FACTS RELATING
TO THE
HISTORY
OF
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BY
SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN

VOL. II

Gather up the fragments that remain,
that nothing be lost

GROTON:
1914
University Press:

John Wilson and Son, Cambridge, U.S.A.
TO

The Memory

of

Dr. Joshua Green
—For many years a resident of Groton—

and his wife

Eliza Lawrence Green
—A native of the town—

these pages are inscribed by

their only surviving son
INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The first volume of this work is "The Natural History and Topography of Groton." The articles in this volume relate to the general history of the town, and for that reason a new title is given to it.

September 2, 1914.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

GEORGE SEWALL BOUTWELL.

George Sewall Boutwell was a native of Brookline, Massachusetts, where he was born on January 28, 1818. He first saw the light on a farm then under the charge of his father, and owned by Dr. John Phillips Spooner, which now forms a part of the extensive grounds of the Country Club in that town. He was the second child of Sewall and Rebecca (Marshall) Boutwell, another son of the same name having been born on January 1, 1816, who died on September 27, 1817. When he was two years old his parents removed to Lunenburg, the former home of his mother, where he was brought up on a farm. In after-life he filled more distinguished public positions than ever fell to the lot of any other citizen of Groton; and his neighbors always took a just pride in his political promotions. He was easily accessible to all classes of people, and his counsels on the every-day affairs of life were often sought and freely given. He was a man of great shrewdness of mind with a temperament decidedly judicial, and his advice was highly valued by those seeking it. At the time of his election as Governor of the Commonwealth Mr. Boutwell was the youngest person who had ever held the office.

Three years after Governor Boutwell's death, some of his friends and admirers caused a tablet of white marble to be placed over his grave in the Groton Cemetery; and the occasion was followed by appropriate exercises on May 15, 1908.
The tablet is simple and unpretentious, and bears this inscription:

In Memory of
George Sewall Boutwell
Jan. 28, 1818
Feb. 27, 1905
Governor of Massachusetts
Representative and Senator of the United States
Secretary of the Treasury
Illustrious Citizen, Patriot, Statesman
Consistent, Brave and Devoted Friend
of Human Liberty.

The tablet is five feet in height, three feet in width, and ten inches in thickness.

The exercises began with placing flowers on the grave by the George S. Boutwell Woman’s Relief Corps, No. 49, Auxiliary to the G. A. R., the George S. Boutwell Post, No. 48, Ayer, Department of Massachusetts, G. A. R., and the E. S. Clark Post, No. 115, Groton, Department of Massachusetts, G. A. R.; and the singing of Sir Henry Wotton’s “The Character of a Happy Life” by a choir of boys from the Groton School.

The exercises were then transferred from the cemetery to the Town Hall, where letters of sympathy and regret were read from the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Speaker of the National House of Representatives, and other distinguished citizens.

The poem on the occasion was by William Roscoe Thayer, of Cambridge, and is such a just tribute to the many excellent qualities of Mr. Boutwell’s character, that I am prompted to reprint it in these pages.

TO BOUTWELL.

I marvel not that Youth,
Impassion’d for the Truth,
Cleaves but to her, as bridegroom to his bride;
Recks neither praise nor blame,
Heeds not the lure of fame,
Knows that her smile were worth the world beside.
GEORGE SEWALL BOUTWELL.

But when in Age I find,
Young courage and young mind,
And eyes that see their morning vision clear,
Like him but lately dead,
Who after four-score led
Our battle-charge, I marvel and revere.

Thou gav'st him life, O State,
Who wert assigned by Fate
The noblest task of all the modern years:
To clear a little space
Where conscience should have place
To worship God, and men with men be peers;

A clearing by the sea
Where none should crook the knee
To king or pope or other man-made lord;
A haunt where peace might dwell
With folk who lov'd her well,
But still for Duty's sake would draw the sword.

Beloved State, and true!
Thy blessed gospel flew
Throughout the West and loos'd the Old World's chains;
Thy thoughts like lifeblood run
Thro' ev'ry loyal son
Who feels the stir of freedom in his veins.

He was thy son! he heard
In youth thy puissant word
And prov'd the obligation of thy breed;
Obey'd thy civic call,
Rose high, nor fear'd to fall
Confessing thine instruction by his deed.

His laurel'd name shall stand
With theirs that sav'd the Land
When mad Rebellion shook our cornerstone;
His courage never quail'd
His counsel never fail'd
Till Discord ceas'd and Wrong was overthrown.

To shine in such a strife
Were crown enough for life;
The newer labors to new hands belong;
But when the younger brood
Set bad instead of good,
He rose, again a youth, and smote the wrong.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Tho' Prudence bade, "Beware!"
He answer'd straight, "I dare!"
And swept like retribution on the foes;
Put compromises by —
Half-truth is still half-lie —
Nor barter'd his convictions for repose.

He heard but to despise
The precepts worldly-wise
That check the vanward impulse of the soul —
The sly, corrosive doubts,
The cynic sneer that flouts
All virtue and denies the unseen goal.

Years never palsied him
With disillusions grim,
Nor taught the lie that numbers most avail;
He held that not to fight
For Freedom and for Right —
Our captains — is the coward's way to fail.

He was not overborne
By ridicule or scorn,
Nor daunted by the dangers of the time;
He even could resist
The friends whose love he missed,
The comrades of the causes of his prime.

To suffer and endure,
To keep the spirit pure —
The fortress and abode of holy Truth —
To serve eternal things,
Whate'er the issue brings,
This is not broken Age, but ageless Youth.

In the year 1902 Governor Boutwell wrote his "Reminiscences of Sixty Years in Public Affairs," which contains a large amount of historical information in regard to public matters. It is a work well worth reading by anyone who wishes to learn the policy of the Government during an eventful period in its history. Several of the Chapters, V-IX, contain much of special interest to the citizens of the town, as they deal with his early career. By the consent of the publishers of the work, Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York, I reprint them, with their original headings, and for this courtesy my thanks are due.
V.

Groton in 1835.

In the month of February, 1835, I read an advertisement in the Lowell Journal, asking for a clerk in a store, application to be made at the office. I at once wrote to Joseph S. Hubbard, a former schoolmate, asking him to call at the office and get the name of the advertiser. This he did, and gave me the name of Benj. P. Dix of Groton. I wrote to Mr. Dix, and upon the receipt of an answer, I went with my father to see him. The result was an agreement to work for him for three years. Terms, board and one hundred dollars for the first year, one hundred and twelve dollars for the second year, one hundred and twenty-five dollars for the third year. I commenced my clerkship with Mr. Dix the fifth day of March, and in the month of September my contract was ended by his failure. His business was small, his manners were abrupt, his capital had been limited, and his family expenses, not extravagant, had exceeded his income, and bankruptcy in the end was inevitable. His sales were chiefly of boots, shoes, leather, and medicines, of which he kept the only stock in the village.

Mr. Dix was a man of exact ways of life. The sales made were entered each day at the close of business, the cash was carefully counted, and the cash-book was balanced. But these careful and businesslike ways did not save him, and in September he made an assignment of his property to his father Benj. Dix, and to Caleb Butler, for the benefit of his creditors according to the preferences specified in the assignment. Mr. Butler was not a creditor, but Mr. Dix, senior, was much the largest creditor. In fact he had furnished his son with the chief part of the means of doing business. He was a tanner by trade, and he had gradually enlarged his

1 When I became Secretary of the Treasury, in 1869, I appointed Hubbard to a minor office in the revenue service in the State of Kentucky, where he then lived.
business by employing workmen to make boots and shoes. A portion of his product of leather and all his product of boots and shoes had been turned into the son's store.

The deficiency of means on the part of the son was represented at each settlement by an addition to the debt due to the father. The debts amounted to about five thousand dollars. Following the assignment Mr. Dix left home, and he did not return until the spring or summer of 1836. Imprisonment for debt in a modified form then existed. He and his family were proud, and he may have wished to avoid seeing his neighbors and acquaintances while his misfortune was fresh upon him. His wife was a granddaughter of General Ward, who had been the rival of General Washington for the command of the army at the opening of the War of the Revolution. Mrs. Dix was proud, very properly, of her paternity, and of her grandfather's association with General Washington, and neither from her, nor from either of two brothers whom I subsequently met, did I ever hear a word of criticism upon the wisdom of the selection of General Washington. Mrs. Dix had inherited many letters written by General Washington to her grandfather, and they were all written in a tone of sincere friendship.

Mrs. Dix's eldest brother, Mr. Nahum Ward, was one of the early settlers, if not one of the founders of Marietta, Ohio. Mr. Dix went to Marietta, where he was given some employment by Mr. Ward. Neither Mr. Butler nor Mr. Dix senior, had any knowledge of business, and I was employed by them at a small advance in my pay, to sell the stock of goods, and close the business of the store. After such sales as could be made, the remainder of the stock was sold at auction the 23d day of November. During the preceding night there was a fall of snow, and the company came to the village in sleighs. The winter was severe, and the snow continued to cover the ground until the 18th of April, when the stage coaches for the north went on runners for the last time. The summer of 1836 was so cold, that the corn crop was a failure. During the year following corn brought from New Jersey sold for $2.50 per bushel.
In 1835 the town of Groton was a place of much importance relatively. It was the residence of several men of more than local fame. Timothy Fuller, the father of Margaret, was living there. He was a lawyer of considerable distinction, and he had held important public positions. He had been a representative and senator in the Massachusetts Legislature, speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and a member of Congress from the Cambridge district from 1817 to 1825. He died in October, 1835.

Mr. Fuller was a man of regular and careful habits, indeed he belonged to a family noted for their devotion to the profession of law, and for their odd manners and styles of dress.

Mr. Fuller's eldest son, Eugene, was afterwards a student in the law office of George F. Farley. He was a good debater as a young man, but as a student rather irregular. He went to New Orleans to reside, became an editor of, or writer on, the Picayune, and on a return voyage from Boston he was lost overboard [from the steamer "Empire City," on June 21, 1839].

Margaret Fuller continued to reside in Groton with her mother and the other members of the family for several years — until about 1841, I think. In the meantime I met her frequently, although she was several years my senior. She was a teacher in the Sunday school, and at the Sunday-evening teachers' meetings she was accustomed to set forth her opinions with great frankness, and in a style which assumed that they were not open to debate. While she lived at Groton she contributed to the Dial.

In personal appearance Margaret Fuller was less attractive than one might imagine from the portraits and engravings now seen. Her ability was recognized, but the celebrity that she attained finally was not anticipated, probably, by any of her town acquaintances. Her writings may justify the opinion that as a writer and thinker she is in the front rank of American women.

Samuel Dana, who had been a judge for many years, president of the Massachusetts Senate for three terms, and a member of Congress for one term, was also a resident of Groton. He had been an active politician on the Democratic
or Jeffersonian side in politics, and for many years in early life he had been the competitor of Timothy Bigelow, who had been a resident of Groton and a leader in the Federal Party of the State. The town supported Bigelow and returned him to the House, where he became speaker for many sessions. Dana as a candidate for the Massachusetts Senate was elected by the county of Middlesex then Democratic, and for three terms he was president of the Senate. Judge Dana was interested in a small social library that was kept in a chamber over the store. It contained Josephus, Plutarch's Lives, Rollins' Ancient History, and some other standard works whose titles I do not now recall.

Judge Dana was also interested in the organization of a reading room club in a building connected with the store. As clerk in charge of the store I was custodian of the reading room and library. I found time to read Plutarch and Josephus, and I was skeptic enough to question in my own mind the passage in Josephus in regard to Jesus. Judge Dana died in the month of November, 1835, at the age of sixty. His hair was white and long, and his appearance was so venerable that it is now difficult for me to realize that he was not seventy-five years of age at least. His abilities were considerable, and his descendants, in more than one instance have shown distinguished qualities.

Two other well-known lawyers, one of them a lawyer of eminence in the profession, were also residents of the town: Benj. M. Farley and George F. Farley, brothers. They were natives of the small town of Brookline, N. H. The elder, Benj. M., had practised in Hollis, N. H., where by economy and good care of his earnings he had acquired a competency. At Groton he made no effort to obtain business, and acted for the most part as an associate or aid to his brother, who was in the enjoyment of a large practice and income, for those days and parts.

With George F. Farley, whose age ran with the century, I was well acquainted from 1835 until his death in 1855. He was one of the small number of men that I have known who underestimated their powers. In one respect, perhaps, this
was not true of Farley. He never appeared wanting in courage for any legal struggle with the leaders of the bar in New England. In the twenty years that I knew him he had for his antagonists Webster, Choate, Davis, Curtis, Franklin Dexter, and others of eminence, and he never failed to sustain himself upon terms of equality. This was remarkable in presence of the fact that he was likely to be retained on the hard side of most cases. This was due, perhaps, to his reputation for shrewdness, and for a quality in practice which has been called the inventive faculty. When parties were not allowed to testify, there was a wide field for the imagination, and for the exercise of the inventive faculties on the part of an advocate. He had defended, successfully, the Ursuline Convent rioters, and he had been employed in many desperate cases on the civil side and on the criminal side of the courts.

In his later years he read very little either in law, history, or general literature. His law library was meager, although he had usually one or two students in his office. He preferred to discuss his cases with the loungers about the post-office and stores, getting thereby the benefit of the opinions of common men.

His manner in speaking was inartistic, and although he was a graduate of Harvard, he indulged himself in the use of country phrases and rustic pronunciation. His logic was unanswerable, and his faculty of cross-examination of witnesses was worthy of emulation.

He enjoyed a few books, the classics in the originals, but he seldom indulged in a quotation. Byron as a poet, and Locke as a logician he commended to me — the latter, Locke on the Human Understanding, with great earnestness. Under his advice I read it carefully, and for mental training he did not overvalue it. Farley commenced the practice of his profession at New Ipswich, N. H., and that town elected him once or twice to the Legislature of the State. Wishing for a wider field, he came to Groton. It was a day of small fees, and a good deal of the litigation grew out of the intemperate habits of the farmers.
In New Hampshire fees were even more moderate than in Massachusetts. If Farley had estimated his talents at their full value and had taken an office in Boston or New York, he could have gratified his love for money without disturbing his relations to his neighbors. In minor ways he was acquisitive, and consequently there came to be a public sentiment which excluded him from public employments. His political course was not more erratic than that of many others, but his change of position was ascribed to policy and not to principle. In 1840 he was a Whig, in 1850 he was a Free-soiler, and in 1855 he was a Republican. In the autumn of the year 1855 he was elected a member of the State Convention of the Republican Party.

A day or two before the meeting of the convention I was passing by his premises where he was engaged apparently in examining a buggy which his man had been putting in order. The conversation turned upon politics, and I soon discovered that he wished for a nomination to the Legislature, and without admitting the fact, his remarks showed that he comprehended the nature of the obstacles in his way. At last he said: "When I began I thought the main thing was to get money; and I have got it; and it is very convenient to have it, but it is n't just what I thought it was when I began."

He went to the convention, took a cold which developed into a fever, and in a week he died.

VI.

Groton in 1835 (Continued).

There were two other lawyers in town, Caleb Butler, the postmaster, and Bradford Russell. Mr. Butler never appeared in court. He gave advice in small matters, wrote deeds and wills, surveyed lands, and served his neighbors in fiduciary ways. For many years he was a member, and a useful member, of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Middlesex. That body laid out highways, superintended the public
buildings, and in a word did what no other authority in the county or State had a right to do. Mr. Butler was a Whig, and after a time his politics lost him the office of postmaster and the office of commissioner.

With Bradford Russell I commenced the study of law, or rather I entered my name with him and gave some night work to the study of books bearing upon the profession. His office was over the store in which I became a clerk in December, 1835. Russell was a graduate of Harvard, of the class of 1818. For many years two other members of that class resided at Groton—Dr. Joshua Green, and the Rev. Charles Robinson, pastor of the old society, then ranked as Unitarian. Mr. Russell had studied his profession with Judge James Prescott, who was impeached and removed from the office of Judge of Probate for the county of Middlesex in the year 1821. Judge Prescott, whom I never saw, was a good lawyer in his time, especially in the department of special pleading. That branch of the profession was then passing away, but there were lawyers who lived by their skill in preparing answers, rejoinders, sur-rejoinders, rebutters, and sur-rebutters. Russell had acquired a large amount of special learning in the law, but he had not capacity to comprehend principles, nor could he see the application of old decisions to new cases. In argument he was weak and inconclusive, but he was confident in his own powers, and favored as he was at times by the accidents and hazards of the profession, he gained some victories. In the final trials at the county court he usually secured the services of senior counsel who could meet Farley, his usual antagonist, upon an equality of standing. Most frequently he secured the services of Sam Mann of Lowell, as he was called. The name of the town was affixed generally, as though the advocate had been so christened.

Mann was able, confident, and bold. He died young, after a brilliant career. In many cases Mann and Farley were associated. When this combination appeared, the opposing counsel were hard-pressed, usually. In those days a story was set afloat which, though false, gave voice to the popular notion. When the court was held at Cambridge, Farley and Mann
boarded together at the Mansion House, Charlestown Square. It was said that when they were associated in a case, they were in the habit of examining and cross-examining the witnesses. On one of these occasions, as the story went, Mann conducted the examination, and Farley followed with the cross. Under his hand the witnesses went to pieces. After the witnesses left, Farley said, "We can never succeed if those are your witnesses." Mann replied: "Oh, those are the witnesses for the other side. To-morrow evening I will show you my witnesses." When the evening came, the same witnesses came also. They were again subject to examination and cross-examination, and proved impregnable under Farley's hand. An invention, no doubt, and yet the story had a run.

Although Russell was not a competitor in any sense with such antagonists as Farley and Mann, he was in the enjoyment of a practice that was sufficient for a living, and a prudent man would have made it the beginning of a moderate fortune. He had neither skill in money matters nor ordinary economy. Hence he was always in debt. At one term of the court he entered fifty-eight writs, and there were terms when he had from seventy to one hundred cases on the docket. Each of these cases gave him thirty-three and one third cents costs for every day of the term.

Russell held the office of Master in Chancery. In 1838 the Insolvent Law was enacted, and its administration was confided to Masters in Chancery. Russell soon gained a reputation for leniency in the matter of granting discharges to the insolvent debtors, and his business increased rapidly. His jurisdiction was the whole county, and although there were several masters in the county, his fame was such that petitions came from Lowell, Waltham and other places where masters had offices. I was appointed clerk in insolvency, at five dollars a day when a court was held. In this way I gained some needed income, acquired a knowledge of the Insolvent Law, and more than all, I gained the acquaintance of the leading lawyers of the county. As debtors and witnesses were examined, I may have gained something in practice. The Insolvent Law, amended, to be sure, has remained on the statute
books of Massachusetts to this day, and the United States Bankrupt Law was modeled upon it. Indeed, there can never be any wide departure from the provisions of that statute, and from its principles no departure whatever can be made.

A leading man, and a character in town, was Thomas A. Staples. He was a native of the neighboring town of Shirley. He was a man of large size, handsome figure, resolute in his purposes, and vindictive in his enmities. His chief business was that of stage proprietor, and mail contractor. He was always in debt, and tardy, of course, in his payments. He was involved in lawsuits, and many of his debts were paid upon executions. His mail contracts were so large that he sublet many of the routes, and he was always in debt to subcontractors. He had a stage office in Boston for a time at the Hanover House, and after that at No. 9 Court Street. His office was the headquarters of country traders and others who patronized his lines of stages. In the year 1838 or later, I was in his office when Alvin Adams, the founder of the Adams Express Company, made his first trip to New York as an express messenger. Staples afterward stated in conversation that Adams had but one parcel, and that he loaned him five dollars to meet his expenses. At that time Harnden's express was in operation with an office at No. 8 Court Street. Harnden's company disappeared in a few years, and the Adams Express Company became an institution that has the appearance of perpetuity. At a time perhaps as late as 1850, I met Adams on Washington Street, when he expressed the opinion that his business was as profitable as any business in the country.

Staples was engaged also in paper making with mills upon the upper falls of the Squannacook River. This branch of his business was especially unfortunate, and in 1836 he assigned his property to Henry Woods, Daniel Shattuck, and Joshua B. Fowle. Mr. Woods was a trader in whose employment I then was, having let myself to him when I left the Dix store December 1, 1835, for my board and $150 a year. Agreement for one year. The assignees were all friends of
Staples. The assignment was for the benefit of creditors in order. The last named was Calvin Childs, a blacksmith, to whom Staples owed about two thousand dollars. The assignees proceeded to execute their trust, and as collections were made, payments were made until all the debts were paid except the debt to Childs. Mr. Woods died in 1841. Shattuck died in 1850, and the trust was not then executed. Fowle paid Childs six hundred dollars, but he made no settlement of the trust. In 1853 Childs applied to Russell for counsel and assistance. Russell filed a bill on the equity side of the court. A lawyer, named Fiske, of Boston, was retained by Fowle. Fiske answered. Russell employed the Hon. Charles R. Train to assist in the trial, but there was no hearing. In 1858 Train was elected to Congress. About 1860 Russell came to me for assistance and put into my hands a large bundle of papers relating to the case. At that time Russell was so impaired in health that he could not aid in the investigation. Upon an examination I found that the testimony of Staples was important. He then lived at Machias, Maine. By writing and interviews when I found him in Boston, I became satisfied that for a hidden reason he was resolved to have nothing to do with the case. As a last resort, I took out a commission and submitted interrogatories. The answers were evasive or valueless from loss of memory. Thus the case was delayed. In 1862 I was elected to Congress. Childs was an easy going man who made inquiries occasionally, but never complained. Upon my return from a session, about 1865, I resolved to bring the case to a close. I examined the papers carefully, and I found full material for a statement, although it cost labor to analyze the accounts. At that time Russell was dead and Fiske was dead. Mr. John Loring, a former partner of Fiske, took the case. Loring agreed to a hearing at Chambers. Chief Justice Chapman named a day. At the time named the clients and counsel appeared. I presented my statement in writing. Loring and Fowle said they knew nothing about the matter. My statement showed a balance of between $400 and $500 in Fowle's hands. I asked for interest. Fowle said he had been
ready always to pay. I contended that it was his duty long before to have rendered an account, and made payment. Judge Chapman, with less reason than courts have usually for their decisions, held that as he was always ready to pay, he was not justly chargeable with interest. I drew a decree, the judge signed it, Fowle paid, and Childs returned home that night. For ten years the case had been on the docket, when, if some one had made an examination of the papers it could have been disposed of in a day.

The controversy in New England between Trinitarians and Unitarians had culminated in Groton about the year 1825 in a division of the old town society and the organization of an orthodox church under the Rev. John Todd. His successor, a Mr. Kittredge, had charge of the Society in 1835, and for a short time afterwards. He was succeeded by Dudley Phelps, who was a man of ability and liberal in his religious opinions. From 1838 to 1841 the post-office was in my charge, although I held the office of postmaster only from February to April, 1841. Mr. Phelps was in the habit of sitting in the office and reading every sort of newspaper from the Trumpet to the Investigator. Although he was much my senior, and of differing opinions in politics and religion our relations were quite intimate. For several years we were joint subscribers for the four leading English reviews: — Edinburgh, North British, Quarterly, and Westminster. My recollection is that he made the dedicatory prayer at the new cemetery, and that he was the first person buried in it. He was a man of talent and the father of two sons, who attained distinction at the bar in New York.

The Rev. Charles Robinson was the pastor of the old society then Unitarian, but without question as to the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures. He was a graduate of Harvard, a man of learning, and a writer of good sermons. In the delivery he was faulty to the last stage of awkwardness. His perceptive faculties were dull to a degree without parallel in my experience.

In 1835 and for some time afterwards, there were four taverns and three stores at which intoxicating liquors were sold and
the use of such liquors by farmers was greatly in excess of their use at the present time. In the early winter the country farmers from New Hampshire and Vermont going to Boston, with butter, cheese, pork and poultry, patronized the taverns, and gave the town an appearance of business which contrasts with the aspect of dullness that it now wears. The prices for entertainment at the taverns were moderate, and none of the proprietors accumulated property.

VII.

BEGINNINGS IN BUSINESS.

In the autumn of 1837 as my second year with Mr. Woods was approaching a close, I informed him that I proposed to go to Exeter, N. H., attend the Academy, and then either enter college or proceed with the study of the law. At about the same time I corresponded with Mr. Abbott, the principal of the Academy, in regard to terms, board, etc. Upon this notice Mr. Woods made me a proposition to continue with him and share the business. He offered to furnish the capital, to give me my board, and one-fourth of the net profits. My means were very small, the business was quite sure to yield a profit, and the prospect of gaining a small amount of capital at the age of twenty-three, when the partnership was to end, controlled me and I accepted the proposition. The partnership began March 1, 1838, when I was two months over twenty years of age. I had then been in Groton three years, and I had formed the acquaintance of many young men in the debates of the Lyceum, in business and in social ways. In connection with the Lyceum I prepared papers which I read as lectures. One of these papers upon banking, signed B., appeared in the Bay State Democrat, edited by Lewis Josselyn, the publisher. Another upon Conservatism and Radicalism, was also printed in the Bay State Democrat. As I did not give my name to Mr. Josselyn, and as the letters were mailed at Groton, he came there and after inquiries,
called upon me. I admitted the authorship. This acquaintance continued for many years, and for many years I was a contributor to his paper. He was elected secretary of the Senate in 1843 by the Democratic Party. A little later I wrote an article called "Gibbet Hill" in which I attempted to present the tradition concerning the hill in Groton which bears that name. That article was printed in the Yeoman's Gazette or the Concord Freeman. For several years beginning about the year 1836, I wrote one paper each year called a lecture. Several of these papers were printed in Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.

From 1835 to 1841 I occupied the store night and day and it was my custom to read and write until twelve, one or two o'clock in the morning. These were my years of hard study. Not infrequently, when a tendency to sleep was too heavy for study, I bathed my face and head in cold water and thus revived my faculties—a practice, however, that I cannot commend. Early in my residence at Groton, I formed the acquaintance and friendship of Dr. Amos Bancroft, a friendship which continued until his death in Italy in the year 1879. It was with Dr. Bancroft that I continued my studies in Latin. In 1835, he had finished his professional studies with Dr. Shattuck, of Boston, then an eminent physician. Dr. Shattuck had studied his profession with Dr. Amos Bancroft, the father of Amos B. Dr. Amos, as he was called, was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of Wendell Phillips, and at the close of his professional studies he was spoken of as the best educated physician who had entered the profession in Boston. At the time our acquaintance began, he was entering upon the practice of medicine, at Groton, in place of his father, who was then about sixty-five years of age, deaf, and not healthy in other respects, although he lived to the age of eighty years, and then died from an accident in State Street, Boston. Dr. Bancroft, Sr., lived in a house which stood about one hundred feet north of my present residence, and the office of Dr. Amos was on the spot now occupied by the front of my house. At the close of business for the day, nine o'clock in the evening, I was in the habit of going to the office and recit-
ing my Latin lesson, after which we discussed other matters. Upon my return to the store, I prepared myself for the next evening's recitation. In this way I read Caesar and Virgil. In a closet in Bancroft's office there was a skeleton. That skeleton had a history, and possibly there may be a sequel to it. It was understood to have been the skeleton of a man named Jack Frost, who was tried, convicted and executed at Worcester for the crime of murder committed at or near Princeton. Dr. Bancroft, Sr., had been the owner of the skeleton. Oftentimes I rode Sundays with Dr. Amos. On the occasion of one of these drives, and after the death of Dr. Bancroft, Sr., we passed the house of a waggish old man named Asa Tarbell. After a little conversation Tarbell said, "I shall be over soon for Frost's skeleton." Dr. Amos, amazed, looked over and through his glasses, and said, at length: "Why, what do you mean?" Said Tarbell: "Some years ago, your father and I were playing, and I proposed to put up my uncle Ben against Frost. Your father agreed to the game, and I won. I told him I had no use for Frost at that time, and he might keep him." Tarbell's Uncle Ben was a man of inferior size, hardly more than a dwarf, who had been a drummer boy in the Revolution.

I bought the Bancroft estate in 1873, and my foreman, Mr. William A. Chase informed me that he had found a skeleton in a barrel in a shed, and that he had buried it on the place. If again found it may lead to the suspicion that it is the, skeleton of a murdered man, and not that of a murderer.

From 1835 to 1841, I read Locke, Say's Political Economy, Smith's Wealth of Nations, Plutarch, Josephus, Herodotus, Lingard, Hume and Smollett, Cicero, Demosthenes, Homer, Pope, Byron, Shakespeare, Boswell's Johnson, Junius, The Tattler, The Rambler, the English Reviews, French from textbooks without a teacher and Rhetoric (Blair's full edition). Much of Blair's Rhetoric I studied carefully and with great benefit. Some of my papers of those days were written and re-written four times. On the law side I read a few textbooks: Blackstone, Story on the Constitution, The Federalist, De Lohme on the British Constitution, and some other
works, probably, which I do not at once recall. If I gained
some knowledge of the law as practised in the country, that
knowledge was gained from an acquaintance with the lawyers
of the town, with the students, and there were several usually,
and from my opportunities as Clerk of the Insolvency Court.

In the year 1836, July 4, an Act was passed by Congress,
granting to a class of widows of soldiers of the War of the
Revolution, a pension for the term of five years. The towns
of Groton, Pepperell and Shirley had supplied a large number
of soldiers, and there were many widows who were entitled to
the benefits of the Act. My acquaintance as clerk was
already large, and my studies with Russell had given me the
faculty of preparing ordinary papers, and I at once commenced
canvassing for the business. I obtained in all about fifty
cases under the Act of 1836. Subsequently I obtained other
cases under the Act of 1838. I sent the applications forward
to Washington, and in a few cases certificates were received
in return. In a majority of cases there was a delay. The
women became anxious and their visits and importunities
were annoying. In the month of January, 1839, I joined
Gen. Staples and made a visit to Washington. Staples' object
was to make mail contracts, or to arrange existing difficulties.
My purpose was to obtain action on pension applications.
Our journey was a slow one, if not tedious. From Groton to
Boston by stage, and from Boston to Stonington, Conn., by
rail; from Stonington to New York by steamboat; from New
York to Perth Amboy by steamboat; from Perth Amboy by
rail, I think, but possibly by stage to a town on the Delaware
River, Franklin perhaps. From that point to Philadelphia by
steamboat. Our journey from Philadelphia to Washington
was by rail in part and in part by stage. We passed the
creeks between the Susquehanna and Baltimore upon a
railroad.

We stopped over night in New York, and went to the Park
Theater. Another night we spent in Philadelphia, and went
to the Chestnut Street Theater. Staples had a fondness for
theaters, and on these occasions I followed his example. I
had been in a theater but once, when I saw Forrest in Boston,
in King Lear. At Philadelphia I bought a copy of Byron for three dollars. That volume I yet have.

The Hon. William Parmenter, a Democrat, then represented the district in Congress, and I carried one or more letters to him — one from my employer Mr. Henry Woods, who was an active Democrat. Mr. Parmenter was then about fifty years of age, of heavy frame, swarthy complexion, and a man of good natural abilities. He took me to Mr. Van Buren. We found him alone, well dressed, polite—and rather gracious than otherwise. Quite early in my visit, Mr. Parmenter took me to the Pension Office, then presided over by Mr. Edwards. Mr. Parmenter stated his business, and immediately attention was given to my applications. In the course of a few days some of the cases were disposed of, and in a few weeks my docket was clear.

Caleb Butler was then postmaster at Groton. He had had the place, probably from the days of John Quincy Adams for as he was a violent Whig, he could not have received his appointment from General Jackson. My employer, Mr. Woods, was an applicant for the post-office, he being the only Democrat in the street who had accommodations for the office. I carried papers in support of the application. Those I gave probably to Mr. Parmenter, as I have no recollection of any interview with any post-office official. Amos Kendall was then Postmaster-General. He was a native of Dunstable, and he had been a student at the Groton Academy when Mr. Butler was the preceptor. Naturally and properly he sustained his old teacher. The change however was made, and upon the express instructions of Mr. Van Buren it was said. Mr. Woods retained the office until his death in January, 1841, when I was appointed without any agency of my own, but by the agency as I supposed of Gen. Staples. Upon the election of General Harrison I was removed in the month of April, and Mr. Butler was reappointed, an act of which I never complained, nor had I any reason to complain.

At Washington we stopped at Gadsby's Hotel, now the National. There I met and had some acquaintance with Matthew L. Davis, "the Spy in Washington" as he called him—
self. He was a newspaper correspondent and the biographer of Aaron Burr. He was a great admirer of Burr. Davis wore very thin clothing, scouted overcoats, and boasted that he slept always in a room with open windows, and under very light bed clothing. He was old and conceited, and as a permanent companion, he could not have been otherwise than disagreeable.

At the Supreme Court I heard arguments by Webster and Crittenden, on opposite sides. In the Senate I heard Webster, Clay, Calhoun, and others in running debate, but not in prepared speeches. The Senate then contained many other men of note. Silas Wright, of New York; Preston, of South Carolina; Benton, of Missouri; Linn, of Missouri, more remarkable for personal beauty than for talents. In the House Mr. Adams was then a chief figure. His contest over the right of petition had commended him to one portion of the country, and made him the object of hostility to another portion. I recall one Monday, when he had the right to present petitions, and although they were laid on the table without debate he was able to consume time by presenting them singly. As the supply in his hands and on the table seemed inexhaustible, a compromise was made finally, and the petitions went in in mass. Of other speakers that I heard I recall Henry A. Wise and Sargent S. Prentiss. Of their style and quality I can say nothing. The reported speeches of Prentiss do not justify the reputation that he enjoyed as an orator when living.

The incident which produced the most lasting impression upon me, when in Washington, was an interview with a slave, a woman fifty years or more of age. I had then no love for the system of slavery. I had read Clarkson's and Wilberforce's writings, and I knew the history of the struggle in England for the abolition of the slave trade, and slavery in the British West Indies. I had also attended some anti-slavery meetings in Massachusetts, at which the leaders, Phillips, Garrison, Foster, Parker, and Pillsbury had denounced the institution. Groton was a center of anti-slavery operations in that part of the State. Several copies of the *Liberator* were taken in the town, and anti-slavery meetings were held
not infrequently. The first speech that George Thompson made in America was made in Groton.

One Sunday morning I walked out towards what is now called the Island. The road was marked by a rail fence, but of buildings there were none. I went so far that I was near the slave pen, a building now standing and which I have visited within a few years. It was of brick, enclosed within a brick wall, and all of a dingy straw color. At a short distance from the building, I met a black woman walking slowly away from it. I said to her: "What building is that?" At once she was in tears, and she said: "That is the pen where the poor black people are kept who are going down to Louisiana." She had then been to visit her daughter, a girl about eighteen years of age, according to the mother's statement, who was to leave the next morning. She was the last of a family of nine as the woman said, who had been sold and taken away from her. As I was leaving I said: "Who is your master?" She answered: "Mr. Blair, of the Globe." In the fourteen years of my manhood, that I acted with the Democratic party, I never said anything in favor of the system of slavery. If otherwise I might have done so, the interview with that old woman would have restrained me.

VIII.

First Experience in Politics.

At the spring election of Groton in 1839, I was chosen a member of the school committee. The other members had been in the service in previous years. They were the Rev. Charles Robinson, the Rev. Mr. Kittredge, Dr. Joshua Green, and Dr. George Stearns. In the early Colonial period the "minister" was often the school-master also. Naturally he took an interest in the education of the children, and previous to the time when school committees were required by statute, he was the self-constituted guide of the teachers and schools. Indeed, the schools were parochial. Whenever the minister
visited a school he made a prayer, and the morning exercise in reading was in the New Testament Scriptures,—two verses by each pupil. In 1840 the entire board was rejected, and a board composed of school teachers and non-professional men was chosen.

In 1838 the Massachusetts Legislature passed what was known as the Fifteen-Gallon Law. The statute prohibited the sale of distilled spirits in "less quantity than fifteen gallons." It did not take effect immediately and the election of that year was not seriously disturbed, but before the autumn of 1839 the State was thoroughly aroused. A cry was raised that it was a law to oppress the poor who could not command means to purchase the quantity named, while the rich would enjoy the use of liquor notwithstanding the statute. The town of Groton was entitled to two members in the house of representatives. Both parties nominated candidates who favored the repeal of the Fifteen-Gallon Law. The temperance voters put a ticket in the field, the Rev. Amasa Sanderson, the minister of the Baptist Society, then a new organization, and feeble in numbers and wealth, and myself. At that time my associations were largely with Whigs, but I was opposed to a national bank, and in favor of free trade. With those views it was not possible for me to act with the Whig Party on national questions or in national contests. Mr. Sanderson and I received about seventy-six votes, and as none of the candidates had a majority, the town was unrepresented.

Edward Everett was Governor when the law was passed, and he was a candidate for re-election in 1839. I supported Mr. Everett on the temperance issue against Judge Marcus Morton, who was the candidate of the Democratic Party. Judge Morton had been on the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court where he had the reputation of an able judge by the side of Shaw, Wilde and Putnam. At that time I had not seen Morton or Everett. In the year 1836 or 1837 I went to Boston to hear Alex. H. Everett deliver a Democratic Fourth of July oration. The effort was a disappointment to me. A. H. Everett had a reputation as an orator, but he was far inferior to his brother Edward. In later years I heard Edward
Everett often. His genius in preparation and in the delivery of his orations and speeches was quite equal to anything we can imagine at Athens and by Athenian orators, excepting only the force of the argument.

In 1851 or 1852 I was present at an agricultural fair at Northampton and in company with Mr. Everett. After dinner speeches were made. When we rode to the fair grounds in the morning a dense river fog covered the valley but at ten o'clock it lifted, and the day became clear. At the dinner Mr. Everett in his speech described the morning, the dense fog, the lifting, the sun illumining first the hills and then the valleys, revealing the spires of the churches, etc. For the moment I was deceived. But when he had concluded I saw him hand his manuscript to a reporter and the speech appeared the next morning, verbatim as he had delivered it. He knew the river towns, and he knew that every fair day in autumn was preceded by a dense fog, and the speech was written upon that theory. What alternative he had prepared in case of a rain, I know not.

As a judge, and at the same time the candidate of the Democratic Party for Governor for many years, the rank and file of the party came to regard Judge Morton as a man of fine abilities and sterling integrity. His abilities were sturdy rather than attractive. In this respect he was the opposite of Governor Everett. In the canvass of 1839 Morton was elected by one vote in a contest of unusual warmth. This election removed him from the bench, much to his regret, it was said as under the circumstances he could hardly hope for a re-election. The House and Senate were controlled by the Whigs, and the Governor was surrounded by a council composed of Whigs. The Fifteen-Gallon Law was repealed and in other respects the government was not different from what it would have been had Mr. Everett been re-elected.

Governor Morton continued to be the Democratic candidate, and though defeated in 1840 and 1841 by John Davis, he was again elected in 1843 by the Legislature, there having been no choice by the people, a majority being required. The Senate was Democratic by a considerable majority. The House was equally divided at the opening of the session, and
there were four abolitionists who held the balance of power. After several trials the Whigs succeeded in electing Daniel P. King, of Danvers, by the help of one or more of the abolitionists. There were several contested seats, and when the house had been purged, as the process was called, the Democrats were in a majority. The session was a short one. A few political measures were passed, salaries were reduced, and much below a reasonable compensation for those days even. Governor Morton had a Democratic Council, but they were not agreed in policy and the administration lost strength even with Democrats. Its defeat, in the autumn was inevitable, and Gov. Morton ceased to be a candidate for an office that he had sought in twenty elections and gained in two. With others I lost confidence in his ability, but that confidence I afterwards regained.

He was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1853, and in that body his ability was conspicuous. His style was clear and logical, and his processes of reasoning were legal and judicial in character. In his speeches he avoided authorities and spurned notes. He prepared himself by reading and reflection, and the arrangement was dictated by the logic of the case. His speeches were the speeches of a strong man, and he was a dangerous antagonist in debate. His reasoning was faultless and he kept his argument free from all surplus matter.

In a conversation that I once had with him at his home in Taunton, he said that the best legal argument to which he had ever listened was made by Samuel Dexter. As Governor Morton had heard Pinckney, Wirt, Webster, Mason, Choate, Curtis and many others, the praise of Dexter was not faint praise.

IX.

THE ELECTION OF 1840.

In the early summer of 1840 the great contest began, which ended in the defeat of Mr. Van Buren and the election of
Gen. Harrison to the Presidency. The real issues were not much discussed—certainly not by the Whigs. In reality the results were due to the general prostration of business and the utter discredit that had fallen upon General Jackson's pet bank system. The Independent Treasury System, as it was termed by Democrats, or the Sub-Treasury System, as it was called by the Whigs, had not been tested.

The country was tired of experiments and all the evils, which were many, that then afflicted the people, were attributed to the experiments of General Jackson in vetoing the bills for the recharter of the United States Bank and for the institution of the pet bank system. In truth the country was wedded to the idea that the funds of the government should be so placed that they could be used to facilitate business. That idea and the practice arising from it were full of peril. In the infancy of a country, when the resources are inadequate, a national bank, assuming that it is managed honestly and wisely, may be an important aid, but time being given, it will inevitably become a political machine in a country, like the United States, where the political aspirations of the people are active and the temptations to seek the aid of the money power are always great. Even in modern times, with a surplus of millions in the banks of the city of New York, for which no proper use can be found, there are indications of a purpose to return to the pet bank system under another name.

Gen. Harrison, the nominee of the Whig Party, was then sixty-seven years of age by the record, but the public opinion credited him with several more years. His mental powers were not of a superior quality, and his life had not been of a sort to develop his faculties. He had done good service in the Indian wars of the frontier and as commander at the battle of Tippecanoe he had won a reputation as a soldier. During the war of 1812, he commanded the army of the Northwest, and with honor. He had had a seat in each House of Congress, he had represented the government at the capital of a South American Republic, and all with credit, and all without distinction. His career had been sufficiently
conspicuous to justify his friends in eulogies in the party papers and speeches; and neither as good policy nor just treatment should his opponents have been betrayed into criticisms of his military and civil life. The Democrats were unwise enough to raise an issue upon his military career, and the result was greatly to their loss. His frontier life in a log cabin was also the subject of ridicule at the opening of the campaign. The Whigs accepted the issue, built log cabins on wheels and drew them over the country from one mass meeting to another. The unfortunate remark was made by a writer or speaker that if Harrison had a log cabin and plenty of hard cider he would be content. A barrel became the emblem of the Whig Party. The log cabin was furnished with a cider barrel at the door, and the emblematic barrel was seen on cane heads and breast pins.

Mr. Webster struck a fatal blow at the error of the Democratic Party: — "Let him be the log cabin candidate. What you say in scorn we will shout with all our lungs. . . . It did not happen to me to be born in a log cabin; but my elder brothers and sisters were born in a log cabin raised amid the snow drifts of New Hampshire, at a period so early that when the smoke first rose from its rude chimney and curled over the frozen hills there was no similar evidence of a white man's habitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada. . . . If ever I am ashamed of it, or if I ever fail in affectionate remembrance of him who reared it, and defended it against savage violence and destruction, cherished all the domestic virtues beneath its roof, and through the fire and blood of a seven years' Revolutionary war, shrank from no danger, no toil, no sacrifice to save his country and to raise his children to a condition better than his own, may my name and the name of my posterity be blotted forever from the memory of mankind."

