

GILMANTON
NEW HAMPSHIRE AS IT IS – IN THREE PARTS – 1855 - GAZETTEER

GILMANTON, Belknap county. Bounded north by Gilford and Alton, east by Alton and Barnstead, south by-Canterbury and Northfield, and west by Sanbornton and Great Bay. Area, 63,500 acres. 25 miles north-east from Concord, and 8 south-west from Gilford. This town is watered by the Winnipiseogee, Suncook, and Soucook Rivers. The source of the Suncook is a pond on the top of one of the Suncook Mountains, 900 feet above its base. The water of this pond falls into another at the foot of the mountain, about one mile in length and half a mile in width ; flowing through this, it falls into another, covering about 500 acres, from which it winds through the town, receiving several streams in its course. Gilmanton is very hilly and rocky. The north part bounds upon Suncook Mountains, from which a chain of hills extends in a southerly direction. The soil is hard, but fruitful, and has been brought to a very high state of cultivation. No part of the state presents a more pleasing and picturesque appearance to the eye of the agriculturist. Quartz crystals of considerable size are found near Shell Camp Pond. Formerly bog iron ore of a good quality was taken in large quantities from the bottom of Lougee Pond by means of long tongs. Porcupine Hill is a remarkably abrupt precipice of granite, gneiss, and mica slate rock, which form, by their overhanging strata and deep ravines, a pleasant and favorite resort of the students of Gilmanton Academy—an old and highly respectable institution of learning. Below this steep precipice is a deep and shady dell, thickly clad with dark, evergreen foliage of forest trees; while the rocks are wreathed in rich profusion by curious and beautiful lichens, or mosses. Wild plants are abundant and various. Gilmanton Academy was incorporated October 13, 1762. This town was granted. May 20, 1727, to 24 persons named Gilman, and 152 others. The settlement was delayed and interrupted by the frequent depredations of the Indians. In December, 1761, Benjamin and John Mudgett, with their families, settled here. Dorothy Weed, the first child, was born here October 13, 1762. A Baptist church was organized here November 16, 1773. Elder Walter Powers was ordained June 14, 1786 ; dismissed in 1806. The Congregational church was formed November 30, 1774, and Rev. Isaac Smith ordained. There are also Methodist and Freewill Baptist societies in this town. Hon. William Badger, formerly governor of this state, was a native and citizen of Gilmanton. Population, 3282. Number of polls, 704. Inventory, \$983,253. Stock in trade, \$13,256. Value of lands, \$556,600. Number of sheep, 3507. Do. neat stock, 3920. Do. horses and mules, 546.