.

During part of 1851 and 1852 Rev. A. G. Shears was in charge of the parish. From 1852 to 1854 Rev. Ezra Jones officiated one-half the time. Extensive repairs were made to the church under him. On the 14th of May, 1854, the first rector was called—Rev. H. S. Atwater. For two years services were held every Sunday. Then North Canaan was also supplied by him so that for the next two years he was in Kent the best part of the time. The church was repaired again in 1861. Mr. Atwater resigned in 1864 and moved to Bethany.

Rev. Wm. H. Williams came next. He resigned in 1865 and went to England. In 1867 Rev. Alanson Welton followed, staying two years. In 1871 and until 1877 Rev. Elisha Whittlesey was in charge.

In 1872 the church was enlarged, greatly improved and a new organ added, the donation of Mrs. Myra A. Wheeler, of New York, whose father, John M. Raymond, was one of Kent's most respected citizens. The centennial festival occurred in June, 1876, under the auspices of R. G. Fuller, W. Watson, W. Geer, Mrs. O. R. Camp, Miss A. W. Knapp, Miss M. L. Fuller, committee. The autographs of those present were placed in the records of the town to be read one hundred years later.

The next rector was Rev. I. C. Sturgis who took the first steps for the endowment of the parish, also the securing of a burial plot, and the building of the present rectory, which was first occupied by Rev. Albion Richey, who resigned in 1885 and was succeeded by Rev. George Griffith. From 1888 to Easter Sunday, 1895, Rev. W. F. Bielby presided. The present rector is Rev. Howard McDougal.

### M. E. CHURCH AT GAYLORDSVILLE.

Many of the people in the southern part of the town are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church in Gaylordsville, and that church must not be overlooked in enumerating the religious forces of the town. For many years it has maintained regular preaching services at Ore Hill and Bulls Bridge. Situated at the Center, as the churches are, there are many who find it difficult to reach them, and the neighborhood Sunday schools at South Kent, Bulls Bridge, Macedonia, and North Kent have been, and are, of inestimable value.

Mention should here be made of Rev. Wm. H. Kirk, a consecrated Reformed Methodist minister, who was for fifty-one years a resident of the town of Kent. He was born of Scottish parentage in Springfield, Vermont, March 24, 1824. His mother was a lineal descendant of Robert Bruce, the eminent Scottish chief, and a daughter of Rev. Rufus Bruce of Chester, Vermont. Mr. Kirk was converted to Christ at the age of ten years, and for sixty-one years was a devout Christian. He edited for several years the denominational paper of his church, which was published under the name of "The Banner and Banquet." His church granted him license as an exhorter at the age of seventeen years and in 1844, at a sitting of the Vermont annual conference of the Reformed Methodist church he was ordained an elder in said church, which office he held until his death on February 19, 1896, at Kent. He was always under appointment by his conference as pastor, visiting elder or evangelist, in which capacity he labored faithfully and successfully in different states in the Union. Mr. Kirk was an anti-slavery man during the days of slavery, and was one of the only three men in the town

of Kent to vote the anti-slavery ticket when that ticket was first presented to the people, the other two being the late Rev. Jeremiah Fry and the late Deacon Lewis Spooner. He thereafter voted with the Republican party until the excitement of war times began to subside when it was discovered that the greatest foe to our race was the liquor traffic. Accordingly, he identified himself with the Prohibition party. Possessing great strength of character and independence of thought, he was never misunderstood as to his sentiments. He was the champion of every cause and measure that tended to suppress vice and exalt virtue. Sympathetic and kind towards the suffering and distressed, he was often called to comfort bereaved ones in officiating at funerals until he had attended one thousand during his ministry. He took a Christian interest in the welfare of the Scatacook Indians and many of them, under his influence became Christians. The oldest remaining members of the tribe declare him to have been the first person to visit their reservation and tell them they "had souls and might have a Saviour." January 12, 1845, he was married to Miss Maria Houghton of Pownall, Vermont. Their three children were: Sarah A., wife of Edward Eaton, of Warren; Laura J., wife of Edward Thorpe, and a resident of Danvers, Mass., and Charles F., who married Miss Lillian Newton, and resides in Kent.