John Tyler of Virginia, was placed on the Whig ticket as the candidate for Vice-President. Tyler had been a Democrat and the opinions of the States Rights wing of the Democratic Party were his opinions, notwithstanding his associations with the Whig Party. His nomination was due to the dispo-
sition to balance the ticket by selecting one of the candidates from each wing of the party — and there are always two wings to a party.

Of poetry the Whig writers furnished much more than was enjoyed by Democrats. An effort was made to stay the tide in favor of Harrison by poetry as well as by argument. The effort was fruitless. The contest of 1840 had its origin in the most distressing financial difficulties that ever rested upon the country, and it was conducted on the part of the Whigs by large expenditures of money, for those days, and with a degree of hilarity and good nature that it is difficult now to realize. This may have been due to general confidence, and to a consequent belief that a change of administration would be followed by general prosperity.

The Whigs were not under the necessity of submitting arguments to their followers, and the arguments of Democrats were of no avail. The Whig papers in all parts of the country contained lists of names of Democrats who were supporting General Harrison. Occasionally the Democratic papers could furnish a short list of Whigs who declared for Van Buren in preference to Harrison. The most absurd stories were told of the administration, and apparently they were accepted as truth. Charles J. Ogle, of Pennsylvania, delivered a speech in the House of Representatives in which he marshaled all the absurd stories that were afloat. He charged among other things that Van Buren had sets of gold spoons. The foundation for the statement was the fact that there were spoons in the Executive Mansion that were plated or washed with gold on the inside of the bowls. Those spoons were there in General Grant's time, but so much like brass or copper in appearance that one would hesitate about using them. Another idle story believed by the masses was that the Navy bought wood in New Orleans at a cost of twenty-four dollars a cord and carried it to Florida for the use of the troops during the Seminole war of 1837–8. Isaac C. Morse, of Louisiana, was one of the Congressional bearers or mourners at the funeral of John Quincy Adams, in 1848. He was a Whig member and his district in 1840 was on the Texas
frontier. At one of the evening sessions of mourning, while the Committee was in Boston, he gave an account of his campaign, and he recited a speech made by a young orator who went out with him as an aid. The speech opened thus: "Fellow Citizens; who is Daniel Webster? Daniel Webster is a man up in Massachusetts making a dictionary. Who is General Harrison? Everybody knows who General Harrison is. He is Tippecanoe and Tyler too. But who is Martin Van Buren? Martin Van Buren! He is the man who bought the wood in the Orleans, paid twenty-four dollars a cord for it, carried it round to Florida and had to cut down the trees to land it." A fellow in the crowd cried out, "Carrying coals to Newcastle." "Yes," said the speaker, "them coals he carried to Newcastle. I don't know so much about the coals, but about the wood I've got the documents."

The general public was not only disposed to accept every wild statement, but the average intelligence was much below the present standard, and the means of communication were poor. If, however, there had been no canvass, the overthrow of Van Buren would have occurred. The defeat of the United States Bank, and the failure of the pet bank system, had been attended by disorders in the finances, the ruin of manufactures, a reduction in wages, with all the incident evils. As these evils were coincident in time with the measures, the measures were treated as the guilty cause. Beyond question, Mr. Clay's tariff bill contributed to the troubles.

George Bancroft, the historian, was then collector of the port of Boston. He took an active part in the canvass in Massachusetts. On the evening of Saturday previous to the election in Massachusetts, he spoke at Groton in a building afterwards known as Liberty Hall.*

* It was then an unfinished building and stood where the Willow Dale road connects with Hollis Street. The building had been erected by a body of people who advocated the union of all the churches. They called themselves Unionists. Their leader was the Rev. Silas Hawley. He was a vigorous thinker, a close reasoner, and he displayed great knowledge of the Bible. His following became considerable. The excitement extended to the neighboring towns and for a time serious inroads were made upon the churches of the village.

The no-creed doctrine was accepted by some who never believed in any
Mr. Bancroft had a full House, but not an enthusiastic one. Many of his hearers were Whigs, who came from curiosity, but not to cheer the speaker. Moreover, the news of the New York election, then held the first three days of the week, was not encouraging to Democrats. After the meeting Mr. Bancroft was taken to the tavern, where a supper was served to him and to a small number of Democrats. Mr. Bancroft was excited, and walking the room he said: "I do believe if General Harrison is elected, Divine Providence will interfere and prevent his ever becoming President of the United States." These words of disappointment seemed prophecy, when the death of Harrison occurred within thirty days after his inauguration.

In his address Mr. Bancroft spoke with great confidence of the vote of New York. There were some conscientious Democrats in his audience, who remembered the remarks, and it was with great reluctance that they gave him their votes when he was a candidate for Governor in 1844.

The more considerate members of the Democratic Party apprehended defeat from the opening of the canvass. As early as June 17, the Whigs had enormous mass meetings at Boston and Bunker Hill. The Democrats were not inert. The Governor of the State was a Democrat and there were those who had hopes of his re-election. In set-off of the great meeting of the 17th of June at Charlestown, the Democrats prepared for a similar meeting on Lexington Green, July 4. The concourse of people was large. Governor Morton was present and spoke. I there met William D. Kelley, who spoke to a portion of the crowd from a wagon. He was then employed in a jeweller's establishment in Boston.

creed, and by others who had believed in creeds that they then thought were false. In the year 1838, Hawley convened a "World's Convention" at Liberty Hall, called by the wicked "Polliwog Chapel," to consider the subject of uniting all the churches in one church without a creed.

One afternoon early in the week of the session, I saw three men walking on the street towards Liberty Hall, with knapsacks buckled on their backs. One of these was Theodore Parker, one George Ripley, and the third, I think, was Charles A. Dana. In this I may be in error. Parker told me in after years when he had a wide-spread reputation, that his first public speech was made in that convention.
George Sewall Boutwell.

Groton sent a company of volunteers for the day numbering about seventy-five men, under command of Captain William Shattuck, then a sturdy Democrat and afterwards an equally sturdy Republican. Shattuck was the grandson of Captain Job Shattuck, of Shays' Rebellion. Job Shattuck had been a captain in the War of the Revolution, and he was always an earnest patriot. He was also a man of wealth, having large possessions in land, and being wholly exempt from the pecuniary distresses that harassed the majority of men, from the close of the war to the close of the century. Job Shattuck's action was due to his sympathy for the sufferers and to his sense of justice. In every town there were traders and small capitalists who had supplied the families of soldiers who were absent in the service.

Either by mortgage or by executions, the creditors had secured liens upon the homesteads of the soldiers and from 1783 to 1789 the liens were enforced. Petitions went up to the General Court for a stay act. James Bowdoin was Governor. The General Court did not listen to the appeal. Daniel Shays and others organized forces for the suppression of the Courts. Shattuck was the leader in the county of Middlesex, and at the head of his force he broke up the Court at Concord. Finally he was arrested. Major Woods, who had been an officer in the war, was in command of the Government forces. Shattuck was secreted at the house of one Gregg, who lived near where the house of John Gilson now stands. The season was winter. It was believed that Gregg betrayed Shattuck. When Shattuck discovered his peril, he fled and made his way towards the Nashua River, which was then frozen. His pursuers followed, but at unequal pace. When he had crossed the river, he saw that the three men in sight were widely separated from each other. Shattuck turned, and for a time he became the pursuer. The first man ran, then the second, but finally Shattuck fell on the ice, with

1 [There is a slight inaccuracy in this account of Shattuck's capture which I will try to correct. He is supposed to have passed the night at the house of Samuel Gragg, who lived where Daniel Shattuck lived when Mr. Butler's Map of the town was made in 1828, near the site of the District School-house No. V. on Common Street. S. A. G.]
sword in hand. His pursuers seized him. Upon his refusal to surrender his sword, they cut the cords of his hand, and wounded him in the leg. He was tried, sentenced to be hanged, and confined in the jail at Concord.

The election of 1786 turned upon the questions at issue, and especially upon the execution of the persons under sentence. Bowdoin was the candidate of the "Law-and-Order Party," and John Hancock was nominated by the friends of the convicts. Hancock was elected by a vote of about nineteen thousand against less than six thousand for Bowdoin. The convicts were pardoned, and a stay law was passed. The demand of the Shays men was reasonable, and the Government was guilty of a criminal error in resisting it.

The Shays Rebellion was beneficial to Massachusetts, and it contributed to the argument in favor of the Constitution of the United States.

The town of Groton continued in the control of Shattuck and his friends for many years after the suppression of the Rebellion. During that period he was drawn as a juror. When his name was called the judge repeated it, and said, "Job Shattuck! He can't sit on the jury in this Court." As Shattuck came out of the seat limping he said: "I have broken up one Court here, and things won't be right, until I break up another."

Something of the spirit of Job Shattuck has been exhibited in the larger portion of his numerous descendants. They have been devoted to liberty and just in their dealings. These two qualities were conspicuous in his grandson, Captain William Shattuck.

I took part in the canvass of 1840 and made speeches in Groton and in several of the towns in the vicinity. I was also the candidate of the Democratic Party for a seat in the House of Representatives. There was no opposition for the nomination, although there were many Democrats who thought that my defection the preceding year had prevented the election of the Democratic candidates. My temperance opinions were offensive to many, if not to a majority of the party. On the other hand there were a number of young members of the
Whig Party whose votes I could command. As a final fact, the political feeling was then so strong that all considerations yielded to the chances and hopes of success.

My opponent, and the successful candidate, was Mr. John Boynton, afterward, and for a single year, a member of the senate. He was a native of the town, a blacksmith by trade, and the son of a blacksmith. He was a man of quiet ways, upright, and known to every voter. He had been in the office of town clerk for many years, he had been kind to everyone, and he had no enemies. Boynton was elected, but by a moderate majority. But for the excitement of the Presidential election, the contest would have been very close.

The death of General Harrison and the elevation of John Tyler to the Presidency wrought a great change in the fortunes of the Whig Party. Soon after the assembling of Congress at the extra session, called by President Harrison, a bill for a Fiscal Bank was passed by the two Houses, and vetoed by President Tyler. The veto message was so framed as to encourage the Whig leaders to pass a second bill in a form designed to avoid the objections of the President.

In the discussion upon the veto of the first bill, Mr. Clay assailed the President in such terms that a reconciliation was impossible. From that moment it was the purpose of the President to co-operate with the Democratic Party. A second bill was passed. That was also vetoed by the President. Early in September all the members of the Cabinet resigned except Mr. Webster. The outgoing members gave reasons to the public, and Mr. Webster gave reasons for not going. Caleb Cushing, Henry A. Wise, and a few other Whigs, called the Omnibus Party chose their part with Webster and Tyler. The Whig Party was divided, hopelessly.

Previous to the division, a bill had passed, which had been approved by the President, for the repeal of the Independent Treasury System. The ardor of its enemies was such that no substitute was provided. The expectation was that a Fiscal Bank, or Fiscal Agent, would be created. The failure of the bank bills left the Government without any lawful system of finance. The pet bank system was restored, in fact. The
rupture in the Whig Party contributed to its defeat in Massachusetts at the election in 1842, but the party was so compact in 1841 that its triumph was assured. Mr. Webster defended his course, and with few exceptions his conduct was either approved or tolerated in Massachusetts.

THE RICHARDS FAMILY.

A little less than three quarters of a century ago there lived in Groton a family that has left a fragrant memory among the older people of the town, but now is nearly forgotten by the present generation. I refer to Henry Augustus Richards's large family, of which the girls were noted for their physical beauty. Some years ago I asked my friend, the late Almon Danforth Hodges (H. C. 1864), who was intimate with many of the members after they left Groton, to give me a sketch of the family, which he did in the following letter:

Dr. Samuel A. Green.

Dear Sir: In answer to your questions concerning the Richards Family once resident in Groton, Mass., I send you the following information which I have gleaned chiefly from members of the family now living in Boston.

The eldest member of the family to come to Groton was Peter Richards, a native of New London, Conn., and a descendant of John Richards senior, who came before 1660 to New London according to its historian, Miss Caulkins. John Richards senior begat John junior, who begat George, who begat Guy senior, who begat Guy junior, who begat Peter, all of New London, where the family was numerous and prominent. Peter's grandfather, Capt. Guy Richards, was a Revolutionary soldier; his uncle, Capt. Peter Richards, was killed in 1781 at Fort Griswold after the garrison had surrendered to the British under Benedict Arnold, as commemorated on the monument at Groton, Conn. Peter's father was Guy Richards junior, the first City Treasurer of New London, and his mother was Hannah Dolbeare, and he had twelve brothers and sisters.
THE RICHARDS FAMILY.

Peter Richards was born in 1778, married, on November 25, 1800 Ann Channing Huntington, daughter of Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington of Revolutionary fame, and raised a family of nine children, who all married and made homes of their own in different States. He was a merchant and resided in his native town until his last child had married and left him. Then, owing partly to poor health and partly to parental love, he gave up business and with his wife resided alternately with those of his children who lived in New England, chiefly with his eldest son whose family seems to have been especially attractive. Thus it was that he came to Groton, of which place, however, I think he was never a legal resident. In time his children came to feel the need of a central home, where the parents, now fast aging, could cease from wandering; and they built a house in the quiet and beautiful village of Washington, Connecticut, adjacent to the home of the youngest daughter, whose husband, Rev. Ephraim Lyman, was pastor of the Congregational Church of that place. Here Peter Richards and his wife spent their last years, tenderly cared for and cheered by the frequent visits of those dearest to them. And here they passed quietly away, she on the 9th day of January 1857, and he on June 17, 1863.

The eldest child of Peter and Ann Channing (Huntington) Richards was Henry Augustus Richards, of whom more later. The next was Dr. Wolcott Richards, a graduate of the Yale Medical School in 1825, who practised medicine for many years in Cincinnati. He married twice and in his later years lived in Roxbury and Waltham, Mass., and died in New York City. The third child, Channing Richards, was a merchant, married and lived in Cincinnati, and there died. The fourth child, Ann Huntington Richards, married Rev. James Woods McLane, a Presbyterian minister of New York City and Williamsburgh. The fifth child was Eliza Richards who married James Haughton of Boston, one of the most charming men I ever met. His firm, Haughton, Sawyer & Co., was very prominent in the wholesale dry goods business. The sixth child, Peter Richards, with a residence in Brooklyn, engaged in business in New York City for many years, then retired, and ended his days in Geneva, N. Y. He married twice. The seventh child was Hannah Dolbeare Richards, wife of Rev. Ephraim Lyman of Washington, Conn. She, the last of her generation, is still living — in Clifton Springs, N. Y. The eighth child was Rev. George Richards. He was graduated at Yale in 1840, was a tutor there and Fellow of the University, became pastor of the Winter Street Church in Boston, then was settled at Bridgeport, Conn., and died at Litch-
field in 1870. The youngest child, Jedediah Huntington Richards, practised medicine in Cincinnati, but his health was poor and he returned to the East and died in Washington, Conn.

Henry Augustus Richards, the eldest child, born in New London November 14, 1801, for some years was engaged in the manufacture of cottons at Uncasville, Connecticut. His health, however, was not sufficiently rugged to stand the strain incident to his position, and in the hope of bettering it, his mill was handed over to Charles Lewis, son of his uncle James a wealthy resident of New London, and he undertook the selling of the cotton goods in New York City. The change proved, however, detrimental, and his physician ordered a country life and out-of-door living. So he bought a farm in Groton, Massachusetts, and here came to live in the year 1841, just after the death of President Harrison. The estate which he bought had been previously owned by the father of Margaret Fuller, and in the immediate neighborhood of the Lawrence Farm. It occupied one of the finest sites in Groton, on Pleasant Street at the beginning of Farmers' Row. It is now owned by the Hon. William F. Wharton, formerly Assistant Secretary of State.

When Mr. Richards came to Groton he brought with him a wife, five sons and three daughters, and here were born to him another son and another daughter. The old mansion on Pleasant Street where Timothy Fuller and his daughter Sarah Margaret had toiled amid shadows, now was the sunny scene of hospitality, of matronly grace, and of youthful glee and beauty. The daughters were noted for their lovely faces and charming manners, and as they grew up it was a disputed point among their admirers as to which one was the handsomest. According to my remembrance at a later date than the Groton days, the young men were chronologically divided in opinion into sets, each set deciding in favor of that girl whose age was just a little less than their own. The daughters themselves, however, seem to have been a unit in their judgment. They agreed with Milton: "the loveliest of her daughters, Eve," and unanimously awarded the palm to their mother.

The mother was Julia Ann Haughton, daughter of William and Olive (Chester) Haughton, and sister of that James Haughton who married Eliza Richards, as previously mentioned. She was born May 28, 1805 at Montville, Connecticut, and married Mr. Richards on August 3, 1824 at New London. I never saw her, but her portrait, painted by her cousin Daniel Huntington, the well-known artist of New York, graces the home of one of her daughters. Of her charming
personality, her wifely affection and her motherly love, I have heard ample testimony.

The attractiveness of the Groton home was heightened by the frequent presence of grandfather and grandmother Richards, and also of the widowed grandmother Haughton, who seemed to find no place so charming as that where these children were, and who spent her last years with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards united with the Congregational Church, then under the charge of Rev. Dudley Phelps (Y. C. 1823), and came to know intimately the family of their pastor. The children were members of the Sunday School, one or more of the daughters being in the class taught by Mrs. Mary Woodbury, who quickly won the love and respect of her pupils. Mrs. Woodbury, before and after the death of her mother, Mrs. Samuel Lawrence, lived at the Lawrence homestead where she often gathered the children in entertainments remembered still with delight. Mrs. Woodbury's sister, Mrs. Eliza Green, had a pleasant home in the village where the Richards children were made welcome; and she too figures largely in the sunny memories of Groton. Indeed the family seems to have been well liked in the place, to have found many pleasant acquaintances, and to have formed some friendships which long survived the shock of separation and the formation of new ties. All the children, except the youngest, attended the Lawrence Academy. Here the eldest daughter, in a class with five young men, was fitted for college by the principal, Rev. James Means, whom she esteemed a most learned, kind and efficient teacher.

Of the Groton stories told to me, I repeat one which illustrates not only the way in which children were then brought up, but also the curiously persistent clinging of an unimportant incident in the childish memory. A few years after the arrival of the family, "tall Miss Butler" (so described to me) paid a formal call, and of course was received in the best room. Charles and Mary, being at home, were brought into the parlor and perched on tall ottomans, one on each side of the fireplace, where they remained during the call perfectly quiet and apparently unnoticed. But when Miss Butler took her leave, she said in words remembered to this day: "Mrs. Richards, I really must tell you how much I admire your mantel ornaments."

Mr. Richards worked on his farm for eight years, with such apparent benefit to his health that, when his brother Peter offered him a partnership in the wool business in New York City, he did not hesitate to accept the offer. He sold his farm in 1849, and in 1850 after
living for a year in the house which Rev. Mr. Phelps had previously occupied, the family moved to Greenwich, Conn. Here the father bought a house and made a new home, going daily to his office in New York City. But the previous warning of the doctors had been only too well founded. Mr. Richards' health broke down utterly. The death of his wife, on August 23, 1853, was a terrible blow to him, and he followed her two years later, on June 11, 1855. The oldest son, William Haughton Richards, a Yale graduate of 1850, of fine mental acquirements and great charm of person, had died at Brooklyn, N. Y. on May 17, 1855, when he was apparently entering on a career of success as a lawyer. Thus the care of the family devolved principally on the second son, Wolcott Augustus Richards, and the eldest daughter, Julia Augusta. A favorable offer from his uncle James Haughton caused Mr. Wolcott A. Richards to move to Roxbury, then a separate city, but now a part of Boston. He took his sisters with him. His brothers, one by one, found their opportunities in other places. Greenwich was the last place in which the family were united in one home.

The oldest son, whose talents were displayed in many directions, became interested in the history of his ancestors and prepared a genealogical chart, the data of which have been printed in Morse's Ancient Puritans, vol. iii: pp. 93–104. I append here the record of the last generation, preceded by the male line of ancestry.

1. **John** Richards, possibly of Plymouth, Mass.; of New London, Conn., before 1660; d. 1687. Had 8 children. His oldest son was:


3. **Capt. George** Richards, b. 1695, New London; d. 1750, New London; m. Nov. 14, 1716, Esther Hough. Had 6 children. His 3rd child was:

4. **Capt. Guy** Richards, b. 1722, New London; d. 1782, New London; m. Jany 18, 1746, Elizabeth Harris. Had 10 children. His oldest child was:

---

1 This house was built by Mrs. Phelps's father (Benjamin Mark Farley) in the year 1833, when he first came to Groton to live. It is situated at the corner of Hollis and Main Streets, and looks to the southward. At the present time it is owned by Mrs. Daniel Needham.
5. Guy Richards, b. 1747, New London; d. 1825, New London; m. June 17, 1773, Hannah Dolbeare. Had 13 children. His 4th child was:


The oldest was:


Children of Henry Augustus and Julia Ann (Haughton) Richards:

i. William Haughton, b. 1825 June 5, Uncasville, Ct.; d. 1855 May 17, Brooklyn, N. Y. unm.

ii. Wolcott Augustus, b. 1826 Nov. 9, Uncasville; d. 1871 May 9, Boston, Mass.; m. 1862 Sept. 10, Roxbury, Mass. Mary Baker Kittredge, dau. of Alvah & Mehitable (Grozier) Kittredge of Roxbury.


v. James Haughton, b. 1831 Dec. 14, New York City; d. 1860, Camp Floyd, Utah, while in the employ of the U. S. Government; unm.

vi. Anne Channing, b. 1834 Aug. 9, New York City; living 1902 at 50 Moreland Street, (Roxbury) Boston; m. 1858 Sept. 8, Roxbury, William Porter Kittredge, son of Alvah & Mehitable (Grozier) Kittredge of Roxbury.


viii. Mary Ivers, b. 1840 April 28, New York City; living 1902 at
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

26 Perrin Street (Roxbury) Boston; m. 1863 July 1, Roxbury, Danforth Comstock Hodges, son of Almon Danforth & Martha (Comstock) Hodges, of Roxbury.

ix. Adelaide Lewis, b. 1844 Feb 3, Groton, Mass.; living 1902 at 51 West 38th Street, New York City; m. 1866 Oct. 10, Boston, Dr. James Woods McLane, son of Rev. James Woods & Anne Huntington (Richards) McLane. Dr. McLane died in New York, on November 25, 1912.

x. Guy Richards, b. 1848 Nov. 11, Groton; d. 1858 Nov. 30, Roxbury.

Yours very truly

A. D. Hodges, Jr.

Boston, January, 1902.

GROTON BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The following letter was written to me many years ago by Mr. Alpheus Richardson, who kept a bookstore and bindery at the corner of Main and Elm Streets. His business was carried on in an ell connected with his house. He published several books, of which the most important were two editions of the New Testament, one of them appearing in the year 1833, and the other in 1846. Below is given the title of each edition:

Methuen, Sept. 25, 1851.

Dear Friend,—Yours of the 15th was received some days since stating that you were engaged in collecting all works, etc., published in Groton. When I resided in town I published two different editions of testaments; one a small pocket edition, 32° size, the other a 24° size, which I published 10 or 12 years [ago]; also a book called the New Primer, of about 40 pages which I published seven thousand and five hundred; also a book called the Broken Vase, a narrative of about 70 pages, which is all I published while I was in town, except several small pamphlets, which is so long since I have forgotten about them. I hope you will succeed in collecting all the matter published in town and be able to get up quite a catalogue, which
will make it appear that there was something doing in town in former
days as well [as] at present.

Yours truly,

Alpheus Richardson.

P. S. Please to give our best respects to your father and mother
and to all of our inquiring friends; say to them that we are all well
hoping they enjoy the same.

A. R.

The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: translated
out of the Original Greek; and with the former translations
diligently compared and revised. Stereotype edition. Groton,
Mass. Printed and published by Alpheus Richardson. 1833.
16mo. pp. 335, (1).

The frontispiece is a rude cut representing Christ and little
children; the following Revelation is "An account of the
Lives, Sufferings, and Martyrdom, of the Apostles and Evan-
gelists," and also "A table of Kindred and Affinity, wherein
whatsoever are related are forbidden in Scripture, and by
our Laws, to marry together."

The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, translated
out of the Original Greek; and with the former translation dili-
gently compared and revised. Stereotyped by Luther Roby,
Concord, N. H. Groton, Ms. Published by A. Richardson.
1846. 16mo. pp. 254.

Luther Roby, who made the stereotype plates of this later
edition, was the youngest son of James and Lucy (Cutter) Roby, of Amherst, New Hampshire, where he was born on
January 8, 1801.

During my boyhood these two editions of the Testament
were common, particularly in the public schools where they
were used, but now they are very rarely seen. At that pe-
riod the first exercise of the scholars in the morning was the
reading of one or two verses from the New Testament.

Mr. Richardson took up his abode in the town of Methuen
about the year 1850.
Among my early recollections was a stage-driver, Henry Lewis Lawrence by name, who drove a coach from Groton to Lowell and afterward to Fitchburg. He lived in the three-story building at the south corner of Broad Meadow road and Main street, opposite to the northerly corner of the common. Mr. Lawrence was the second son of Daniel Hall and Kezia (Shattuck) Lawrence, of Pepperell, where he was born on November 8, 1808. His mother had ten children, who all lived to grow up to manhood or womanhood, and all but one was married. His eldest sister, Kezia, was the wife of Moses Gill of Groton, a well-known innholder, whom many persons still remember.

The mother died on October 4, 1822 — the day after giving birth to her tenth child — aged 41 yrs. 6 mos. and 3 days.

On December 20, 1832, Henry L. Lawrence married, at Westford, Martha H. Leighton of that town; and they had three children born at Groton as follows: William Henry, on October 14, 1834; George Lewis, on August 14, 1836; Maria Augusta, on January 9, 1839.

These two boys I knew very well and used to play with them, though they were somewhat younger than I was. We went to the same school, old District No. 1, which stood opposite to the academy grounds. Many years ago Willard Torrey gave me a list of the scholars that attended this school in the winter of 1839-40, when he was a school committee man. At that time Edmund Dana Bancroft was the teacher, and the paper is printed in the Groton Historical Series (III. 151). According to this list the salary of the master was eighteen dollars a month.

Both these boys served in the army during the War of the Rebellion with great credit to themselves, and for that reason I write this notice of them.

"Billy" Lawrence, as I used to call the elder of the brothers, was mustered into the service of the United States on May 25,
1861, as first lieutenant, and was appointed adjutant of the First Massachusetts Volunteers. On the staff of General Hooker, August 23, 1861, major, aide-de-camp, U. S. Volunteers, November 10, 1862. Engaged at the battles of Antietam, Lookout Mountain and Peach Tree Creek. Brevet Lieut. Colonel and Brig. General U. S. Volunteers, March 13, 1865. Mustered out on July 10, 1866, and died at East Boston on November 22, 1874.

For some years before his death he held a responsible position at the Boston Custom House. No native of Groton during the war reached so high military rank as did Billy Lawrence.

The Fitchburg Daily Sentinel, September 26, 1893, gives a sketch of George, the younger brother, which is so complete that I send it with no additions. It is a just tribute to a brave soldier and a worthy man:

Lieut. George L. Lawrence, the first Fitchburg man to enter the United States service for three years during the late war, died at his home, 39 Cottage square, this morning, after a wasting illness that extended over a period of more than ten years.

Lieut. Lawrence was the son of Henry L., and the late Martha H. (Leighton) Lawrence, and was born at Groton, August 14, 1836. His parents moved to Fitchburg when he was seven years old, and he attended the public schools of the town and while quite young he went to Boston, where he was employed by Liberty Bigelow in the office of the Grand Junction railroad.

He early developed a taste for military affairs and had been a member of the Fitchburg Fusiliers and the Boston Fusiliers before the breaking out of the civil war. He was a resident of Fitchburg when Fort Sumter was fired upon, but the Fusiliers not being called immediately into the service, he went to Boston, and on May 23, 1861, was mustered into the United States service as a sergeant of Co. G, First Massachusetts regiment. His older brother, William H., who was afterwards on Gen. Hooker's staff, was first lieutenant in the same company. George was promoted to second lieutenant, August 30, 1862, and to first lieutenant, July 2, 1863. He served the full term of three years.

After the expiration of his term of service he resumed his former position in the office of the Grand Junction railroad. Later, he was
baggagemaster for the B. C. F. & N. B. railroad between Fitchburg and Providence, and afterwards express messenger on the Fitchburg railroad between this city and Boston.

Lieut. Lawrence married January 4, 1870, Florence F., widow of Lieut. Fred H. Sibley and daughter of Harrison Smith, who, with one son Lewis S., survives him. His aged father and one sister Mrs. George F. Battles, are also living.

He was one of the bravest soldiers who served in the field and the seeds of his long illness were undoubtedly sown during the trying experiences of camp and field. His family mourn a kind and faithful husband and father, and the community loses an honorable and patriotic citizen.

Henry L. Lawrence, the father, outlived both his sons, and died at Fitchburg on December 19, 1895, at the advanced age of 87 yrs. 1 month and 11 days.

S. A. G.


TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION.

A STORY of the Civil War, as told by James Joseph O'Brien, a member of Company B, 26th Massachusetts Infantry, Captain E. S. Clark, a charter member and first adjutant of E. S. Clark Post, No. 115, G. A. R., of Groton, and Past Commander of George S. Boutwell Post of Ayer, Massachusetts, about the name of a confederate soldier on the memorial tablet in Groton.

Near the entrance to the Town Hall there is a large marble tablet, upon which, in letters of gold, are the names, command, date, and place of death, of soldiers who enlisted to fill the quota of the town of Groton. The tablet is the town’s memorial to its soldier heroes. One of these inscriptions reads as follows:

TIMOTHY O’CONNOR,
Co. B, 26 Mass. Regt
Killed at Winchester, Va.
Sept. 19, 1864.
Early in 1861, when the State of Louisiana seceded, the port of New Orleans was blockaded, and no one allowed to leave the city. So a great many Union sympathizers were caught in the trap, and rushed down the Mississippi River to Forts Jackson and St. Philip to do garrison duty, sandwiched in with strong Secessionists, and compelled to work the big guns against Farragut's ships. After the fleet had passed the forts, and destroyed the Confederate navy, it proceeded up the river to New Orleans. The Union men in Fort Jackson laid a plot to desert the fort that night; some two or three hundred of them made a dash at midnight for the Union lines. When the Secessionists saw what was up, they gave the alarm. The commanding officer ordered his men to man the big guns on the parapet, which they did at once, and expected to blow the Yankee deserters to smithereens. But to their great surprise and dismay every big gun on the parapet had been safely spiked; and Timothy O'Connor and James O'Neill, who led the deserters, marched to the Union lines bearing a flag of truce (which was a piece of old mosquito netting), and surrendered to the picket guard of the 26th Massachusetts Regiment. General Butler paroled them at once. They might go North if they chose, or enlist in the Union service. Many of them availed themselves of the offer to enlist, and Timothy O'Connor and James O'Neill both enlisted in the Groton Company, and were credited to the quota of the town. No name is more deserving to be honored than that of Timothy O'Connor. I have been asked why James O'Neill's name is not on the tablet. My answer to that is he was not killed in battle. At a later period O'Neill was transferred to the 5th United States Artillery.

Timothy O'Connor's brother John was for several years a resident of the South before the War, but unlike his brother Timothy, he was a rabid rebel and enlisted in the Confederate service, just after Timothy's escape. There was an old river-boat anchored in the Mississippi River between Algiers and New Orleans. This boat was used by the Union forces as a prison for rebel prisoners of war. At this time there were about two hundred prisoners on the boat. It was the custom
of some of the boys to get a pass to visit the prison-boat. Timothy O'Connor visited the boat one day, and was greatly surprised to find his brother John there. Thinking that his brother might like an opportunity to escape, if offered him, Timothy called him aside and proposed a scheme for him to go over to the Union side. John heard his brother's plans; and when he had finished he soundly berated him for proposing such an idea. Timothy had to make haste to leave the boat for fear his brother would expose him, as he strongly announced his allegiance to the Southern cause. An exchange of prisoners occurred soon afterward; and in a severe engagement, John was killed while fighting for the Confederacy. Timothy was killed at Winchester fighting for the Union.

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

In Hawley, Mr. Joseph Longley, born in Groton, Mass., Aug. 17, 1744. He was great grandson to William Longley, who, with a part of his family, were killed at Groton, by the Indians, in 1684 [1694?] — grandson to John Longley, who was Captain five years in Canada — and son to Joseph Longley, who was mortally wounded in the battle and defeat of Fort William Henry, 1758. When 16, he was in the French war one year and helped to build the stone barracks at Crown Point, 1760. He was five years in the revolutionary war for Independence. In the first eight months' service, 1775. At Ticonderoga in '76. At the capture of Burgoyne, '77. In December following, while in the van of 100 volunteers, under Maj. Hull, pursuing a foraging party, 32 were cut off by the British cavalry, near Derby, deprived of their blankets, and put in prison at Philadelphia, where more than half died of cold, hunger, and disease. In April, '78, he, with others, were put on board a prison ship for New York, where he was exchanged in July, and soon after joined his regiment, and was in the battle in Rhode Island, and in that signal retreat, under Gen. Sullivan.

"The Massachusetts Spy" (Worcester), August 24, 1836.

According to the genealogical tables in the Appendix to Mr. Butler's History (p. 417), Joseph Longley was born on
August 6, 1744. The date of his death was July 8, 1836, according to the American Almanac for the year 1837, where the following notice of him appears under the head of "American Obituary," though his Christian name is erroneously given as William:

July 8. — At Hawley, Mass., aged 92, William [Joseph?] Longley, who was one year in the French war, and 5 years in the revolutionary war (p. 304).

William was an elder brother of Edmund Longley, who was born at Groton, on October 31, 1746, of whom a biographical sketch appears in the American Almanac for the year 1844, under the head of "American Obituary for 1842," as follows:

Nov. 29. — In Hawley, Ms., Edmund Longley Esq., aged 96. He erected the first framed house in H. (then called No. 7,) and removed his family into it in 1781. He was sent for many years to the General Court; was the first Plantation and Town Clerk; held the offices of Town Clerk, Selectman, and Treasurer; was a Justice of the Peace for nearly 50 years, and was both a soldier and an officer in the revolutionary war (p. 313).

At Groton 15th inst, William Blodgett, formerly of Tyngsboro', a revolutionary pensioner, at the age of 90 years and 8 months. His descendants were 6 children, 37 grand-children, 23 great-grand-children, and one of the fifth generation. He entered the army at the age of 16 years, and was one of the number to guard Burgoyne's Troops at Winter Hill; he afterwards shipped on board a Letter of Marque on a trading voyage in 1782. On his return home in the brig Iris, of Boston, they captured at the mouth of James river, in Virginia, an English brig mounting 16 guns, with about 100 prisoners, among whom were 30 Americans in irons. On the 2d day after the battle, they encountered a storm which drove the American brig and the prize both on shore, and dashed them in pieces, and all was lost except the crews, which were saved by the inhabitants. He next entered the service of his Savior, and remained in his service about 60 years, and as he entered the threshold of eternity, he repeated the following lines:
"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
Or to defend his cause,  
Maintain the honor of his word,  
The glory of his cross."


Another Veteran Gone. — Died in Groton, August 2nd [1851], Mr. William Tarbell, one of the last of the Revolutionary patriots, aged 87. Mr. Tarbell joined the army when quite young, and was with General Washington during the last three years of the war, but having been appointed to draw plans and paint sketches of the various battle fields and encampments, by the commander-in-chief, he was never in any action during that time. He was with the army during its encampment at Valley Forge, and his picture of this camp ground, which was painted in the log house then occupied by Gen. Washington, is now in possession of his son in this city, and though much faded, is still an object of great interest.

"Daily Evening Traveller," September 25, 1851.

Stevens, Maj. Thomas, Brooksville, Me., 7 May; in his 90th year. He was a native of Groton, Mass., and a soldier of the Revolution.

"The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (VII. 295), for July, 1853.

In Groton, N. H. the 20th Nov. last, Mr. Samuel Blood, aged 67 years, a soldier of the revolution, and formerly of Groton, Mass.

"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), February 3, 1830.

In Groton, . . . . . ; Mr. Amos Davis, a soldier of the revolution, aged 82.

"Columbian Daily Centinel" (Boston), December 6, 1834.

Isaac Farwell, born in Groton, Mass., 1744, March 28, was a lieutenant at Bunker Hill, soon became a captain, and fought in the continental army till the close of the war. He died in 1791, Dec. 31, and is buried in the Charlestown [N. H.] cemetery.

Henry Swan Dana's "History of Woodstock, Vermont" (p. 597).

In Groton, Mass. Sept. 2, Captain Zacharias Fitch, aged 86.

"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), Sept. 9, 1820.
Died in Groton, Mass. June 24, Mr. Isaiah Hall, aged 74, a revolutionary soldier and patriot. For many years he had been gradually declining, and devoted the principal part of his time to reading and meditation. The word of God was his principal study and source of comfort, and when too feeble to read himself, nothing afforded him so much satisfaction as to hear its sacred contents often read. His last sickness, though long and lingering, was borne with that calmness and resignation which a firm faith in the religion of Jesus Christ imparts; and the remaining days of his bereaved partner will be consoled by that hope which animated him in his last hours, and made death to him the harbinger of eternal rest. — [Communicated.]

“Columbian Daily Centinel” (Boston), July 2, 1834.

In Pepperell, Jan. 14th, Mr. Robinson Lakin, 83, a revolutionary soldier — he was a drummer in the company commanded by Capt John Nutting, in Col Wm Prescott’s regiment, and was in the redoubt on Bunker Hill when the attack was made by the British army. In this battle eight of said company were killed and eight wounded.

“Boston Daily Advertiser,” February 27, 1838.

At Groton, on the 12th instant, Capt James Lewis, aged 74, (formerly of Billerica). In every situation in which he was placed through a long and active life, he bore an upright and honorable character. He was an officer of the militia during the whole of the revolutionary war; the companion of Buttrick, Davis, and others who composed that valiant little band that resisted a superior British force, at the bridge in Concord, on the memorable 19th of April, 1775. He continued a uniform and firm supporter of those republican principles, for which he so early stood forth, and ever supported the character of an exemplary citizen, tender husband, and kind parent — he lived respected and died lamented.

“Boston Patriot,” Saturday, June 23, 1810.

In Groton, 15th inst. Mr. Joshua Parker, a revolutionary soldier, 79; 


At Groton, Elnathan Sawtell, Esq. 83.

“Daily Centinel and Gazette” (Boston), September 3, 1836.
Mr. Sawtell was a Revolutionary soldier, and he died on August 31, 1836. His epitaph gives him the title of Lieutenant, which was acquired after the War.

In Groton, 7th July, Mr. Nehemiah Whetman, a revolutionary pensioner, aged 82.

"Columbian Daily Centinel" (Boston), August 5, 1835.

In Groton, Mr. David Wilson, a revolutionary soldier, aged 90. His death was occasioned by falling into the fire, supposed in a fit.

"Columbian Daily Centinel" (Boston) February 23, 1833.


"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), February 11, 1826.

In Groton, 20th inst. Lt. Pelatiah Russell, aged 77, an officer in the Army of the Revolution, and a pensioner.


At Groton, Jan. 9th, Lieut Wm Parker, 71; he was one of the vindicators of independence at 15 years of age, in the heat of the battle at Bunker Hill, and proved valiant during the war, both by land and sea.


Mr. Sheldon writes me from Deerfield, under date of July 19, 1892, as follows:


SOLDIERS' EPITAPHS.

The following inscriptions are found on gravestones in the old burying-ground, and will explain themselves: —
SOLDIERS' EPITAPHS.

[Cherub's Head]

Here lies the Body of
Joseph son of Mr. Ephraim
& Mrs. Azubah Parker
who died Sept. 22d 1775
Aged 5 years & 2 mon.
Also in Memory of Mr.
Nehemiah son of above
named persons, who died
in his Country service
at Ticonderoga Oct. 22d
1776. In ye 19th year of his
age.

Nehemiah Parker enlisted originally, on April 30, 1775, in
Captain Asa Lawrence’s Company.

[Cherub’s Head]

Memento mori
Here lies the
Body of Mr. Simon
Patch who was
wounded in ye defense of his Country
at ye White-Plains
Oct. 28th 1776 and
died of his wound
Dec. 31st 1776 in ye 28th year of his age.

The son of Ebenezer and Sarah Patch, born July 11, 1749. He was brought home on a litter from White Plains, New York, a distance of nearly two hundred miles, accompanied by his elder brother. The litter was made by fitting the butt-ends of two small trees into the stirrups of a saddle, and putting a sack of hay behind on the branches.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Memento [Cherub] Mori

Mrs. Abigail Kenrick
Widow of Capt. Caleb Kenrick, left her pleasant habitation in Newton, & came to her Daughter Dana's in Groton, on account of y° civil War & Sep' 5. 1775. Æ. 76. was removed by dysentery, to that place where y° wicked cea° from troubling & y° weary are at rest.

Her maiden name was Bowen, and her daughter was married to the Reverend Samuel Dana.

The following epitaph is copied from a marble slab in the Lawrence lot at the Cemetery. Mrs. Bigelow's death took place in Groton at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Luther Lawrence. Her husband, Colonel Bigelow, died on March 31, 1790, in Worcester, where there is a monument erected to his memory on the Common.

Here
lie the mortal remains of
Mrs. ANNA BIGELOW,
relict of
Col. Timothy Bigelow
She died Aug. 2, 1809,
Æt. 63 yrs.

SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Within a period of less than twenty years three persons have died, whose fathers were natives of Groton and soldiers during the American Revolution, namely: Andrew Johnson Parker (youngest child of Joshua Parker), who died at
WAR OF THE REBELLION.

Charlestown, on December 31, 1894; the Reverend Thomas Treadwell Stone, D. D. (youngest son of Deacon Solomon Stone), who died at Bolton, on November 13, 1895, and at the time of his death the oldest alumnus of Bowdoin College; and Luther Lewis Tarbell (youngest son of William Tarbell), who died at Marlboro, on July 10, 1896.

In connection with this subject, I will say that I remember William Tarbell very well, who in my day always used to wear a queue. In this notice of him the statement that he made a drawing of the encampment at Valley Forge is incorrect. In the summer of 1783, however, he did make a rude drawing of the camp at New Windsor just above West Point, where he was then serving. It represents the barracks and other features of the camp which I remember seeing very many years ago. Presumably it is still in the possession of the family.

WAR OF THE REBELLION.

Colonel Kimball was originally a member of the Fourth Battalion of Rifles, which was merged in the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers.

Enlisted with Massachusetts Rifles.

Colonel George Hartwell Kimball died unexpectedly at his home in Los Angeles, Cal., on Thursday from acute pneumonia. He was seventy-one years old and leaves a wife and one daughter. Colonel Kimball was born at Groton Sept. 25, 1841. When the Civil War began he enlisted in the Fourth Massachusetts Rifles, and because of his service he was promoted to be first lieutenant. He resigned in 1863. After a short stay in the East he went to Dakota and Arizona, where he was a post trader. Then, interested in grain commission business and storage, he went to California. He was lieutenant colonel and aide-de-camp on the staff of Governor Stoneman. Until 1877 he held a responsible position with the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco, and then went to Southern California to make his permanent home.

"Boston Evening Transcript," October 11, 1912.
FRANK L. HUGHES.

Here is another of the many, a few of whom still live, who fought their last battle on the field of Chancellorsville. He is the only son of Thomas N. and Mary C. (Cummings) Hughes, and was born in Groton, Mass., August 16, 1845.

He was wounded on the retreat by a piece of shell striking him on the spine. He was sent to hospital at Washington, D. C., then to Rhode Island, from which he was furloughed home and discharged.

He was married March 21, 1871, to Addie S. Sheppard, of Ashland, and has one child, Elmer C. He was a farmer's boy when he enlisted, but has been for many years since the war a prosperous merchant in the town of Ashland.


DEATH.


"Boston Journal," April 9, 1901.

He was the youngest child of Reuben and Sally (Parker) Wyman, and was born at Groton, on May 11, 1839. He enlisted in Company A, Fifty-third Regiment Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, on August 31, 1862, and served in the quota of Fitchburg until March 5, 1863, when he was discharged for disability. He left a widow and two sons, residents of Fitchburg.

DIED AT SOLDIERS' HOME.

Oliver L. Nourse, 65 years old, died this morning at the Soldiers' Home at Chelsea. He was a native of Groton, Mass., and was admitted to the home exactly one year ago yesterday. He served in the civil war as a sergeant in company C, 16th Massachusetts infantry. He was admitted to the home from Harvard.

THE INDIAN WORD "NONACOICUS."

In the library of the Historical Society there is a copy of a book, written in Latin by Joseph Acosta, and published at Cologne in the year 1596, which once belonged to Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, and bears his autograph signature, dated March 9, 1698-9. The volume is entitled "De Natvra Novi Orbis," etc., and has been in the possession of the Society for more than a century. On a fly-leaf, at the beginning of the book, is the following note in Judge Sewall's handwriting: "Nunnacdquis signifies an Indian Earthen Pot as Hañah Hahatan's Squaw tells me March, 24. 1698," — which throws some light on the meaning of an Indian word. I mention the fact, as I am inclined to think that the term is identical with or closely allied to Nonacoicus, the Indian name of Major Simon Willard's farm at Groton. William Hahatan, Hannah's husband, belonged to the Ponkapoag tribe. His name is sometimes written Ahauton, Nahatan, and even Nahaughton.

As the spelling of all such words by the early settlers was phonetic, Nonacoicus has several different forms; and it is easy to see how the one may have been taken from the other, or from a similar form. Another variation of the word, as given in Sewall's Letter Book (I. 98), is "Nonna Coyacas"; and Noñajcoyicus, Nonecoicus, and Nonacoiacus are also found in old manuscripts.

In the original survey of the farm, returned by Thomas Noyes to the General Court at the session beginning on October 18, 1659, it is said that the land lies "at the place wch is Called by the Indians nanajcoyijcus." From this it would seem that the name was given to the neighborhood by the red men, and not by the whites. Perhaps earthen pots were made in that locality, as fragments of pottery, as well as various stone implements, were formerly found there and elsewhere throughout the township; and this fact may have given a distinctive name to the place.

Originally Nonacoicus included the district in Harvard now known as the Old Mill, — two miles away from Willard's
farm, — where Jonas Prescott, of Groton, the grandfather of Colonel William Prescott, the American commander at Bunker Hill, had his grist-mill. John Prescott, of Lancaster, in his will, dated October 8, 1673, and on file in the Middlesex County Probate Office at East Cambridge, says in reference to his third son Jonas, named above, that "he hath received a full Childs portion at nonecoicus in a Corne mill and Lands and other goods." After the death of Major Willard, Nonacoicus farm passed into the hands of Hezekiah Usher, and the deed speaks of the place as "Nonaicoicus farme"; and in Sewall's Diary there are many allusions both to Usher and his wife. Usher's will is dated at Nonacoicus, on August 17, 1689. The judge himself was a member of the Third Church of Christ in Boston, now known as the "Old South," where he was a constant attendant on Sundays; and the minister at the time of the writing on the fly-leaf, was the Reverend Samuel Willard, a former preacher at Groton, and son of the first owner of the farm. All these circumstances, trivial in themselves, tend to show that the Indian name of the place was familiar to Sewall. The farm was situated on the banks of the Nashua River, in a neighborhood full of Indian traditions and associations. Major Willard's house was the first dwelling burned by the savages, when the town of Groton was destroyed in the spring of 1676.

My friend George J. Burns, Esq., a lawyer of Ayer, who has passed his whole life in the neighborhood of Nonacoicus, and is withal an accurate antiquary, thinks that the name was owing to the natural conformation of the land. The following letter, written by him in answer to one from me, gives a high degree of plausibility to his theory in the matter:

Hon. Samuel A. Green,
30 Tremont St., Boston:

My dear Dr. Green,—Upon the west side of the Nashua River, near the mouth of Nonacoicus Brook, there is a very peculiar natural formation that could not have escaped the attention of the Indians; and it was of sufficient importance, both as a landmark, and as a post
of observation commanding a view up and down the intervale, and rising above the floods that periodically inundate the surrounding lands, to have received a designation by them. While it is not alone the only "earthen pot" in this vicinity, it is just the kind of a formation to which such a name would be particularly applicable.

It consists of a promontory about 500 feet in length, varying from 300 to 500 feet in width, and protruding from the higher lands at the east in a succession of irregular ridges or small hills, which surround or enclose various hollows or basins, some of which contain water. During the last fifteen years I have often visited the place and wondered at its physical peculiarities, and I have tried to imagine what impression it made on the natives. I consider it the most interesting and curious natural feature of the territory called "Nonacoicus," and I am strongly of the opinion that it gave rise to the Indian name of this neighborhood.

Yours truly,

Geo. J. Burns.

Many years ago (May, 1893) I made the remarks given above before the Massachusetts Historical Society, in regard to the Indian word Nonacoicus, a name well known to Groton antiquaries. At a period some time later Mr. Wm. Wallace Tooker, of Sag Harbor, Long Island, wrote me a letter giving the full meaning and derivation of the word. As Mr. Tooker's authority is unquestioned in matters of Indian philology, I print it with a high appreciation of the favor. I was particularly interested in his allusion to the existence of steatite in this neighborhood. There is not a boy in town that does not know of the soapstone quarry, formerly worked quite extensively. At rare intervals in the vicinity Indian relics are still found.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 21st, 1898.

Dr. Samuel A. Green:

My dear Sir: — I thank you heartily for the five interesting pamphlets from your hands received yesterday. It is in such researches that I take delight. You have in Massachusetts a field almost limitless in my specialty, i. e., Indian place names and their history. Some one ought to assemble all your names wherever they can be found with brief historical memoranda relating to each name. I have done
this for Long Island, N. Y., and shall some day publish the result of my labors.

There is no question but what *Nunnaçquis* signifies an earthen pot, but that is not all it means. The terminal *coquis* is the "earthen pot." In a manuscript vocabulary taken down by Thomas Jefferson in the presence of James Madison and General Floyd in 1794, at Pusspaktuick, L. I., I find its parallel *coquées* "a pot." The prefix *nunna* is probably *nana, nunoh, nanap* or *nunnaw*, as Eliot varies it, "dry," hence "a dry earthen pot." The Indians were so very exact and descriptive in their place names that I can hardly believe it was ever applied to a natural feature, as suggested by Mr. Burns. It would indicate either the personal name of an Indian who lived thereabouts, called "dry kettle," or else it has lost its locative affix, and originally signified "a dry pot place," *Nunnaçquis-es-et*, which may not refer to a clay vessel but to those made of steatite or soapstone. Is there a soapstone quarry in the locality once frequented by the Indians? Many such, as no doubt you are aware, have been discovered in Rhode Island, Virginia and elsewhere.

Has your Society a copy of my Cockenoe-de-Long Island? It is now entirely out of print, and I have forgotten whether I sent one or not. I had only a few for distribution. If the Society has none, I will endeavor to find one.

Again thanking you for your kindness

I am very truly yours

Wm. Wallace Tooker.

---

**EARLY GROTON ITEMS**

We are informed from Groton, that a Man, his Wife and two Children died there of a Fever, in one Week.

And that a Woman of that Place, went to one of her Neighbours, for something in a Chest there, on which lay two Pistols loaded, the Woman of the House took them off and gave them to the other, while she opened the Chest; and stooping down to take out what she wanted, one of the Pistols went off in the Woman's hand, and shot her Neighbour through the Head, of which she died in a few Days.


Some Days ago a young Man at Work in a new House at Groton catching hold on a wrong Rope, fell from the Top to the Bottom, and was kill'd in a Moment.

"The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Advertiser," November 5, 1734.
A GLANCE BACKWARD.

CANAL FROM BOSTON TO THE HUDSON.

The schemes and undertakings of one generation are often interesting and suggestive to another, even when they are not carried out or completed. Many years ago Loammi Baldwin, a noted engineer of that period, made a survey for a canal from Boston to the Connecticut River, and proposed, furthermore, an extension from its western terminus to the Hudson River, with a tunnel under the Hoosac Mountain. An engraved plan of the survey was made by Annin & Smith, of Boston, which showed the exact route of the undertaking. It is found at the end of a "Report of the Commissioners of the State of Massachusetts, on the routes of canals from Boston Harbour to Connecticut and Hudson Rivers" (Boston, 1826), and is entitled "Plan of a Survey for a Canal from Boston to Connecticut River, with a sketch of a proposed Route to the Hudson. Made under the direction of the Commissioners by L. Baldwin, Engineer."

It is interesting to note the fact that the canal followed substantially, as might be expected, the present line of the Fitchburg Railroad. Beginning with Charles River it passed through Cambridge, Watertown, Waltham, Lincoln, Concord, Acton, Littleton, Groton, Shirley, Lunenburg, and Fitchburg, and from this place it went through Ashburnham and Winchendon and then followed down Miller's River to the Connecticut. Thence it was to pass up the Deerfield River through a tunnel under the Hoosac Mountain, by North Adams, and so down the Hoosac River to the Hudson.

Loammi Baldwin was a native of Woburn, and a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1800. After leaving Cambridge he studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, of Groton, and practised his profession for a few years, when he gave it up to become an engineer. In his new calling he soon attained distinction, and his services were in constant demand throughout the country, particularly in the construction of canals. While studying law at Groton, Mr. Baldwin
made, in the year 1802, a fire engine, of which the town then stood in great need; and this small machine is still in active use, after a service of more than a century, and to-day will throw a stream of water over the highest roof in the place.

The Canal Commissioners, in their Report (page 57), say:

The route, from the Nashua, continues over plains, on quite level land, without any very great impediments, through the southern part of Groton, to the Cuttecoonemugkeag, the outlet of Sandy Pond; thence along the southern side of that pond to Spectacle Pond, situated between Groton and Littleton. These ponds can be used as reservoirs.

I make this extract, in order to give the name of the outlet to Sandy Pond, as used by the Commissioners. Cuttecoonemugkeag is a word evidently akin to the name of the river in Shirley, but I have never seen it applied before to any stream in Groton. At the present time the outlet to the pond is called Sandy Pond Brook.

Mr. Baldwin, in his Report (page 112), says: —

From Sandy Pond, in Groton, near the schoolhouse No. 11, the water may be turned with great ease, to Spectacle Pond, into which falls Shaker's brook. The stream from Spectacle Pond passes through Forge Pond, in Westford, from which it is called Stony Brook, until it drops into the Merrimack River, in Chelmsford. From information derived from intelligent gentlemen, and from my own observation of part of this section of country, it will be quite easy to open a communication through the valleys of these ponds and brooks, to the Middlesex Canal, in Chelmsford. Whether it would be expedient to carry the main line of the proposed canal in that direction; or whether a branch only should be taken off from it that way, are questions which it may be important to have the means of settling. It will therefore add much to the valuable hydrographic information which these surveys will furnish, to cause a level and examination to be made, between the Nashua at Staples' mills, and the Middlesex canal.

School-house, No. 11, mentioned by Mr. Baldwin, was situated at the crotch of the roads, a short distance east of Sandy Pond, and is now in Ayer. Shaker's Brook at the present
time is called Bennett's Brook, named after an early settler of
the neighborhood. Staples's Mills were on the right bank of
the Nashua, near the site of William Mitchell's woollen mill in
Ayer, which was burned on the afternoon of August 4, 1873.

The heights of certain points along the proposed route of
the canal are given in the Report, and are counted from low
water mark in Boston harbor. I copy from page 113 those
which were then in Groton, but are now in Ayer, as follows:

Shaker's Brook, on line between Littleton and Groton, 220.28
Spectacle Pond, in Littleton and Groton, 212.54
Sandy Pond, Groton. 226.90
Top of under-pinning of school-house, No. 11, do. 237.64
Stone's saw-mill pond, on Sandy pond brook, do. 223.89
Sandy pond and Bear hill brook, do. 213.03
Stone at corner of Nuttings barn, do. 224.95

SAMUEL LAWRENCE'S RECOLLECTIONS.

The following reminiscences were written at my request,
more than thirty-five years ago, by the late Samuel Lawrence,
who was born at Groton on January 15, 1801, and died at
Stockbridge on March 18, 1880. He was the youngest child
of Major Samuel and Susanna (Parker) Lawrence, and the last
survivor of his generation. He was the only child of his
generation that was born in the present Lawrence mansion
on Farmers' Row. The other children with the exception of
Luther, the eldest child, were born in the old Tarbell house,
which stood substantially on the same site. Luther was born
in the house, occupied when I was a boy by Stow Hildreth,
about a mile from the village on the road to Harvard. The
old elm in front of the present Lawrence farm is said, on good
authority, to have been set out in the year 1740.

My earliest recollection of Groton is the death of Capt. Henry
Farwell in the year 1804. Dr. Chaplin was the only minister. Hon.
Timothy Bigelow, one of the most prominent lawyers of the State,
resided there, and being a graduate of Harvard College, as was Dr.
Chaplin, our winter district schoolmasters were all from Cambridge. Dr. Oliver Prescott was the oldest physician. There were three stores; their owners were called merchants with great propriety, for the number of articles they dealt in was never dreamed of by the merchants of Tyre or Venice. Squire Brazer was the richest and most important; he was quite old and corpulent, with reddish face, and wore a blue broad-tail dress-coat, with bright brass buttons two inches in diameter, white vest and cravat, and deep ruffled shirt, with black trousers, a high crowned hat with very broad brim. In the course of my life I have seen some of the mercantile magnates of Europe and this country, such as the Barings and Rothschilds, Stephen Girard and Astor, but I have never been so impressed as when in the presence of Squire Brazer. My most painful early memories are with the bitterly cold church, where there was no stove or furnace in winter.

There were two grist and saw mills, Capell’s on the Nashua and Tarbell’s on the Squannacook; on the last named river was also a carding and clothing mill of three brothers Rockwood. At that time all farmers kept sheep for food, but mainly for clothing. The wool was scoured in the family, carded into rolls about eighteen inches long and two inches in diameter by the Rockwoods, spun in the family on a stand-up wheel, backward and forward movement of the spinner, and generally woven into flannel by the same person, milled into cloth, dyed and finished by the Rockwoods. Sometimes a portion of wool was dyed a dark color, and mixed with white wool to get a pepper and salt color. The flannels for both sexes were made in the family, as well as sheets for winter. Flax was universally raised, rotted (stiff covering over the fibre), broken and hetchelled, and spun on the small wheel with power from the foot, making linen thread, which was woven into fabrics for domestic use. The tow from the flax after hetchelling was made into a coarse fabric for men’s frocks and trousers. Men’s and women’s underclothing, beyond the linen alluded to, was from the East Indies. A cotton fabric from China, called nankeen (nainkin), was much used in summer by gentlemen. Carpets made from rags were very common. I do not think there was any other kind in Groton, and not one piano.

‘The habit then was for all who could get it to use spirits, and drink some before dinner,—even the most temperate. The better class drank West India rum, and the poorer class New England rum. French brandy was seldom taken. Cider was universally used till
the temperance movement was started about the year 1817. Dr. Woods, of Andover, one of the leaders in this cause, told me forty years afterward the reason he engaged in it so actively was that he saw such abuse of ardent spirits among ministers; for he knew forty-four who drank so much as to affect their brains, and he had assisted in putting four to bed on occasions like ordinations.

At the period above mentioned there was neither a woollen or cotton mill in the State, and but few turnpikes; the Middlesex canal had just been opened from Chelmsford to Charlestown.

The mode of living in Groton was economical in the extreme. Books were rare indeed, few were published in the State, and Paternoster Row was on the titlepage of all the juvenile literature of that period.

In my earliest years my father's house was thronged by Revolutionary officers and soldiers, and I heard so much that I almost thought I was at Bunker Hill on the glorious Seventeenth. My father was an orderly to Col. Prescott, and knew all about the doings at Cambridge after the troops arrived there till they went to Bunker Hill. These soldiers acted like veterans in consequence of their two months' daily drilling. Enough has not been said on this point. The claim of Gen. Putnam's admirers never was dreamed of till long after both generals had been dead.

S. L.

Stockbridge. Sept. 5th, 1877.

THE LAWRENCE FARM.

To the Honourable the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts now Convened at Boston —

Humbly shews Amos Lawrence of Groton that Captain Samuel Tarbell late of said Groton Deceased — died Seized of a Farm containing about one hundred acres of Land that after his Death the same was divided into nine shares two whereof has been set off to his son Samuel Tarbell now a Refugee in New York that the same two shares have been since taken in execution for a Debt Due to the Government, and your Petitioner having purchased the other shares, it hath become necessary in order to his making a proper improvement of the same that he should have the two shares aforesaid
wherefore he Humbly prays your Honours to take the matter under
Consideration and to suffer him to purchase the same
the Consideration which he gave for the other shares was sixty
pounds silver money for Each and he humbly hopes that your
Honours would not demand more of him than the other proprietors
he would further observe that the buildings are not fit to Live in
& no part can be repaired without the whole that the Fences are
decaying and the Land Continually growing the worse and these
together with the Rates Constantly arising will render the Interest
but of very Little Value in a year or two whereof he hopes for the
Interest of the Government as well as for his own inconvenience that
he may be allowed to purchase and he will pray &c
February 16th 1781
Amos Lawrence
This may Certify that the subscribers with some of the other heirs
of Captain Samuel Tarbell Deceased sold their shares in said Tarbells
Farm in Groton for sixty pounds a share to Captain Amos Lawrence
February 16th 1781
Henry Farwell
Samuel Reed

[Indorsed] Amos Lawrence* Petition & Report Capt' Mitchell
Capt Waterman M' Lewis

Massachusetts Archives, CCXXXI. 452.

Commonwealth of } In the House of Representatives
Massachusetts — } March 3d 1781

On The Petition of Amos Lawrence of Groton in the County of
Middlesex, praying that he may be allowed to purchase Two ninth
parts of the Farm in the said Town of Groton which Capt' Samuel
Tarbell deceased died seized of, which Two ninths was Set of to his
son Samuel Tarbell, & has since been taken by Execution for a debt
due to this Government

Resolved that the Committee who are appointed to sell Confiscated
Estates in the County of Middlesex be & hereby are Authorized
& impowered to sell at publick or private sale as they shall
think most Beneficial for this Commonwealth, the above mentioned
Two ninths of the Farm which the above said Capt' Samuel Tarbell
Deceased, died seized of, & was set of to his son Samuel Tarbell
& make & Execute a good & legal deed or deeds of the same, &
they are hereby directed to pay the neat proceeds Arising by said
sale or sales into the Treasury of this Commonwealth taking Duplic-
THE LAWRENCE FARM.

cate Receips therefor one of which to be lodged in the Secretary's office

Sent up for concurrence Caleb Davis Spef

In Senate March 3: 1781 —

Read & Concurred Jer: Powell — Presi''

Approv'd John Hancock

[Indorsed] Rec'd pge 320 Resolue on the Petition of Amos Lawrence empowering the Agents appointed to sell confiscated Estates in the County of Middlesex to sell the Farm mentioned March 3: 1781 Massachusetts Archives, CCXXXI. 451.

At this time the Honorable James Prescott, of Groton, was one of a Committee of three, appointed for Middlesex County, to sell forfeited estates. Amos Lawrence, the petitioner, was the father of Deacon Samuel Lawrence, who died on June 20, 1785, when his son inherited the farm.

It may be worthy of note that Caleb Davis, the Speaker of the House at this time, two years later married the widow of William Bant, a wealthy resident of Groton, who came here from Boston, probably on account of the political troubles there at that period. The two following items have a certain connection with Mr. Bant, and I print them as I find them in the newspapers. Ezekiel Lewis was a trader of Groton, whose shop stood on a slight elevation just north of the Town House. Among my earliest recollections I remember the building, but it disappeared before Dr. Amos B. Bancroft built his house on the site. In my boyhood that whole square between Main Street and the present railway had no buildings thereon. It was then owned by Dr. Bancroft, Senior, and was called the Lewis lot.

Married — At Groton, on Wednesday the 20th ult. the Hon. Caleb Davis, Esq; to Mrs. Mary Anne Bant, Widow of the late Mr. Wm. Bant, and Daughter of Ezekiel Lewis, Esq; of this Town.


Died] — In this town, on Friday last [January 12], Mrs. Mary-Ann Davis, Consort of the Hon. Caleb Davis, Esq.

"The Massachusetts Gazette" (Boston), January 16, 1787.
The two following epitaphs are taken from a copy of Mr. Edward Doubleday Harris's "Lexington Epitaphs," in manuscript, now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Here Lyes the
Body of Deacon
NATHANIEL LAWRENCE
Formally of GROTON
Dec'd at LEXINGTON
April the 14th 1724
in the 85th Year
of His Age.

HERE LYES THE
BODY OF DEACON
THOMAS TARBALL
AGED 48 YEARS
& 3 M° DIED
OCTO Y 8 1715
He belonged to
Groton

THE FIRST CHURCH AT WEST GROTON.

The following account of the gathering of a religious society at West Groton, and the dedication of their house of worship, is taken from the "Zion's Herald" (Boston), October 14, 1885:

The editor of this paper [Rev. Bradford Kinney Pierce] was invited to preach the sermon at the dedication of a house of worship in West Groton, Mass., last Wednesday [October 7]. This village has been connected with Ayer Junction, and a minister from the Conference has supplied both preaching places. Worship is held in a hall in Ayer, and had a very commodious room heretofore for its services in West Groton. This year one of our enterprising and devoted young men, Rev. H. G. Buckingham, has been the pastor of the circuit. There is no church edifice in West Groton. The church members, of various orders, are connected with distant bodies. The village is small, and there was little wealth that could be summoned in aid of a new religious enterprise. The neighbors met together and,
opened a subscription which proved much larger than their anticipa-
tions. And now they have a beautiful church, of the Queen Anne
style, neatly furnished, seating three hundred when crowded, with a
pleasant toned bell, and without debt. No separate church has been
organized, but they heartily invite the Methodist ministry and enjoy
its forms of service and administration of the ordinances. The ritual
of the church was used as the form of dedication. The house was
filled on the occasion. The Congregational, Baptist, and Episcopal
ministry were represented. Rev. Bros. Gould and Ichabod Marcy,
with these brethren from sister churches, assisted in the exercises of
the occasion. Everybody seemed to feel that the neat little chapel
was a great benediction to the village. We trust a blessed revival of
religion will show that the divine seal is set upon the enterprise.

A BRIEF SKETCH.

DURING the pastorate of Rev. Alfred S. Hudson, on May 20, 1893
the Union Evangelistical church of West Groton was formed. After
the preaching service all members of evangelical churches, who had
taken their letters and were ready to unite themselves together in a
new church with such others as desired for the first time to identify
themselves with the church of Christ, were invited to come forward.
Of the first class were Charles Bixby, Edward K. Harrington, Mrs.
Laura A. Harrington, Mrs. Mary E. Bixby, Mrs. Lynnet W. Bixby,
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gleason and Emma Gleason. Of the second
class were Everett H. Small and Miss Annie F. Blood, the last two
receiving the rite of baptism.

The creed, which was very simple, was read and assented to then,
the covenant with God and with each other. They were then pro-
nounced the Union Evangelical church of West Groton. The cere-
mony ended with receiving the right hand of fellowship. After this
the Lord’s supper was administered and the congregation dismissed
with the benediction.

Immediately afterward the church came together and chose its offi-
cers as follows: Mrs. L. W. Bixby, clerk and treas.; Charles Bixby,
E. K. Harrington and E. H. Small, standing committee.

This brief account of the forming of the Union Evangelical church
in West Groton is written by request of the pastor.

DEDICATION AT GROTON.

The meeting house of the First Parish in Groton, having been thoroughly repaired and remodelled into a more commodious and beautiful church, was dedicated on Wednesday, May 20, to the service of Almighty God and the religion of His Son. Rev. Mr. Chandler of Shirley made the Introductory Prayer and read the Scriptures. Rev. Mr. Bates of Ashby made the Dedicatory Prayer. Rev. Mr. Wells, the pastor, preached the Sermon. Rev. Mr. Babbridge of Pepperell offered the concluding Prayer. After some happy allusions to the thoughts that must fill the minds of the worshippers in leaving their old seats, and to their present anticipations and prospects, the preacher took for his text, 1 Cor. iii. 11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ," and divided his sermon into three heads, viz. Jesus Christ the foundation of our faith, practise and peace, — each of which was forcibly and happily illustrated. The discourse was well adapted to the occasion, was characterized throughout by its charitable spirit and practical bearing, and listened to with profound attention and interest by a large audience. The day was pleasant, the house was full, and the singing was of high order. We sincerely congratulate this ancient society in their efforts to secure the blessings of Public worship and a more convenient church. A floor has been thrown under the galleries, the lower part is finished off for a town house and vestry, and the upper part taken for the church, which is neat and finished. The pulpit, with the communion table and chairs are of black walnut, the expense of which was over $300. May the society long enjoy the worship of God in the church they have thus fitted up for his service, and long be blessed with the ministrations of their devoted Pastor. We hope their example will be followed by other parishes, who worship in those large and inconvenient houses which were erected for the use of the town, when there was but one religious society; have pulpits of some twelve or fifteen steps; pews several feet square and seats facing in every direction; in which the worshippers are annoyed by the heavy falling of seats; which require double the amount of fuel that modern churches do, to warm them in the winter, and in which, with all the means used to warm them, the worshippers are shivering with the cold and consequently can profit but little by the instructions imparted. No pains ought to be spared to render our places of Public Worship attractive, not by their splen-
A CHURCH ORGAN.

Mr. James Lawrence, son of Hon. Abbott Lawrence, has recently given an organ to the Orthodox Society in Groton. The case of this organ is 14 feet high, 6 1-2 feet deep, and 10 1-2 wide. It has two banks of keys, a sub-Bass, and 20 Draw Stops, as follows:—

**Great Organ.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop</th>
<th>Great Organ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Diapason</td>
<td>Open Diapason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Diapason Bass</td>
<td>Stop Diapason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Diapason Treble</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Viol de Gamba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelfth</td>
<td>Hautboy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteenth</td>
<td>Swell Bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Tremulent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarabella</td>
<td>Couple Swell &amp; Great Organ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dulcimer</td>
<td>Couple Pedals &amp; Great Organ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesquialtra</td>
<td>Couple Pedals &amp; Swell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This large and beautiful organ was made to order by Geo. Stevens of Cambridge, for $1000. For mechanical finish, for richness and
beauty of tone, we think it is not surpassed by any organ we have ever seen or heard. It has sufficient power and variety of tone to answer any needful purpose that can be answered by those which have formerly cost two or three thousand dollars. These noble instruments have, until recently, been so expensive, that but few churches out of our cities and larger towns have been able to procure them. But now they are so cheap that almost every religious society can afford to furnish themselves with this noble auxiliary to the praise of God in the place of religious worship. Societies need not anticipate any difficulty in finding persons who can play their organ well. Get the organ, and necessity will raise up organists, those who can play them with taste and acceptance. There are in almost every town young ladies who can play on the piano or melodeon, and these young ladies, with very little study and practice, can qualify themselves to do admirable service on the organ.


MR. BARSTOW'S DEDICATION SERMON.

Extract from a Dedication Sermon, by the Reverend John Barstow, preached in the Union Meeting-house at Groton, Massachusetts, October 7, 1888, and repeated by request, October 13, 1888.

Previous to the building of this house the church met regularly in the old Academy building. On the twenty-first of November in the year preceding the building of the church, a council was held, and the Union Church of Christ was organized. The members of the old church were present at the meeting, but though they were consulted in reference to all the details of the new church, its creed, its covenant, etc., they did not then unite with the church by reason of certain legal aspects which were then important. Thirty persons—fifteen men and fifteen women—composed the new church, all uniting on profession of their faith in Christ. Of that number one is with us to-day, our good brother Milo Russell. "It is a small church," writes Mr. Todd, "but I trust its foundations are strong and pure. I believe it to be built on the Rock Christ Jesus. To him would I give all the glory."
The heartiness and zeal which the people manifested in building the house recall the spirit of those who built the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and the first Temple in Jerusalem. For all the other church buildings the money had been raised by votes of the town, and it was made a town matter. Now no money would the town appropriate, and the money must be raised by voluntary contribution. We can get some idea of the enthusiasm that was manifested and of the sacrifices that were made when we read "that almost all the active women and girls cut off half of the long fringe of their shawls to make a rug for the pulpit." "Many a poor girl offers to give half she is worth for the object," and "one lady said she would rather her husband should sell half his farm than that the undertaking should fail." And it did not fail. At the beginning of the following year Mr. Todd could write, in addition to all the labor they expended, "In one year my people have raised $8,873." The union of the two churches, which was contemplated at the time when the name was given to this church, was not consummated until the year 1830, when one pastor of the first Orthodox Church (so called to distinguish it from the present first Parish Church) with several of his flock was formally received into the Union Congregational Church, and the two churches became one in name, as they had been from the first in sympathy and fellowship.¹

During the sixty-two years that this house has stood, there have been nine pastors, who have labored with the church for a year or longer, all but two of whom have been regularly installed. The longest pastorates have been those of Reverend Mr. Bulkley, of thirteen years and four months; Mr. Phelps, twelve years and eleven months; and Mr. Robie, nine years and eight months. The average term of service has been six years and four months. The church building itself has been remodelled three times. In 1846 the question was agitated about raising the building, but it was finally decided to raise the floor four feet, and the old Vestry was then put in. Before that time the prayer meetings were held in the little room over the church.

The greatest change in the audience room was made in 1869, when the choir-gallery was lowered, the old-fashioned pulpit taken away, and new and more comfortable seats put in.

¹ This refers to those members of the First Parish Church who had from the beginning sympathized with the new Society, but who had not as yet dissolved their connection with the old one. — Editor.
The change on which we are congratulating ourselves to-day has long been thought desirable, and many of us have cherished the hope that sooner or later it might come about.

If any work was ever begun and carried on in prayer, I am sure that this work has been. When the Spirit of God, I believe, led me to present the subject to you on the eleventh of last March, he also prepared your hearts to open wide to give, even as the children of Israel, with willing hands for the carrying on of the work. I remember with what hesitancy I entered the old Vestry on the following Saturday, not knowing what would be the result of the meeting, and a little later came out with a light and grateful heart at your generous subscription of $1800. During the following week the sum swelled to over $3000. The movement seemed to be spontaneous; and whenever any movement in the interests of God's Kingdom or in obedience to his will is thus taken up by his people, he often blesses them far above that they even dared to expect. So has it been with us. We planned for a chapel, without any thought of improving the church, and lo! we have as beautiful and attractive a vestry as any one could wish. The church building itself has been wonderfully improved externally, and our eyes have already caught the transformations that have taken place within. Who would have dared to hope, six months ago, that all these changes could have been made without incurring a large debt, and best of all, with hardly the sound of a discordant note. And yet this is what God has wrought. And shall I tell you the secret of our marvellous success? In a word, I believe it was prayer. Not a meeting of your Committee has been held without first invoking the special guidance of our God, and when we have been unable fully to agree at first, we have fallen on our knees and besought the Lord to direct us, and we have heartily agreed on the work to be done. And more than the Committee even dared to hope has been accomplished.

That there are many things that we could improve upon were we to do the work again, is only too true; that others might have done the work better, we do not doubt: but I do not believe that any work was ever done on a church building or on any public building where there has been more outward harmony and fraternal good-will than has characterized our work; and to God alone shall be all the praise.
THE UNION CHURCH.

The late Reverend Dr. John Todd, in a letter dated December 2, 1826, and printed on page 175 of his Life, gives the origin of the name Union Church, as applied to the Orthodox Society in Groton, which is now generally forgotten. Few persons of the present day remember the bitter controversy that raged in New England when the Congregational churches were torn asunder by internal dissensions, and the deep sectarian feeling that followed the division of the parishes. Dr. Todd writes: "The church was consecrated by the name of 'The Union Church of Christ in Groton,' a name of my selection, as I hope the two orthodox churches will one day be united." At the time of their separation both societies were considered orthodox.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The church in Groton, a mission of St. Mary's Parish, Ayer, was dedicated on Sunday, Oct. 8, by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Wm. Byrne, D. D. P. A., of Boston, vicar-general of the archdiocese. A solemn high mass followed, during which the Rev. T. I. Gasson, S. J., of Boston College, preached. The church was for nearly 20 years the chapel of Groton School. It was bought by the archbishop about a year ago, and moved from Farmers' Row, the fashionable residential street, to its present site on Main Street.

"The Pilot," Boston, October 21, 1905.

REV. FR. FINNEGAN GOES TO GROTON.

Rev. Father Charles A. Finnegan, who for twelve years has been a member of the Boston diocese and associated with a number of Boston pastors as their assistant, has been rewarded for his long and faithful service by being assigned as pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart at Groton. This is an independent parish and was formerly connected with the parish at Ayer.

THE REV. DR. LOTHROP'S REMINISCENCES.

During the year 1888 there was privately printed a small edition of a book entitled "Some Reminiscences of the Life of Samuel Kirkland Lothrop," which gives in an easy and graceful style the recollections of the reverend author. Mr. Charles Robinson, who is mentioned in the following extract from the volume, for a short time in 1818 taught a school at Cambridge, which young Lothrop attended. He afterward was the settled minister of Groton.

I was sorry to lose Mr. Robinson. He was an excellent teacher, and our little school under him was a good and pleasant one. Two experiences with him afterwards I may as well relate here. He studied Divinity and was settled at Groton, where he had a successful ministry of fifteen or eighteen years, resigning about 1840. At this time I had been four years at Brattle Street. Our church was invited to the council to install his successor, and I went up with Mr. William Lawrence, a native of Groton, as my delegate. Robinson made the installing prayer, and he made it forty-five minutes long,—spreading before the Lord the whole history of the town and the church, as well as offering at the close some earnest petitions in behalf of the new minister. During the prayer I was in the front pew, standing next to Andrew P. Peabody, then of Portsmouth. He was to preach the sermon (it was shorter than the prayer), and as he was passing me to go up to the pulpit, he said, "If Brother Robinson had begun where he left off, and remembered that it may be taken for granted that God knows some things, he would have done better."

After leaving Groton Mr. Robinson was settled at Medfield, and in the summer of 1845 we had some correspondence about an exchange. He proposed one Sunday, which I declined, proposing another, if I had a favorable answer from him. I heard nothing; but on that Sunday, the moment I entered my own church I saw a head in the pulpit, and on reaching the top of the pulpit stairs found it was Mr. Robinson, who said rather sharply, "How is this, sir? Why are you not at Medfield?" "Because I did not hear from you," I answered. "There was nothing said in your note about hearing from me," was his reply. "I think there was," I said; "at any rate,
there is no use in disputing about it now; the mistake, whoever it is, can't be remedied. I can't get to Medfield or you get back in season to conduct services there. You are here, and we shall be very glad to hear you preach.” Mr. William Lawrence invited us all home to dinner. Mrs. Lawrence, a kind hearted, excellent, hospitable woman, presently said to Mr. Robinson, whom she had known at Groton, “I hope Mrs. Robinson is well, sir. I should have been very glad to have seen her with you.” The answer came short, crisp, sharp, “My wife is dead, madam.” There was an awful silence, the tone of the answer being such that no one knew what to say. Mrs. Lawrence was the first to recover herself. She said, “I am very sorry, sir; I had not heard of Mrs. Robinson’s death. The children I hope are well; I wish you had brought one of them with you.” Again the answer came in a worse tone than before, “We never had a child, madam!” (pp. 71, 72).

PETER STEVENS.

SALEM, May 10th 1782

This may Certify that I Peter Stevens of Groton was taken on Board the Ship Venus, from Boston Commanded by Cap’ Babcock. was Carried into Hallifax put on Board the prison ship, from which I made my escape; was taken up and put on board the Attalanta sloop of war I made my escape from her travelling towards Capersue. About six or seven miles from Hallifax met a man by the name of Albro who carried me aside gave me two Dollars and Directed me on my Rhode, told me that if I got to Capersue to enquire for one Cap’ Foot who he knew would assist me. I got safe to Capersue by the help of many Friends that I met with on the Rhode, I went to Cap’. Feet and staid at his House some time with several other prisoners. He came on purpose with his Boat to fetch us home, and refused pay for it, saying that he never made a practice of taking anything from prisoners in Distress this is the usage I met with and have reason to Believe hundred others have receiv’d the same from Capt Foot. — I can but Greatfully Acknowledge his favours and sincerely wish that he may meet with Due encouragement and protection from this State —

Massachusetts Archives, 237 (Revolution Resolves, etc., 1782, p. 19).
GEN. JOSEPH B. VARNUM.

Joseph Bradley Varnum was a prominent character in this neighborhood during the Revolutionary period and many following years. At the date of this letter, partisan politics ran high in this State, but General Varnum lived to fill some of the most responsible and honorable positions in the Commonwealth. He had been Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington and for one term a United States Senator. He was born at Dracut, on January 29, 1749–50, and died on September 11, 1821. Notwithstanding the opposition to him from certain citizens of Groton, he was commissioned as Brigadier-General by Governor Strong, and some years later as Major-General. When he died in 1821 he had filled the long term of over forty-five years of active and continued service in the history of military affairs in the Commonwealth.

Groton Aug. 7, 1798

May it please your Excellency—

The present crisis in our publick affairs gives to political events, even of a local nature, a degree of importance which they do not commonly possess. By the late resignation of General Woods, who commanded this brigade for upwards of ten years, the office of Brigadier became vacant.—Pursuant to division orders which had been issued for that purpose, the field officers of the brigade, nine in number, assembled yesterday in Westford for the choice of General Wood's successor. It has long been known, and that, even from Col. J. B. Varnum's own declaration that he has anxiously desired this appointment and has continued in the command of his regiment many years more than is customary in order to stand a candidate for it—. But Col. Varnum's known political sentiments not agreeing with those of a majority of the electors, and at this particular junction, being considered as dangerous in a man high in military office, he has not been elected,—there being but three votes in his favour and his own vote being solitary for another person. Nevertheless, though there were five other voters, they did not make a majority for any person. Four of them were for Col. Benj'. Sawin,—and his own vote would have determined the election in his favour — But he had
too much independence and sense of propriety to vote for himself. Therefore after a great number of trials, no choice was made; and the electors seeing the impossibility of an agreement, concluded to give over the attempt and leave the appointment with your Excellency and the Council according to the Constitution.

We take the liberty to address this concise history to your Excellency, because from the known disposition of a certain party we are not without suspicions that attempts will be made to impress your mind with colourable statements — At the same time we beg leave to add an expression of our hope, that as Middlesex seems to be emerging from the mist of error by which she has long been remarkably obscured, an appointment will not now be made that shall force her under the influence of a restless and designing character; and we have the more confidence in this expression on account of the sentiment advanced by your Excellency and the Legislature during their late session, that it was the duty of good citizens at this time to discountenance such characters as propagate sentiments and opinions incompatible with the safety and honour of our Country. —

We have the honour to be  
with the highest respect  
your Excellency's most obedient  
and very humble Servants  

TIMOTHY BIGELOW  
AARON BROWN  
SAMSON WOODS  
SAML DANA  
JAMES PRESCOTT JR  
OLIVER PRESCOTT JR

[Addressed to]  
His Excellency  
Increase Sumner Esq.  
Roxbury.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEDFORD.

According to a memorandum among the Isaac Stearns papers in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the intention of marriage between John Emerson Ross, of Bedford, and Jane Priest, of Groton, was duly published by Samuel Lawrence, Town-clerk of Groton, on December 5, 1776.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

LEOMINSTER.

The first settled minister of Leominster was the Reverend John Rogers; and the first marriage ceremony performed by him in that town was that of Ezra Hale, of Leominster, and Lydia Frost, of Groton. My authority for this statement is found on page 15 of the Reverend Rufus P. Stebbins's "Centennial Discourse" (Boston, 1843), delivered on September 24, 1843. The date of marriage, as given in the Groton Historical Series (I. No. XIII. 49), is June 5, 1744.

THE LAWRENCE FAMILY AT GROTON.

The following account of several Groton families is furnished in order to correct certain errors which appear in the Rev. John Lawrence's "Genealogy of the Family of John Lawrence" (Boston, 1869). The leading error is printed on page 79, where it is said that John Lawrence, born at Groton, Nov. 13, 1741, married Sarah———, and had seven children. According to the author "Mr. John Lawrence died Dec. 26, 1799, having been thrown from a sleigh in Cambridge, in the sixtieth year of his age, the same person, it is believed [Italics mine], who was born in Groton, 1741. The widow Sarah died Nov. 16, 1810, aged sixty-five years." This belief on the part of the author, based on an entire misapprehension of facts, has led to much confusion in the record of many families, as printed in the book. In fact it breaks utterly the connection of these families with this line of descent, and without authority adds another line of descendants.

Without attempting to trace the various branches as there mentioned, I will give the correct record of John Lawrence, together, with an account of some of his descendants. The facts in the main are taken from the family Bible, now in the possession of Abel Lawrence, a grandson.

Nathaniel Lawrence, Jr., and Dorothy Chamberlain, both of Groton, were married by the Rev. Caleb Trowbridge, on Feb. 4, 1728-9; and they had eight children, of whom John was the youngest son, born Nov. 13, 1741, and died Nov. 26, 1822. See Groton Histori-
cal Series (III. 388) for a reference to the funeral of "Widow Lawrence y* mother of John Lawrence aged 83 years," which took place in April, 1790. John married Abigail, eldest daughter of Ezekiel and Abigail (———) Nutting, born Oct. 10, 1753, and died July 10, 1847; and they had eight children, as follows:

John, born April 4, 1777, died July 9, 1834. On July 16, 1799, he married Margaret Gragg, who died May 20, 1845. (See Groton Epitaphs, p. 183.)

Nathaniel, born April 28, 1779, and died June, 1779.

Nathaniel, born July 25, 1780, and died July 1, 1831; his widow Sally died Sept. 19, 1840.

Ezekiel, born July 20, 1783, and died Sept. 30, 1789.

Abigail, born Sept. 6, 1786.

Abel, born June 12, 1789, and died May 4, 1835.

Sarah, born April 8, 1792, and died Oct. 26, 1822.

Mary, born April 1, 1795.