While of a social nature, of Mr. Kirk it could be truly said he feared God, and feared nothing else but sin. Eminently successful as a revivalist, many of the members of different churches in and around Kent were converted under his labors and teaching. For a period of more than three years previous to his death he was an invalid, suffering from a partial paralysis and other diseases.

The Catholic denomination, though not very strong in Kent, have a church of their own, which is presided over by a priest from the neighboring town of Sharon.



CATHOLIC CHURCH.



HENRY HARRIS, LAST OF THE SCATACOOKS.

- Stone, Levi W. . . . . 55, 63, 99  
 Stone, Lucy . . . . . 63  
 Stone, Mary . . . . . 60, 65  
 Stone, Mary Ann . . . . . 62  
 Stone, Mary I. . . . . 65  
 Stone, Mrs. Levi . . . . . 63  
 Stone, Mrs. Russell . . . . . 62, 63  
 Stone, Nancy . . . . . 63  
 Stone, Rebecca . . . . . 63  
 Stone, Russell . . . . . 114  
 Stone, Samuel Wildman . . . . . 63  
 Stone, Sophia Fuller . . . . . 60  
 Stowe, H. . . . . 46  
 Stowe, Vivant . . . . . 45  
 Straight, John . . . . . 100  
 Straight, Helen . . . . . 100  
 Straight, Helen S. . . . . 66  
 Straight, Henry C. . . . . 40, 43, 60  
 Straight, Mrs. Henry C. . . . . 60  
 Strong, Ebenezer . . . . . 21  
 Strong, Julian . . . . . 20  
 Strong, Philip . . . . . 21, 25, 32  
 Stuart, Abby . . . . . 62  
 Stuart, Alonzo . . . . . 42, 132  
 Stuart, Ann Eliza . . . . . 66  
 Stuart, Anne . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Chapman Hamilton . . . . . 131, 132  
 Stuart, Chas. . . . . 131, 132  
 Stuart, Chas. James Stephen . . . . .  
     . . . . . 129, 130, 131, 132  
 Stuart, Edgar J. . . . . 42  
 Stuart, Elizabeth . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Emily . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Fred'k . . . . . 46  
 Stuart, Henry . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Herman . . . . . 46  
 Stuart, Hermon . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Homer . . . . . 131, 132  
 Stuart, Imogene . . . . . 66  
 Stuart, Irene . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, James . . . . . 23, 56, 58, 65, 91  
 Stuart, Jennie . . . . . 66  
 Stuart, John L. . . . . 114  
 Stuart, Luke . . . . . 59  
 Stuart, Marietta . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Mary . . . . . 132  
 Stuart, Melinda B. . . . . 66  
 Stuart, Mrs. J. . . . . 58  
 Stuart, Nathan . . . . . 58  
 Stuart, Sara . . . . . 58  
 Stuart, Silas . . . . . 32, 59  
 Stuart, Mrs. Silas . . . . . 59  