Nathaniel, son of John and Abigail (Nutting) Lawrence, was married to Sally Shattuck, daughter of Job and Elizabeth (Blood) Shattuck, born May 2, 1790. He died July 1, 1831, and his widow, Sept. 19, 1840.

Their children were:

Nathaniel, born August 4, 1808, married Eliza Hubbard, had two children, and died about sixty years ago.

Abigail, born Jan. 3, 1811, and died Aug. 23, 1812.


Daniel, born June 14, 1815, and died May 15, 1843.

Abigail, born Aug. 11, 1817, and died in Lowell, June 15, 1835.

John, born Sept. 22, 1819, and died unmarried in Townsend, Sept. 7, 1897.

Elizabeth, born Dec. 26, 1821, married Aug. 31, 1849, Alvin Davis, son of Silas and Patty Davis, of Hubbardston. They lived for fourteen years in Elmira, N. Y.; and after her husband's death she returned to Groton, and is now (1907) living with her brother Abel, on Hollis Street.

Abel, born Aug. 5, 1824, was married, March 5, 1849, at Townsend, by the Rev. Luther H. Sheldon, to Eliza, daughter of Minot and Sophronia (Hall) Baldwin, of Townsend. His wife died at Groton, Sept. 14, 1893.
William, born Dec. 9, 1827, and now living at Laconia, N. H. He has been married, and has had two daughters, but the wife and both children are dead. He died at Laconia on September 6, 1908.

The children of Abel and Eliza (Baldwin) Lawrence are Abel Lorenzo, born at Groton, March 2, 1850, married Nelly Payne, of Detroit, Mich., and died there, Sept. 12, 1893, leaving two sons, both married, of whom one, Harold Payne Lawrence, took the degree of M.D., at the Detroit College of Medicine in May, 1905; and Charles, born at Townsend, April 23, 1851, married, Aug. 18, 1880, Fanny D. Marsh, daughter of Charles D. and Margaret (Quackenbush) Marsh, of Marlboro; now living at Groton, no children. He died in Boston, November 22, 1909.

The will of the first Nathaniel, here mentioned, is on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge. It is dated August 30, 1775, and was received at the office on October 4, 1775; and his death must have taken place between those dates. It was not probated at Cambridge — where the office then was — until May 28, 1776. The delay, doubtless, was due to the confusion in the neighborhood during that Revolutionary period when the town was occupied by the American troops. The assent to its probate was signed by five of the children, and by a grandson Nathaniel, only son and surviving heir of Nathaniel, Jr. In his will he mentions son John, whom he made executor, daughter Dorothy Hudson, sons Thomas and Isaac, daughter Abigail Gilson, and daughters Eunice and Martha. His daughter Dorothy was married to Benaiah Hudson, of Pepperell, on March 7, 1754, and his daughter Abigail, to Nehemiah Gilson, of Groton, probably in the year 1765; and they both had large families.


AN ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL.

The following paper, recently brought to light, gives about the only information we have of an Ecclesiastical Council, held at Groton, on April 15, 1712, which was called to consider the troubles between Mr. Bradstreet, the minister, and the church. The exact nature of the complaints then made by his parishioners is not known, but from the answers to
some of the charges, their general character may be surmised. It has been thought that the troubles grew out of Mr. Bradstreet’s Episcopal tendencies, but by the light of the manuscript this theory seems untenable. The paper itself is not the original report of the Council, but a contemporaneous copy of the same. Both from the style of writing and from the spelling it appears to be in the hand of Jonas Prescott, an inhabitant of Groton, who at that period was prominent in the affairs of both church and town. While he may have been illiterate himself, like most men of his times, and unused to scholarly ways, he became the ancestor of a long line of families distinguished in many different walks of life.

The Council consisted of five ministers or elders, and nine lay delegates or messengers. The ministers were the Rev. Grindall Rawson, of Mendon, who acted as Moderator of the Council; Rev. John Hancock, of Lexington, grandfather of the signer; Rev. Joseph Baxter, of Medfield; Rev. John Swift, of Framingham; and Rev. John Prentice, of Lancaster. The messengers were Thomas Wilder and John Houghton, of Lancaster; Samuel Stone and Joseph Bowman, of Lexington; Jonathan Boyden and Samuel Roocit (Rockwood), of Medfield; David Ryse (Rice) and Joshua Hemenway, of Framingham; and John Tyler, of Mendon.

At a Council of five Churches Called by y’ Reud mr dudly brodstreit and the disatisfied bretherin of the Church of Crist in Groton & held in sd Groton Aprel 15: 1712 refering to the unhapy difference between them wee the subscribers Conuened at the time and place aboue sd & havung Earnstly Implored the help of all mity God and herd & Examined Eeudinces and allagations one all sids do advise and determin as foloueth

Impremise or Impmy That the advise tack place as to the first articol in the Charg which the reuernt Eldrs which were with them in novembr y° [date omitted] 1710 did giue them namly that nither mr brodstret nor others should insist one the charges mad by them that could not be mad out Concidiring the ouer of temptation thy were in & that a contry corse mit haue a tendencey to Cast them in to further and grater confusons

II as to thee woord raysing in y° 2 articoll the sudscribers to the
charge desired it mit be with drawne as to mr brodstrets reporting the
story refered to in the sd Charge mr brodstret has gien ampel satist
faction particiterly to Thomas Tarboll iuner y^e parson Imeditly
Concarned and the 4 brethren whoo sined the sd Charge publickly
de clared them selues satisfied

III Concidding y^e unacountabol parplexity and Contridixon of
Euedinces refering to y^e 3^d articol uise y^e charge layed against mr
brodstret for abominadle Cariage towders towards [sic] the wife of
Samuell Keemp wee are not aboll to de termin for the present one
which side the truth lyes & there fore shall leue it to farther concidra-
tion untill wednesday y^e 18 day of June next insuing at malbray unto
which time and place we do agorne the councel hoping that thare may
bee sumthing more of lite by that time gained by the help of which
wee may be Enabled to pas to a more full deterrmination.

III whers the reuorant mr brodstret is Charged with Immod-
actions at the house of Sameuell Commines one a saturday night we
find the Euedinces in that Case so Conuyctine that we determin it to
be mr brodstrets duty to submit to the Euidences and mack satis-
faction according to gospell rull

V the fifth and sixt articls in the Charges Exhidited to us ware re-
caled by the disatisfied brethren them selues & therefore we find
no reson to tack it in to our thouts too determin any thing apone them
we cannot but Expres the gratt & afliicttiue sence we haue of the
lamantabl condison ouer beloued brethren are in & of the sufering
state of religion among them by reson of the long contineued and Exer-
siseing differences & diuesions where bey their pese and quieat haue bin
ob structured & it is with Extreme sorou and afliction of spert wee be
hould the diffrances arision be twene y^e reuernd mr dud brodstret and
the disatisfied brethren and other inhabintence be come so wide & grate
as for bid us to hope for such reconcilation betwene them as may of fer
a prouibel prospect of the con tinuance of the relation thay stand in
Each to other comortable to either and do therefore beleue it to
be y^e most hopefull Expedaent to their peese and comfort that the
Church of Crist and in hadittance of Groton do frely Consent that the
reuernd mr dudly bradstt may re moue from them & wee beleue it will
Conduse to his oune Comfort to exept that liberty when aloued him :
wee furder ad that in order to his pesoble remoue from them it is their
duty to maintaine a Du regard to his iust rits according to thare a
greement with him above his setlement with them in the pastorl
offise whilst this be dune wee cannot supepose thay will deel justly with
him nor comfortably for them selues & to y' providing to a nu settlement finely we Judge it the duty of paster and pepel to humbll them selues under the the [sic] ueru sever and Just & holy prouidence of God in per miting saton the Enemy of souls so long to inaud & imbors thare peese & to be very lawfull to in quier into the causes of God anger & holy indignation manifest in so sore & humdling a dispershon of prouidence touerds them and we beleue it their duty to beg that God would shou to Euerly of them where in thay haue dun a mis to be waill it be fore God & to ask importinatly his pardoning marsey thorough the bloud of a gratious & all mity redeemer to hear the falt of these misers of iniquitys which cannot be by ouer most thout full & Cristell Endeuers Come att lyes where not able to determin but the holy god is the sercher of all harts beleue it tis the dudy of all Parsons concarned to consider it and to act acording ly that thay may not liue and dye with out indeuers a fer reconceilaton to God in order to y' ob taining for giuenes it shall be ouer prayer to god that thay may in gods time which the lord in marsey hasen see a comfortadl eshue of all thare trobles one the acount of which thay haue bin grat thoughts & serching of harts we pray that ouer endeuers touers bringing one of such an ishue may be Exceptable to god whose presence we haue desiered & whoos rules we haue acordingly to ouer light a lowered & to thos whoo here Desiered ouer presens with thaare and ouers result one the perticulers laid before us thome we recomend to the mersefull fauer & Conduct of gracous God and subscrid ouer selues youre serunts for Crists sack

grindall roson       mod
John hancock
Josef baxter
John Swift
John Prentis

Thomas Wilder
John houton
Sameuel Stoon
Jonathan boydon
Dauid Ryse       mesengers
Sameuell roocit
Josheuh hemingway
Joseph bowman
John Tyeler

[Indorsed] the ad uis. of a Counsill of eldres & mesingers
According to the answer given to the third Article, the Council adjourned to meet at Marlborough, on June 18, 1712. While there is no record extant of what was then done at this adjourned meeting, the general result of the proceedings, and the action of the town thereon, may be gathered from the following entries in the Groton town-records (p. 24): —

Whereas at A Metting of the Reu'd Elders & messengers lately con-vened At Grotton april 15 1712 & at the meting of said Reu'd Elders & messengers at Malbró June 18° 1712 upon adiournmen Aduice hath been given to the Reu'd M' dudley Bradstret Pastor of the church in Grotton & to the church of Christ there that the s'd church & town should forthwith proseed to dismis the said M' Bradstret from his office bond & Relation to them as the most probable expedient in their Judgment to promote their peace & comfort.

In pursuance of the above specified Aduice the church of Christt In Grotton declare and It is noted that the Reud M' dudley Bradstret is dismis'd from & is discharged of his pastorall Relation & office Obliga-tion to the church of Grotton noted allso that our Bretheren capt prescot simon stone Jonas prescot ir be desired & are impowered to present the above written notes of the church to the Inhabitanes of the town of Grotton for their concurrence & to joyn with such person or persons as the town shall appoint to presant these uts & the towns coucurrence therewith to the Reud M' Bradstret

GROTON July 22 1712

At a Metting of the Inhabitants of the town of Grotton legalley warned to consider certain uts of the church of Christ in Grotton Refaring to their discharging the Reud : M' dudley Bradstret from his Pastorall Relation to tham & his office bond to sd church = noted that the town doth concur with the uts of the church refering to M' brod-strets dismission as a boue expresd & that the Inhabitants of sd Grotton doe release the sd M' Bradstret from the Relation he stands in to them as their minister

noted also that Nathanill Woods Ephrim Parc with capt prascot simon ston Jonas Prascot ir Chosen by the church to present the notes to the town at this presant meeting of the Inhabitants be a commitee on the behalf of the town to presant the uts of the church & town to the Reud M' Bradstret

GROTON July 24

WILLIAM L. CHAPLIN, ESQ.

JONATHAN SHEPLEY’S ESTATE.

The following extract is taken from the printed “Journal Of the Honorable House of Representatives, Of His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts-Bay,” under date of April 22, 1746:

A Petition of Lydia Shapley and Josiah Sartell, Administrators to the Estate of Capt. Jonathan Shapley late of Groton, deceased, praying they may be enabled to give one Philip Woolrick of said Groton, a Deed of one third Part of a twenty Acre Lott which the said Jonathan was obliged to give in his Life time under a Penalty, but neglected it.

Read and Ordered, That the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and the Petitioners in their said Capacity are hereby impowred to give and execute a good Deed of the Land therein mentioned to the said Philip Woolrick accordingly.

A Petition of William Turbell of Groton, a Soldier wounded in the Service of the Province, praying a Consideration therefor.

Read and committed to the Gentlemen appointed on the Petitions of poor Soldiers &c (p. 237).

WILLIAM L. CHAPLIN, ESQ.

This gentlemen, who is now under arrest for slave abduction at Washington, is well known in this vicinity. He is a son of the late Rev. Dr. Chaplin of Groton, and brother of the late Dr. Chaplin of Cambridge. He was a lawyer of highly respectable talents. But for some fifteen years he has chiefly devoted himself to promoting the abolition movement, by editing or corresponding for papers or delivering public lectures.

His act, which has brought him under the merciless power of slave-holding laws, is generally regretted even by most abolitionists — both on his account, and because it promises to injure rather than promote his cause. But probably his mind has come into such a position, that he feels himself happy in being a martyr to such a cause, and that he judges that he can best promote his cause, by such a self sacrifice. If so, we may regret that he thinks differently
from us; but we ought to allow him to act on his own convictions. He is not a weak misguided man, led into difficulties by others; and whether we or he has judged best, as to what will promote the cause of emancipation, time must determine. To us it seems that such efforts only exasperate the slave power, and do more harm than good. But if he chooses to give his life, as Mr. Torrey did, to sustain the opposite opinion, his position as a martyr to that opinion should disarm all severity of criticism upon him. Prudent men, in a crisis like this, deprecate every act that tends to make wider the breach between the north and south. Yet in the compass of God's plans, the ultraisms of both south and north are embraced as elements of working out his problems. He will bring order out of confusion and light out of darkness, and will use the folly as well as the wisdom of all agents, as the instruments of his purposes. If then a man of superior talents, like Mr. Chaplin, after studying his subjects so long, comes to the conclusion that he can best promote the end of his existence by surrendering himself as a martyr in this form, we ought not to make him less a martyr by our sympathies, nor more a martyr by our frowns. He is of age, let him think and act for himself.


William Lawrence Chaplin was the youngest child of the Reverend Daniel and Susanna (Prescott) Chaplin, and born at Groton, on October 27, 1796. He began to attend school at Groton Academy in the year 1804, then under the preceptorship of Mr. Butler, and entered Harvard College in the autumn of 1819. His name appears in the annual catalogue of that institution for four successive years, but he did not graduate. He stood well in his class, and excelled particularly in Latin; and his leaving had no connection either with his rank or deportment. A "rebellion" broke out in the college during his Senior year, when thirty-four of his classmates were dismissed, but he was not in any way implicated. Mr. Chaplin studied law with Judge Dana, of Groton, and was admitted to the Middlesex bar in June, 1829, but he

1 This allusion is to the Rev. Charles Turner Torrey (1813-1846), of Baltimore, who was detected in an attempt to aid some slaves to escape from Maryland, and was sentenced to a long imprisonment in the state prison, where he died of consumption on May 9, 1846.
practised his profession for only two or three years. He had an office for a short time in his native town, but nowhere else.

In the early days of the anti-slavery agitation, Mr. Chaplin was a prominent Abolitionist. On August 8, 1850, he was thrown into prison at Washington, D. C., and treated with great cruelty and indignity, for helping two run-away slaves to escape who belonged to Messrs. Toombs and Stephens, representatives in Congress from Georgia. He was subsequently given up to the Maryland authorities, and then confined in the jail at Rockville, the shire-town of Montgomery County, where he received much kindness. It happened, fortunately for him, that the sheriff of this county was a Christian gentleman, and the jailer a man of good feelings. He was finally released on very heavy bail, provided by his friends, and of course forfeited by him under their advice. A pamphlet was printed soon afterward, giving a full history of the affair, entitled: The Case | of | William L. Chaplin; | being | an Appeal | to all | Respecters of Law and Justice | against | the cruel and oppressive treatment to which, under color | of legal proceedings, he has been subjected, in the | District of Columbia and the State of | Maryland.|| Boston: Published by the Chaplin Committee, 1851. Octavo, pages 54.

The following extract is taken from the pamphlet: —

Thus, after an imprisonment of six weeks at Washington, and of thirteen weeks more at Rockville, was Mr. Chaplin delivered out of the hands of the Philistines; not, however, till his friends had paid for him the enormous ransom of $25,000 (p. 49).

On August 12, 1851, he was married at Glen Haven, New York, to Theodosia, daughter of Deacon Elias and Betsey (Green) Gilbert, of Richmond, Ontario County, New York; and they had two children, — Harriet Lawrence, born on December 5, 1852, and died on December 21, 1861; and Theodosia Gilbert, born on April 11, 1855, who is married to the Reverend Frederick John Clegg Walton, now of Englewood, Illinois. Mrs. Chaplin died at Glen Haven, on April 17,
1855, soon after the birth of her second child; and she is said to have been a woman lovely in character and noble in purpose. During Mr. Chaplin's imprisonment she never lost heart or hope, but bore up bravely under the cruel hardship. Her husband survived her sixteen years, and died at Cortland, Cortland County, New York, on April 28, 1871. In speaking of Mr. Chaplin, the Reverend John Todd, D.D., the colleague and successor of his father at Groton, writes: —

He was the youngest son,—the staff of the old man's age. He relinquished all hopes and openings in his profession,—the law,—that he might comfort and support his aged parents on their way to the grave. Most dutifully did he perform every filial duty till he had seen his parents laid in the tomb. Dr. James P. Chaplin, of Cambridge, so successful in the treatment of the insane, was an older brother; and his grandfather [great-uncle], Col. Prescott, was a commander at the battle of Bunker Hill (ibid., page 15).

For other notices of Mr. Chaplin and his family, see Volume I. of the Groton Historical Series, No. XI. (pp. 5, and 19, 20); and Volume II. No. XV.

EARLY GRADUATES OF LAWRENCE ACADEMY.

In recent years, within the period of about a decade, four graduates of Lawrence Academy have died who had reached a remarkable age. They are as follows: —

Mrs. Sarah (Chaplin) Rockwood, who was born at Groton on November 8, 1785, and died at Cortland, Cortland County, N. Y., on November 26, 1889. She attended school at Groton Academy, as it was then known, in the year 1797. The date of her birth was duly entered in the town-records, and the entry corresponds with that in the family Bible. According to the church records she was baptized on November 13, 1785.

Mrs. Sarah (Capell) Gilson, the oldest person in Groton, died on Sunday (August 24, 1890) at the advanced age of 96 years, 9 months and 2 days. She was a woman of marked
character, full of early reminiscences and with an excellent
memory; her conversation always gave great delight to her
listeners. She attended the Academy in the year 1808.

Abel Blake, of Keene, N. H., who died in that city on De-
cember 22, 1894, aged 99 years and 2 months, was a scholar
at Groton Academy in 1814.

Dr. William Lambert Russell, of Barre, Mass., who died in
that town on May 6, 1899, aged 99 years, 6 months and 8
days, attended the same academy in 1817, and graduated
from Harvard College in the class of 1826. At the time of
his death he was the oldest graduate of Harvard.

FOR SALE.

A FARM in Groton, thirty-four miles from Boston, lying on the
post road leading from Boston to Amherst; being the most pleas-
antly situated (half a mile from the meeting-house) of any in said town.
It contains 20 acres of excellent land, well fruited, a house and barn,
and two wells of water, never known to fail. Apply to ISAAC BOWERS
of Groton.

"Columbian Centinel" (Boston), Saturday, April 7, 1798.

FOR SALE,

A Beautiful Seat, for a Trader, with a general assortment of
Goods and Utensils, necessary in, and about a Store, in the centre of
the Town of Groton, 34 miles from Boston, on the Post Road from
Boston to Keen—Consisting of one acre & half of excellent Land,
a commodious new Store, 40 feet by 20, two stories high, a good
Cellar under the whole—the upper story is finished and partitioned
into three Chambers, which are very pleasant, & convenient for a
family to live in. A Shed adjoining the Store, 40 feet by 16, con-
venient for a Wood-house, and Stabling, a good Well within ten feet
of the Store, which never fails to yeild the best of Water. A House
26 feet by 14, suitable for a Mechanick's Shop.—And about five or
six hundred pounds worth of W. India, English, Hard Ware, Crockery
Ware, & other Goods; suitable for the situation, and purchased, all of which will be sold at prime cost—Two or three hundred pound of the purchase may be credited two or three years, if the purchaser should wish. For further particulars, apply to the Subscriber, now trading on the Premises. David Moors. Groton, April 10, 1798.

"Independent Chronicle: and the Universal Advertiser" (Boston), Monday, April 16, 1798, page 4.

SCHOOLMASTER.

To the honourable his Majesties Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace To be holden at Charlestown within & for yt County of Middlesex on the Second Tuesday of March 1717/18

Whereas we the Subscribers Selectmen of Groton have been Informed that yt Town of Groton hath been Presented by yt Grand Jury for want of a School Master which was to have been answered yt Last Court but the Presentment aforesaid being variously Construed it was at Length ordered that yt Selectmen of Groton Should be apprized thereof & Certify this Court how many families there is in our Town. Now these are to Certify & Informe Your honours that There is not one hundred families which are Ratable or able To Contribute anything to yt Publick & we presume the Grand Jury Niver Intended a Grammar Schoole by said Presentment. And Ever Since Said Court in December Last we have been Provided with a Schoole Master To Teach Children To read & Wright as the Law in this Case provides & Directs. Which Premises being Considered we hope Groton Will be Discharged from Said Presentment. We have also appointed Mr. John Ames to present this to your honours To whom you may Give Credit

from yo' honours Humble Servt

Simon Stone
John Sheple
Jonathan Boiden
Richard Warner
Joseph Lakin

[Indorsed] Groton Selectmen
Representation abt
a School
Considered
& Done
JOHN AMES'S ESTATE.

The following extract is taken from the printed "Journal Of the Honorable House of Representatives, Of His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts-Bay," under date of March 6, 1745:

A Petition of Elizabeth Ames of Groton, Administratrix to the estate of John Ames late of said Groton, deceased, shewing her late Husband became bound to convey a Tract of Land therein mentioned to Caleb Trowbridge of said Groton, but neglected to do it in his Life time, praying she may be enabled to execute the Deed, for the Reasons mentioned.

Read and Ordered, That the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that the said Elizabeth Ames be and hereby is impowred to make a Conveyance of the Lands mentioned in said Petition and Bond, and that such Conveyance shall be deemed as good and valid in law to all Intents and Purposes as if the same had been made by her late Husband John Ames in his Life time (p. 197).

Elizabeth Ames, the petitioner, was the widow of John Ames, who died on July 30, 1743; and he was the son of John Ames who was killed by the Indians on July 9, 1724.

Hon. Samuel A. Green,
Mass. Historical Society,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,— Having in mind our conversation in regard to an incident in my early life which does not appear to me to have value, but which to you appears otherwise, I make a statement in writing of the principal facts to which that conversation related.

My first visit to Boston was made from the town of Lunenburg, in the year 1828-1829-1830. My memory does not enable me to make a more specific statement. My father came to Boston with a one horse wagon load of poultry, chiefly chickens and he gave me the opportunity to see the city when it contained about 40,000 inhabitants.

Sept. 8, 1903.
Our movements were slow, and we spent the first night at Watertown with a widow lady, known as Madam Coffin, whose husband had been a member of Congress from Nantucket and whose son George W. Coffin was for many years State Librarian and Land Agent. Previous to my father’s service in the war, in 1812, he had lived with Madam Coffin for five years in charge of her farm. She entertained us, as it appears to me now, with great consideration. The next day we went to Boston to Quincy Hall Market, where my father stationed his wagon at the first stand, on the upper end, southerly side where the contents of the wagon were sold. During the forenoon, my father visited the corner grocery store of Joseph Mead on Lyman Place. Mead had been a boy on a neighboring farm. During my father’s absence I made sale of the poultry and I had the unpleasant suggestion upon my father’s return that he thought the receipts had not equalled the depreciation of poultry in the wagon. His suggestion was met the next Sunday by the discovery in my trousers pocket of a two dollar bill which I recollect was embellished, as bills were embellished in those days by a red coloring which extended over a portion only of the surface.

The following night we spent with a friend of my father’s at Newton Corner and the day following we went to the Brighton Cattle Market, where my father bought 24 head of cattle, 9 of them being oxen for which he paid $250. I aided in driving them home where the cattle were deposited on the Almshouse farm, of which my father was then one of the overseers. As you have a few facts of my early life, I will add that I was for a brief time a salesman in Quincy market and a drover of cattle on the highway.

Yours very truly,

Geo. S. Boutwell.

---

NO THOROUGHFARE.

On March 6, 1871, the town by vote shut up the thoroughfare leading westerly from the neighborhood of Fitch’s Bridge, and at that time for some distance forming the boundary between Groton and Pepperell. The extreme western end of this road, which many years ago was the principal thoroughfare to Townsend, had previously been shut up by public
vote, or fallen into disuse, at a date now unknown to me. A peculiarity of this highway was that the road lay wholly in Groton, while the land abutting on the north side was in Pepperell. The few scattered houses along this road were all on the north side, so that it had been kept open by the town for the accommodation of non-residents. Some surprise has been expressed that it was ever laid out in this manner; but the explanation of the anomaly goes back to the time when Pepperell was set off, on November 26, 1742, as the West Precinct of Groton. The incorporation of a precinct carried with it only the right to manage their own ecclesiastical affairs, but not the right to lay out roads or to levy taxes for that purpose; so that a precinct was still obliged to share the general expenses of the parent town. In answer to the petition for the West or Second Precinct of Groton, which is dated May 26, 1742, the General Court established the Townsend road as the southern boundary of the precinct, and the northern side of the road was taken rather than the middle. At that time the expense of supporting it came equally on the town and on the new precinct; and the exact line of division was of no practical importance. When the precinct became the town of Pepperell, the condition of affairs was altered, but the change does not seem to have been then recognized. The old Townsend road went over Fitch's Bridge, or rather over the bridge in that immediate neighborhood, which was of an earlier date than the one half a mile below at what is now called Paper Mill Village, though the latter was built very soon afterward.

---

RUFUS HAZARD.

To Rufus Hazard, a colored person, for extraordinary exertions and hazard, in attempting to save Samuel Williams, who had sunk in Squancook [Squannacook] River. $10.

From "History of the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," Boston, 1876, p. 58.
MULBERRY TREES.

More than eighty years ago during my early boyhood, a craze struck our good old Commonwealth, in favor of the mulberry tree. It was thought then that the cultivation of this tree would encourage the care and growth of the silkworm, and thus indirectly be the means of adding another industry to the occupations of our people. To such an extent did this feeling go, that the State took part in the movement, and at different times published several manuals under a Resolve of the Commonwealth. In fact a new word came into use, now rarely or never heard — sericulture, the culture of the silkworm. Several men in Groton set out on their farms a large number of mulberry trees, in which they hoped to enrich themselves as well as the town. I remember that George Farnsworth on Farmers' Row had one or two fields of this tree on his land. There was another field nearer the corner of the road to the Red Bridge; and one near the Champney house. There were also a few other specimens in scattered places that enthusiastic men hoped would be the source of gain and profit to the owners of land. Perhaps even now some of these trees, or those grown from their seed, may be still living.

I am told that the silk industry in the neighborhood of Northampton is a survival of the attempt made fourscore years ago to introduce the mulberry tree into this Commonwealth.

BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.

The following certificates are printed, with other similar ones, in the "Boston Patriot and Daily Chronicle," June 13, 1818, and were given at the instance of General Henry A. S. Dearborn, who had written "An Account of the Battle of Bunker Hill." The Account was first published in "The
Port-Folio" (Philadelphia) for March, 1818, and was the occasion of some criticism. For the purpose of answering the strictures the author collected these papers:—

"[No. 13.]


This may certify the public, that we whose names we have given, were in the habits of intimacy with Col. W. Prescott, of Pepperell, a man of the strictest integrity, during most of the period after he left the revolutionary army until his death; that at sundry times in conversation with him about the war, particularly about the battle of Bunker Hill, so called, he uniformly told us, that Maj. General Warren came to the Fort on Breed's Hill which had been formed the night preceding, a little before the British made an attack on the works; that he, Col. Prescott, said to General Warren, 'I am happy to see you, General,' or using words to the same effect, 'for you will now take command, and I will obey your orders, and am relieved.' Said General Warren, to him in reply, 'I have no command here, Col. Prescott, I am a volunteer, I came to learn actual service.' Prescott said, 'I wish then you would look at the works we have thrown up, and give your opinion.' Warren replied, 'you are better acquainted, Col. Prescott, with military matters than I am.' After which they immediately parted and met not again. Col. Prescott further informed us repeatedly, that when a retreat was ordered and commenced, and he was descending the hill, he met General Putnam, and said to him, 'why did you not support me, General, with your men, as I had reason to expect, according to agreement?' Putnam answered, 'I could not drive the dogs up.' Prescott pointedly said to him, 'if you could not drive them up, you might have led them up.' We have good reason to believe further from declarations of some of our parishioners, men of respectability, whose veracity cannot be doubted, who belonged to Col. Prescott's regiment and were present through the whole service, that General Putnam was not on Breed's Hill the night preceding, or on that day, except that just before the attack was made, he might have gone to the fort and ordered the tools to be carried off, that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy in the event of his carrying the works, and holding the ground, and that he and his men, with Col. Gerrish,
remained on the side of Bunker Hill towards the neck during the whole action.

Signed,

Daniel Chaplin,
John Bullard.

Groton, June 5, 1818.

"[No. 14.]"

Declaration of Deacon Samuel Lawrence, of Groton.

I, Samuel Lawrence, of Groton, Esquire, testify and say, that I was at the battle of Bunker Hill, (so called) in Col. William Prescott's regiment; — that I marched with the Regiment to the point on Breed's Hill, which was fixed on for a redoubt; that I assisted in throwing up the breast-work, and in forming a redoubt, under Col. Prescott, who directed the whole of this operation. — The work was begun about nine o'clock in the evening of June 16th, 1775. I was there the whole time, and continued in the redoubt, or in the little fort, during the whole battle, until the enemy came in and a retreat was ordered. General Putnam was not present either while the works were erecting, not during the battle. I could see distinctly the rail fence and the troops stationed there during the battle, but General Putnam was not present as I saw. After the retreat was ordered, the troops retreated towards Bunker Hill, and continued over and on the side of the hill (I was on the side of the hill) towards Charlestown neck.

Just before the battle commenced, General Warren came to the redoubt. He had on a blue coat and white waistcoat, and I think a cocked hat, but of this I am not certain — Col. Prescott advanced to him, said 'he was glad to see him, and hoped he would take the command.' Gen. Warren replied, 'no — he came to see the action but not to take command; that he was only a volunteer on that day.' Afterwards I saw General Warren shot; I saw him when the ball struck him, and from that time until he expired. I knew General Warren well by sight, and recollected him perfectly when Col. Prescott offered him the command, and was sorry to see him so dangerously situated, as I knew him to be a distinguished character, and thought he ought not to have risked his life without command on that occasion. No British officer was within forty or fifty rods of him, from the time the ball struck him, until I saw he
CAPTAIN ASA LAWRENCE.

was dead. I have read General Dearborn's account of the battle, and think it correct, particularly with regard to the occurrences at the gateway of the redoubt.

(Signed) SAMUEL LAWRENCE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

County of Middlesex, June 5, 1818.

Personally appeared Samuel Lawrence, Esq. and made oath, that the above declaration by him subscribed, is just and true in all its parts, according to the best of his knowledge and belief. Before me,

(Signed) SAMUEL DANA, Justice of the Peace throughout said Commonwealth.

CAPTAIN ASA LAWRENCE.

ASA LAWRENCE, mentioned below, commanded one of the two companies that marched from Groton to Cambridge on the alarm of April 19, 1775. He was a son of Peleg Lawrence, and lived on the farm now known as the Governor Sullivan place. It is situated on the Lowell road and took its name from James Sullivan, who was afterward Governor of the Commonwealth. Sullivan was the Justice of the Peace, who took Lawrence's deposition on February 1, 1779.

State of the Massachusetts Bay) To the Honourable the Council and
                           ) House of Representatives in general
                           ) Court assembled.

Humbly shewes Asa Lawrence of Groton in the County of Middlesex that he was in the Engagement of the 17th of June at Charlestown and there lost goods an account whereof is hereunto annexed—and that at the Battle of Chelsea he risqued his Life at the Command of general Putnam to Burn one of the Enemies armed Vessels and after many attempts he finally effected the same whereby there was an acquisition of twelve peices of Cannon to the Public, and also that he served seven weeks in the late Expedition against Rhode Island as a Volunteer and has never had any reward for said services or Compensation for his said Losses Wherefore
he prays that a due allowance may be made him for his services and losses aforesd and he as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

Asa Lawrence

Groton 28th January 1779

A Grant of £100 to Asa Lawrence for Losses sustained at Bunker Hill—

May 4 — 1780 — No. 71

The State of M Bay to Asa Lawrence Dr for Loss at Bunker Hill

17th June 1775
To 1 Gun & Bayonet . . . . . 3 8
To 1 Coat 4°/ Blanket 3°/ . . . . 3 10
Knapsack & Tumline 12/ . . . . . 12

State of
Massats Bay } Middlesex ss Feb 1st 1779 then the sd Asa Lawrence appeared and made oath to the Truth of the above account before me

Ja Sullivan Just Peace

Asa Lawrence Petition

Mar. 23. 1780 Coll Gerrish Capt Newton Capt Bonney

Massachusetts Archives, CLXXXIV. 388.

THE TEA TAX.

The following "Proceedings" are taken from "The Boston Evening-Post," January 3, 1774. It will be noticed that the meeting was held on the day of the Boston Tea-Party.

Proceedings of the Town of Groton.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Groton, assembled at the Public Meeting-House in said Town, on Thursday Dec. 16th, 1773,

To Consider what is proper for this Town to do relative to the large quantities of TEA, belonging to the Hon. East-India Company, arrived and expected to arrive in this Province, subject to an American Duty.

Chose JAMES PRESCOTT, Esq; Moderator.
Then the Committee of Correspondence for said Town laid before them a Letter which had been agreed upon by the Committees of several Towns, to be sent to all the Towns in this Province, in order to know their minds at this critical Juncture; and having read the same, as also the Votes and proceedings of the Town of Boston, at their late Town Meetings in Nov. last: — The Town came into the following Resolves and Votes unanimously,

That we highly approve of the Conduct of the Town of Boston at their late Town Meetings aforesaid, and the several Resolves they came into, relative to the TEAS sent by the East-India Company to America. — And as we Esteem the late Act of Parliament for the benefit of said India Company as an intollerable Grievance, and a very subtle plan of the Ministry to ensnare and enslave the Americans, preferring the Public Happiness to our own private advantage, We will readily afford all the assistance in our Power, to the Town of Boston and all other of our opprest American Brethren, and heartily unite with them in every Constitutional method, to oppose this and every other scheme that shall appear to us, to be subversive of American Rights and Liberties, and dishonorary to his Majesty’s Crown and Dignity, at the risque of our Lives and Substance.

Voted, That our most Cordial Thanks be presented to the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, for their wise, prudent and spirited Conduct at this alarming Crisis, and for their repeated Vigilance and unwearied Endeavours, to recover and preserve the Rights and Liberties of America.

Upon a motion made, Voted unanimously, That the Inhabitants of this Town, will not buy, sell, or make use of any TEA, while subject to an American Duty.

Voted, That the Committee of Correspondence for this Town, be desired to wait upon the several Shop-keepers and Traders, within this Town, and desire them not to buy, sell or any way dispose of any TEA while subject to an American duty, as they would avoid the odium of the Town.

Voted, That the Committee of Correspondence for this Town be desired to forward an attested Copy of the Proceedings of this Meeting, to the Committee of Correspondence in the Town of Boston.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved. — And it was accordingly dissolved. A true Copy, Attested.

OLIVER PRESCOTT, Town-Clerk.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

A Legal Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Groton, Assembled May 8th, 1773.

Voted and Chose, James Prescott Esq; Oliver Prescott Esq; and Josiah Sawtell Gent. a Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Groton, unanimously.

Attest. OLIVER PRESCOTT, Town-Clerk.

AN OLD POTTERY.

Dr. S. A. Green:

Dear Sir,—Sometime in the last century there was a pottery between the Pollard house and my grandfather's house [Major Farnsworth's] at Groton, on the north side of the road, near where, as I understand, a new house has been built. It stood, say two hundred yards easterly from where my grandfather last lived. When I was a boy the cellar, a part of the old chimney, and great quantities of brown sherds lay scattered around. Do you know anything about this industry then carried on? I have forgotten the name of the potter. He was said to have been a relation of ours, but not a Farnsworth by name, and to have moved away somewhere. I don't think I have heard anything about it for fifty years; but the old fragments were well known to my childhood.

Very truly yours,

C. B. Farnsworth.

THE FIRST BRICK HOUSE.

The first brick house in Groton was built by John Park in the year 1791, and is still standing. It is situated on Park Street, in that part of the town now Ayer, and in 1832 was occupied by Nathaniel Stone, according to Mr. Butler's Map of Groton, then recently published. On the gable, near the eaves, at the southwest corner of the dwelling, is a small slate tablet, with a sundial at one end, and this inscription at the other

J. P.

1791.
THE FIRST BRICK HOUSE.

It is said that the late Asa Tarbell's house at West Groton was the second brick dwelling built within the town. Many years ago this house was partially destroyed by fire, but subsequently rebuilt. It stands on the banks of the Squannacook River, near the bridge leading to Shirley.

Stephen Hall.—Some months ago my attention was called to an old gravestone which stands in the southerly part of Petersham, two miles or more from the village. When the stone was originally set up, it was placed near a brook, and in a field at some distance from the road; but now the brook has been dammed up, and a highway passes near the grave, so that the stone stands on the banks of a good-sized pond, and near the road. The inscription is very rudely cut, and hard to read, as some of the letters are made wrong, being reversed in the cutting. The stone itself is a natural slab, about six inches thick, found in a field and fairly smooth on one side to receive the epitaph. The inscription reads as follows:

This stone was [r]aised
in mem of M' Stephan
Hall who died Nov-11
1760

A reference to the town-records of Petersham, under date of March 2, 1761, shows that Hall belonged to "the Town or District of Pepperell in the County of Middlesex," and that he was taken sick with the smallpox in Petersham and had died there, leaving a widow and several children in poor circumstances. A further reference to the town-records, under date of May 21, shows that an unsuccessful attempt was made to collect the sum of fourteen pounds from the District of Pepperell for the necessary expenses incurred in the case. Not only did Hall himself have the disease, but his wife and children also; and the town had to care for them.

At that period a District did not have all the powers of a Town, and there was, probably, no authority for the payment of such a claim as made by the town of Petersham. The nature of Hall's disease would explain the lonely site of his grave, as in early times it was thought by some that smallpox could be communicated from the buried body to living persons.

Among the earliest settlers of Groton was Christopher Hall, who
had land granted to him in December, 1664; and since that time the family name has been not uncommon in the neighborhood.

Samuel A. Green.

"The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (LVII. 109, 110), for January, 1903.

In Groton, 30th ult. Louisa, widow of Eleazer Green, 81.

"Boston Daily Advertiser," October 11, 1843.

She was the youngest child of Jacob and Rebecca (Lawrence) Blanchard, of Groton, where she was born on April 29, 1762. Her Christian name, however, was Lucy, and not Louisa. On April 6, 1778, she was married to Mr. Green, who had served in the army at different times during the Revolution. In my very early boyhood I remember her as living in the old Richardson tavern, after it had been given up as a public house, when she was supported by a small pension received from the Government for her husband's services during the war.

CULTIVATION OF HOPS.

Eighty years ago Groton was the center of a large hop-growing industry. At that period hops were raised very generally by the farmers of the neighborhood, and they formed an important item in the business of the town; but this condition of things is now wholly changed. An interesting paper on the subject, written by Governor Boutwell, appears in Volume I of this work (p. 65).

I am led to write these lines from the fact that fourteen years ago a record-book came into my possession, which had been kept by the Massachusetts Hop Company, an organization that had its headquarters at Groton, though its life was short. There may be a few persons now who will remember such a Company. The records, herewith printed, show the embers of an industry which at one time was important to
a large section of the Commonwealth, but today has entirely disappeared from its borders.

**PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

_Groton 3rd May 1831_

We the Subscribers hop Growers in the State of Massachusetts thinking that the Picking Cureing and Baging of our hops can be done to greater perfection than it now is and being desirous to raise the standard of our hops in Market do agree to form our selves into a Company for the above purpose and for the disposal of our hops and we further agree to be governed by the following Rules and Regulations Viz.

**CONSTITUTION.**

Article 1st We will pick our hops clean from stems and leaves and use our best endeavours to have them perfectly cured.

2nd They shall be well packed in good baging and no more used than what is necessary for the strength of the bag.

3rd The Company shall chuse two Trustees whose duty it shall be to appoint an Agent to dispose of our hops and receive all monies from said Agent and make a Dividend of the sum to the Company monthly during the Season of Sales.

4th It shall be the duty of the Agent to dispose of our hops either to the Brewers or others as he may have opportunity and he shall account to the trustees monthly during the Season of Sales or oftener if thought necessary by the Trustees.

5th The hops shall receive the Companies Stamp and when inspected shall be left at the inspection Office or at such other place as the Agent may direct and shall from that time be considered under his Care.

6th This Agreement we consider binding for one year.

_Joseph Blanchard, Clerk_

_Groton, 5th May 1831_

At a Meeting of the Massachusetts hop Growers called for the purpose of forming a Company organized by choosing

_Abel Jewett Moderator_

_Joseph Blanchard Clerk_

Article first voted to form Company

2nd Voted to accept the Constitution as reported by Committee
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

3d Voted to have Company Title and Stamp which should be called the Massachusetts hop Company
4th Voted to recommend Gilman Stanley to the Directors for the Company’s Agent
5th Voted and chose Joseph Blanchard and Abel Jewett Directors and Trustees for the Company

JOSEPH BLANCHARD, Clerk

AGENTS COMMISSION.

BOSBOROUGH 16th May 1831

To Gilman Stanley of Charlestown in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Merchant.

Trusting in your care and fidelity we do by these presents pursuant to the power and authority to us granted in and by a Vote of the Massachusetts hop Company nominate and appoint you to be Agent unto the said Company for the term of one year with such power as is by the Constitution of said Company made and provided for their Agent to be governed by.

Joseph Blanchard
Abel Jewett

Copy Attest

JOSEPH BLANCHARD, Clerk

Groton Mar. 19th 1832

At a Meeting of the Massachusetts hop Company held in this Town for the purpose of making arrangements for the present Year.

1d Voted and Chose Joseph Blanchard Moderator
2d Voted and Chose Richard Hall Clerk
3d Voted that the Company continue for another Year With such other Persons as wish to become members
4d Voted to be Governed by the Constitution of the Massachusetts hop Company as adopted May 5th 1831
5d Voted that the Agent may git the Company hops ensured whenever he thinks necessary
6d Voted and Chose Joseph Blanchard Director
7d Voted and Chose Abel Jewett Director
8d Voted to recommend Gilman Stanley Agent for the present Year.

RICHARD HALL, Clerk
AGENTS COMMISSION.

Boxborough March 19th 1832

To Gilman Stanley of Charlestown in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Merchant,

Trusting in your care and fidelity we do by these presents pursuant to the power and authority to us granted in and by a Vote of the Massachusetts hop Company nominate and appoint you to be Agent unto the said Company for the term of one year with such power as is by the Constitution of said Company made and provided for there Agent to be governed by.

Joseph Blanchard
Abel Jewett

Trustees of the Massachusetts hop Company

Copy Attest

Richard Hall, Clerk

Groton April 29th 1833

At a meeting of the Mass. Hop Company in this town for the choise of Officers and to transact such other Business as may come before the Society.

First. Voted and Chose Cap: Abram Prescott Moderator

2d. Voted and Chose Richard Hall Clerk

3d. Voted to adjourn this Meeting to the twenty-ninth day of May next at ten o'clock A. M.

May 29th 1833 Met agreeable to adjournment and agree’d to discontinue the Society.

Richard Hall, Clerk

EDWIN A. BULKLEY.

Rev. Dr. Edwin A. Bulkley died yesterday in New York. He was born in Charleston, S. C., in 1826. He was of distinguished New England ancestry, being a direct descendant of the Rev. Peter Bulkley, who was one of the founders of Concord, Mass., and the first minister of the historic "First Church" of that place.

Doctor Bulkley was graduated at Yale when eighteen years of age, in the class of 1844, and at the Union Theological Seminary, New
York, in 1847. The same year he married Catherine F. Oakley, the daughter of Daniel Oakley, a well-known merchant of New York, and a leading layman in the earlier annals of the Presbyterian Church. After temporarily serving a church in Geneva, N. Y., Dr. Bulkley succeeded Rev. Dr. John Todd as a minister of the Congregational Church of Groton, Mass., a church of many historic associations. His active ministry of fifty years was about equally divided between the church at Groton and the First Presbyterian Churches of Plattsburg, N. Y., and Rutherford, N. J. He continued pastor emeritus of the latter church, but since his retirement ten years since had resided in New York city upon Washington Heights. He is survived by a wife, two daughters and a son, Edwin M. Bulkley, of the banking firm of Spencer, Trask & Co.

DEATHS.

BULKLEY—Entered into life eternal on Monday, March 25, from his residence, 479 West 152d street, New York, Rev. Edwin A. Bulkley, D.D., in the 82d year of his age. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 4 p.m., from the North Presbyterian Church, 155th street, near the Boulevard. (Subway to 157th street.) Interment at Groton, Mass. Kindly omit flowers.

"Boston Transcript," March 26, 1907.

YELLOW DAY,

September 6, 1881.

The peculiar state of the atmosphere on last Tuesday afternoon (September 6) caused alarm to some of our people. It was an eventful day, as lamps were lighted up in houses, chickens went home to roost, night-hawks hovered in mid-air, frogs piped, schools were dismissed, sinners prayed, and the wicked were full of a sense of guilt. It was so dark that stores were lighted up, and work was stopped at shops and other places. Other days similar to this one are on record; but the peculiarity of September sixth was the yellow hue or tinge which pervaded everything.

See Volume I. of this work (p. 141) for an account of the Dark Day of 1780.
The weather bureau will probably furnish an explanation of the extraordinary state of the atmosphere yesterday. All day long a heavy yellow haze hung over the central portion of New England, the lower atmosphere being comparatively clear. Apparently it was only a remarkable case of what is known as dry fog, with the peculiarity of remaining suspended high over the earth's surface and strengthened by the additions of smoke from extensive wood fires. The lower stratum of air was not obscured at all. The dome of the state house could be seen as clearly as usual from the hills in Brookline. But the sky was a bright yellow all day, and gas was necessary in all the stores and counting-rooms of this city from morning until night. The air was so murky that gas burned white like the electric light; yet the uniformity of the tinge of the sky showed that there was nothing like an ordinary cloud above the horizon. Altogether it was one of the strangest spectacles the present generation has seen, at least in New England. The barometer showed but slight changes during the day, and the temperature was remarkably even. The phenomenon seems to have been specially marked in Boston, but was observed in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Block Island. The wind reached a maximum of ten or twelve miles, but without any apparent effect, except toward night, when the sky became somewhat clearer. Like all extraordinary occurrences, the day had a marked effect upon the superstitious and upon the animal kingdom.


LAKIN FAMILY.

Among the first settlers of Groton were the brothers Lieutenant William and Ensign John Lakin, who each owned a twenty-acre right as original proprietors of the town. They had both previously lived at Reading, where they had been married. During the earliest history of Groton their names appear frequently in the affairs of the town, and they seem both to have taken a prominent part in civil and ecclesiastical matters. William's house-lot lay on both sides of the road leading to Hawtree Meadow, which is now known as Chicopee Row; and John's was at Nod, a district lying northerly
of the soapstone quarry. From these two militia officers are descended the numerous family of Lakins in Groton and wide neighborhood. For facts concerning John Lakin, see an article in The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XLV., pp. 81, 82) for January, 1891.

The following copies of old papers, now in my possession, help to clear up some of the obscurities existing in the genealogical history of the family. William Martin, whose name appears in the first receipt, was the step-father of William Lakin, and he, too, had previously lived at Reading. The brothers, William and John, were sons of William Lakin, of England, who came to this country, perhaps as early as the year 1645, with their mother and step-father, accompanied also by their grandfather, William Lakin, senior.

Receaved the 10th of June 1646: by me Wilt Laken of Reding, of my ffather in Law William Martine of Redinge the sū of Twentie pounds and is in full payment and satisfaction of a legasie giuen to me by my owne ffather Willm Laken of Redinge in England: I say Receavd by me

William Lakin

Signd and delivrd
in the presnts of vs
Nicholas Brown
Richard Sadler:

The next two receipts relate to bequests made by William Martin, who, according to the County records, died at Groton on March 26, 1672, aged about 76 years. They are in the handwriting of the Reverend Samuel Willard, who, like other country ministers of that period, in addition to their pastoral duties acted the part of scribes for the benefit of their neighbors. The following are copies of the papers:

Groton: August 5. 1673.

Received by my Brō Jnō Lakin of Groton, ten pounds in the pay of Ralph Dix of Reading, upon the account of a legacy of the said suīme bequeathed to me, by my Father William Martin in his last Will &
Testament: as also two ox chains, & foure wedges, & a beetle ring: bequeathed to me in the said will: I say

Received by me.

Witnesse:
Samuel Willard
Elezebeth Sherman

Groton. August: 5. 1673.

Received by John Lakin of Groton the full suine of foureteen shillings upon the account of a legacy of the said suine, bequeathed to mee by the last Will & Testament of my Loving friend W"n Martin, deceased.

I say Received by me

Witnesse
William Lakin
Elezebeth Sherman

The first of these receipts was lately given to me by Mr. Charles Butler Brooks, of Boston, who found it among the papers of his grandfather Caleb Butler, Esq., the historian of Groton; and the other two were given to me more than sixty years ago by the late Hon. John Boynton, of Groton. It is somewhat singular that these old manuscripts, relating to similar transactions in the same family, should now come together after the vicissitudes of nearly two centuries and a half. Elizabeth Sherman, one of the witnesses, was a younger sister of Mr. Willard's wife.

William Lakin, senior, was the oldest person among the original settlers of Groton, and he died on December 10, 1672, aged about 91 years.

William Martin's house-lot at Groton lay on the borders of a large sheet of water which in his lifetime was known as Martin's Pond, and still keeps the same name. In the record of James Parker's land, on July 6, 1666, "the pond called Goodman Martin's Pond" is mentioned. There is also a Martin's Pond within the original limits of the town of Reading,—but now lying in the northwest corner of North Reading,—which may have been named after him, as he lived there before coming to Groton. Perhaps some local antiquary of that neighborhood can give the origin of the name.

"The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register" (XLVIII. 444-446) for October, 1894.
JOHN H. RICE.

Groton, July 31, 1843 — Shocking Casualty. —

Mr. John H. Rice, son of Mr. John Rice of Ashby, lost his life on Saturday last, under the following circumstances. Mr. Rice, on his return from Boston, called at the house of a brother-in-law in Groton, and while baiting his horse, took a double barreled gun, which he had just repaired, and was carrying home, and went into the woods near the house to amuse himself for a short time in gunning.

Not returning, after some hours, alarm was occasioned, and search was made, when he was found dead with his gun lying near him. It is evident from the circumstances that he had discharged one barrel at some object, and while in the act of blowing out the smoke with his mouth, the other barrel was accidentally discharged, and entering his mouth the whole were lodged in his head, producing instant death. Mr. Rice lived in Ashby, was 37 years of age, and has left a wife and three children to bewail his untimely fate.

He was unusually kind and amiable, and greatly beloved by his friends. This stroke of Providence is peculiarly severe to his aged parents, who have lost in him an only son. — [Lowell Courier.

"Boston Daily Advertiser," August 3, 1843.

The following extract is from a letter written to me by the late Dr. Edward Young White, from Littleton Common, on September 5, 1903: —

I remember about the death of Rice. My brother David S. was the one who found him after the fatal shot. This Mr. Rice, of Ashby, was a brother of Mrs. George F. Farley, of Groton. Rice married a Miss Kendal, of Ashby, a sister of Mrs. Oliver Pierce. Mrs. Pierce was a widow Vinton when Pierce married her. The day of Rice's death he had returned from Boston coming by way of the Ridges, arriving in the afternoon and calling at Pierces on his sister-in-law, saying he would go out with his fowling piece after woodcock or other birds. Not long after leaving they heard a shot but thought nothing of it until he failed to return. When search being made, my brother David found the body in a little path, leading up to a pigeon stand. It was lying with the gun beside it, just as it apparently would lie if the muzzle had been placed in the mouth and a
stick had been used to press the trigger — and there was also the stick.

I was living at the time in Groton, and the next day Esq. Farley came into Artemas Wood's store with the gun (a double barrel fowling-piece) and in his trembling and excited manner, showed to several of us present how he felt certain that it was an accidental discharge, caused by his attempting to blow smoke from one barrel with the other loaded.

---

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, ETC., FROM THE FITCHBURG RECORDS.

The following list of publications, births, marriages, etc., is taken from "The Old Records of the Town of Fitchburg," printed in three volumes under the authority of the city of Fitchburg. To a great extent the facts supplement the Groton records. The Roman letters and the Arabic figures after each paragraph indicate the volume and the page where the several entries are found.

fitchburg May the 31 1770 —

This Day m′ Samuel Downe of fitchburgh made aplication to me to be published to m′s Eunes Wintworth of Groten II. 249
Lydia Ferwell Daughter to Zaccheus Ferwell & Lydia his wife Born at Groton November y" 7th 1780 II. 359
William Ferwell Son to Zaccheus & lydia his wife Born at Groton April 20th 1783 II. 360

Zaccheus Farwell was a son of Daniel and Mary Farwell, of Groton, and was born on June 27, 1753. Besides his two children born at Groton, as given above, he had eight other children, born at Fitchburg, among whom were two sets of twins.

Publishments.

Jan 12 1825 Mr John Pingry of Groton made application to be published to Miss Eunice Whittemore of Fitchburg III. 150
January 21 [1831] Mr Edmund Tarbell of Groton made application to me to be published to Miss Sophia Smith of Fitchburg. III. 164

September 13, 1845. Mr Samuel W. Farmer of Groton made application to me to be published to Miss Almeda K. Dane of Fitchburg. III. 208

September 9th 1847 Mr Chandler Crocker of Fitchburg made application to me to be published to Miss Caroline Rockwood of Groton. III. 220

October 13th 1848. Mr Samuel J. Wright of Fitchburg made application to me to be published to Miss Rosalina Kilburn of Groton. III. 227

Marriages.

Feb. 17 [1825] Mr John Pingry of Groton & Miss Eunice Whittemore of Fitchburg. III. 261

Feb. 15. [1831] Mr Edmund Tarbell of Groton & Miss Sophia Smith of Fitchburg. III. 270

Births.

Mr Clark Simonds

Abigail Pollard Simonds 1st Daughter of Clark & Sally Simonds born at Groton March 5th 1829.

Clark Sylvester Simonds 1st Son of Clark & Sally Simonds born at Groton February 24. 1831. III. 389

Marriages.

Crocker, Chandler, and Rockwood, Caroline, Groton, Sept. 29, 1847. III. 495

Farmer, Samuel W., and Dane, Almeda H., Groton, Oct. 8, 1845. III. 408

Wright, Samuel J., and Kilburn, Rosalina, Groton, Nov. 30, 1848. III. 422

LIST OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, ETC., FROM THE TOWN-RECORDS OF WESTON.

The following vital statistics are taken from the volume of "Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1707-1850," etc., published by the town of Weston. The heavy-faced figures after the
several paragraphs indicate the page of the volume where each entry is found.

Births.

Epharim Whitney son of Nat Whitney and Mary his Wife Was Born at Grotton June 2d 1722.

Intention of marriage.

Intentions of Marriage between Mr Ira Whittemore of Weston and Miss Betsey Adams of Groton were entered March 7th 1812.

Marriages

Marriage solemnized by the Subscriber in the town of Groton. May 29, 1836. Mr Nahum Wetherbee to Miss Olive Wright both of Weston.

AMASA SANDERSON

(Certificate on file)

By Joseph Field, D.D., of Weston.

May 6, 1849, William Dudley, Widower, Yeoman, residing in Weston, age 41, born in Dudley, son of Thomas & Eliza Dudley of Roxbury, and Harriet Wright, aged 22, born in Groton, daughter of Joseph & Harriet [Hannah?] Wright of Groton.

Admission to the Church.

June 14, 1724. James Mirick recommend'd fro. ye Church in Groton, received here.

Dismission from the Church.

Oct: 6. 1776. {Joseph Allen & } dism & recomm'd to the Chh in Groton.

Death

Elizabeth Cory, widow of Samuel, living in Groton in 1804, d. at house of Samuel Cory, 1807 (July?)

Genealogical items.

William Dudley, son of Thomas & Eliza, was b. in Roxbury, Oct. 12th, 1806. He mar., 1st, Emily J. Bemis; 2nd, Harriott, dau.
of Joseph & Hannah Wright of Groton. [Old Dudley Bible.]
Compare [extract from] p. 288 [above].

Nathaniel [Whitney,] 3rd, b. Jan. 23, 1695–6, mar. Mary Child, July 20, 1721, and had Ephraim, b. in Groton; Oliver, David, Mary, Nathaniel, Anna, Amos, Lucy, Love, Lois, and Eli, b. in Westboro.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS.

Copies of the following two papers were given me many years ago by the late Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of South Boston:

This is each man's Proportion towards hiring Edmund Holden as a Soldier in Class y° 9th in Groton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>q</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zechariah Fitch</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Hemanway</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Blood</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bond</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Lawrence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abel Farwell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Adams</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephraim Kemp</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Kemp, Jr.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simeon Nuting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robertson Larkin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Simonds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Whitney</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W'd Rachel Spalding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These men were Detach'd from y° 6th Rig't; Came With Lieut Aaron Parker from Westford.

Camp't Swansey. 22 June 1779.

Genl as it has been Reported among us that Dr. Zachariah Longley late Quartermaster in your Regiment has Wickedly detained a part of y' milk money (So called) &c from Said Regiment untill he y's said Longley was call’d upon to make Satisfaction: and as we y's Subscribers are appointed a Committee by the church of Christ in Groton to make Enquiries into that matter We Should be glad and take it as a favour, if you gentlemen wou'd Give us as an impartial account as you can of Dr. Longleys Conduct in y' matter of milk above mention’d &c &c.

from your most Humble Servants

Isaac Farnsworth
Benj. Bancroft Jr.
Zechariah Fitch

Committee

Groton March y' 2d 1776.

GROTON.

Groton has become a good deal of a Mecca for one reason and another, having produced many eminent men—the Prescotts, the Lawrences, Margaret Fuller Ossoli and George S. Boutwell, and some living celebrities and any number of budding scions of distinguished families are at the boys' School. But aside from its historic and personal associations, its own pastoral beauty is allurement enough for a pilgrimage for those who love to seek out the oldest settled parts of New England, like Ipswich and Rowley in old Essex, and see the peculiarly English charm that is the result of occupation by eight or nine generations of transplanted English folk in America. There are softly rolling hills with here and there an old oak half way up the slope in just the right place, here and there a willow-arched road across the meadow, and often for background some still unbroken woods of pine or spruce and here and there a rocky pasture dotted with savins. Then the whole is now given a peculiarly English flavor by the Gothic chapel and the School for boys. From all points of the town these imposing buildings dominate the view. The perpendicular Gothic with its high-shouldered elegance suggests familiar pictures of English college and cathedral closes, and the gilt-top belfry of the main building near by re-enforces the academic flavor.
given the scene. Of course the plain old town-centre of Groton, where Governor Boutwell lived, is an entirely different matter. The governor, in his little yellow frame house, like Dr. Holmes at Beverly Farms, might have dated his correspondence "By the Depot." Hard by is the rather pretentious red brick town hall, with white trimmings (not of marble, however), and the procession of dignitaries and magnates gathered to do him the last honors had but a few rods to walk up a straight road from the depot.

It is an altogether creditable weakness, the loyalty to locality which always shows itself, the Listener has noted, particularly strong in natives of Groton. Here was General Bancroft of the Elevated Railroad, for example, out of his loyalty to the old town and his veneration for its first citizen absenting himself from his president's office in town and giving freely of his organizing and administrative genius in providing for all the details of the public obsequies and civic honors down to purveying an unlooked-for luncheon to all on the special train, which itself must have been put on through his influence. Considering the distance between Governor Boutwell and General Bancroft in years, in politics, and in worldly status, the loyalty and affection he showed for town and aged statesman, made a most touching bit of a demonstration how, in spite of all we say about the blind, overmastering worship of material success among the younger generation of America, a finely typical representative of those generations does bow to something besides success and materialism. Nothing could be more convincing; and nothing could excel the perfect fitness in its absolute simplicity and genuineness of the town's service in the Town Hall. With orators galore upon the platform and dignitaries four deep, the services were left entirely to the four Groton ministers and the School, and what could surpass in completeness or simplicity the Unitarian minister's tribute to this trait of Mr. Boutwell's character: "Simplicity is the model of expression which is inseparable from a truth-loving nature. Ostentation and love of display indicate some complexity of motive or some obliquity of spirit. Plainness of manner bears witness to the singleness of heart. The man who exalts truth above all things moves directly to his object. He selects his words not for the purpose of adorning thought, but for the purpose of giving it precise expression. He determines upon his actions not with a view of impressing men, but with the object of fulfilling the impulses of his heart. In dealing with such a nature one does well to stand on the firm ground of sincerity, to dis-
card all the devices of artfulness, and find strength in quietness and confidence."

Perfectly expressed! and that Groton is able on occasion to put its hand on the one to say the fit word, is proof this old community produced by the law of its being representatives like Mr. Boutwell of that "remarkable civilization which characterized the development of the little republics of New England." Here had stood behind the counter of the country store as a young man with an active managing interest in the town politics and "lyceum" the studious, self-educated, serious-minded, independent clerk, who in early manhood was to be governor, in middle life to stand with Lincoln and Grant and feel them lean on him for support, and in age, most glorious of all, to stand like the rock in the cataract, against the popular current bearing this republic down rapids where he feared Carlyle's hateful prophecy of our shooting Niagara might be realized. None could look on the worn frame of this faithful servant of the people without feeling that he had lived as he died "in the harness," and as much a hero as though he had been among those who wade through slaughter to glory. There was an undertone of hope and sympathy not unlike that described by Mr. Mead as prevailing at Mrs. Lloyd's funeral while Rev. Charles G. Ames spoke: "The most impressive funeral which I have ever attended besides that was that quiet, private funeral the other day on that upper floor in Boston where there were no crowds, where there were only simple friends, where no word that was spoken was a word of sadness, where every word made us feel that the time that is past and the time to be are one, and both are now, and that this life, if we understand it rightly, is simply a part of eternal life, and has not place for too much sorrow and for no sorrow that weakens the mind."

"Boston Evening Transcript," Saturday, March 4, 1905.—The Listener.

PHYSICIANS OF GROTON.

In the early records of Groton there are various allusions to persons who are called "doctors"; but such persons did not have the title of M. D., as at that time there were no medical schools here authorized to give the degree. These so-called "doctors" after reading a few medical books and following the natural bent of their tastes, were employed by their neighbors as family physicians.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

In some instances these “doctors” may have been school teachers who were always well known men in the community. At various times under different dates during the years 1742 to 1745 there are entries in the town records showing where money was paid to Dr. Richardson for keeping school.

During this period I find the names also of Dr. Kittredge, Dr. Prentice and Dr. Dinsmore.

March 28th 1744 Doct Green Leaf for delivering the wife of Joseph Jewett.

Pd Leonard Parker for fetching the doc’ for arwing (Erwins) child. —0—8—0

April 1744 Pd Daniell Sheadd for going to the doct for experence fisk.

In the Old Mill district at Harvard Dr. Phillip Fowler bought land in 1749 where in the deed he is styled as of Groton.

During the generation immediately preceding the Revolution, the science of medicine in Massachusetts was making progress by slow but steady steps. The bond of union with the clerical profession, existing from the earliest days of colonial life, had been cut; and there was no longer any practical connection between the two callings. Medicine had passed through the creeping stage, and was now beginning to walk alone. It was a long stride in advance when men began to turn their studies in one direction, and to make a specialty of general practice. The opportunities, however, were few for the successful prosecution of this object. There were neither medical schools nor hospitals, and the young men were obliged to pursue their studies under the guidance of practising physicians. Frequently they were bound out, like apprentices, to their instructors, and were compelled to do all sorts of chores around the house and barn, as well as the professional drudgery. In those days the physicians used to buy their own drugs and prepare their own medicines; and it was the province of the students to pound the bark and spread the plasters, as well as to mix the ointments and
make the pills. In short they were to be useful to their employers, as best they might in any way, whether in bleeding patients, pulling teeth, or attending to other cases of minor surgery. Sometimes they formed alliances and attachments which lasted beyond the period of their studies. Instances might be given where the instructor watched the development of a fledgling doctor with all the interest of a father-in-law. It was customary for physicians in their daily rounds of practice to be accompanied by their scholars, in order to show them the different forms of disease, and to teach them the rules of diagnosis. On their return home the young men would sometimes undergo a form of questioning, which was considered an examination. In this way, with a certain amount of medical reading, the main supply of doctors was kept up. The few exceptions were persons who went abroad to study, where of course they had the best opportunities that science then could give. On coming back to their native land, such students brought with them the freshest ideas and the latest expressions of medicine, which they were not slow to impart to others. Aside from these advantages they returned with a diploma and had the right to affix M. D. to their names, an honor beyond the reach of those who had remained at home.

The following sketches of medical men connected with the town in one way or another were written some time ago. They are now printed for the benefit of local antiquaries who may wish to know something about them.

---

AMOS BANCROFT.

The following letter will explain itself:

_Boston, May 28, 1913._

_Dear Doctor,—_

Here is a copy of the memoir of Dr. Bancroft, the original of which is in my grandfather's handwriting. I sent General Bancroft a copy of it, and he writes me in part as follows:
"Of the highly prized remains of Samuel Frost I think I became cognizant at an early age. They reposed in the loft of the carriage house of Charles Bancroft (my father) during my boyhood, and were regarded by the children with something akin to indifference. There are several stories in connection therewith, which are amusing. I believe one was to the effect that they were at one time decently buried (of course long after my grandfather's death), and then accidentally dug up in some farming operation by some one unacquainted with their antecedents, resulting in a suspicion of foul play. I have been told also that the skeleton was once the stake in a game of cards. What finally became of the thing I don't know, but I have the impression that Dr. Samuel A. Green has some information about it."

Yours sincerely,

F. C. Shattuck.

Amos Bancroft was the fourth son of Captain Edmond Bancroft, a farmer and Militia officer, occupying a reputable position in society at Pepperell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. His mother's maiden name was Rachel Howard, daughter of a respectable farmer in Chelmsford. She had been previously married to Jonathan Barron, a subaltern officer in the provincial army, who was killed in battle on the shores of Lake George in what was called the morning fight, a battle between the English and French, the English army commanded by Sir William Johnson. The first fruit of this second marriage was a daughter, who was married to Timothy Farrar, for more than forty years judge in the courts of New Hampshire, and who died recently at an advanced age, exceeding a century. Amos was born May 23, 1767, in a heroic age when fathers were wont to offer up to their country on the altar of liberty their oldest sons. Edmond and Jonathan his elder brothers belonged to Prescott's regiment, the oldest of whom while encamped on the tents field spread out on Prospect Hill, Charlestown, died of the natural smallpox. Jonathan, a mere stripling, fired with the enthusiasm of the day enlisted during the war, the War of Independence. He recently departed at the age of eighty-six. Thomas, the third son, remained at home to aid in cultivating the farm for the support of the family and payment of the taxes levied to carry on the
war. He also recently died at the age of eighty-two. The fourth son, the subject of our present notice, was sent by his father to Harvard University, where he was graduated in the Class of 1791. He afterwards studied medicine with Dr. Oliver Prescott, of Groton, simultaneously attending the medical lectures delivered in Cambridge by Drs. Warren, Waterhouse, and Dexter. Experience as an army surgeon in the War of Independence had impressed on the mind of Dr. Warren the importance of a knowledge of anatomy. He founded the medical school, taking on himself the two most difficult branches, anatomy and surgery. I say difficult, because the people demanded skill in surgery, and at the same time were ready to stone to death any violation of the sanctuary of the grave, however ignominious or vile had been the life of the tenant. At this time was confided to young Bancroft procuring a subject for dissection. He had recourse to the gallows at Worcester, where had been hung a murderer and parricide. Bancroft had marked the grave, and favored by darkness cautiously proceeded to the spot, determined to present an acceptable offering to science. While exhuming, he learned he was watched. He fired from a pistol a blank cartridge, frightened from the field the conscientious opponents of dissection, and conveyed to the eloquent professor of anatomy the subject. Ever afterwards Dr. Bancroft had the friendship of his teachers and of his medical brethren. This parricide and murderer had first killed his own father, and afterwards on the hypothesis of insanity, was delivered over to the keeping of a humane deputy sheriff, who took pity on him, and afterwards slew this humane interceder for his life. The bones of Samuel Frost, the name of the criminal, born in No Town, county of Worcester, have taught osteology in the cabinet of Dr. Bancroft to not a few who have since been useful members of the medical profession, his pupils. Dr. Bancroft commenced the practice of medicine at Westford, Massachusetts, and on the death of Dr. Ward, of Weston, removed to that town, where he acquired an extensive practice. In 1811 an opportunity to purchase an eligible farm in Groton, the residence of the accomplished
speaker of the house of representatives, the Hon. Timothy Bigelow, Dr. Bancroft removed to Groton. Here he divided his attention between medicine and agriculture, in both of which he acquired reputation. The sustaining corn and the rescued from the grave both did sound his praise. As a physician his characteristic was discrimination, decision, and unflinching fidelity to his patient. He enjoyed extensively the friendship of his professional brethren. His youngest son he educated to the profession to inherit his reputation.

As a gentleman he was courteous, as a citizen patriotic, as a neighbor obliging, as a friend given to hospitality, as a husband kind and faithful, and as a father he instructed his children to prepare for independence by wholesome lessons of self dependence. His infirmities were those familiar to his profession and to old age. He often deferred claims for compensation until his services ceased to be sufficiently remembered, and then enforced payment. He was sometimes offensively tenacious of the rights of property, especially where boundaries in land title were involved.

He left a widow and six children, three sons and three daughters, the latter of whom were all married to educated men; the oldest daughter Abigail to the Reverend Ephraim Abbot, of Harvard, Massachusetts; the second, Lucy Miranda, to George Thacher, Esq., of Monroe, county of Waldo, Maine; and the third, Sarah Savage, to the Hon. Asa F. Lawrence, Esq., Counsellor at Law, of Pepperell, county of Middlesex, Massachusetts. He lost a few years ago an accomplished daughter, Mary Ann, who died of consumption. The oldest son Charles is a farmer on the homestead, the second is in commerce in the city of New York, and the third, the youngest child, is a physician in Groton, his native place.

There is a thrilling interest in the account of the last day of his life and the incident of his death [on July 12, 1848]. At ten o'clock in the forenoon, he called on a beloved sister of a departed wife at the house of the Chief Justice of this Commonwealth, and at half-past ten he went to State Street,
where he declined the further attendance of a friend, such was his indomitable habit of independence, or rather of self dependence.

From the Granite Bank he passed upon the south side of the street in front of the Merchants' Exchange, when he was knocked down by a spirited horse moving with the acquired momentum of rapid driving over the slippery pavement notwithstanding a vigorous effort of the driver to rein him in until brought upon his haunches. Deaf and purblind the aged physician was a ready victim to the stunning blow. Senseless and with blood pouring from his ears, a vigilant and humane police officer, stationed there by a good city government to protect the citizens from accident, bore him in his arms to a neighboring apothecary shop, where a recumbent posture, rest, and volatiles favored returning circulation and respiration. When sufficiently revived he was conveyed in a carriage accompanied by Dr. Kneeland and Dr. Salter to the residence of his lady's brother, Mr. Samuel Kneeland, where the anxious wife met him to witness his death. He revived into a consciousness of his condition and sufferings, and exclaimed, "Help me if you can!" Soon after an ineffectual effort to puke, he sank into a lethargy, experiencing a death-like one by apoplexy.

ADAM RICHARDSON.

ADAM RICHARDSON was the sixth son, and eighth child, of Deacon Stephen and Bridget (Richardson) Richardson, and was born at Woburn, on April 10, 1709. He graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1730; and the given name of his wife was Rebecca. For some years he lived in Groton, where he practised medicine, and where he had three children, born between December 14, 1737, and July 6, 1743. According to the town treasurer's book he was teaching the Grammar School from January 2, 1741-2, to August 13, 1745, as at different times payment for teaching was made to him.
between those dates; and in these several entries he is given the title of Doctor. The last date found in the records, when any payment was made, is August 13, and perhaps about this time he left town. On February 3, 1745[-6] there was paid to "William Lawrence for his keeping the Grammar School the term of six months in said town in old tenor 60-0.0,"—which extract from the treasurer's book bears out the supposition that Dr. Richardson's service as teacher ended in the summer of 1745. He was teaching the Grammar School at Woburn during the years 1747 to 1749. No trace of him is found among the files of papers at the Middlesex Probate Office in East Cambridge.

BENJAMIN SHATTUCK.

Dr. Benjamin Shattuck was the second son of Stephen and Elizabeth (Robbins) Shattuck, and was born at Littleton, on November 22, 1742. He graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1765, and studied medicine under the instruction of Dr. Oliver Prescott. After learning his profession, he settled at Templeton, on the special invitation of the inhabitants of that town, where he had a large practice.

On April 12, 1772, Dr. Shattuck married Lucy, only daughter of Jonathan and Rachel (Howard) Barron, who outlived her husband. The widow married, secondly, on July 7, 1796, the Reverend Asaph Rice, of Westminster. She was born at Chelmsford, on December 19, 1753, and died at Templeton, on April 5, 1821.

Dr. Shattuck's wife was a half-sister of the late Dr. Amos Bancroft, of Groton. Their mother for her first husband married Jonathan Barron, who was killed at the Battle of Lake George, on September 8, 1755; and they had three children, Jonathan, Lucy, and Benjamin. She married as his second wife, Captain Edmund Bancroft, of Pepperell, the father of Dr. Bancroft; and this kinship accounts for the
intimacy that formerly existed between the Bancroft and Shattuck families.

Dr. George Cheyne Shattuck (1783–1854), Dr. Benjamin's son, for many years was a prominent physician of Boston; and Dr. George Cheyne Shattuck, Jr. (1813–1893), was also a distinguished member of the profession, and a professor in the Harvard Medical School, who told me once that, when a medical student himself, he used to drive with Dr. Bancroft on his circuit while visiting patients. A sister of his, Lucy Cheever, died at Dr. Bancroft's house in Groton, on December 22, 1835. Dr. George Brune Shattuck (H. C. 1863) and Frederick Cheever Shattuck (H. C. 1868), of the next generation, are also well-known and eminent physicians in Boston.

ISAAC HURD.

Dr. ISAAC HURD was the third son of Benjamin and Grace (Easterbrook) Hurd, and was born at Charlestown, on July 27, 1756. He graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1776, and immediately after leaving Cambridge entered upon the study of medicine under Dr. Oliver Prescott. For several months during the year 1777 he served as surgeon in the Revolutionary army. In 1778 he settled at Billerica as a practising physician; and while living there, on September 13, 1778, he married Sarah, eldest child of William and Sarah (White) Tompson, who died on June 1, 1789. By this marriage there were five children. After the death of his wife he removed to Concord, where he continued to live until his death, which took place on November 19, 1844.

Dr. Hurd married, secondly, on November 21, 1790, Mrs. Polly, daughter of Gershom and Mary Flagg, of Boston, and widow of Dr. Josiah Wilder, of Lancaster, who died on November 26, 1821; and thirdly, on February 3, 1825, Mrs. Mary Bates, widow of Captain Caleb Bates, of Concord, whose maiden name was Douglass. She came originally from Scituate; and she died on February 22, 1854.
Albert Jones Bellows was the eldest child of Asahel and Hannah (Valentine) Bellows, and was born at Groton on July 28, 1804. His mother was Hannah, third daughter of William and Elizabeth (Jones) Valentine, who was born at Hopkinton, on March 25, 1781, and died at Groton, on September 11, 1843. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the Class of 1829, and practised his profession at Milford, Salem, Charlestown, and Roxbury. He was married, first, on February 5, 1829, to Pamela Fitch, of Worcester; secondly, to Cleaves, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and, thirdly, to Maria Snow. His death took place in Boston, on December 11, 1869.

Albert Fitch Bellows, his eldest child, was an artist of some note, and in our boyhood we were schoolmates at Lawrence Academy. The son painted a picture which has been engraved, and through the reproduction is somewhat famous. The engraving bears the title of "The Village Elms," with a secondary legend of "Sunday Morning in New England," and was copyrighted in 1878. One day on meeting him in the street, out of curiosity I asked if he did not have Groton in mind when he painted the picture, as the view might well apply to many a country village. He replied at once that he did not, but that the scene lay mainly in Hadley. The view represents the coming together or converging of two streets in a country town; and I am told that one street, the principal one, is supposed to be in Hadley village, and the other in Northampton, before that town became a city, and while it still had a rural aspect.

William Newcomb Stone.

Dr. William Newcomb Stone was a son of Dr. Thomas Newcomb and Hannah (Atwood) Stone, and was born at Truro, on August 7, 1845. He began to attend school at
Lawrence Academy in 1860, and remained there for nearly three years. He studied medicine under the tuition of his father and graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the Class of 1869, and soon afterward joined the Massachusetts Medical Society. He began the practice of his profession at Wellfleet, where he acquired a wide reputation as a skilful physician.

On October 24, 1875, he was married at No. 154 Dorchester Street, South Boston, to Adeline, daughter of Joshua and Adeline (Higgins) Hamblen. She was a native of Wellfleet, and died there, on March 20, 1898, at the age of 49 years, 10 months, and 26 days. A few months later Dr. Stone died there also, on October 17, 1898, aged 53 years, 2 months, and 10 days. They were survived by two children, a son and a daughter.

---

**EPITAPH.**

The following epitaph was copied by me, on September 13, 1892, from a slate slab standing near the south-eastern corner of the Burying-ground at Charlestown, New Hampshire. Elizabeth Shepley was the second daughter and third child of John and Abigail (Green) Sheple, of Groton, and an aunt of the late Ether Shepley, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine. The surname was originally written Sheple, though pronounced Shepley. See also the Reverend Henry Hamilton Saunderson's History of Charlestown (p. 628), for an account of her own family.

Elizabeth Shepley
wife of
William Willard
Æ. 92 yrs. 3 mos. 20 ds.
NAMING OF GROTON.

The following extract from the Reverend William Hubbard’s “General History of New England, from the Discovery to MDCLXX” (second edition, Boston, 1848), refers to the naming of the town of Groton.

Two more Plantations or townships were this year [1655] granted, the one at Shashin, upon a river falling into the Merrimack, called Billerica; the other higher above Concord, called Groton.

Thus did the inhabitants of New England, that it might not be forgotten whence they had their original, imprint some remembrance of their former habitations in England upon their new dwellings in America (p. 545).

REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS.

In the year 1841, “A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services” was published under the direction of the United States government, which gave the names, ages, and places of residence of all pensioners then living, as well as the names of heads of families with whom they were residing. The list includes presumably all the surviving Revolutionary soldiers at that period; and among them are the names of ten Groton men, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>With whom living</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abel Prescott.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Abel Prescott.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Prescott.</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Merrick Lewis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Parker.</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Joshua Parker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tarbell.</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>William Tarbell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Nutting.</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Jacob Nutting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Patch.</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Isaac Patch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Sawtell, 2d.</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Joseph Sawtell, 2nd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lakin.</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>David Lakin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Farnsworth.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Amos Farnsworth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Pingrey.</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>John Pingrey.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abel Prescott was the second son of Jonas and Rebecca (Bulkley) Prescott, and was born at Groton, on December 12, 1759. He was married to Hannah Spalding, of Ashburnham; and among his children were Phinehas Gilman Prescott and Charles Prescott. He died on September 18, 1841, and his widow on August 17, 1854.

William Prescott was the youngest son of the Honorable James and Susanna (Lawrence) Prescott, and was born at Groton, on September 5, 1768. At a Fourth of July celebration he was severely wounded in the hand by the premature discharge of a cannon; and in consequence of the injury he received a pension from the United States government. For many years after the death of his father he lived in the family of Major James Lewis, and after Major Lewis's death in the family of Merrick Lewis, the youngest brother of James. Mr. Prescott died at Groton, on August 31, 1843. He was a nephew of Colonel William Prescott who commanded the American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and a brother of Benjamin who fell in that action.

Joshua Parker was a son of Ephraim and Azubah (Farnsworth) Parker, and was born at Groton, on May 26, 1764. He was in the army near the end of the War, and he died on September 15, 1843. His son the late Andrew Johnson Parker, of Charlestown, told me that he remembered his father's discharge paper.

William Tarbell was the second son of Benjamin and Azubah (Farnsworth) Tarbell, and was born at Groton, on October 19, 1764. He was married, on April 8, 1788, to Polly Simonds, of Groton; secondly, on April 24, 1823, to Susan Blood, of Groton; and, thirdly, on May 13, 1840, to Mrs. Sarah (Wetherbee) Nutting, of Townsend. Mr. Tarbell's mother died on March 14, 1838, at the age of 97 years, 8 months, and 19 days, the oldest person in town at that time; and he died on August 3, 1851, aged 86 years, 9 months, and 16 days. The date of his birth is taken from the family Bible and differs by a few days from that given in the town records.

Jacob Nutting, a son of Isaac and Lydia (Nutting) Nutting,
was born at Groton, on January 23, 1747, and died on May 14, 1841.

Isaac Patch was the second son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Avery) Patch, and was born at Westford in the year 1762. He was married in 1786 to Phebe, youngest child of Reuben and Susanna (Chandler) Fletcher of that town; and they had eight children, of whom the youngest, Sophronia, was the wife of the late Moses Titus, of Ayer. Mr. Patch died at Groton, on October 21, 1841, aged 79 years; and his widow on January 9, 1843, also aged 79 years.

Joseph Sawtell, 2d, was the second son of Joseph and Lydia (Jenkins) Sawtell, and was born at Groton, on May 8, 1764. He was married, on February 22, 1788, to Hannah, youngest daughter of Ebenezer and Mary Kemp. For many years he was sexton of the town; and he died on March 21, 1842. Another, Joseph, the father of the late Ephraim Sawtell, was living in the year 1840, when this list of pensioners was made.

David Lakin was the youngest child of John and Lydia (Parker) Lakin, and was born at Groton, on October 10, 1753. He died on March 3, 1846, at which time he was the oldest person in town.

Amos Farnsworth was the eldest son of Amos and Lydia (Longley) Farnsworth, and was born at Groton, on April 28, 1754. After the Lexington alarm, on April 19, 1775, he marched to Cambridge in Captain Henry Farwell's company of minute-men. At the time of his death, which took place on October 29, 1847, he was the oldest person in town.

Stephen Pingrey was the eldest son of Stephen and Anna (Jewett) Pingrey, and was born at Rowley, on June 3, 1759. After the death of his second wife, which took place at Francona, New Hampshire, on June 12, 1838, in order to live with his youngest son, John, he came to Groton, where he died on May 8, 1844.

Many years ago I obtained the following facts from a Revolutionary pension-agent, whose name I have now forgotten, though there is no reason to doubt their accuracy.

Mrs. Olive Studley died at Groton, on March 2, 1845, aged
83 years. She was the widow of Consider Studley, who during the Revolution had served as a non-commissioned officer from Wrentham. They were married at Franklin in 1785; and at the time of her death she left three children, namely: Mrs. Olive Rugg, wife of the late Joseph Rugg, of Groton, Oliver Studley, and Sarah Mann Studley. Her husband died at Lancaster, on December 28, 1832; and in consequence of his military services she received from the United States government an annual pension of forty-four dollars.

Jonathan Prentiss, a native of Groton, living in Townsend, was in the military service of his country during the years 1778 and 1779. At one time he was a member of Captain Kimball's company, Colonel Sproat's regiment, and was stationed at Nantasket.

Samuel Gragg, a native of Groton, and a soldier of the Revolution, was an uncle of the late Reverend William Gragg, who graduated at Harvard College, in the Class of 1820; and his wife's name was Rachel Blood.

---

MOSES CHILD.

By his Excellency George Washington, Esq. Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.

To Moses Child Esq:

The Honourable the Continental Congress, having lately passed a Resolve, contained in the following words, to Wit,

"That two persons be sent at the expence of these colonies to Nova Scotia to inquire into the State of that Colony, the disposition of the Inhabitants towards the American cause, & the condition of the Fortifications, Docks, Yards, the Quantity of Artillery & Warlike stores, and the Number of Soldiers, Sailors, & Ships of War there, and Transmit the earliest Intelligence to General Washington."

I do hereby Constitute and Appoint you the said Moses Child —— to be one of the persons to undertake this Business; And as the
Season is late & this a work of great importance, I entreat & request, 
that you will use the utmost dispatch, attention and fidelity in the 
execution of it. The necessity of acting with a proper degree of 
caution & secrecy is too apparent to need recommendation. 
You will keep an Account of your expences, and upon your return, 
will be rewarded in a suitable manner for the fatigue of your Journey 
& the services you render your country, by conducting & discharg-
ing this business with expedition & fidelity.

Given under my hand this 24 day of Nov' 1775

G° Washington

[Modern indorsement]

Autograph of Washington, Commission of Moses Child, 1775

DAVID HENRY FELCH.