 Stuart, Stephen . . . . . 37  
 Stuart, Wm. H. . . . . 66  
 Sturdevant, Peleg . . . . . 26, 35  
 Sturdevant, Perez . . . . . 26, 33  
 Sturgis, Rev. I. C. . . . . 70  
 Sturtevant, Fear . . . . . 57  
 Sturtevant, Harriet . . . . . 61  
 Sturtevant, Jerusha . . . . . 62  
 Sturtevant, Nehemiah . . . . . 57  
 Succamux, David . . . . . 37  
 Sncknuck, Job . . . . . 77  
 Summers, Hiram . . . . . 33  
 Swetland, Wm. . . . . 20, 21  
 Swift, Abigail . . . . . 57  
 Swift, Elisha . . . . . 77, 113  
 Swift, Gertrude Skiff . . . . . 66  
 Swift, Grace . . . . . 61  
 Swift, I. . . . . 24, 61  
 Swift, Jabez . . . . . 19, 20, 21, 57, 58, 113  
 Swift, Jeriah . . . . . 37  
 Swift, Jira . . . . . 58  
 Swift, John . . . . . 19, 114  
 Swift, John H. . . . . 69  
 Swan, Levi . . . . . 32  
 Swift, Lodemia . . . . . 60  
 Swift, Moses . . . . . 19, 20  
 Swift, Nathaniel . . . . . 24, 30  
 Swift, Philetus . . . . . 37  
 Swift, Reuben . . . . . 24, 68, 77  
 Swift, Rev. E. G. . . . . 55  
 Swift, Rev. Elisha P. . . . . 55  
 Swift, Rev. Job . . . . . 55, 58  
 Swift, Rev. Seth . . . . . 55  
 Swift, Sarah . . . . . 58  
 Swift, Seth . . . . . 58  
 Swift, Zephania . . . . . 17, 18, 19, 21, 52  
 Tanner, Ebenezer . . . . . 37  
 Tanner, Ephraim . . . . . 32  
 Tanner, Hannah . . . . . 58  
 Tanner, Wm. . . . . 33  
 Taylor, Caroline . . . . . 62  
 Taylor, David . . . . . 32  
 Taylor, Eliza . . . . . 37  
 Taylor, Jna. . . . . 32  
 Taylor, Job . . . . . 32  
 Taylor, Reuben . . . . . 32, 33  
 Taylor, Rev. Nathaniel . . . . . 21  
 Teneyck, Wm. H. . . . . 46  
 Terrills, Nathan . . . . . 114  
 Terwillegar, Emma J. . . . . 141  
 Thayer, David . . . . . 35  
 Thayer, Ebenezer . . . . . 44  
 Thayer, James S. . . . . 41  
 Themberry, Joseph . . . . . 19  
 Thomas, Anna . . . . . 58  
 Thomas, Anne . . . . . 57  
 Thomas, Josiah . . . . . 19, 20, 24, 57  
 Thomas, Mary . . . . . 57  
 Thomas, Theodore . . . . . 65  
 Thompkins, Benjamin . . . . . 143  
 Thompkins, Laura H. . . . . 143  
 Thompson, Daniel . . . . . 46, 56, 59  
 Thompson, Henry J. . . . . 43  
 Thompson, Lydia . . . . . 59  
 Thompson, Mrs. Eli . . . . . 58  
 Thompson, Sarah . . . . . 56  
 Thompson, Wm. H. . . . . 43  
 Thomson, Comfort . . . . . 37  
 Thomson, Daniel . . . . . 24  
 Thomson, Eliezer . . . . . 59  
 Thomson, Eleazer . . . . . 21  
 Thomson, Sarah Jr. . . . . 56  
 Thorp, Horace M. . . . . 42  
 Thorp, Rose . . . . . 66  
 Thorpe, Edward . . . . . 71  
 Thorpe, Laura J. . . . . 71  
 Tibbals, Nathan . . . . . 25

|                                  |         |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tobey, Sophronia .....           | 146     | Waterman, Mrs. ....              | 59                 |
| Tobias, John Frobin .....        | 86      | Waters, Elihu .....              | 36                 |
| Tobias, Stephen .....            | 86      | Watson, Robt. ....               | 26, 76             |
| Tobin, Davis .....               | 154     | Watson, W. ....                  | 70                 |
| Tozer, Thomas .....              | 17, 18  | Wausser, Abraham .....           | 21                 |
| Tracy, Silas .....               | 21      | Webber, Louisa .....             | 59                 |
| Trap, Wm. ....                   | 32      | Wedge, Asahel .....              | 32                 |
| Turrill, Abel .....              | 151     | Wedge, Geo. ....                 | 43                 |
| Tuttle, Albert L. ....           | 67      | Wedge, Isaac .....               | 32                 |
| Tuttle, Laura S. ....            | 67      | Wedge, John .....                | 33                 |
| Tyler, Edward .....              | 32      | Wedge, Wm. ....                  | 25                 |
| Tyler, Phoebe .....              | 64      | Welch, Lelia A. ....             | 67                 |
| Underwood, Dorcas .....          | 60      | Welch, Paul .....                | 20, 21             |
| Unson, Leonard .....             | 101     | Welsh, Homer M. ....             | 39, 46, 47         |
| Vincent, David .....             | 64, 114 | Welton, Rev. Alanson .....       | 70                 |
| Vincent, Ella L. Mansfield ..... | 67      | West, Ebenezer .....             | 15, 16             |
| Vincent, Helen .....             | 64      | Wheeler, Mrs. Myra A. ....       | 70                 |
| Vincent, Nellie Bolles .....     | 67      | Wheeler, Nathan .....            | 37                 |
| Vorce, Rev. J. H. ....           | 55      | White, John .....                | 42                 |
| Vrandenburg, Fannie E. ....      | 65      | Whitehead, David .....           | 37                 |
| Wakeman, Cynthia .....           | 65      | Whittlesey, Capt. Eliphlet ..... | 113                |
| Walden, John .....               | 19, 20  | Whittlesey, Joseph .....         | 21                 |
| Waldron, Adelaide .....          | 66      | Whittlesey, Rev. Elisha ...      | 54, 55, 70         |
| Waldron, Bertha .....            | 66      | Wilcox, Joseph .....             | 94                 |
| Waldron, Elias .....             | 65      | Wildman, Hiram J. ....           | 102                |
| Waldron, Flora .....             | 65      | Willard, Ella C. ....            | 146                |
| Waldron, Frances .....           | 66      | Williams, Albert G. ....         | 46                 |
| Waldron, Frank E. ....           | 39      | Williams, Elisha .....           | 17, 18, 21         |
| Waldron, Frederick E. ....       | 46      | Williams, Geo. S. ....           | 40                 |
| Waldron, Julia .....             | 65      | Williams, John .....             | 58                 |
| Waldron, Lillie Ives .....       | 66      | Williams, Luania .....           | 61                 |
| Waldron, Lucy .....              | 65      | Williams, Rev. Wm. H. ....       | 70                 |
| Waldron, Mary J. ....            | 65      | Wilson, John .....               | 139                |
| Walker, Benj. ....               | 46      | Wilson, Eliza .....              | 139                |
| Walker, Chas. ....               | 129     | Wilson, Sarah .....              | 139                |
| Walker, David .....              | 33      | Wilson, Widow .....              | 61                 |
| Walker, Isaac .....              | 129     | Winegar, Allen G. ....           | 43, 98*            |
| Walker, Joanna .....             | 57      | Winegar, Anson .....             | 99*                |
| Walker, Mehitable .....          | 149     | Winegar, Beecher .....           | 99*                |
| Walker, Robt. ....               | 81      | Winegar, Chloe .....             | 62*                |
| Walker, Samuel .....             | 57      | Winegar, Garrett .....           | 69, 114            |
| Walling, J. ....                 | 24      | Winegar, Linus .....             | 98, 114            |
| Walling, Charlotte Francis ..... | 64      | Winegar, Norman .....            | 98*                |
| Walling, Geo. W. ....            | 65      | Winegar, Zachariah .....         | 99*                |
| Walling, James .....             | 57      | Wolcott, Lilly Waldron .....     | 67                 |
| Walling, Maria Louisa .....      | 64      | Wolcott, Mary J. ....            | 67                 |
| Walling, Simeon M. ....          | 44      | Wolcott, Oliver .....            | 31                 |
| Waller, Peter .....              | 35      | Wolcott, Wm. ....                | 67                 |
| Walsh, Rev. John T. ....         | 153     | Wrexford, Daniel .....           | 58                 |
| Walter, Elizabeth .....          | 58      | Wright, Abel .....               | 17, 18, 21, 49, 56 |
| Ward, Ernest .....               | 66      | Wright, Benjamin M. ....         | 67                 |
| Ward, John W. ....               | 41      | Wright, Emily J. ....            | 67                 |
| Ward, Sarah D. ....              | 66      | Wright, Mary .....               | 56                 |
| Warner, Abraham .....            | 17, 18  | Wright, Rev. Benj. M. ....       | 49, 55             |
| Warner, Ira .....                | 42      | Wood, Phoebe .....               | 134                |
| Warner, Israel .....             | 58      | Wood, Stephen .....              | 45                 |
| Warner, Jacob .....              | 17      | Woodward, Joanna .....           | 57                 |
| Warner, John .....               | 81      | Woodward, Thos. ....             | 57                 |
| Warner, Mrs. ....                | 58      | Wooster, Joseph .....            | 81                 |
| Warner, Seth .....               | 34      | Young, Lewis S. ....             | 43                 |
| Warner, Solomon .....            | 33      | Youngs, Melissa .....            | 63                 |
| Warren, John .....               | 34, 36  | Yutzler, Mrs. G. H. ....         | 66                 |
| Warrups, Thomas .....            | 77      | Zerniah, Ruth .....              | 57                 |
| Washborn, E. ....                | 24      | Zerniah, Thankful .....          | 57                 |
| Washburn, Patience .....         | 57      |                                  |                    |













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