DAVID HENRY FELCH is the fourth son of Benjamin 
Franklin and Mary Elizabeth (Bennett) Felch, and was born 
at Groton, on September 19, 1856. He attended school at 
Lawrence Academy, first, in the year 1868, during the latter 
part of the preceptorship of the Reverend William Pope 
Aiken; and, later, at the opening of the present main build-
ing in the autumn of 1871, where he was under the charge of 
the Reverend James Fletcher. On July 4, 1868, the former 
building, a structure of wood known as the Academy, was 
burned to the ground. This was replaced by the present 
brick-and-stone edifice, which was dedicated with appropriate 
services, on June 29, 1871. Mr. Felch graduated at Lawrence 
Academy in 1872, after which he passed one term at Phillips 
Academy, Andover, and later a short time at Phillips Exeter 
Academy. Next he entered Bowdoin College where he 
graduated in the Class of 1874. Subsequently for a short 
period of time he was employed by the American Express 
Company, after which he studied law in the office of Charles 
Sidney Hayden, of Fitchburg, later Mayor of that city, and 
he also took a year's course at the Harvard Law School. He 
was admitted to the bar in 1880, and immediately afterward 
went west, establishing himself as a lawyer at Cheney in the
Territory of Washington, which became a State in 1889. Here he soon became prominent in various matters, educational as well as professional. He has steadily declined to enter political life, though often urged so to do.

On September 27, 1899, Mr. Felch was married to Minna Rosetta, daughter of Frederick and Marie Louise Fehly. His wife was a native of Illinois, where she was born in 1866; and her parents were Germans, who had settled at Freeport, Illinois. By this union there have been born a girl, and a boy who died in infancy. During his life on the Pacific coast he has written much for the eastern press, particularly for the Fitchburg Sentinel. His career as a lawyer has been a successful one, and he has become a man of mark in the great North-west.

Mr. Felch's father, whom I knew well, was employed in various capacities about the station at Groton Junction from the time when the Fitchburg Railroad, the Worcester and Nashua, and the several other railroads were built, forming one of the busiest junctions in the country. So many passengers changed cars at this place, now known as Ayer, that Mr. Felch became a well-known character to the travelling public. He died on May 31, 1895, aged 75 years, 10 months, and 22 days; and his widow, on April 21, 1898, aged 73 years, 5 months, and 5 days. He was a native of Greenfield, New Hampshire; and she was a native of Groton. His parents were Daniel and Ruth (Walker) Felch; and her parents were Elijah and Mary (Green) Bennett.

LAWRENCE PLAYGROUND.

Harvard graduates who admire the artistic new fence with its imposing gates around the college grounds may be interested to know that the old fence — upon which so many former graduates have sat and chatted — was not completely destroyed. A section including about 500 or 600 feet with the old posts, forty-two in number, now stands on each side of the main entrance to the Lawrence Playground at Groton. The posts are of granite with dimensions at the top about twelve inches by thirteen.
The playground, consisting of 14½ acres, is centrally situated in the village on Broad Meadow Road, and was given to the town by the late Amory Appleton Lawrence. He was a graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1870, and was one of a committee in charge to construct a memorial gateway for his class. While acting in that capacity he saw the workmen digging up the old fence, when it occurred to him that for the sake of former associations it should be preserved. So he bought a large section from the contractor and had it shipped to Groton, where it was set up anew.

On the front of the right-hand post at the entrance is a bronze tablet with the following inscription:

THE
LAWRENCE
PLAYGROUND

and on the back of the same post is another tablet bearing these words:

GIVEN BY
AMORY A. LAWRENCE
TO THE
TOWN OF GROTON
A. D. 1901
IN MEMORY OF THE MANY LAWRENCE WHO HAVE LIVED THERE
On the fourth post at the right of the entrance is a smaller tablet with these words:

**THESE POSTS WERE A PART OF THE FENCE AROUND HARVARD COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY**

Mr. Lawrence's residence and his extensive farm were in the neighborhood of the playground, which adjoins the Shumway Athletic Field belonging to Lawrence Academy. These two playgrounds, the Lawrence and the Shumway, used both for health and pleasure, comprise more than twenty-five acres of land conveniently situated for the purpose.

---

**JOSHUA GREEN'S DIARY, 1775.**

The following paper was found among the manuscripts of the late Henry Williamson Haynes, my classmate at Harvard College. The Diary is still in my possession, and I have inserted a few entries not copied by him. The signature "J: Green jun.,” written at the top of the titlepage, is that of my grandfather (H. C. 1784).

May 25, 1848. I borrowed of Mr. Samuel A. Green, of Groton, Mass., an almanac [Nathanael Low's] for 1775, in which his grandfather, Mr. Joshua Green, then a boy in the third class at the Boston Latin School, had inserted several blank leaves, upon which he wrote
some manuscript notes, with the dates annexed, the most important of which I have here transcribed.

[January] 13th: Being yr Queen's Birthday Latin School did not keep. Writ School broke up.
24th: A small detachment from each regiment here sail'd for Marshfield.

26th: Col: Leslie's expedition to Salem!

[March] 6th: Oration 1 deliver'd at the Old South Meet'house by Doct: Joseph Warren after which a number of yr: officers of yr: army in particular Cap't B: Chapman of yr: 18th & [blank] of yr: royal Irish put on their hats when yr: town was upon business, nominating persons, hold'd up yr: hands in yr: negative after a full vote, & when yr: motion was make'd for yr: next Oration, rais'd their voices strik'd yr: Canes on yr: floor, & by other indecent & insolent conduct as far in yr: power endeavor'd to afront the Town, & if possible make a disturbance.

9th: Col: Nesbitt w'th a party of yr: 47th carried Tho: Ditson jun. of Billerica thro' yr: Street (on a truck) tarr'd & feather'd, on a pre-tence yr: he had bo't a gun of a soldier, tho' not in regimentals.

16th: After several days wait'd on Gen' Gage a remonstrance was made to him by yr: Selectmen of Billerica ag't Col: Nesbitt's conduct last Thursday.

[ ]th: A mock Oration at Br: Coff: H: before a number of officers of yr: army to revile yr: patriots of liberty.1

24th: M' Jn': Hammatt died.

[April] 1st: P'th Nathan Viles to Cop's for carry'd Bacon to Waltham.
4th: Lent H G O — draw'd book — ret'd.


19th: Last night all yr: Grenadiers & yr: light Infantry of yr: army went in yr: Men of Wars boats over Charles River to Cambridge & from thence to Concord, after havg kill'd 8 Men at Lexington, & this morn's were follow'd by Earl Piercy's Brigade of regim's, yr: whole body were attack'd & oblig'd to retreat to Charlestown, with yr: loss of 65 kill'd, 180 wounded, & 27 missing.

21st: Writ's School did not keep.

1 This oration was delivered on March 15.
24th Bro't my books home from Latin School.

[May] 5th Came out from Boston to go to Westfield.

11th Fast day.

Reinforcement or regim' sent Gage; viz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light Dragoons</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col': Geo. Preston</td>
<td>Ln: Blaquere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40: Sir Robt Hamilton</td>
<td>Ja: Grant</td>
<td>Ja: Grant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45: Wm Haviland</td>
<td>Jn: Tullikens</td>
<td>H: Monckton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63: Fr: Grant</td>
<td>Ja: Patterson</td>
<td>J Anstruther.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* killed at Bunker Hill

[June] 5th Went to Mr Ballantine's School.

Gen: Lee to Gen: Burgoyne

June 7: 1785. "I serv'd several campaigns in America last War, & cannot recollect a single instance of ill behavior in the provincials, where the regulars acquitted themselves well. Indeed we well remember some instances of the reverse, particularly where the late Colonel Grant, (he who lately pledg'd himself for the general cowardice of America) ran away with a large body of his own regiment, and was saved from destruction by the valor of a few Virginians."

"Is it possible Mr: Howe sho'd be prevail'd upon to accept of such an office! The brother of him, to whose memory the much injur'd people of Boston erected a monument, sho'd be employ'd as one of the instruments of their destruction!"

17th Battle at Charlestown.

[July] [a rude drawing of the Colony seal]

The seal of the Massachusetts Colony with a sword aims at quiet rest under liberty.


For ye General a black cockade & a broad scarlet ribbon from ye left shoulder to ye right hip but being und: ye coat is seen only across his breast.
Major General a blk cockade w/" a purple ribbon as above.  
Aid de camps, a blue.  
Col′s, L; Col′s, & Major a scarlet cockade.  
Captains a yellow cockade.  
First & Sec′ Lieut′ a green 

[August]  Albany to Will's Creek  
      Fort du Quesne to Will's Creek [distances given].  
      Quebec to Albany [distances given].  
[September] From Boston to Newport [and other places, with distances].  
28: Went from Westfield to Glastenbury.  
[October]  Third Class at S′ Grammar School, Boston, April 1775,  
viz :  H: G. Otis, Dan′ Boyer, Jn′ Hubbard, Sam′ Taylor, J: Green,  
      Eben′ Bass, Nathan Frazier, Foster Penny, Sam′ Lamb, Is′ Davis,  
      Chas′ Basnet, W′ Dorr, Sam′ Borland, Benj′ Homans, Jn′ Erving  
      Waldo, Benj′ Bracket, Josh′ Paine, Jon′ Swift, Jam′ Lowe, Jack  
      Gardner, Gilb′ Deblois.  
[November] 1.  Return′d from Glastenbury to Westfield.  
23′.  Thanksgiving Day in this Province.  
25:  P′ M′ Sanders 30s for a p′ shoes.  
[December] 9′.  Paid M′ Hitchcock 12s for a p′ of Wash Leather  
      Breeches.  
28′.  Town Meet′ when y′ follow′ Gent′ were chose a Com′ of  
      Inspection & Correspondence, &c.  
      L′ Dan′ Sacket  
      L′ John Kellog  
      Ens : Dan′ Bag  
      Ens : Zach′ Bush  
      M′ Bohan King  
      Sj′ D′ Weller, jun′:  
      L′: S′ Noble  
      Sj′ Oliver Ingersol.  

NB  A new Com′ chose at next March Meet′

ASA AND PHEBE GREEN.

The facts below, although not connected with my family,  
were given to me in 1889 by the late William Berry Lap-  
ham, of Augusta, a distinguished historian, who wrote the
histories of several towns in Maine and other works relating to that State.

The following I copy from Rumford (Maine) town records. This family was a roving one, and lived in various places before they came here from what is now Maine in 1828.

Asa Green married Phebe [Prescott, both of Groton, June 5, 1805] —

Children:

- Sereno, b. Tyngsboro, " December 4, 1807.
- Joel P., b. " " August 31, 1809.
- Oren, b. Mercer, Maine, February 26, 1811.
- Harriet, b. " " November 15, 1812.
- Andrew J., b. " " November 8, 1814.
- Elmira, b. " " August 5, 1816.
- Dolly W., b. Pl. No. 8, July 29, 1818.
- Ransom N., b. " " January 10, 1821.
- Julian, b. " " October 24, 1822.
- Calista, b. " " September 8, 1824.
- Abigail T., b. " " June 12, 1826.
- Asa, Jr., b. Rumford, March 31, 1829.

SOME INDIAN WORDS.

Geographical names of Indian origin furnish now one of the few links in New England that connect modern times with the prehistoric period. In the absence of any correct standard either of pronunciation or spelling, which always characterizes an unwritten language, these words have been greatly distorted and changed, and thus have lost much of their original meaning, but their root generally remains. As the shards that lie scattered around the sites of old Indian dwellings are eagerly picked up by the archaeologist for critical examination, so any fragmentary facts about the Indian names of places are worth saving by the antiquary and scholar for their historical and philological value.

The spelling of these words varies, as at first they were
written according to their sound and not according to their derivation. It is rare to find an Indian word in an early document spelled twice alike. In the lapse of time these verbal changes have been so great that an Indian now would hardly recognize any of the words by sound.

The following is the copy of a letter written by Mr. Lincoln Newton Kinnicutt, of Worcester, and will explain itself. The writer of the letter is one of the few scholars in the State, who have made a critical study of Indian place-names found in this neighborhood. A few years ago I asked Mr. Kinnicutt to give me the benefit of his philological learning, and tell me the meaning of certain Indian words, which he has now done. By his compliance with my request he has placed me under great personal obligations.

Worcester, September 22, 1913.

My dear Doctor Green: —

When you asked me three or four years ago about the meaning of the Indian place names in Groton, I promised you that some time I would try to translate them and you have reminded me once or twice of that promise.

This summer I was obliged to study the Indian names in the vicinity of Pemaquid, Monhegan, and York, Maine, and at the same time I remembered my promise and examined the Indian names mentioned in "Groton during the Indian Wars."

When the American Antiquarian Society wrote to Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull in regard to the meaning of the word "Massachusetts" he replied, "I very willingly give you as much as I know and add what I guess." Please read Dr. Trumbull's answer again and emphasize every word of it before reading my ideas in regard to the Groton names.

I believe, in attempting to give a meaning to an Indian place name, one should know and see, if possible, the locality and then try to look at it from the Indian point of view for one must bear in mind that these names were almost always very descriptive. They served as geographical guides to the Indians and each area within a twenty or thirty mile radius had its descriptive distinguishing place name. It is very interesting to find that sometimes Indian names translated seem to give additional proof or disproof of some local tradition, of some accepted statement and sometimes of some historical incident.
If, at any time, you wish to use any of these translations in your writings about Groton you are at perfect liberty to do so, with no obligation to give any credit to me. Some time, if I ever publish another monograph on Indian names, I might possibly use them.

I only hope that although my possible solutions may not prove satisfactory to you, that you will believe that I have given my best knowledge and my best guessing.

Very truly yours,

LINCOLN N. KINNICUTT.

BABITTASSET, “name of a village in Pepperell.” This is a most interesting name, and I have not given up all hope of a solution; but at present I will not venture to make a suggestion.

BADDACOOK or BADACOCK, as spelled in the land grant to Nicholas Cady the third of eleventh month 1669, a pond in the eastern part of Groton. The Natick word Padtohquohhan, used as a verb, means, “to thunder,” from a verb which signifies, to hear, to be heard. The Quiripi has the word, padak, he heareth. The termination, ock, is found in many Indian place names (“from ‘ohke,’ variations auke, aug, ag, ac, oche, ock. og, oc, uc, Ogue, signifying ground, land, place not limited or enclosed.”—Trumbull). I think that the original signification of the word may have been, a place where one hears, or echo place. It would be very interesting to know if at the present day there is any spot near this pond where there is a noticeable echo but of course the destruction of the woods may have destroyed it, even if any ever existed. Also another translation may be the, “place where it thunders,” signifying a locality where severe thunder storms were frequent. It must always be borne in mind that the spelling of Indian names was only as they sounded to the individual writer and it is for this reason so many different forms are given for the same word. The letter “B” is seldom used as an initial letter in the Natick tongue and from an examination of various names about Groton I believe there was a mixture of dialects of the Algonkin language. Indian tribes living within fifty miles of each other in New England had individual differences in the sound and use of certain letters. On the borders of Rhode Island and Connecticut there were four or five different dialects with very marked differences in the sounds of the letters and in the names of objects.

CATAConAMOG, CATEcUNEMaUG, or CATEcONiMOUG, CATAcOOnA-MUG, a pond in the southeast part of Lunenburg, and southwest part
of Shirley, now Shirley reservoir. The name is also given to a stream, which rises in the western or central part of Lunenburg and flows through the pond, and through Shirley into the Nashua. It is probably from Kehche or K'che-quon-amaug, "the great long fishing place." As the stream, from the river to the pond, is a series of small ponds, this is the natural signification of the name, and probably was first applied to the pond, and stream between the pond and river. Kehti, "greatest," "principal"; quinni, variation quon, "long," amaug, "fishing place."

Chicopee, a district in the northern part of Groton. This name is used in several places in Massachusetts and has various spellings: Chequapee, Chickopee, Chicabee, Chicopee. It is probably from Chickee or Chekeyeu, "it rages" or "is violent," and Pe, the root of names of water in nearly all Algonkin dialects, "raging or rushing water." Originally this name in Groton was probably applied to some stream. Chikkup also was the name for cedar tree, and Chikkuppee an adjective meaning, "of cedar." Possibly the name is a corruption of Chikkuppee-auke, and was first applied to cedar land.

Humhaw, a brook in Westford. This name must be much corrupted, and probably is only a part of a long word, and is untranslatable.

Kissacook, a hill in Westford. Kissenaug is the name of a pond in Middlebury, Connecticut, and Kisnop, the name of a brook in Salisbury, in the same State. Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull does not attempt to translate either of these names and therefore I certainly shall not attempt to translate Kissacook.

Massapoag, a pond lying partly in Groton and partly in Dunstable, also a pond in the southern part of Lunenburg. The name is from Massa, "large," variations (Missi, Mashhi) and paug, "standing water." This same name occurs with some variations throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and was applied to the large pond in the locality. Massapaug, Mashipaug, Shepaug, were probably the same. Dr. Trumbull says Sebago, lake in Maine, was the equivalent, the initial "M" having been lost.

Mulpus, name of a brook in Shirley. This is not an Indian name. The Rev. Seth Chandler, in his History of the Town of Shirley, writes "Tradition saith that it derived its name from a Frenchman by the name of Multipus, who lived in Lunenburg, near its source."

Nagoc, name of a pond in Littleton. This certainly is not a water name but has been transferred from some near locality to the pond.
This has been a very common usage throughout New England. I am inclined to believe that the word is a corruption of Natuag, Naiyag, Noyack, meaning a point or corner of land. Eliot wrote the word Naig or Naiyag, "a corner or angle," and without doubt it was used by the Indians as a boundary mark. Naig-og would mean corner land.

NASHORA, the old name of Littleton now applied to a hill in that town, as well as to a brook in Westford. It was the name of a small tribe of Indians who lived near Nashoba Hill, and was the name also of the Indian town which Daniel Gookin, writing in 1674, says was the "sixth Indian Praying Village." Of course the similarity between the name Nashua and Nashoba is very striking but in its present form I cannot venture a translation. Neshobe was the name of an Indian scout or spy who gave valuable aid to the Green Mountain Boys, 1770–1780. He lived on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. Possibly he was a descendant from the old Nashoba tribe. An island in Lake Bomeseen is now called "Neshobe." There is a tradition that the word Nashoba meant "the hill that shakes," "that at times certain rumbling noises were heard and vibratory motions were felt." There is no trace of this signification in the word.

NASHUA, NASHAWAY, NASHAUE, NASHAWOG, a "river running through Groton." These are all different forms of the same name from Nashaue-ohke, "the land between." The river takes its name from the land. This root occurs in a great many Indian names in various localities, mutilated sometimes in many ways. Ashawog, Assawog, Natchaug probably conveyed about the same idea. Shawamug meant the half-way fishing place. Nasaw, "between," "in the middle of." (Cuok, Langue Algonquine.)

NAUMOX, the name of a district, near the Longley Monument, lying west of the East Pepperell road. It may have been a place name, although much corrupted and changed. The letter "x" is very seldom found in a place name, however, as a termination, even with all the corruptions and changes that such names undergo. The root, I think, is aum, or om, "a fish-hook (Eliot, Indian Bible, Matt. xvii. 27), aumani, "he is fishing," aumanep, "a fishing line." Nawnock-set would mean, in my opinion, the country (or land) near the fishing place,—and this takes care of the letter "x,"—set is a locative suffix often used, and signified "near," or "at."

Namucksuck was the Indian name of a place on the west side of the Thames River (Miss Caulkins, New London, 123). That name designated "a fishing place at the outlet,"—name, "fish," auk,
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

"place," suck, "at the outlet or mouth of a stream." Thus the name could easily have become Naumuchs or Naumox. Nameaug, or Nameoock, from Name-auck, was the Indian name for New London, "fishing place." If this is a place name, I think that on account of the many streams, ponds, etc., in the locality, the root namohs, "fish," which we find all through New England enters into its composition in some way.

Another possible solution is that the word is derived from Nayseu-mauauk, which would probably signify "the place where he carries or bears on his shoulders." This same root, in my opinion, appears in the word Manomet, in Plymouth County. Mai, "a path," and Nayeumau, "the place where they carry across on their backs."

**Mississippi**, a river running through original Groton township. I cannot translate this.

**Nonacoicus**, a brook in Ayer, though formerly applied to a tract of land. Sometimes the word is abbreviated to Coicus. In looking over my notes in regard to this name I find that in 1905 I made the following memorandum. Dr. Samuel A. Green found a writing probably relating to this name in a book once loaned by Judge Sewall; and on a fly leaf at the beginning of the book is the following note in Judge Sewall's handwriting; "Nunacoquis signifies an Indian earthen pot, as Hannah, Hahatau's squaw tells me March 24, 1699, which throws some light on the meaning of an Indian word." George J. Burns, Esq., of Ayer, wrote as follows, "Near the mouth of the Nonacoicus brook there is a succession of irregular ridges of small hills which surround or enclose various hollows or basins." (Proceedings, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2d series, viii., pp. 200-211.)

From this I believe the original diminutive and name may have been Nunae-ohkuk-es-et. Nunae, "dry," ohkuk, "earthen pot," es, diminutive et, "at or in," "at the small dry earth pots," or possibly "at the small earth pots where water sifts through," derived from Nanah-kinig, a sieve. Nunae-cowaewesuck, or Nunae-koowas, "dry pines."

**Nubanussuck**, a pond in Westford. This name must have belonged to the stream which flowed from the pond, as the termination signifies (sauk, suck, "outlet"), not to the pond itself. In its present shape it is untranslatable.

**Petapauket**, a name of pond in the original petition to the general court for the grant of the town and used in connection with the territory and the neighborhood. It is sometimes written Petapawage and Petapaway. In a letter written to you December 22, 1877, Dr.
Trumbull says “Petaupauk,” and other similar forms literally means, “a place into which the foot sinks,” represented by the Chippeway-petobe, and the Abnaki-potepaug, a bog or marsh.

Quosopanagon, a meadow in Groton, “on the other side of the river.” In my notes referring to the name Quassaponikin, made in 1905, I find the following: “A hill in the N. E. part of Lancaster, also the same name given to a meadow and brook in the early records of the town. A village in Lancaster is now called Ponikin. I believe this name applied first to a shallow part of the river near where the brook enters the Nashua. The northern Indians have the word Poonichuan, “where the current stops.” The Natick dialect has Ponquag, “a ford,” also Penaekinnu, “it spreads,” and Josiah Cotton gives Pongqui as “shallow,” in his vocabulary. Dr. Trumbull says in his definition of Quassapaug, K’che-paug, “greatest pond,” a name easily corrupted to Quassapaug. (Trumbull, Indian Names of Connecticut, p. 59.) Quassaponikin corrupted, from k’che-ponquag-in, would mean, “at the greatest fording place.” Probably the same name in Groton would signify a fording place, although the name in Groton is spelled Quosopanagon.

Shabikin, Shabokin, Chaboken, etc., early name of a tract of land in the northwest part of Harvard, formerly a part of Stow Leg. I believe this name must have been originally Chepiohkin. “Chepiohke,” the Indian name for “hell,” “the place apart,” “the place of separation,” with the locative suffix in or en. A curious indication that this was the original signification is the fact that the pond in this tract of land has always been called “Hell Pond.” “Shabikin” seems to have been the original designation of that part of Stow Leg which includes Hell Pond. (Nourse, History of Harvard, p. 72.) “The pioneers always called it Hell Pond, and so it is recorded in the worn and yellow documents of their day that have come down to us.” (Ibid. p. 66.)

Squannacook, a river in the western part of Groton, rises in the northern part of Townsend, forms the boundary between Shirley and Groton, and flows into the Nashua. Possibly the name is a corruption of Squamicuk, which would mean salmon place, m’squamaug, “salmon,” and auke, “place,” or with ut would signify the “place for taking salmon.” We know from early records there were many salmon in these rivers, however this is not a satisfactory explanation. It is also the name of a village in western part of Groton. A very similar name is found in Rhode Island. Squannakonk is the name of a swamp in Rehoboth, where Annawon was captured by Captain
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Church, in 1676. Mr. Drake (in his edition of Mather's Brief History, p. 180) says that this name probably signifies "Swamp of Night," but Dr. Trumbull wrote: "I can make nothing of this name: it is certainly corrupted, and has lost at least one (initial) syllable." (Church's Philip's War, part I, p. 163, note.)

Tadmuck, a brook and meadow in Westford. This name is variously spelled in the old documents, Tatnoc, Tadnick, Tadmuck, and Tadmuck. The last is more general and is adopted as the true one. Tadmuck, Great Tadmuck, and Little Tadmuck were all meadows and more or less swamp land and I have very little doubt that it has the same signification as Tatamuckatakis, the name of a neck and creek in Long Island. That name belonged originally to the meadows bordering the creek, and the word signified, "meadow that trembles," from "tata," "to shake," "to tremble," and moskehtuash "grass," "pasturage." (Tooker.) The last syllable may have been lost and the different dialects may have accounted for some change. Certainly the Algonkin roots in this word authorize the translation. Maskituash, "grass or hay." (Roger Williams.)

Unquetenassett, a brook in the northern part of Groton. The first syllable "unque" is probably the same as ongkaue, "beyond," "further," and the last syllable is a locative, but in its present form I cannot translate it.

Wabansconcett, found in the original petition for the grant of the town of Groton and used in connection with the territory of the neighborhood. Waban, a sachem living at Nonantum in 1676, probably owned much land about Groton, for a deed of 1683 of "all and every part of that Tract of land which is called Groton" was signed by Thomas Waban, of Natick, and a few other Indians. Thomas Waban is supposed to have been the son of Waban the Sachem, the first Indian to receive the gospel from John Eliot and who became one of his most trusted and efficient workers among the Praying Indians. Waban, "the wind," keon, signifying "going over," and the locative set, "at or near." Possibly the name signified, "where the wind blows." The elder sachem probably took his name from some part of his land at Groton, as was customary.
CALEB BUTLER (D. C., 1800) TO EPHRAIM ABBOT (H. C., 1806), OF WESTFORD.

Groton, Aug. 10, 1836.

DEAR SIR, — On examining my old minutes I find there was an uncertainty respecting the distance from Prescott’s hill to Westford Meetinghouse, & as I made that no part of the route from Lowell to Worcester, I never corrected it. I have now measured a base line from Prescott’s to another hill, of 350 rods, by which I find the distance to be 1817 rods. I also find the distance of Jo. Ingall’s [Joe English] hill from Prescott’s to be — 24 Miles 279 rods. Uncoonoock, 26 miles 66 rods. The groves 40 miles 227 rods, Kysarge 54 miles 154 rods, what you call Mt. Washington about the last distance. I suspect your needle was attracted in the bellfry about one degree to the east, & in making these calculations I have so estimated the bearings of the objects.

It only remains to be ascertained, whether I see from Prescott’s hill, the same mountain which you see at Westford & call Mt. Washington. When you have leisure, on a clear day & will come to Groton, I think I can satisfy you on this score.

Yours in haste,

C. BUTLER.

THE FIRST OPERATION UNDER ETHER.

A LIFE of Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, the discoverer of the anaesthetic properties of sulphuric ether, was published at New York in the year 1859. It was written by Dr. Nathan Payson Rice, and is entitled “Trials of a Public Benefactor, as illustrated in the Discovery of Etherization.” In this book is given an account of the first operation ever performed on a patient, while under the influence of ether, which was the extraction of a tooth. The subject was Ebenezer Hopkins Frost, a native of Groton now dead, who is still remembered by many persons. He was a son of Solomon and Dorcas (Hopkins) Frost, and was born on December 7, 1824. He became quite noted as a singer and teacher of music, and was a member of the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston.
Dr. Morton tried first on himself the experiment of inhaling ether, and after describing the effect it produced he goes on to say:

Delighted with the success of this experiment, I immediately announced the result to the persons employed in my establishment, and waited impatiently for some one upon whom I could make a fuller trial. Toward evening, a man, residing in Boston, came in, suffering great pain, and wishing to have a tooth extracted. He was afraid of the operation, and asked if he could be mesmerized. I told him I had something better, and saturating my handkerchief, gave it to him to inhale. He became unconscious almost immediately. It was dark and Dr. Hayden held the lamp, while I extracted a firmly-rooted bicuspine tooth. There was not much alteration in the pulse, and no relaxation of the muscles. He recovered in a minute, and knew nothing of what had been done to him. He remained for some time talking about the experiment. This was on the 30th of September, 1846. This I consider to be the first demonstration of this new fact in science. I have heard of no one who can prove an earlier demonstration. If any one can do so I yield to him the priority of time (pp. 62, 63).

Immediately after the operation Frost gave a certificate corroborating these statements, which is printed in the book, and signed by him as then living at No. 42 Prince Street, Boston. Nearly twenty years afterward he died at Fitchburg, on September 7, 1865.

GENEALOGICAL ITEMS.

A MISTAKE CORRECTED. — Mr. Butler, in his History of Groton (p. 449), prints a list of illegitimate births that have occurred in the town before the year 1782, giving the names both of the mothers and the children. It is not claimed that the list is complete, but in one case at least it is incorrect, and by implication unjust to the memory of a worthy family. It is there stated that Eleazer, son of Phebe Lawrence, was born "24 d. 12 m. 1675;" and this is the only instance where the date is given, without mentioning specifically the name of
the month. The birth does not appear at all in the Groton records, but in the Middlesex County Records at East Cambridge it does appear that "Eleazer son of Phebe Lawrence [was] born 24, 12, 75." The entry is made with three others, where in each case the name of the father is given, but not that of the mother. The omission to give the father's name was doubtless due to the fact, that Thomas Danforth, Recorder at Cambridge, read the return made at the time by Janies Fisk, clerk of the Writs, as Phebe instead of Peleg; which was the father's name; and from this fact the confusion has arisen. Mr. Butler probably thought that Phebe was not married, and so placed her among the unfortunate women in the list. There is no other record to show that there was a Phebe Lawrence in Groton at that period.

Now to the main support of my theory: Eleazer, the third child of Peleg and Elizabeth (Morse) Lawrence, was born on February 28, 1674-5, as appears by another entry in the records made a few years later, which is only four days after the time assigned in the list. Without doubt the two Eleazers were one and the same person. See the Groton Historical Series, Vol. I., No. XIII. (pp. 9, 10).

PARKER. — William Parker, of Groton, married first, on March 30, 1736, Susanna Kemp; and secondly, on January 9, 1755, Mrs. Sarah (Boynton) Richardson, of Pepperell, born in the year 1721. She was the eldest child of Nathaniel and Hannah (Perham) Boynton, of Westford, and the widow of Abiel Richardson, a native of Billerica. By the second marriage there were three children, namely:

Susanna, who married Samuel Lawrence of Groton; Ruth, who married Samuel Taylor, of Dunstable; and Elizabeth, who married David Rogers, of Concord.

Widow Sarah (Boynton | Richardson) Parker, after the death of her second husband on February 1, 1761, married thirdly, on July 23, 1767, David Taylor, of Concord. See Volume I., of the Groton Historical Series, No. X. (p. 28); also No. XIII. (pp. 31, 33).

Lieutenant William Parker died in Groton, January 9, 1833, aged 71.

MERCY AND MARY. — Some time ago I sent a query to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, about the interchangeable use of the names "Mercy" and "Mary," which was printed in
the April number (p. 225) for 1896. Since then I have noted two 
other instances of the kind which are here given: —

In Dr. Bond's History of Watertown (p. 309), under Jennison, the 
showing that he had found both forms of the name.

Again, in the second edition of Binney's History of the Prentice 
Family (p. 172), the author speaks of one Mary Jennison, and then 
adds in a note that in the Lancaster records she is called Mercy 
Jennison. These two women were not identical, though bearing the 
same name, as the first one was married in 1774, and the other 
died in 1756.

I do not think that any misspelling of the word "Mary" clears up 
the confusion or explains away the difficulty.

TWO LAW-STUDENTS, AND THEIR 
FIRST CASE.

James Dana and Thomas Hopkinson were graduates of 
Harvard College in the Class of 1830; and soon after gradu-
ation, for a term of one year, they were fellow law-students 
under the instruction of Judge Samuel Dana, of Groton. His 
office at that time was in the building just north of Mr. Dix's, 
and nearly opposite to Mr. Hoar's tavern. It was afterward 
made into a tenement-house, and subsequently burned on the 
morning of October 26, 1884. While engaged here in the 
pursuit of their chosen profession, these two law-students had 
their first case in court. The late General Dana, of Charle-
town, gave me the following account of it; which will call up 
in the minds of the older citizens of the town the recollection 
of Training-day, when the militia companies used to meet on 
the Common and go through with certain evolutions, then 
called drilling:

More than half a century ago, two young Harvard graduates were 
reading law in a quiet country town in this State, when one day in 
April a notice, of which the following is a copy, was served upon 
each of them:
TO Thomas Hopkinson of said Groton:

You being duly enrolled in the Company at Groton, within whose bounds you reside, and commanded by Capt. ——— ———, are hereby ordered to appear, armed and equipped as the law directs, on the Common in front of the Meeting-house in Groton, on the first Tuesday of May next, at one o'clock, in the afternoon, for inspection, exercise and discipline. Fail not of appearance at your peril.

—— ———, Clerk.

The students at once endeavored to inform themselves upon military law, and found that to be "armed and equipped as the law directs," they must provide themselves with a good musket or fire-lock, with a bore sufficient for balls of the eighteenth part of a pound, a bayonet and belt, two spare flints, a priming wire and brush, a knapsack, a cartridge-box to contain not less than twenty-four cartridges suited to the bore of the musket, each cartridge to contain a proper quantity of powder and ball.

Unfortunately, although they had been members of the Harvard Washington Corps in college, they did not own the aforesaid implements of war or any of them, and had not any bank account to draw upon for the "wherewithal." What was to be done? There seemed no alternative but to "run the gauntlet," and they did; and failed to obey the summons, and only had the privilege of hearing at a distance the notes of "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" from the inspiring fife and drum.

They soon heard that those college fellows were to be "put over the road;" and erelong the constable entered and served a summons upon each, as follows:

MIDDLESEX, ss. To the Sheriff of said County, or either of his Deputies, or either of the Constables of the town of Groton, in the County aforesaid,

Greeting:

[L. S.]

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to summon Thomas Hopkinson, of Groton, in the County aforesaid, to appear before me, Caleb Butler, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, at my office in said Groton, on the second Monday of June next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to show cause, if any he has, why judgment should not be rendered that he has forfeited the sum of four dollars for neglecting and failing to appear at the meeting for inspection, exercise and discipline of the Company in said town, commanded by Capt. ——— ———, on the Common in front of the Meeting-house in said Groton, on the first Tuesday of May, inst., at one o'clock in the afternoon.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this writ and your doings thereon unto myself, on or before the said hour of the said third day of June.

Dated at Groton aforesaid, the sixteenth day of May, A. D. 1831.

CALEB BUTLER, Justice of the Peace.

The students decided to stand trial, and act as lawyers for each other; and they studied the law pretty thoroughly, fearing that they might make a failure on their first attempt in the legal forum.

On the day appointed they presented themselves before the Justice; and soon ten other delinquents, mostly farmer boys, filed in, causing an overflow in the small office; and the court was adjourned to the hall of the neighboring tavern, which was then kept by Joseph Hoar.

As it was noised through the village that those college boys were to be put on their trial before Mr. Justice Butler, and that they were foolish enough to attempt to play the lawyer for each other, there was quite a gathering of the villagers, who came to witness some fun.

Bradford Russell, Esquire, a legal light of Groton, appeared as counsel for the complainant, and the proceedings began. The case against Thomas Hopkinson was called. The Court, after ordering him to stand up, read the complaint and inquired: "Thomas Hopkinson, what say you to this complaint? Do you plead guilty, or not guilty?" Hopkinson. "Not guilty." "Have you any counsel?" "Yes, your Honor; my friend James Dana is to defend me." Court. "Mr. Russell, proceed with your case." "Yes, your Honor;" and he offered his documentary evidence, and his witnesses in support of the allegations in the complaint, and then said, "We rest our case here."

Mr. Dana, for the defence, then arose and addressed the Court as follows:

"May it please your Honor, our defence will consist of eleven points, some of which we flatter ourselves will be considered an ample defence to the annoying and unjust prosecution of innocent law-abiding citizens of this ancient town; and we trust that our defence will be such that the complainant and his associates will not have opportunity to gratify their spleen against those college fellows,—a fellowship of which we are in no way ashamed, but justly proud."

Mr. Dana then elaborated six of his points, and proceeded:

"We have now presented and argued six of our points. Our seventh point is that although we are liable to be enrolled in the
Massachusetts Militia, the law requires that notice of such enrolment shall be seasonably given to a citizen thus enrolled. The reason for this is obvious; otherwise a citizen might be dragged away to fight in battles in defence of his country, before he has any information or knowledge that he is a soldier; and further, such notice affords him time and opportunity to procure a priming wire and brush, twenty-four cartridges, and the numerous other weapons of war required by Massachusetts Militia Law. My client has not received any notice of his enrolment. The learned counsel for complainant, ingenious as he is, has not offered any evidence of such notice to our client; and he cannot, for it is not a fact. Without waiving the force and strength of our six points, we confidently assert and maintain that this seventh point is conclusive, and fatal to the maintenance of this prosecution."

The Court. "Mr. Dana, you may rest a minute." "Mr. Russell, have you any evidence or proof, or can you produce any, that notice of his enrolment was given to the defendant?" "I regret to say that I am afraid we don't possess such evidence, and that we cannot procure it." The Court. "Then I rule the point well taken, and that it is fatal to the maintenance of the prosecution. Thomas Hopkinson, stand up! This Court orders that you be discharged; you may go without day."

"The next case is a complaint against James Dana, of Groton, which I will read. James Dana, do you plead guilty, or not guilty?" "Not guilty, your Honor." "Have you engaged counsel?" "Yes, your Honor, I have retained my friend Thomas Hopkinson to defend me."

Esquire Russell having finished his case for the prosecution, Mr. Hopkinson for the defence addressed the Court:—

"May it please your Honor, our defence is substantially the same as that made by our brother Dana in the prosecution against ourself, which has just been tried before your Honor."

The Court. "Mr. Russell, you have not offered any evidence that notice of his enrolment was given to Dana, the defendant. Can you procure or produce any?" "I fear not, your Honor." "Then the Court orders that you be discharged, and go without day." Mr. Hopkinson. "We thank the Court for the correct ruling."

The other ten delinquents, rough-looking country boys, were sitting in a row, and with strained eyes and wide-open ears had listened to the foregoing. After Hopkinson and Dana were thus summarily
discharged, they were all in great glee, for they knew they had not been notified of their enrolment. In their ignorance they had not engaged counsel.

They had a consultation in whisper, when one of them, who seemed to act as boss or leader, beckoned Mr. Hopkinson and Mr. Dana into another room. “How much will you charge to defend me and the other nine?” “Ten dollars,—one dollar a head. What is your name?” “Hateful W. Parkins.”1 “There is an old rule, and it is a good one, ‘Pay as you go.’ Go back, collect your money, and pay the coin down.” This was done, and the fee pocketed.

The Court. “The next case is that of Hateful Parkins.” “All ready.” “Have you any counsel?” “Yes, Mr. Hopkinson and Mr. Dana, the young lawyers, will defend me and the other nine.” The Court. “I will read the complaint;” which is read. “Hateful Parkins, what say you to this complaint? Do you plead guilty or not guilty?” Whereupon Mr. Hopkinson whispered to Parkins, “They have got your name wrong; don’t answer, keep dumb!” The Court repeated the question, but Parkins kept dumb. Whereupon the Court, under some excitement, said that he would be obliged to commit the defendant for contempt of court, and continued, “Parkins, why don’t you answer?” Parkins. “My name ain’t Hateful Parkins.” “What is it?” “Hateful W. Parkins.” Whereupon Mr. Hopkinson moved the Court that the complaint be quashed and dismissed, because of misnomer in the complaint.

Mr. Russell then moved for leave to amend the complaint by simply adding the capital letter “W.” after the word “Hateful” wherever it occurs, so that it would read “Hateful W. Parkins” instead of “Hateful Parkins.” To this motion Mr. Hopkinson objected that upon every principle of good pleading as stated by the best writers of elementary law, as well in England as in our own country, misnomer in a criminal complaint is not a matter that can be amended. The complainant takes his risk. For aught we know there may be forty Hateful Parkineses, but this defendant is not one of them. The complainant must be sure and get the right “pig by the ear.” Unfortunately for him, he has got the wrong one now, and he must take the consequence. Mr. Russell, in reply, insisted that his proposed amendment ought to be allowed; but the Court said that unless he could produce some authority to the contrary, he would not allow the motion to amend. Mr. Russell admitted that he

1 This name is fictitious.
had not any such authority at hand. Whereupon it was ordered that the defendant, Hateful W. Parkins, be discharged.

The next case was that of Barnabas Blackwood,¹ who pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Russell put in his case.

Mr. Hopkinson for the defence then stated that the defence in this case and the eight others was the same as in the cases of Mr. Dana and Mr. Hopkinson; namely, want of proof of notice of enrolment. The Court said to Mr. Russell that unless he could furnish such proof in this case and the others, he should be obliged to decide in favor of the defendants. The counsel regretted his inability to furnish the proof. The Court said: "It is of no use to waste time. It is ordered that Barnabas Blackwood and the eight other defendants be discharged, and this Court is adjourned without day."

There was a suppressed giggle all along the line of ten. The complainant and his numerous sympathizers wore long and wry faces. The crowd emerged, when the jolly ten formed in line before the tavern, and Parkins called out, "Three cheers for our young lawyers," which were given with a will. Before the next May Training the embryo lawyers had said good-by to the old town of Groton.

JOHN FARRAR.

John Farrar the writer of the following letter was a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1803, and from the year 1807 to 1836 was the Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. While keeping school at Groton he boarded in the family of Major Joseph Moors, who commanded one of the Groton companies at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He lived near the site of the present Groton School, and a large part of his land is now owned by that institution.

Groton Jan. 1st 1803

Dear Sir,—After leaving you at Concord we proceeded on our journey as fast as the badness of the road would permit us to travel and arrived at Groton about 6 in the evening. We tarried at Mr. Hall's tavern near the meeting house over night and the next morning were conducted to our respective districts. On the friday following I

¹ This name is fictitious.
opened my school with about twenty schollars. The number has
been increasing since so that now I have about fifty. With respect
to my boarding place I have such an one as I could wish. I live
with one of the first farmers in the County of Middlesex. Maj.
Moors, the gentleman's name, keeps about forty head of cattle
besides sheep, horses, turkeys, hogs, &c. &c. He sometimes raises
seven or eight hundred bushels of rye nearly as much corn and
between ten and fifteen thousand weight of hops. His hops this last
season brought him in upwards of one thousand dollars but they cost
him more labor to prepare them for the market than to get his hay. Last
year they were cut off together with large fields of rye, and apples in
all probability sufficient for one hundred & fifty beryls of cyder, by
a most remarkable hail storm near the first of June. The hail stones
were many of them as large as partridge eggs and fell in such quan-
tities and with such violence as to break all the glass in the side of
buildings facing the wind, and to cover the floors of houses with soot
and black hail stones. The storm happened on Monday when it was
very warm; and altho' it lasted but an hour and an half the hail stones
were knee deep in a certain tray fashion places near here on the Fri-
day following. Parson Write of Boulton [Bolton], preaching here the
succeeding Sunday, picked up hail stones in the road and carried
home for a show. Orchards were so stripped and bruised that they
have borne but little since; and large dints in buildings about here
still remain as monuments of this tremendous storm.

I live, Sir, with a very hospitable and benevolent people. My
accomodations are very good. I live about one quarter of a mile
from school & about two miles from meeting.

We have today, Sir, experienced a very pleasant and agreeable
commencement of a new year. While it reminds of the benevolence
and the continued mercy of Providence, ought it not lead us to
reflect on the quick succession of years, on the shortness and the
value of life, to consider and to correct the errors of the past year,
and to fortify our minds with such principles of virtue and piety, as
shall preserve us in the pleasant and peaceful paths of wisdom. You,
Sir, and the rest of the family, whether at home or absent I most
cordially wish a happy new year, and many yet to come. I acknowl-
edge the debt of gratitude. I feel a tender attachment to the family.
Every new scene of life leads me to value more and more highly those
habits and principles imbibed in early youth, for which I am indebted
to kind and obliging Parents. I wish, Sir, to hear from home,
particularly of the accident which James lately met with, of his
Two Balloons Passing over Groton.

Health, of Samuel's, what Becca is doing &c. &c. My health, Sir, God be praised, is good, and think not, Sir, that I am unconscious of the important blessing.


Dr. Samuel A. Green, the Groton historian, is authority for the statement that the late ex-Governor Boutwell in a personal talk with a student at Lawrence Academy in Groton, said: “If you wish to take a college course, I trust you will be able to do so. But there are three things you must have in order to succeed: Industry, integrity, and civility. You cannot get along without civility.” This advice made so much impression upon the boy that his grandfather has the words printed on a little card for distribution.

From “The Listener” in the “Boston Evening Transcript,” April 5, 1905.

Two Balloons Passing over Groton.

Among my early recollections many years ago is going with my father one afternoon to the north part of the town in order to see whether a balloon, sent up from Nashua on that day, would be visible in Groton; and I remember my disappointment in not having the expected view. Within a short time I have learned that the date of this ascent was August 29, 1838, now more than three quarters of a century ago, and that the balloon came down in Windham, New Hampshire. The gas was made on the grounds within an enclosure, and a fee for admission was charged.

A balloon ascension was made from Lowell, on July 4, 1882, by James Allen, of Providence, Rhode Island, accompanied by Charles L. Knapp, of Lowell, which took a westerly course. The balloon first made its appearance to the Groton villagers, coming over Gibbet Hill, and passed directly over my place, so near that conversation was carried on between the aeronauts and persons below. It continued on its course beyond West Groton and Shirley, and disappeared in that direction. The wind was light and its progress slow. I have seen a letter written by Mr. Knapp, which gives the following particulars of the trip:
Ascension made from North Common, Lowell; left at 4:53, P.M.; passed directly over North Chelmsford, 5:06; Groton, 5:32; West Groton, 6:02, — and 17 miles from Lowell. Then over Shirley, Lunenburg, and plumb over Fitchburg at 6:45, landing near Gardner depot at 7:20, P.M.

A balloon ascension was made from Fitchburg on the afternoon of July 4, 1888, by Malvern Hill Allen, of Providence, who is a son of James Allen, the veteran aeronaut, mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The ascent was made from the Fair grounds at half-past four o'clock, when the balloon took an easterly direction and sailed away toward Groton. It passed over the Nashua River at a point near Fitch's Bridge, crossed the Great Road a little north of the village of Groton, and then continued in its easterly flight. With numerous other persons I watched it from James Lawrence's house on Farmers' Row for twenty-five minutes, while it remained in view; and it was a beautiful sight. I took the bearings of the course, and, after consulting a Map of Middlesex County, ventured the guess that the balloon would come down in Dracut; but the descent was made in the adjoining town of Pelham, New Hampshire, after an aerial trip of 50 minutes.

At this time the young aeronaut was only nineteen years old, and the ascension from Fitchburg was the third one ever undertaken by him alone and on his own account. His first ascent was made from Ridgway, Elk County, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1886, and his second from Carlisle in the same State, on October 1, 1887. Mr. Allen, the father, has three sons now engaged in the art of ballooning, his eldest son James K. Allen being in partnership with him; and he himself has been interested in the science of aeronautics for a period of thirty-five years.

TWO BALLOON DESCENTS IN GROTON.

It is said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place; but from the following it seems that balloons sometimes come down in the same neighborhood.

On July 4, 1860, as a part of the usual city celebration on
that day, a balloon ascension was made from Boston Common by Samuel King, in company with his sister Mrs. Porter, and Edwin Bradbury Haskell, of "The Boston Herald" newspaper. The party left the Common, shortly after six o'clock in the afternoon, in the balloon known as "The Queen of the Air;" and the descent was made a little after one o'clock in the morning, on the hill, immediately south of Snake Hill and contiguous to it, in the open field behind Sumner Graves's house, in the south part of Groton. "The Boston Daily Advertiser," July 6, 1860, gives the following account of the trip:

"The Queen of the Air" went over the harbor, Charlestown, Cambridge, through the valley of Charles river, touching a ledge in Waltham, and finally landed in Groton, at one o'clock yesterday morning. At the time they landed, it was rainy and uncomfortable. The aeronauts were unfortunate in getting shelter. After applying to several of the residents, finally they found a good Samaritan in the person of Mr. Valencourt Stone, who came out with a lantern, and piloted the balloonists to his house, and paid them great attention.

Eleven years later, the same aeronaut made an ascent from Fitchburg, on September 27, 1871, under the patronage of the Worcester North Agricultural Society, and came down on this identical hill. The landing was made near Mr. Graves's house, on the west side of the road to Harvard, while the previous landing was on the east side of the road, nearer the summit. His descent at this particular spot was not influenced by design, any further than that it was a cleared field, and a good place to alight. On the first occasion Mr. King came down in the night time, and, of course, received no clear impressions of the neighborhood. Approaching the hill during the second trip, he did not recognize it as the place of his former landing; nor was he aware of the fact until told by one of the bystanders, after the descent.

I remember seeing the balloon, on the afternoon in question, floating along through the air, just before the descent, at which time Mr. King was busily engaged in waving the American flag, distinctly visible to a large number of persons gazing at the novel sight.
"The Fitchburg Reveille," September 28, 1871, has the following account of the start:

The Balloon Ascension, which had been announced for Tuesday [September 26], but failed to come off, took place at a quarter to five o'clock [on Wednesday]. The airship, with its solitary passenger, rose gracefully and sailed rapidly away in an easterly direction, wafted by the light, west wind, which was blowing at the time. We learn by telegraph, that Prof. King landed safely near Groton Junction.

"The Fitchburg Sentinel," September 30, gives this version:

The balloon ascension which had been postponed from the previous day [Tuesday] on account of the rain, took place at a quarter to five [on Wednesday]. Prof. King, the aeronaut, after leaving terra firma in his Air-ship "Aurora," rose to the height of about half a mile, and then borne by a slight breeze, floated slowly off to the eastward, and after an hour's sail, landed in the town of Ayer, without mishap.

It is certainly a singular coincidence that an aeronaut, going up from Boston Common, and sailing westward, in a circuitous direction, should make a descent on a hill thirty miles away; and that the same man, some years later, going up from Fitchburg and sailing eastward, should come down on that identical hill, twelve miles away from the starting-point, — and this without any design or intention on his part. It seems to have been one of those accidents, which illustrate the French proverb that "Nothing is more probable than the improbable."

THE SOUTH MILITARY COMPANY.

The following copies of original papers were given me, many years ago, by John S. H. Fogg, of South Boston, in whose possession they were at that time. They relate to the South Company of Groton, then commanded by Timothy Bigelow, who afterward became Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, as also did Luther Lawrence, to
whom one of the warrants is addressed. Tyler Bigelow, one of the private soldiers, was a cousin and subsequently a brother-in-law of Captain Timothy, and father of the late Honorable George Tyler Bigelow, formerly chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. Loammi Baldwin, Jr., another private, was afterward a distinguished civil engineer, who built the Government dry docks at Charlestown and at Norfolk, Virginia. For many years there were three military companies in the town, known respectively as the North Company, the South Company, and the Groton Artillery; and occasionally they would parade together through the village streets, and drill as a battalion.

Middlesex ss. To John Reed sergeant. Greeting.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn

Joseph Stone sergeant.  
Saml. Reed sergeant.  
Saml. Paine sergeant.  
Rufus Moors corporal.  
Thomas Mead corporal.  
Peter Chase corporal.  
Jonas Trowbridge fifer. 
John Fitch fifer. 
Josiah Hazen fifer. 
John Kemp drummer. 
Amos Davis Jr. drummer. 
John Adams Jr. drummer. 
Benj: Buttrick. 
Thaddeus Bailey. 
Timothy Blood. 
Oliver Blood 3d. 
Jonathan Bennet. 
Edward Bolton. 
Jonathan Cooper. 
Samuel Cooke. 
Moses Chase. 
Samuel Dodge. 
Abel Davis. 
Ephraim Farnsworth.

Ezra Farnsworth. 
Abel Farnsworth. 
David Fletcher. 
Eli Flint. 
Benj: Farnsworth. 
Stephen Farrar. 
Henry Farwell Jr. 
Silas Farwell. 
Sam'l Farnsworth. 
Zachariah Fitch Jr. 
Thomas Gass. 
Phineas Gould. 
Nathan Hubbard Jr. 
Daniel Hart. 
Elias Hart. 
Joseph Hemenway. 
Amos Harris. 
Noah Humphreys. 
James Kendall. 
Ebenezer Lampson. 
Amos Lampson Jr. 
Abel Morse. 
Abijah Nutting. 
Phinehas Nutting. 

Jonathan Nutting. 
Moses Nutting. 
Hezekiah Spaulding. 
Thomas Bennett Jr. 
Simon Page Jr. 
John Parke. 
Elijah Paine. 
John Robbins Jr. 
John Rockwood. 
Alpheus Richardson. 
Amos Stone Jr. 
Caleb Symmes. 
Phineas Stone. 
Sylvanus Smith. 
Abraham Symonds. 
William Symonds. 
Abel Swallow. 
Joseph Sawtell 3d. 
Peter Tarbell. 
John Trufant. 
Amos Tarbell. 
Joseph Wright. 
Asa Wheeler. 
Parker Wetherbee.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

All belonging to the South Company in Groton, in said County commanded by me of which Company you are the first sergeant and clerk, to appear on the publick parade, or training field, in said Groton on Thursday the 4th day of July next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, with their arms and equipments compleat, for the purpose of military instruction and exercise. And in case you cannot conveniently notify and warn the said persons as aforesaid yourself you are to cause the same to be done by some other non-commissioned officer belonging to said company, by giving them, or some of them, orders for that purpose in my name. Hereof fail not, and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to myself at or before said day. Given under my hand & seal this 4th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

GROTON, June 25th 1799.

In obedience to the within warrant I have notified and warned all the within named persons (or caused the same to be done by a sergeant) to appear at the time and place.

JOHN REED.

MIDDLESEX ss. TO Luther Lawrence Greeting.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn

| Amos Davis Drummer | James Farnsworth. |
| David Darling | Jonas Phillips |
| Joseph Bullard | Isaac Hall |
| William Shiple | Eli Faulkner |
| Timothy H. Newman | Samuel Phips |
| Benjamin Page Junr | Daniel Swallow |
| Phinehas Gould | William Stearns |
| Aaron Jewett | Abel Holden |
| James Kendall | Jabez Parker |
| Loammi Baldwin Junr | Asa Jineson |
| Tyler Bigelow | Stephen Kemp. |
| William Lawrence | John Wright. |
| Ezra Farnsworth | Daniel Richardson |
| David Fletcher | |

All belonging to the South company in Groton in said County commanded by me of which you are also a member to appear on
the public parade or training field in said Groton on Tuesday the third day of May next at one of the clock in the afternoon with their arms and equipments compleat for the purpose of examination with a view of arms, and for military instruction and exercise. Hereof fail not and make due return of this order to myself or the commanding officer at said time and place. Given under my hand and seal this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three.

Timothy Bigelow Captain.

Middlesex ss. Groton, April 28, 1803.

In obedience to the within warrant I have given legal notice to all the persons within mentioned (except Amos Davis, Tyler Bigelow, and Daniel Richardson who are out of town) to appear at the time and place within mentioned for the purposes within mentioned.

Luther Lawrence.

DIARY OF REV. EBENEZER PARKMAN AND THE TARBELL AND RICE CHILDREN.

On June 20, 1707, Sarah, John, and Zechariah Tarbell were carried away from Groton by the Indians into captivity. In the winter of 1739, the boys came back to Groton in order to visit kinsfolk and see their native town. The Diary tells of their conferences with relatives of the Rice boys of Westboro, who were taken captives on August 8, 1704, and in 1740 visited their native place.

1739 April 23. NB. Capt. Eager from Court gave advice to M' Rice to go down to Boston to Confer w'h Two Men who had been Captivated from Groton w'h y' were but Ladds & had dwelt w'h y' Indians ever since: whose English Names were Tarbell—Capt. Kellogg being likw. at Boston who was ready to serve y' as an interpreter.

April 26. NB. M' Seth Rice came up from Boston where he had Conference w'h y' Tarbells of Groton & w'h Capt. Kellogg upon y' Affair of his Brethren's coming down from Canada.

1740 April 24. Nigh to Evening came Mr. John Henry Lydius from Boston, upon his return to Albany: & lodgd here.
April 25. M' Lydias pursued his Intention Home.

August 6. Letter from Mr. Lydias of Albany, informing that ye Rices of Canada desire one of their Brethren of New England would go up to Albany and meet them on Sept. 6, next: in Order to their making a Visit hither. M' Seth Rice here with the Letter.

Sept. 15. NB. This Day arriv' M' Eliezer Rice from Albany with his Brother Ozorongoughton and M' Tarbell for a Companion & Interpreter.

Sept. 16. I rode ... as far as M' Seth Rice's where I saw the Captives.... Tow'rs Ev'y Captives came to view ye old House where M' Rice usd to dwell, and they were at my House, Some number of ye Neighbours accompanying y'm

Sept. 17. I rode to ye South & South West of ye Town, was at old Mr. Rice's. The Chief had been there and remember'd ye Old Gentleman. They went down w't him to view ye Place whence he was carryd away Captive. NB. I wrote to ye Gov' concern'g ye Captives.

Sept. 20. M' Rice return'd from Groton.

Sept. 24. Having rec'd no return from ye Gov't touching ye Captives with us, I waited on his Excellency, w't told me ye Gov't & Council had directed the Secretary to write me an Ans' and he had done it, but knew not where it lodgd, or where it miscarried. ... NB. I wrote to Capt. Tarbell.

1740 Sept. 27. Eliez' Rice rode to Groton for M' Tarbell in order to his going down, at ye Co'nand of ye Gov't to Boston.

Sept. 28. M' Tarbell came after Meeting from Groton.

Sept. 29. The Captives went to Boston. In ye middle of ye Night, M' Sables came from ye Secretary w't another Letter concerning ye Captives, the first having Miscarried. But I had already taken effec't Care.

Oct. 5. The Chief Rice not well, was at my House at Eve as he went from his Br' Ward's to his Br' Seth's.

Oct. 6. Charles Rice and other N's Dind with ye Captive w't was grown better. ... Several Neighbours at Eve.

Oct. 9. The Captives went off: desiring Pray's in o' Congregation for ye NB. Capt. Tarbell of Groton returned home. I rode 2 or 3 Miles with him to Shew him ye Road. NB. his levelling Rice & his Brother &c.
THE INDIAN ATTACK OF JULY 27, 1694.

The following extract is taken from Captain Lawrence Hammond's diary, which was given to the Massachusetts Historical Society with the Belknap Collection, on March 11, 1858. The entry is found under the date of July 27, 1694, and furnishes some details, hitherto unknown, of the attack made at that time.

The Indians Set upon Groton burnt 2 Houses, kild 22 persons — found dead, 13 more missing, they were pursued by about 100 Horse but they returned without finding them.

CHURCH SILVER GIVEN TO THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH.

The Church of Christ in Groton, so called in former times, and now represented by the Unitarian Society often spoken of as the First Parish, has an interesting collection of church silver, the earliest piece dating back to the early part of the eighteenth century. An interesting description of this collection is given in a large work entitled "The Old Silver of American Churches," by Mr. E. Alfred Jones, privately printed at Letchworth, England, in 1913, for the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. Accompanying this is a photographic reproduction of five pieces in one view, including one from Jonas Prescott, two from Jonathan Lawrence, one from Josiah Sartell, and one from his widow Mary Sartell. The article contains biographical sketches of the givers from notes furnished by Mr. Lawrence Park, and Rev. Pemberton H. Cressey, minister of the church, of Groton. The measurements of the different pieces, the makers' names, and reproductions of their marks are given, as well as copies of the several inscriptions on the pieces.

JONAS PRESCOTT'S BEQUEST.

In his will, made on December 28, 1723, Jonas Prescott bequeathed "to the Church of Christ in Grotton fiue Pound
money to be paid by my Executor within six months after my deceas." He was the grandfather of Colonel William Prescott; and his death took place on December 31, 1723, three days after the date of his will. There is a silver cup belonging to the Society, which bears the following inscription:

The Gift of Jonas Prescott Esq' to y^e Church of Groton

Perhaps it was bought with a part of the legacy. This cup was made by Andrew Tyler, of Boston, who died in 1741.

JONATHAN LAWRENCE'S BEQUEST.

By his will, made on August 27, 1725, Jonathan Lawrence bequeathed to the town of Groton, as follows:

Item I give and bequeath To the Town of Groton One Hundred Pounds in Good Bills of Publick Credit or other Specia to the Value thereof out of my Estate, to be paid by My Executor within five years after my Decease unto Such persons as Shall be Deputed and Appointed by the Said Town to Receive it to be by them (With my Executor) Layed out & Disposed of toward y^e purchaising & procuring of a Good Meeting House Bell and the putting it up. &c.

Item I give to the Church of Christ in Groton fourty Pounds to be paid by my Executor (After named) within four Years next after my Decease to be Layed out & Disposed of for the procuring of Some Silver Vessel or Vessels for the Churches use as they shall Order. Also I give To the Church of Christ in Groton Twenty Pounds to be Let out or otherwise Improved to the best advantage the profits and Income arising thereby, to be annually paid out and accounted for to the Settled or ordained Minister or Ministers of Said Town Successively from Time to time forever (the Twenty pounds not to be diminished &c)

In his will he mentions his brother Enoch, and his cousin William Lawrence, who was the executor of his estate. He was a son of John and Elizabeth Lawrence, of Watertown, where he was born about 1657, and died at Groton, on September 19, 1729, in the seventy-third year of his age.

The Church of Christ in Groton, now known as the First
Parish or Unitarian Society, has in its possession two silver tankards bought under this bequest. They were made by Jacob Hurd, and each bears the following inscription:

The Gift of
Lieut. Jona" Lawrance

The following entries taken from the Church Records relate to the purchase of the tankards:

At a Church Meeting in Groton, Jan'y 11th 1733/4 Voted That ye Persons appointed (by this Church at ye meeting the 14th of Sep't Last) to Lay out the 40£ Legacy given to this Church by m' Jonathan Lawrence in his Last Will — do Lay out ye s'd 40£ for Procuring some Silver Vessel or Vessels, according to ye' Best Prudence; or as upon Proper Enquiry they shall think will be most for ye' honour of ye Donor: as well as of the Lords Table And Deliver s'd Vessel or Vessels to this Church as soon as they can with Conveniency.

Caleb Trowbridge Pastor

The Legacy was put into William Lawrence's "hand by the Churche order," followed by the entry below:

After some time The Above appointed brought 2 Silver Tankards to ye Churches Acceptance & frely giving m ye' time & Trouble Rec'd ye churches Thanks

Caleb Trowbridge Pastor

These tankards were made by Jacob Hurd, of Boston, who died in 1758.

Josiah Sartell's Bequest.

By his will, dated September 3, 1775, Colonel Josiah Sartell made liberal provisions for the support of the minister of the town, but unfortunately the will is not now on file in the Middlesex Registry of Probate at East Cambridge. Mr. Butler, in his History of Groton (pp. 208–212), makes copious extracts from it, undoubtedly using the original document, and for that reason I take his version. Three clauses are as follows:
My will is, and I do hereby give and bequeath to the town of Groton, forever, the annual income or rents of that piece of land in said Groton, where John Archibald now dwells, to be applied towards the support of the gospel minister in said town.

My will is, and I do hereby give and bequeath to the town of Groton the sum of one hundred and thirty-three pounds six shillings and eightpence, the interest of which, one year after my decease, to be annually applied towards the support of the gospel minister in said town for ever.

My will is, and I do hereby give and bequeath to the town of Groton for ever (after the decease of my wife,) all the buildings and lands which I have heretofore given her during life, [two farms,] to use and improve for ever; and positively order, that the same be not sold, but that they be rented out, and the premises kept in good repair forever hereafter, and that the overplus of the rents be annually applied towards the support of the gospel minister in said town; and this to be under the inspection and direction of the three senior selectmen by choice in said town for ever.

There is reference, in the account of his executor, Isaac Farnsworth, to delivering the "wrought plate" to the Church, which may refer to the seven silver cups in its possession, each engraved with the inscription:

The gift of
Josiah Sartell Esq
To the Church
in Groton

MRS. MARY SARTELL'S BEQUEST.

The first clause in the will of Mary Sartell, widow of Colonel Josiah Sartell, made on November 28, 1789, is

First, I give and bequeath to the first Church in the Town of Groton aforesaid my Silver Tankard, and the Sum of Fifteen pounds Lawfull money, to be for the use of said Church Forever.

Mrs. Sartell was the widow of Colonel Josiah Sartell, who died on August 30, 1784, aged 74 years; and she died on
March 30, 1790, aged 80 years. In her will she gives a large number of household utensils "To my Maid Phillis, formerly Servant," who was the last survivor of negro slavery within the limits of Groton. The following entry is found in the town records:

Phillis Walby, servant to Josiah Sartell, Jun., deceased, died at Groton, aged 79, February 1821.

The Church has now in its possession two silver cups, on which is inscribed the following:

The Widow Mary Sartell to the Church of Christ in Groton 1792

These were made by Samuel Bartlett, of Concord, Massachusetts, who died in 1821.

The Church has also three other silver cups inscribed as follows:

The Gift of the Widow Mary Sartell to the Church of Christ in Groton 1792.

Presumably these cups were bought with her bequest, or perhaps made from the silver of the tankard; but I see no reason for the verbal changes in the two inscriptions.

JOSIAH SARTELL'S BEQUEST.

At my request Clement Hugh Hill, Esq., a member of the Suffolk Bar, kindly furnished me with a clear and short account of the suit brought to recover possession of the two farms devised by Josiah Sartell to the town of Groton. The farms are contiguous, and situated on Chicopee Row.
Dear Dr. Green,—The case of William Brigham and wife vs. Samson Shattuck, as it appears in 10 Pickering's Reports, 306, was thus:

The will of Joseph Sawtell [sic], of Groton, executed in 1775, contained these two provisions: "My will is and I do hereby give and bequeath [devise] to the town of Groton forever, after the decease of my wife, all the buildings and lands which I have heretofore given her during her life, to use and improve forever, and positively order that the same be not sold, but that they be rented out, and the premises kept in good repair forever hereafter, and that the overplus of the rents be annually applied towards the support of the gospel minister in said town; and this to be under the inspection and direction of the three senior selectmen by choice in said town forever."

"And as to the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, and residue of the same not heretofore disposed of, my will is, and I do hereby order my said executors, at their own option, to distribute the same to and among the poor of said town and church of Groton, as I have heretofore been used to do."

The widow of Joseph Sawtell died in 1790, and the town entered into possession. Subsequently it procured an act of Legislature authorizing the sale of the devised premises and the reinvestment of the proceeds. The estate was sold to Job Shattuck, Jr., and was by him conveyed to the tenant in 1821. This writ of entry was brought in the right of the female demandant, niece and heir-at-law of the testator, on the ground of forfeiture for breach of condition in selling the same. The case was argued at October term, 1830, in Middlesex, by Samuel Hoar for the demandants, and Daniel Webster and Luther Lawrence for the tenant. No report of the arguments is published. Chief Justice Shaw delivered the opinion of the court, which held that the prohibition of any sale of the estate, if a condition, was what we know in law as a condition subsequent; that a contingent reversionary interest capable of being devised would have remained in the testator, but that he had devised this to his executor by the second clause above quoted. Consequently no interest in the estate descended to Mrs. Brigham, and she and her husband had no standing in court. This rendered it unnecessary to decide the more important questions which the case seemed to involve. It is, how-
ever, now well settled that a legislature may authorize the sale and reinvestment of proceeds of lands devised like this estate, under a condition against any sale.

Very faithfully yours,

C. H. Hill.

Hon. Samuel A. Green.

Mr. Hill died at St. Leonards-on-Sea on December 12, 1898. He was a graduate of Williams College, and an active member of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

TOWN SEAL OF GROTON.

The following letter relating to a Town Seal will explain itself. It was printed, first on a sheet for limited circulation, and, later, in the Annual Report of the Selectmen for the year ending March 19, 1898. It was adopted by a vote of the town on April 4.

Michael Sheedy, Jr., Esq., Groton:

Dear Sir, — Agreeably to your request I send herewith a design, as given above, for a Town Seal of Groton. For the convenience of the voters, who are the final judges in the matter, I have had it printed, so that at a glance its general effect may be more readily seen. The design is a simple one, and is intended to typify the character of its inhabitants.

The Bible represents the faith of the early settlers of the town, who went into the wilderness and suffered innumerable privations in their
daily life as well as danger from savage foes. Throughout Christendom to-day it is the corner-stone of religion and morality. The Plough is significant of the general occupation of the people. By it the early settlers broke up the land and earned their livelihood; and ever since it has been an invaluable help in the tillage of the soil.

Very respectfully,  

S. A. Green.

THE EARLIEST NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN GROTON.

The Groton Herald, "Devoted to News, Literature, Morality, Agriculture, Politics, Arts, Sciences, &c. &c.—James F. Rogers, Editor," was first issued on December 5, 1829, and appeared regularly every Saturday thereafter until September 4, 1830, when it was merged in "The Lowell Weekly Journal." It was published by Stacy and Rogers, and the first number contained the following advertisement:

NEW PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

STACY & ROGERS.

Would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Groton and its vicinity, that they have established a new Printing Office in this town and are ready to receive orders for printing, in all its various branches. They have furnished their Office with entirely new type, of the most recent cast, suitable for the execution of

BOOKS,  
PAMPHLETS,  
CATALOGUES,  
BLANKS,  
CIRCULARS,  
SERMONS,  
POSTING BILLS,  
SHOP BILLS,  
BANK CHECKS,  
CARDS, &c. &c.

S. & R. having obtained a good assortment of type, feel assured that they can give satisfaction to all who may favor them with their custom. Orders from a distance will meet with prompt attention.

Dec. 5.

The Herald was printed "next door to the Post Office," at that time in the north end of the building since known as
The Earliest Newspaper Printed in Groton. 173

Gerrish's Block, but which was moved away in July, 1885. It was a creditable newspaper, and will bear a favorable comparison with the journals of that period. Between December 12, 1829, and July 3, 1830, it contained thirteen chapters of a history of the town, of which Mr. Butler wrote the first eleven, and Mr. Lemuel Shattuck the other two chapters. On June 5, just six months after the paper was started, Mr. Rogers's name is dropped as editor, though he still kept up his connection with it, as one of the publishers. In the number for August 21, appears a story entitled "Henry St. Clair," by J. G. Whittier, which is probably one of the earliest literary productions of the Quaker poet. The subscription price was two dollars a year in advance.

The "Lancaster Gazette," December 8, 1829, noticed the new journal as follows:

**Groton Herald.** We received on Saturday last the first number of a new paper, printed in Groton, on a fair sheet. It is to be independent in its politics. All such papers, well conducted, deserve encouragement. We extend to the editors our professional sympathies, and can only wish that the harvest may be abundant for all the labourers.

Messrs. Stacy and Rogers were the pioneer printers and publishers in Groton, and as such deserve a passing notice. The senior member of the firm was George Whittemore Stacy, born in Boston, on March 13, 1809, who died in the town of Milford, Massachusetts, on January 16, 1892. He learned his trade as a printer of Dutton and Wentworth, who conducted a large establishment in Boston. While a resident of this town he was married, on January 18, 1830, to Sarah, daughter of John and Rebecca (Weston) Boit, of Groton; and here two of their three children were born. She died at Mendon, Massachusetts, on May 25, 1834, aged 25 years and 27 days, leaving an infant two or three weeks old. He was married, secondly, on October 16, 1834, to Sarah, daughter of Wing and Mary (Gaskill) Kelley, of Milford, who died on October 14, 1887; and they have been blessed with a large family of children. After leaving Groton Mr. Stacy resided first at Milford, and
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

later at Mendon. Soon afterward he studied for the ministry, and was ordained, on May 4, 1836, at Carlisle, where he was settled for five years over a Unitarian Society. Subsequently he was minister, for short terms, of liberal societies in Boylston and Gardner. He was an early abolitionist, and has always been an outspoken advocate of temperance and other reforms. With decided views on public matters, he never fails to express them on proper occasions.

The junior member of the firm was James Ferguson Rogers, a son of Silas and Rebecca (Ferguson) Rogers, and born at Newburyport on June 6, 1810. He learned his trade as printer of Ephraim Allen, publisher of "The Newburyport Herald." He was a clever writer, and the editor of the newspaper. He had a decided taste for poetry, and wrote some good verses. His customary signature was "Cleo," though sometimes he used the initials "J. F. R." or "R." alone. After leaving Groton in the autumn of 1830, he worked at his trade. During this period he was a frequent contributor to the press; and many of his poetical effusions were printed in the New York Mirror, Philadelphia Album, Philadelphia Gazette, Ladies' Magazine, American Monthly Magazine, Literary Magazine, Essayist and other periodicals. While on his way home to Newburyport he died of cholera in New York on July 5, 1832, after an illness of only a few hours. The "Columbian Centinel," July 9, 1832, under "Deaths" has the following notice of him:

In New York, 5th inst. of the cholera morbus [cholera?], Mr. James Ferguson Rogers, printer, in the 22d year of his age. Mr. R. was a native of Newburyport, Mass. and was distinguished for his superior literary attainments, which, together with his unassuming deportment and gentlemanly manners, drew around him a large circle of friends, who deeply lament his sudden and untimely death. It may afford some consolation to know that every attention was paid to him during his short but painful illness.

More than twenty-five years ago, through the kindness of Mrs. Rebecca Helen Noble, of Haverhill, a younger sister of Mr. Rogers, I was enabled to examine a journal kept by him
during a short time. It is evident from the entries that he was a keen observer of things, and from the style a writer of considerable merit. If he had lived a few years longer, he would have won a reputation either as a journalist or a man of letters. The first entry in the diary was made on March 28, 1831, and the last one on November 14 of the following autumn. It begins thus:

March 28, 1831. The reasons why and wherefore I have concluded to keep this journal, are simply these:—I consider myself to be a wandering and unsettled being whose life will be made up of events which happen by chance and accident and by keeping an account of the every-day occurrences of my life, I shall be able to judge at any time whether the balance of virtue or vice be on my side. As the established merchant keeps an account of every little transaction in business, so should the "citizen of the world" make his entries of incident, upon the same principle. Knowledge is commodity—and this is what we are daily receiving. Another reason why a journal will be of great utility, is that many things that would otherwise be forgotten will herein be preserved;—it will be a portrait of the inner man—the day-book of the heart, and a guide by which we can shape our future course more correctly by observing the defects in that road we have just travelled over.

In sketching the period of his life passed at Groton, he writes:

The winter of 1829 found me the Editor of a paper in the town of Groton in Massachusetts. Here, although a mere boy, I placed myself in a responsible situation. But I was cheered on by the success of my writings, and, so far as I have knowledge, gave general satisfaction to my readers. Involved in all the difficulties which attend the life of an editor, I pressed forward and got through wonderfully. Here I was obliged alternately to be poet, politician, novelist, and everything else that is required in a country paper. Wrote verses for the ladies—praised the crops for the farmers—looked grave with the parson and cunning with the lawyer; and in fact did everything which a country editor is always obliged to do, even unto folding and carrying papers, sticking type and working at press, and in short becoming a perfect Caleb Quotum in real life.
Before the first year had elapsed, the income of the concern being small, and not relishing the manner of the majority of the people, I resolved to relinquish the publication and try my fortune elsewhere. Accordingly I disposed of the establishment, and again took up my residence in Boston. But it was not without some gloomy feelings that I left Groton. It is a beautiful spot, and I have left there many warm friends, and a great many cold and indifferent acquaintances. But I am convinced that a person who is born and bred in cities, can never gain popularity among the great body of our country people. There is a difference in the comprehension of things which can be accounted for only by the limited knowledge of country people and the extensive advantages of those who reside in cities. Here in this place also I was engaged in a small love affair; but as it did not amount to much it is best to say not much about it. I will just remark, however, that Sarah B—— proved herself to be a coquette—that I proved myself to be a warm-hearted fool who can love anything upon earth that appears to love me—and it is better the flame, or rather the smoke, was so soon extinguished.

About this time a prospect of business called me south; but when at my journey's end I was disappointed in my plans and I was obliged to journey back again. In the city of New York I was taken sick, but I pushed forward for Boston where I was under the care of a physician two or three months.

From the time I resigned my editorship at Groton, I have been a constant contributor to several literary works, and have studied incessantly besides attending to daily business; for a man, especially a novice, must do something more than spin out his brain, in order to get his bread.

The following entry in the diary was written presumably at Philadelphia. The name of the article would indicate to a native of the town that the scene of the story was laid at Groton, as it was.

Tuesday, May 10 [1831], wrote the "Legend of Gibbet Hill" for the Philadelphia Album. Drew some characters from real life, two young ladies, who were once particular friends of mine. True portraits—expect to get into a scrape—can't help it, I have always been wanting to say something.

These extracts from the journal show something of the writer's character. Rogers had a good deal of poetic
ardor, and some of his printed verses are full of animation. He held a ready pen, and saw the humorous side of things.

FREDERICK A. ELDREDGE, DUNSTABLE, N. H.

The following communications will explain themselves. Mr. Wright, the author of the note to me, was born at South Canaan, Connecticut, on February 12, 1804, graduated at Yale College in the class of 1826, and died at Medford, on November 22, 1885. Mr. Dickson, the writer of the letter to Mr. Wright, was born at Groton, on August 8, 1809, graduated at Yale College in the class of 1832, and died at Quenemo, Osage County, Kansas, on July 5, 1882. The allusion in the letter is to Frederick Augustus Eldredge, of Dunstable, New Hampshire, a member of Mr. Dickson’s class, who, after the trouble at New Haven, entered Dartmouth College, where he graduated in the corresponding class. He was a son of Dr. Micah and Sally (Buttrick) Eldredge, and born at Dunstable, Massachusetts, on March 25, 1810. He was fitted for college at Groton Academy by Mr. Wright, at that time the head-master of the school, which will account for his interest in the matter. After leaving New Haven Eldredge was engaged in teaching, and intended to enter the ministry. He died at Dunstable (now Nashua), New Hampshire, on January 13, 1836, less than four years after his graduation. It is needless to add that he belonged to an old New England family of excellent stock; and the little tempest was caused by his swarthy complexion. While at college Eldredge roomed with Dickson in Mrs. Mills’s house.

His father, Dr. Micah Eldredge, practised his profession for many years at Dunstable, living first on one side of the State line and then on the other. It may be noted here that the running of the Provincial boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the year 1741 nearly bisected the
old town of Dunstable, and created two towns of the same name, adjoining each other, one in each Province. This condition of affairs continued until January 1, 1837, when the New Hampshire township, by legislative enactment on December 8, 1836, put aside its old name and took that of Nashua. Dr. Eldredge was a representative from Dunstable to the Massachusetts Legislature in the years 1809 and 1811, but, at the writing of the letter, he appears to have been living on the New Hampshire side of the line. He removed to Groton in the year 1826, where he remained for two years, living on what is now Hollis Street, in the house occupied by the Reverend John Todd when Mr. Butler's Map of the town was published. He left Groton early in 1828, and went to Dunstable (now Nashua); and he died on July 2, 1849, at Milford, New Hampshire. The honorary degree of M. D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College in 1841.

Boston, Dec. 20, 1884.

Dear Dr. Green,—As you are born Historian, you have a better right to Dickson's letter than I have, so I commit it unrestrainedly to your hands, to make such use of it as you see fit.

Yours truly,

Elizur Wright.

West Springfield, July 17, 1832.

Dear Wright,—I received your letter of inquiries respecting our friend Eldredge, while attending our Senior examination at New Haven, last week; and I will endeavour to answer your questions as far as I can recollect the circumstances. Though from the time that has elapsed since, and not having laid up the particulars for future use, I can give you only a general outline of the affair.

The student's name was Grimké, of South Carolina, son of the celebrated lawyer Grimké. The tutor was Jones. What he said with regard to the complaint at the time I know not. Jones wrote, not to Eldredge's father, but to Mr. Nott, minister in Dunstable, N. Hampshire, where Dr. Eldredge lives. The object of his writing was (as I understood from Jones himself afterwards) not to satisfy himself (Jones), as to Eldredge's being a white man, but, he said, he thought if he could have a letter from some one in Eldredge's place, it would satisfy the scruples of the Hon. Southerner (who,
by the way, had no more to brag of as to looks, than Eldredge). All I know of the feeling of the Faculty on the subject, is what I gathered from a conversation with Prof. Goodrich on the subject, when Eldredge took his dismissal: the amount of which was that the Faculty thought Eldredge had been badly treated,—that they had done what they could, without making it worse, to remedy the evil, and that he (Goodrich) thought Eldredge had sufficient reason for leaving the College.

On the part of the students, there was a good deal of feeling, both for and against Eldredge. Most of the Southerners joined with Grimké, while most of the rest of the class were indignant both at Grimké, and that Jones should take any notice of such a message, otherwise than to spurn it and reprimand the bearer. Eldredge was most shamefully treated after the affair broke out, which was the first or second term Freshman year, and was kept up till the end of Sophomore year, when Eldredge took a dismissal. I never would have borne half that he did; and it would have been much better for him to have left at the beginning, for it had so much effect upon him, that his last year there was little better than lost, as it regarded his studies. It got into the next class, as it was in ours, so that after Grimké and his gang were expelled in our rebellion, Eldredge had no more peace than before. Not unfrequently while about the college yard, he would be insulted by these gentlemen, so sensitive at the idea of negro blood, though I shrewdly suspect but few of them could be found without a spice of the Darkee in their veins. Nor was this all, his windows were broken two or three times Sophomore year, to say nothing of Freshman year. Finally, he left on account of the negro affair, started by Grimké. It would be no more than fair to state that probably, Jones would not have noticed the complaint, had it come from almost anyone besides Grimké. G. was a haughty, overbearing fellow, and despised by a great part of the class, though he had Jones completely by the nose, as was manifest even in the recitation room.

Eldredge went to Dartmouth College, where he was doing well the last time that I heard from him. I have not been in Groton since last fall. Brother Walter has left Groton. Mr. Todd has had a call to go to Salem, Mass. Whether he will go or not, I am unable to say. I made out to stick by old Yale, til I had my name read off in Latin. I shall make them one more visit to get my A. B.; and, if I do not have too much to do, between this time and that, perhaps I
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

may show them how Massachusetts boys can write Disputes. I have been teaching school in this place about three months. They wish very much to have me continue here, but I shall not, unless they raise their price a good deal. You know that chaps in my circumstances are looking out for money. Have you got a good school for me in Ohio?

Yours, &c.,

C. Dickson.

[Addressed]

Prof. Elizur Wright,
Hudson, Portage County,
Ohio.


JONAS LONGLEY PARKER.

On the morning of Thursday, March 27, 1845, the town of Manchester, New Hampshire, was thrown into the most intense excitement by the announcement that Jonas Longley Parker, collector of taxes and a well-known citizen of that town, had been murdered during the previous evening, in a thick clump of pines, just east of the village. Robbery was, undoubtedly, the object of the atrocious crime, as Parker was wont to carry large sums of money about his person. It is known that the murderer took a pocket-book containing several thousand dollars from a side pocket in his coat, while he overlooked a wallet in his trousers with $1,635. Large rewards were at once offered for the criminal, both by the town and State authorities. Several persons were arrested at different times on suspicion, but their guilt was not established. A full account of the affair is given in Potter's History of Manchester, New Hampshire (pp. 619-624).

Jonas L. Parker, the victim, was a native of Groton, and born in the house, near the Cow-Pond meadows, where Mrs. Susanna (Blood) Prescott was cruelly murdered during the night of November 11, 1885. His remains were brought to Groton for interment in the Parker tomb, on the north side of the old Burial Ground.
The town records contain the following entry:

Jonas Longley Parker, son of Jonas L. Parker and Elizabeth, his wife, born in Groton, Feb. 10th, 1810. Murdered and robbed at Manchester, N. H., at about ½ past nine o'clock in the evening of the 26th of March, 1845, aged 35 years.

BBIDGE CARRIED AWAY.

Fitch's bridge over the Nashua river at Groton, was carried away by the freshet, a day or two since.


THE BAR AND THE CLERGY.

ROOMS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCT. 27, 1887.

My dear Dr. Green,—I write down at your request the anecdote of Luther Lawrence which you heard me narrate some time ago.

Luther Lawrence was an intimate friend of my father, who esteemed him very highly. I have seen him at my father's house in my early childhood; and I remember often hearing my father speak of him, after his death, especially of his wisdom and humanity in his provision for the well-being and moral character of the operatives, during the early days of the cotton manufacture at Lowell.

The story is this: Mr. Lawrence, when a young lawyer, lived at Groton. He started one day to go to Boston in a chaise. Mr. Dana, better known as Judge Dana, then also a young lawyer, was his companion. They stopped late in the forenoon at Watertown to bait their horse and get some dinner. There was an ordination, I believe, perhaps a dedication, going on in the town, a great affair in those days. People had come from far and near. The green about the church was filled with carriages, and the church crowded. Dr. Channing was to preach the sermon.

Mr. Lawrence observed to Mr. Dana that he would like to hear the sermon, but he supposed it would be impossible to get in. An
old chap named Samson Woods, a well-known character of that period and a neighbor of the two lawyers, was in the bar-room. Said he, "You can come with me, I'll get you in." Woods started for the church, and the young men followed with some hesitation. When they came to the middle door, leading to the broad aisle, Woods marched boldly up. The door was guarded by two constables, who crossed their staves to prevent his entrance. "You have seats reserved here for the clergy, I believe," said Samson. "Yes," hesitatingly replied one of the constables. Woods passed in, and Lawrence and Dana were following when the official staves were again interposed. Woods turned round, with great dignity, "You will admit my deacons, of course." "Yes," said the officer, still more reluctantly. Lawrence and his companion went in, but as they passed, he heard one of the constables say to the other, "There must be a hell of a church somewhere."

Geo. F. Hoar.

WILLIAM BOYNTON WAIT.

More than thirty years ago I received a letter from William Boynton Wait, Esq., Vice-President of the Merchants' National Bank of Little Rock, Arkansas, telling me that he was born at Groton in the year 1808, and making inquiries about the town. I at once began a correspondence with him; and he subsequently wrote me from Little Rock, under the date of March 11, 1884:

My father, Levi Wait, was born at Groton, February 26, 1780, and died in Albany, N. Y., December 22, 1823. He was married to Betsey Jones, of Acton, April 1, 1807. My mother was the daughter of Hannah Jones, whose first husband, Capt. Isaac Davis, was in command of the Acton company at Concord Bridge, where he fell on April 19, 1775. I believe he was the first officer killed in the Revolution.

My father moved with his family to Albany in 1817; and in 1824, when I was sixteen years old, I went to Boston consigned by my mother to the care of her old Groton friend, Abraham Moore. He placed me in a grocery store, where I remained until July 1829,
and then I came West to Cincinnati. While in Ohio I was a store or steamboat clerk until December, 1830, when I came here to take a clerkship in a store at the old Post of Arkansas. I have been in trade or business of some kind in Arkansas since the year 1834, most of the time at this point.

During the early part of the year 1887 I happened to be in Little Rock, when I availed myself of the opportunity to call on Mr. Wait. I found him to be a gentleman of the old school, who well represented the dignity of the town of Groton. The years sit lightly on his shoulders, and he would pass for a much younger man than an octogenarian. He has accumulated a handsome fortune, which he is now enjoying in leisure and with liberality. He told me that he was born on Farmers' Row, in the house occupied by J. K. Bennett,—as laid down on Mr. Butler's Map,—near the road leading to the Red Bridge, but which in my boyhood was known as the Amasa Sanderson place. Mr. Wait has been at Groton but once in seventy years, and that was soon after the late War of the Rebellion, when he came with a son to revisit the scenes of his childhood. He became a resident of Arkansas six years before it was admitted into the Union as a State.

PRISONERS TAKEN AT THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.

In "The New-England Chronicle: or, The Essex Gazette" (Cambridge), September 14, 1775, is given a list of American prisoners, who had been taken at the Battle of Bunker Hill and confined in Boston jail, with their places of abode. Among the names are the following from Groton and its neighborhood:

FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Oliver Stevens . . . . . Townsend.
Amasa Fisk . . . . . Pepperell.
Archibald M'Intosh . . . . Townsend.
David Kemp . . . . . Groton.
Stephen Foster . . . . . Groton.

The list comprised thirty-one persons, of whom twenty had died at the date of the newspaper, including all those mentioned above. Captain Walker died on August 15.

DEATH OF HON. JOSIAH KENDALL BENNETT.

It is a painful duty for us to record this week the death of this most estimable man.

Friday afternoon, Jan. 23, at about a quarter of five o'clock, Judge Bennett breathed his last. Friday preceding his death he attended to his court duties, and Saturday he was prompt at his post at the usual hour of opening of court in the morning. Saturday he was much weaker than on the preceding day, and from that time he grew weaker and weaker until death ended his suffering. For nearly a year previous to the death of the Judge he could not speak above a whisper, which was an indication that the disease of which he died, consumption, had become fairly seated. For a number of years previous to this he had not enjoyed good health.

Mr. Bennett was a graduate of the class of 1853, of Harvard College. The junior year of his collegiate studies was spent at Yale College, in New Haven, Conn. While attending to his studies at Harvard College he held the prominent position of Professor of Latin, Mathematics and the Classics at Mystic Seminary, in Medford; and at the close of his usefulness in this institution of learning, he became Principal of the Hopkins classical school in Cambridge, and taught one year, when it was, by special act of the legislature, discontinued. This classical school was under the supervision of the trustees of Harvard College.

During his stay in Cambridge he attended the Law school, and when he closed his law studies he moved to Boston and practised law on Court street, in the office of Lyman Mason. He also had offices at Groton and Groton Junction.
He was an excellent scholar and a man possessed of high literary attainments. By his studiousness he became an expert as a translator, and could read and translate fourteen or fifteen languages, among them the Sanscrit, Norse and Anglo Saxon. A number of his translations from the German and other languages have been published; and they were eagerly sought for by the press. He has written for the Bibliotheca Sacra, Congregationalist and other papers, and received the award for the prize article which he wrote for the Bibliotheca Sacra. He has been a valuable contributor to this paper for some time past.

He served as one of the Trustees of Lawrence Academy for ten years or more, and held a number of offices. He was a member of the executive committee, committee of finance, examining committee, and was secretary of the Board of Trustees, which offices he held at the time of his death. He was a member of the Board of School Committee of Groton, for a number of years, and closed his connection with the Board last fall. A large portion of the school reports were written by him from year to year, extracts from which were frequently incorporated in the report of the Board of Education. In the earlier part of his life he taught school in Groton. He was a member of the Groton Musical Association since 1858. He was a member of the Orthodox church, clerk of the parish a number of years, and had been superintendent of the Sabbath school.

He was appointed Judge of the First District Court of Northern Middlesex at Ayer, by Governor Washburn, July, 1872, which position he held since the court has been established. It was a good selection and he was admirably adapted for this post of honor.

Owing to his continued ill health, and by the advice of his physician, he moved to Ayer with his family about two months ago. His remains were taken to Groton for burial, and the funeral services were held at the Orthodox church. By the request of Mr. Bennett, the Rev. Wm. M. Parker of West Boylston, formerly the pastor of this church, preached the sermon and his remarks of the deceased were very appropriate and just. His death has cast a gloom over the entire community. If he had lived till next month he would have been forty-three years of age. He was a gentleman, a scholar, a good citizen, a man of excellent judgment and good common sense. His place cannot be easily filled. Groton and Ayer mourn his loss. We sadly miss him.

["Public Spirit," Ayer, Thursday, January 29, 1874.]
Judge Bennett was the son of Josiah Kendall and Lucinda (Nutting) Bennett, and born at Groton, on February 4, 1831.

STARCH-FACTORY AND PAPER-MILLS.

In the spring of 1832 the following Act was passed by the General Court of Massachusetts; and under the authority of the enactment a company was organized at Groton for the manufacture of starch.

A mill was built for the purpose on the Groton side of the Squannacook River, three-quarters of a mile above the village of West Groton, but the undertaking did not prove to be a success. It stood on the site of the present paper-mill in that locality; and the place is shown on Mr. Butler's Map of Groton. It was expected that this new industry in the town would help the farmers of the neighborhood by encouraging the cultivation of potatoes which were to be used in making starch, but the scheme was a failure.

CHAP. CXXVII.

An Act to incorporate the Dana Manufacturing Company.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Oliver Sheple, Samuel Dana, Samuel Dana, Jr., Oliver Sheple, Jr, James Dana, and Washington Sheple, their associates and assigns be, and they hereby are constituted a corporation and made a body politic, by the name and style of the Dana Manufacturing Company, for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woollen goods, iron wares, and starch from any materials, in the respective towns of Groton and Shirley in the county of Middlesex, and for this purpose shall have all the powers and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and requirements contained in an act passed the twenty third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty, entitled "an act defining the general powers and duties of manufacturing corporations.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the said corporation may take
and hold such real estate, not exceeding in value the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, and such personal estate not exceeding in value two hundred thousand dollars, as may be suitable and convenient for carrying on the business aforesaid.

[Approved by the Governor, March 13, 1832.]

The building was subsequently used as a paper-mill, and burned many years ago, on June 7, 1842. Soon afterward another mill was erected on the same site, which was bought on October 22, 1852, by Lyman Hollingsworth of Jepthah Richardson Hartwell. The plant was sold in 1881 by Mr. Hollingsworth to Messrs. Hollingsworth and Vose, of Boston, who still own it. The senior partner of this firm is a nephew of the former owner. The product of the mill is a Manilla paper of high grade, of which about three tons are made daily. On August 7, 1889, I visited the mill when they were making a paper, which is sent to England in boxes, for the manufacture of sand-paper, and very likely to be returned here in that form. In the stock-houses there were two hundred tons of old cordage, more or less, ready to be ground up and used in connection with "wood pulp," which enters largely into the composition of the article. Last year a new dam, a solid granite structure in place of the original one, was built; though, in times of low water, steam-power is required to turn the machinery.

The direct road from the village of West Groton to the paper-mill,—perhaps three quarters of a mile in length,—was laid out by the County Commissioners on April 13, 1838. An attempt was previously made by interested persons, in the spring of 1832, to have the same piece of highway built, but it did not meet with success, as it was then adjudged by the Commissioners to be "not of common convenience and necessity." Of course the road was opened in order to accommodate the business of the new factory.

The paper-mill on the Nashua River, at the Paper Mill Village, was originally a wooden structure, and built in the year 1841 by Oliver Howe, who owned the saw-mill and grist-mill in close proximity; and here the manufacture of Manilla
paper was carried on. During more than a century there has been a dam at this place across the river, and in early times there was, also, a ford known as the Stony Fordway or Stony Wading-place. Among the Massachusetts Archives at the State House is a rough plan, made probably about the year 1740, which gives the names of the bridges, etc., in this neighborhood, at that period. It is found in the volume marked on the back "Maps and Plans" (XVI. 6), and bears the catalogue number 1482.

About the year 1846 the property, on which stood these several mills, was sold to the brothers John Mark and Lyman Hollingsworth; and on September 1, 1851, Lyman sold his share to the other brother, John Mark, who rebuilt the paper-mill, making it of brick, but the building was very soon afterward burned. The following item is taken from the "Boston Daily Journal," Monday, June 7, 1852:

**Paper Mill Burnt.** We learn that a paper-mill, dwelling-house and out-buildings adjoining, situated in Groton, and owned by Mr. J. M. Hollingsworth, were totally consumed by fire on Saturday [June 5].

The mill was at once rebuilt, and soon again in operation.

> J. M. Hollingsworth's extensive and costly paper mills, at Groton Junction [Paper Mill Village], are nearly ready to go into operation. Mr. H. intends to manufacture first quality book paper, employing about 35 hands.


On March 7, 1865, Mr. Hollingsworth, just before his death on April 6 of that year, sold the property to his brother Lyman; and eleven years later it was burnt for the second time. The "Boston Evening Journal," Friday, May 26, 1876, has the following account of the fire:

**Mill Burnt at Groton, Mass.**

The large paper mill of Lyman Hollingsworth at North [?] Groton was destroyed by fire on Thursday afternoon [May 25]. It gave employment to about fifty workmen and was valued at
STARCH-FACTORY AND PAPER-MILLS. 189

$140,000. The insurance is placed in the following companies: Etna, Hartford, and Phoenix of Hartford; Home of New York; North British and Mercantile; Springfield Fire and Marine; Fire Association of Philadelphia; Meriden Fire; Roger Williams of Providence, and Shawmut of Boston. It is divided as follows: On mill, $50,000; machinery, $24,000, and on stock, covering the probable loss, $8,000. It is not yet known how the fire occurred.

The mill was again rebuilt, this time by Lyman Hollingsworth, and the manufacture of book paper continued, now with a daily product of about five tons. On December 13, 1881, the establishment was sold to Messrs. Tileston and Hollingsworth, of Boston, and in July, 1889, by them transferred to the Tileston and Hollingsworth Company, of Boston, a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth.

During the autumn of 1882 Messrs. Tileston and Hollingsworth caused a suitable stone to be placed by the wayside, near the mill, bearing the following inscription, which will explain itself:

NEAR THIS SPOT
JOHN SHATTUCK,
A SELECTMAN OF GROTON,
AND
HIS SON JOHN
WERE KILLED BY THE INDIANS,
May 8, 1709,
WHILE CROSSING STONY FORDWAY,
JUST BELOW THE PRESENT DAM.
1882.

For many of the facts in this article I am indebted to Charles William Jenks, of Boston, who for a long time was connected with the mill. After graduating at Harvard College in the Class of 1871, he came to Groton and remained ten years, during which time he was engaged in the business of paper-making at this mill. Mr. Jenks writes me, under date of September 28, 1889:

I was at Groton from the year 1871 to 1881. When I went there we thought two tons a good day's run, but when I came away
we had nearly doubled that amount, without any radical change in the mill, being assisted in the increased product by the use of wood pulp. I think the mill now makes about five tons, steam-engines having been put in.

WILLIAM AUSTIN, JR.

William Austin, Jr., whose death is recorded below, was a son of the Honorable William and Charlotte (Williams) Austin, and born at Charlestown, on September 15, 1811, and died at Groton of typhoid fever, on January 8, 1835, at the house of Mrs. William Farwell Brazer. He graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1831, and, while yet an undergraduate, as well as afterwards, he had taught District School, No. 1. For several years he was engaged to a young lady of Groton, who took care of him during his last illness. His father was the author of "Peter Rugg, the Missing Man," a tale of some note, which first appeared in the "Norfolk Republican" (Roxbury), September 8, 1827, and the two succeeding numbers, though it was afterward considerably enlarged and otherwise changed, and printed in "The Boston Book" for the year 1841. It was said that a remark of the son, when a lad, prompted the writing of the story.

In Groton, 8th inst. Mr. William Austin, Jr. of Charlestown, 23, a graduate of Harvard University, of the class of 1831.


On the 8th inst. Mr. William Austin, Jr. 23.

The many friends of Mr. Austin will need no recital of the striking and interesting traits of his character to quicken their recollection of all that he was, and no portrait of ideal excellence to enhance the sense of their loss. The world at large, unconscious of his merit, will deem his praise but the customary tribute to the departed, or ascribe it to the partial voice of friendship. But it is imposed as a sacred duty on the witnesses of his mental and moral worth, that they do not permit his virtues to pass with him unacknowledged to his untimely grave. His character was most rare and estimable.
Whatever may have been his share of what are generally considered brilliant qualities, he possessed in an uncommon degree for one so young, those which the well-disposed and thoughtful usually acquire only with increasing years and experience. He was most remarkable for the strength of his religious principles, and his constant application of them in all his actions, even the least important. Many may perhaps be found, who would as readily as he avoid injuring the rights or feelings of another; but he did not stop here; those who have not witnessed can hardly realize how active was his benevolence, and how constantly he was devising means to confer obligations, as far as in his power, on all with whom he had any connexion.

In 1831, on leaving the University, at which he had been distinguished, he engaged in the office of instruction, for which he was highly qualified, though not by his talents and acquirements alone. His zealous industry had rendered him a very respectable scholar for his years, yet his efforts were not directed wholly, nor principally to the acquisition of knowledge, but rather to the formation of a pure and elevated character. He was modest, mild, and engaging in his manners, and never failed to secure the respect and affection of his pupils, by his kindness to them and becoming respect for himself. All his qualifications, however, may be inferred from the circumstance that he was recommended and patronized in the undertaking in which he was engaged at the time of his death, by many of the most competent judges in the community. His quiet and serious temper had given the sacred profession in his view more charms than any other. He accordingly joined the Theological School at Cambridge in order to prepare himself for it, but after a short time, being convinced that its duties were incompatible with the bodily complaints to which he was predisposed, he relinquished the cherished object of his hopes with cheerful submission, and turned to seek some other path in which to make himself honored and useful to society. Two years since, disease laid a heavy, blighting hand upon him; but, though his friends were never afterwards wholly free from anxiety on his account, no apprehensions of his actual immediate danger were entertained by them. His death fell upon them with awful suddenness. It was finally occasioned by a violent fever, which his broken constitution had not strength to resist. It will be long before the numerous friends he had secured wherever it was his lot to be called, will cease to feel and deplore this great loss to themselves and the community; — but the remem-
brance of his virtues will afford a great and lasting consolation to all, who believe that sincere and unremitted exertions for the attainment of excellence are of any avail. Surely his generous, blameless spirit can have no ill to fear, through whatever untried change of being he may be called to pass. This thought shall hush our grief at being torn from him whose memory is blended with a thousand endearing recollections of the past. May it, as it ought, for the future, encourage us to follow his bright example, and so to incline our hearts to wisdom, that we may hope, "the dread path once trod," to be reunited to him in a better and happier world, to part no more forever. S.


SIGNOR BLITZ.

SIGNOR ANTONIO BLITZ is most pleasantly associated with my early recollections, and in after-life was numbered among my friends. Nearly a half-century ago I first saw him give one of his inimitable exhibitions, so amusing to small children and so wonderful to those of a larger growth; and the impressions then left on my mind have never been effaced. In later years he passed his summers at Groton, where he made as many friends among the townspeople as he had by his public performances at an early period among the young folks, throughout the country. I remember, one afternoon, his telling me that he had on that day put the finishing touches to his book, which has since been published and widely circulated under the title of "Fifty Years in the Magic Circle" (Hartford, 1871).

On July 23, 1863, Signor Blitz was married, secondly, to Helen Eliza, daughter of Jonas and Eliza (Adams) Eaton, who was born at Groton, on September 17, 1827, and died at Westfield, New Jersey, on October 23, 1904. The ceremony was performed at her father's house by the Reverend Henry Martyn Dexter, D.D., at that time the pastor of the Berkeley Street Congregational Church, Boston. In the town-records the entry of the marriage describes the groom
as a "thaumaturgist," and the son of Antonio and Amelia Blitz. Mademoiselle Marie Van Zandt, the noted prima donna of the present day, is a granddaughter of Signor Blitz; and during her girlhood she passed many months at Mr. Eaton's dwelling, and attended school in the town. She is remembered with much interest and pleasure, not to say pride, by many of her former playmates.

The following obituary notice is taken from the "Boston Evening Transcript," January 30, 1877:

Signor Blitz, whose death at Philadelphia [on January 28] was announced yesterday, was born in Deal, Kent County, England, on the coast, June 21, 1810. When about the age of twelve he learned something in legerdemain. In September, 1823, his father sent him in the care of a special attendant to Hamburg, where he made his first appearance in public. His first appearance in his native country was in Dover in December, 1825. After travelling through England, Ireland and Scotland, he started for America, leaving Liverpool on the 1st of August, 1834, and arrived in New York in the early part of September, making his initial bow before an American audience at Niblo's Garden some weeks later. After a visit to Boston he went to Philadelphia (which he afterward made his home) and established himself in a large hall at Eight and Chestnut streets. The Quaker City seemed to suit the artist so well that after making an extended tour of the country he returned, and permanently established himself in the Assembly Buildings, where, during the later years of his life, he performed to large audiences. He was a great favorite, being very affable in his manners, and it will be a long while before the pleasant memories of Signor Blitz, and his wonderful boy "Bobby," are effaced from the minds of the residents of Philadelphia. About fourteen years ago [July 23, 1863], his first wife having died, he married a Miss Eaton, of Groton, Mass. This lady survives him, but the children are those of his first wife. He was the father of the celebrated opera singer Mme. Van Zandt, who is now in England, and also of Mrs. Metz, residing in New York city. During the later years of his life he performed only for the benefit of charitable institutions, having amassed a large fortune for himself and family by his previous efforts. The automaton trumpeter, the never-failing egg-sack, and the Sphinx were the results of his creative fancy. During his life he performed before many of the reigning sovereigns of Europe.
DANIEL FARNSWORTH.

The following notice taken from "The Continental Journal, and Weekly Advertiser" (Boston), January 2, 1777, shows the want of postal facilities which existed during the Revolutionary period. At that time there were but few post-offices in New England, and letters for Groton were sent first to the Boston Office, and afterward forwarded through private channels. This explains the statement that "letters are uncertain."

To Mr. DANIEL FARNSWORTH, of Groton, in the state of Massachusetts-Bay:

SIR,

THE privateer you are concerned in has taken and sent a prize to a safe port.—— I take this method to acquaint you of it, as letters are uncertain.—— When I see you shall be able to give a more particular account about it.

From your friend and humble servant, D. R.

Providence, December 25, 1776.

MRS. SARAH PERRY.

SARAH LAWRENCE was a daughter of Colonel William and Susanna (Prescott) Lawrence, and born at Groton, on March 12, 1732. She was married on October 23, 1755, to the Reverend Joseph Perry, second pastor of East Windsor, Connecticut, a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1752. He was born at Sherborn on August 13, 1731, and died at Windsor on April 21, 1783. Mr. Perry married, secondly, Mrs. Naomi (Ridgely | Gedney) Verstille. The following tribute to Mrs. Perry's memory was printed as a broadside at the time of her death:
DIED AT EAST-WINDSOR,

The 28th of August, 1778, in the 47th Year of her Age,

MRS. SARAH PERRY,

The amiable Confort of the Rev. JOSEPH PERRY, 
Pastor of the First Church in that Town.

SHE was born in Groton in the Maffachusetts-Bay. Her father was the honorable Colonel William Laurence of that place, and her mother belonged to the ancient and honorable Prefect family. She was married, about twenty-three years ago, to Mr. Perry, with whom she ever after lived in the closest mutual friendship, and most endearing conjugal affection. She was excellently well calculated for the station in life, which providence allotted her. The piety and virtue, the great share of wisdom and prudence, with which she was endued, the remarkably good economy which she observed in the management of her domestic affairs, the cheerfulnes and generosity with which she ever entertained the many strangers and numerous acquaintance, which the well known hospitality of the family invited to call upon them, rendered her a crown to her husband, an honor and blessing to her children, and an object of esteem of all to whom she was known. Her charity to the poor, and compassion for the sick, sorrowful and distressed were a conspicuous part of her character, which greatly endeared her to the people amongst whom she resided, who manifested their regard for her, in the season of her weaknesses and distresses, in a manner that was exceeding refreshing and comforting to her and the family, and honorable to themselves. Her last sicknes, which was of long continuance and very distressing, it being of the hectic kind, and attended with peculiar difficulties, she endured with exemplary christian patience and fortitude. During the whole of her weaknes she manifested a firm belief in the divine perfections, and the all-sufficiency of the power and grace of the Redeemer, and was supported by a comfortable hope of salvation thro' the atonement and mediation of Jesus Christ; though sensible of her many imperfections, and the great deceitfulness of the human heart, she expressed herself with becoming caution, fear and modesty, with respect to the sincerity of her faith and repentance. But as her dissolution approached her doubts diminished; and for several days before she died, being in the clear and full exercise of her reason and understanding, with which she was favoured from first to last, it pleased God to increase her faith and hope to such a degree of assurance, and strong trust and confidence in Him through the Saviour, as not only raised her above the fear of death, but produced in her an entire willingness to leave her nearest earthly friends, who were exceedingly dear to her, in the hands of God, to whom with alacrity she committed them, and caused her earnestly to long for the time of her departure. She left to mourn her death, besides a very affectionate husband, six children, and a babe but three weeks old.
GROTON AS A SHIRE TOWN.

On May 10, 1643, the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was divided into four counties: namely, Middlesex, Suffolk, Essex, and Norfolk; though the Norfolk County of that period did not comprise in any respect the same territory now known by that name.

Middlesex is therefore one of the oldest counties in the Commonwealth, as it is one of the largest in population. In the year 1729 an attempt was made to divide it and form a new county from the northwestern section. The subject is referred to in the Reverend Wilkes Allen's History of Chelmsford (p. 44), where the author says that a committee was appointed by the town of Chelmsford in 1729, and the next four years, to meet with committees from other places in order to carry out the plan. He then gives a list of the towns which were to be embraced in the new county, as follows: Groton, Townsend, Pepperell, Dunstable, Merrimack, Dracut, Litchfield, Chelmsford, Westford, Littleton, Concord, Bedford, Billerica, and Tewksbury. At that time Merrimack and Litchfield were considered as belonging to Massachusetts; but after the new Provincial line was settled in the spring of 1741, both these towns fell on the New Hampshire side of the boundary. It is a mistake, however, to include Pepperell in the list, as that place was not incorporated for many years after this period, either as a precinct or a district. Both Bedford and Westford were set off as towns on September 23, 1732, and Townsend was granted on June 29, 1732; but, being new settlements, and expecting soon to be made towns, they were interested in the scheme. Tewksbury was incorporated on December 23, 1734, and probably took no part in the movement.

Rufus Campbell Torrey, Esq., in his "History of the Town of Fitchburg, Massachusetts" (1836 edition), refers to the same subject, and says that the inhabitants of Lunenburg in the year 1729 chose Captain Josiah Willard as their agent "to join with others to consider what may be best in order to
divide the county of Middlesex." The scheme resulted, on April 2, 1731, in the formation of Worcester County, which took eight towns out of Middlesex, besides others from Suffolk and Hampshire; though it was not the same affair as the one mentioned in the History of Chelmsford. Mr. Torrey furthermore says:

In a little more than two years after this, attempts were made to form a new county out of the counties of Worcester and Middlesex, of which Groton was to be the shire town. These attempts in a short time were abandoned (p. 35).

Further particulars of this movement are given in extracts from the printed Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, under the respective dates of June 15 and 17, 1736, as follows:

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

According to the order of Tuesday last the House enter'd into the consideration of the Petition of Benjamin Prescott, Esq.; and Capt. Joseph Blanchard, Agents for Groton, Dunstable, &c. praying for a new County to be erected partly out of Middlesex and partly out of Worcester Countys, as entred the 18th. of June last, and 26th. of March and referred; the same being read, with the respective answers thereto, and some debate being had, the following Vote passed, viz. In answer to the within Petition, Ordered, That the prayer thereof be so far granted as that the Towns of Groton, Dunstable, Littleton, Wesford, Dracut, Nottingham, Townsend, Lunenburg, and Harvard, with the Towns lately granted, and lying Northerly and Westerly of the Towns afore enumerated, and not already included in any County, be and hereby are erected into a separate and distinct County by themselves, to all intents and purposes in the Law, and that the Petitioners have leave to bring in a Bill accordingly. Sent up for Concurrence (p. 51).

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

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

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

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

Province of the [Massachusetts-Bay.]

To His Excellency Francis Bernard, Esq; Captain-General and Governor in chief in and over His MAJESTYS said Province; and to the Honorable His Majesty's COUNCIL, and House of REPRESENTATIVES, in General Court assembled at Boston, December, A.D. 1763.

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

Humbly sheweth,

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

Abel Lawrence
Oliver Prescott
Jonas Cutler
James Prescott
Josiah Sartell
Jonath. Lawrence
Thomas Warren
Joseph Harwood
Jonas Prescott
William Fletcher
Jabez Reep [Keep]
Benjamin Brooks
William Prescott
Hezekiah Sawtell

Agents for Groton.
Agents for Lyttleton.
Agents for Westford.
Agent for Townshend.
Agent for Pepperrell.
Agent for Shirley.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

In the House of Representatives,

JUNE the 14th, 1764.

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

Sent up for Concurrence,
Thos. Clapp, Speak'r Pro Tempr.

IN COUNCIL, June 14. 1764, read and concurred.

A. Oliver, Sec'y.

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

It is useless at the present time to speculate on what might have been, if the prayer of the petitioners had been granted. It would have materially changed the destiny of Groton, which was to be the shire town of the new county.

In February, 1765, the following petition was presented:

Province of the | To his Exceellency Francis Bernard Esq' Cap-
Massachusetts Bay | tain General and Govener in Cheiff in and
over his Majestys s| Province and to the Hon-
ourable Council and house of Representatatives | ourable Council and house of Represantatives
in General Court assembled at Boston Febru- | in General Court assembled at Boston Febru-
ary A.D. 1765 | ary A.D. 1765

Humbly shews—The Subscribers agents for several Towns in the County of middlesex, that they in behalf of their Constituents in
February A.D. 1764, Perferred a Petition to the General Court then sitting; shewing forth the Disadvantages the said Towns and others Laboured under by reason of their Great distance from the several Courts of Justice in the said County of middlesex and other reasons mentioned in said Petition, the Petition was Taken under Consideration at the last may session when the Honourable Court ordered the the [sic] several Towns in the Countys of middlesex, and Worcester should be Notified, which was done in the Publick Prints, that at this Present Session the said Petition was Taken under Consideration and a Com1ee Chosen to Examine into ye afair which has been done and as your memorialist are Informed the majority of the Com2ee agreed and thereupon Reported that ye 1 Petition should bee Dismissed which report as your memorialist are Informed is accepted by the Honourable Board (how True we dont know) but if it should so happen, we Pray this Hon3ee house not to accept of said report, how Ever if we should be so unfortunat as not to have the Prayer of said Petition Granted we Earnestly Pray that they may at Least be so far releived as that one Inferiour Court may be held in or near the town of Groton in st County and that the Inhabitants of the northerly part of said County of middlesex may be otherwise releived in regard to the Transacting their Publick afairs, as much as Possibley may be and your Petitioners in behalf of themselves and Constituents as in duty Bound shall Ever pray.

beniamin Brooks
Jonathan Lawrance
Eph3 Hildreth
Jonas Prescott

ABEL LAWRENCE
James Prescott
Jonas Cutler
Oliver Prescott
Wm Prescott

In the House of Rep1es Feb 8 1765
Read and Ordered that the Pet2e serve the several Towns concerned in the event of this Petition with copies thereof that so they shew cause if any they have why the prayer thereof should not be granted

Sent up for concurrence
James Otis Speak: pro. Tempore

In Council Febr1 15. 1765. Read and Nonconcurred.

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

The following notice adjourning the Court of Common Pleas, appointed to be held at Groton, appears in "The Boston Gazette, and the Country Journal," May 12, 1783, and is signed by three Justices of that Court. It is impossible now to learn the circumstances under which the adjournment took place, but they may have been similar to those mentioned in a Resolve, here reprinted immediately after the advertisement from the newspaper. On the docket at East Cambridge no explanation is given, but under date of May 20, 1783, it is there recorded that the Court, by proclamation of John Tyng, and James Prescott, Esquires, two of the Justices, was adjourned to the first Tuesday of June, which fell that year on the third day of the month.

WHEREAS some Circumstances that must happen will render it necessary that the Court of Common Pleas, by Law appointed to be holden at Groton, within and for the County of Middlesex, on the 3d Tuesday of May Inst. should be adjourned to some future Day: All Persons concerned are to take Notice, that the same Court will be adjourned to the first Tuesday in June next, then to proceed to Business. Jurors Parties and Witnesses will govern themselves accordingly.

By Order of Three of the Justices of the same Court.

N. B. As the Court of Common Pleas will adjourn as above, it is probable that the Court of General Sessions of the Peace will be adjourned in like Manner.
THE Clerk of the within mentioned Courts is directed to publish the within Advertisement in the papers, and to send Copies thereof to the several Parts of the County.

A Fuller,
James Prescott,
Samuel Phillips Savage.

A true Copy of the Originals filed in the Office of the Courts abovementioned, May 9, 1783.

Attest.
THAD. MASON, Clerk

The following Resolution was passed by the General Court, on May 2, 1787, and is found in the printed volume of "Resolves" (p. 280), where the chapter is numbered XXXI.

Resolve adjourning the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Common Pleas in the county of Middlesex, to the fourth Tuesday in May inst. May 2, 1787.

Whereas by reason of the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, at Concord, on the second Tuesday of May instant, the sitting of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Common Pleas, at Groton, on the Tuesday following, may be attended with inconveniences.

Resolved, That the said Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Common Pleas, by law to be helden at Groton, within and for the county of Middlesex, on the third Tuesday of May instant, shall be helden at Groton aforesaid, on the fourth Tuesday of the same month, and that all writs, processes and recognizances, returnable to, and all appeals made to the said Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Common Pleas, appointed by law to be helden at Groton; and all matters, causes and things, that have day or that might have had day, been moved or done at, in, or by the said Courts, at the time so appointed for holding the same, shall be returnable to, and may be entered, prosecuted, had, moved and done at, in, and by the said Courts, at the time herein appointed for holding the same. And the Secretary is hereby directed, to publish this resolve, in the two next Adams and Nourse's, Hall's, and Charlestown papers.

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

During the period when the Courts were held here, Groton was a town much more important relatively, both in size and influence, than it is at the present time. According to the National Census of 1790, it was then the second town in population in Middlesex County, Cambridge alone having more inhabitants. In that year Groton had 322 families, numbering 1,840 persons; and Cambridge, 355 families, numbering 2,115 persons, while Lowell had no existence. Charlestown had a population of 1,583; and Newton, 1,360. Reading, with 341 families (19 more than Groton), numbered 1,802 persons (38 less than Groton). Woburn then had a population of 1,727; Framingham, 1,598; Marlborough, 1,554; and Waltham, 882. Pepperell contained 1,132 inhabitants; Shirley, 677; Westford, 1,229; and Littleton, 854.

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

At my request, some years ago, the late Ellis Ames, Esq., of Canton, furnished the following account of the Probate Courts held here, which forms a fit supplement to this article.

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 20, 1877.
FACTS RELATING TO GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

During my boyhood the sessions of this Court were held in Mr. Hoar's tavern.

An Act was passed by the Legislature, on June 15, 1821, authorizing the Judge of Probate to hold a special Court at Groton, on the second Tuesday of August of that year. After 1858 all the Groton Probate Courts were held at the "Junction" (now Ayer), until they were abolished by the statute of March 30, 1866.

ADDRESS OF THE HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN
AT THE HORACE MANN SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF, IN BOSTON,
NOVEMBER 10, 1897.

On this occasion, as a representative of the family, I have been asked to say a few words about Francis Green, in whose memory the bronze tablet, to-day for the first time, is exposed to public view. It is now the opinion of all persons interested in the subject, that he was the earliest American advocate in behalf of the education of the deaf; and the present exercises are intended to commemorate his labors as a pioneer in this branch of instruction. Under these circumstances a simple narration of certain events in his life may be in keeping with the requirements of the occasion, and a short account of his philanthropic work may be worthy of passing notice.

Francis Green belonged to an old New England family, being a descendant in the fourth generation from Percival and Ellen Green, who sailed from London for these shores in the spring of 1635, and were living at Cambridge during the next year. He was the second son of Benjamin and Margaret (Pierce) Green of Boston, where he was born on August 21, 1742; and a grandson of the Reverend Joseph and Elizabeth (Gerrish) Green of Salem Village, now Danvers. His great grandparents were John and Ruth (Michelson) Green, of Cambridge; and his great-grandfather was an only son of Percival and Ellen Green of that town, and was Marshal-General of the Colony, following his father-in-law, Edward Michelson in the office.
Fortunately for our purposes, during the later years of his life, Mr. Green wrote out some of the main incidents of his career, telling how he became interested in the deaf, and what he had done by the aid of his pen toward their education, and also giving a sketch of his family for several preceding generations. This account he entitled: "Genealogical and Biographical Anecdotes of the Green Family, Deduced from the First American Generation by Francis Green for his Children’s Information, 1806."

Many years ago the original manuscript was placed temporarily in the hands of my father, the late Dr. Joshua Green, of Groton, who copied it for the use of his branch of the family. Without doubt it was indirectly through the copy then made that the authorship of "Vox Oculis Subjecta" — a work well-known to scholars interested in the education of the deaf — was first recognized and identified. The simple fact was previously known that the writer of the book was an American, and that his name was Green, but nothing more.

Taking some interest in the manuscript myself, and thinking that the statements there recorded might be also of interest to others, I made a short abstract of the account, and sent it to Mr. Chamberlain, editor of "The Gallaudet Guide," a monthly periodical, then published in Court Square, Boston, and devoted to the cause of the deaf. The article was printed in the number for November, 1860, and — as I had hoped, but hardly expected — it attracted the attention of two or three persons, who cared enough about the matter to write to me for further facts concerning Mr. Green’s history. Among these correspondents was Mr. Samuel Porter of Hartford, at that time the editor of the "American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb" (Hartford), who is still living at the advanced age of nearly ninety years. In a letter from him, dated December 27, 1860, he wrote, asking for more details, and also expressing his deep interest in the subject. At his request I prepared another paper, entitled "The Earliest Advocate of the Education of Deaf-Mutes in America," which appeared in the "American Annals" for March, 1861. In the main this account was an amplification of the other one that had
been printed previously in "The Gallaudet Guide." Perhaps it is not too much to say—and I can give Mr. Porter as authority for the assertion—that through these two articles the authorship of "Vox Oculis Subjecta" became definitely known to scholars who were studying this special branch of learning.

As a boy, young Green received his education partly in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and partly at the Boston Latin School, from which he was admitted into Harvard College during the summer of 1756. His collegiate course there, however, was but a partial one, as circumstances beyond his control compelled him to leave Cambridge at the end of his Freshman year, though he was allowed to take the degree of A.B. with his class in 1760, a favor granted only under very exceptional circumstances. The year before his entrance at college his father had procured for him an ensign's commission in the Fortieth Regiment, with the understanding that he should have leave of absence from the army until he had completed his four-year's course. In 1757, on account of the war with France, orders came from the Commander-in-chief that all officers, without regard to rank, should join their respective commands. On the reception of this news, Green repaired immediately to his regiment in Halifax, with the expectation that his leave of absence would be renewed; but in this he was mistaken. From his father, who was Secretary to Gen. William Pepperrell, commander of the expedition against Louisburg in 1745, he appears to have taken a fancy for military life. He now made up his mind to join his lot with that of the army; and in this branch of service he remained for nine years, selling out his commission in 1766, at which time he held the rank of lieutenant. During these early years of his life he was stationed at different places in Nova Scotia and Canada, and saw some active service in the West Indies.

After leaving the army he took up mercantile pursuits in his native town, but during the political troubles, then breeding here, his sympathies were with the Crown, and in March, 1776, he left Boston on its evacuation by the British, and sailed away with the fleet. For a while he lived in Halifax, and for some time afterward in New York, until 1780, when he took
his departure for England, where he remained for four years longer. While abroad, he gave much time and thought to the cause of the deaf, and he wrote a book on the subject, the same work to which reference has already been made under the title of "Vox Oculis Subjecta," London, 1783. Returning to America in 1784, for some years he made his home at Preston, Nova Scotia, and in June, 1797, he took up his abode at Medford, where he lived until his death, which occurred on April 21, 1809.

During these last twelve years of his life, sometimes under his own signature, and at other times under that of "Philoco phos," he wrote much for the newspapers, particularly for the "New England Palladium" (Boston), on his favorite topic; and he also made translations from the French on the same subject, which were likewise printed in the "Palladium." These various productions from his pen served to call public attention to a matter that lay near and dear to his heart, and without doubt they stimulated a sentiment which to-day is felt throughout the land. It seems almost a suggestion of fate that the "Sarah Fuller Home for Little Children who cannot Hear," organized less than ten years ago, should have been established in the neighborhood of Mr. Green's dwelling place, in a city which, through his writings, is so full of early associations with this interesting class of boys and girls.

Francis Green was married, first, on October 18, 1769, to his cousin Susanna, youngest child of Joseph and Anna (Pierce) Green of Boston, who died on November 10, 1775. His mother and her mother were sisters, and his father and her father were brothers, thus forming a double cousinship between himself and his wife. By this union there were five children, of whom one was deaf; and through this son the father became interested in the class of children, which makes him the subject of these exercises this afternoon. He was married, secondly, on May 19, 1785, to Harriet, daughter of David and Sarah (Seymour) Mathews, of New York. Her father was Mayor of that city during several years of the Revolutionary period. By this second marriage there were six children.
TIME.

By Tempus.

"Time is money," the economist cries,
Take care of the precious minutes,
Lose not a single second as it flies,
For an age is made of minutes.

"Time is money," the prodigal replies,
And then he scatters what he gets.
To care for expense is unwise,
For we'll take time to pay our debts.

["American Journal of Numismatics" (Boston) for April, 1874.]
# INDEX.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bennett, Josiah Kendall, 184.</td>
<td>Council, Ecclesiastical, 1712, 80.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>First church, dedication of meeting-house, 1840, 68.</td>
<td>Groton, in 1835, 5; bibliography, 40; early items, 58; by &quot;Listener,&quot; 115; naming of, 128; as a shire town, 196; Probate Court, 205.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boston, 1828-30, 91.</td>
<td>Elements of success, 157.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fitchburg Records, 111.</td>
<td>Groton, in 1835, 5; bibliography, 40; early items, 58; by &quot;Listener,&quot; 115; naming of, 128; as a shire town, 196; Probate Court, 205.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boutwell, George Sewall, reminiscences, 1; visit to Boston, 1828-30, 91; elements of success, 157.</td>
<td>Brick house, first, 100.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frost, Ebenezer Hopkins, in first operation under ether, 147.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bulkley, Edwin Adolphus, 105.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bunker Hill, battle, 94; prisoners taken at, 183.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Burns, George J., on &quot;Nonacoicus,&quot; 56.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Butler, Caleb, to Ephraim Abbot, 147.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chaplin, Daniel, on Battle of Bunker Hill, 95.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chaplin, William Lawrence, 85.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child, Moses, 131.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Church organ, 69.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Church silver, 165.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Council, Ecclesiastical, 1712, 80.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dana, James, first case, 150.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deaf, Francis Green, and education of the, 207.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hill, Clement Hugh, on Joseph Sartell's will, 170.
Hoar, George Frisbie, bar and the clergy, 181.
Hodges, Almon Danforth, Richards family, 34.
Holden, Edmund, 114.
Hopkinson, Thomas, first case, 150.
Hops, cultivation of, 102.
Hurd, Isaac, 125.
Indian attack, 1694, 165.
Indian words, 139.
Kinnicutt, Lincoln Newton, some Indian words, 139.
Lakin family, 107.
Lawrence, Asa, 97.
Lawrence, Eleazer, 148.
Lawrence, George L., 43.
Lawrence, Henry Lewis, stage-driver, 42.
Lawrence, James, gift of church organ, 69.
Lawrence, Jonathan, bequest, 166.
Lawrence, Samuel, on Battle of Bunker Hill, 96.
Lawrence, Samuel, Jr., recollections, 61.
Lawrence, Sarah, 194.
Lawrence Academy, 88.
Lawrence family, 78.
Lawrence farm, 63.
Lawrence play-ground, 133.
Leominster, Mass., 78.
Longley, Zechariah, 115.
Lothrop, Samuel Kirkland, reminiscences, 74.
Massachusetts Hop Company, 102.
Mercy and Mary, 149.
Mulberry trees, 94.
Newspapers, earliest, 172.
Nonacoicus, 55.
O'Brien, James Joseph, story of the Civil War, 44.
O'Connor, Timothy, 44.
Paper mills, starch factory and, 186.
Park, John, first brick house, 100.
Parker, Jonas Longley, 180.
Parker, William, family, 149.
Parkman, Ebenezer, diary, 163.
Pensioners, Revolutionary, 128.
Perry, Mrs. Sarah (Lawrence), 194.
Physicians, 117.
Pottery, old, 100.
Prescott, Jonas, bequest, 165.
Rebellion, soldiers in the, 53.
Recollections, early, 42.
Revolution, soldiers in, 46; sons of the, 52; items, 114.
Rice, John H., 110.
Rice children, captives, 163.
Richards family, 34.
Richardson, Adam, 123.
Richardson, Alpheus, books published, 40.
Road, old Townsend, 92.
Roman Catholic Church, 73.
Sartell, Josiah, bequest, 167, 169.
Sartell, Mary, bequest, 168.
Schoolmaster, 1718, 90.
Seal, town, 171.
Shattuck, Benjamin, 124.
Shepley, Elizabeth, 127.
Shepley, Jonathan, estate, 85.
Silver, church, 165.
South Military Company, 160.
Stacy and Rogers, 172.
Starch factory and paper mills, 186.
Stevens, Peter, 75.
Stone, William Newcomb, 126.
Tarbell, Asa, brick house, 101.
Tarbell children, captives, 163.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEX.</th>
<th>215</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tea tax, 98.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer, William Roscoe, poem “To Boutwell,” 2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time, a poem, 216.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooker, William Wallace, on “Nona-coicus,” 57.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Church, dedication, 70; name, 73.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varnum, Joseph Bradley, 76.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wait, William Boynton, 182.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown, Mass., ordination, 181.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Groton, first church at, 66.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston records, 112.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willard, Elizabeth (Shepley), 127.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow day, 106.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>