

HISTORY OF GILFORD.¹

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CHAPTER I.

THE historical matter connected with, and the occurrences that have taken place in, the territory included at different periods within the limits of the town of Gilford largely mingle with those of other towns associated and near, and of other civil organizations remote and seemingly dissociated.

The continuous and complete course of the annals of the town will cover some of the early records of Gilmantou, from which it was detached, and preface largely the history of the recent town of Laconia, increased by detached portions herefrom, and also supplement that of Meredith, which has contributed to the domain of both. The boundary line of Gilford has been so frequently changed for enlargement and diminution that it shares with other towns much of their enterprise and honor and history. Its location on or near an important river and other waters gives it special importance, not only as the centre of various industrial enterprises and professional practice, but as related to older divisions, involving questions of rightful possession and jurisdiction.

By the charter from King James, in 1606, Virginia extended from the thirty-fourth to the forty-fourth parallel of north latitude, and hence included the greater part of New Hampshire territory, and comprehended that part in which Gilford is situated. By a subdivision of this grant into North and South Virginia, the former was limited by the fortieth and forty-eighth degrees of north latitude, and hence included all of New Hampshire territory, and Gilford was in North Virginia. This division of the territory granted by the royal patent, which at first was assigned to certain dignitaries of Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth, England, was subsequently committed to forty men of distinction and means, who constituted the Council of Plymouth, whose official business was the "Planting, Ruling and Governing of New England in America." This council was constituted November 3, 1620, and they made grants of minor sections to other particular parties and organizations in subsequent years.

¹ This article is an abridgment of a more extended work, "A Historical Sketch of the Town of Gilford, N. H.," in preparation, and soon to be published by the writer.

Though the Duke of Lenox was the first-named of the Council, and though there were also several others higher in the list, yet Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Governor of Plymouth, in Devonshire County, England, after 1604, appears to have been the most active and the leading man of the Council, and was elected their first president. Also Captain John Mason, of London, and, after the peace of 1604, Governor of Newfoundland, as well as of Portsmouth, Hampshire County, England, was elected to fill a vacancy in the membership, and made secretary of the Council.

He made the first purchase from the Council March 9, 1621. It was a tract of land thence known as Mariana, and impossible of boundary. It was to extend from the Naumkeag to the Merrimack River, and from their mouths to their head-waters, and to be inclosed by a straight line from the source of the one to that of the other river, which line would cut the whole grant asunder, and at the same time both include and exclude certain territories or portions. August 10, 1622, Mason and Gorges jointly made a purchase of land, supposed to be directly and contiguously on the north of Mariana, or Mason's first purchase, and extending from the Merrimack to the Sagadahock, and back to the "Great Lakes and the River of Canada" (*i. e.*, Winnepesaukee, Champlain and the St. Lawrence).

This was termed Laconia; and this was the first conveyance of the territory of Gilford. The Company of Laconia, consisting of Mason, Gorges and others, was formed, and endeavored to effect settlements on the tract purchased, which they did at Dover in 1623. That part of Laconia bordering on Lake Winnepesaukee was not reached and settled at this time, though considered as the most desirable and valuable on account of its supposed mineral deposits. Seven years later, John Wheelwright and others took a deed from four Indian sagamores of land bounded by the "Merrimack and Piscataqua, extending back to the falls of Nuchawannock, in the Piscataqua, and to the Pawtucket falls, in the Merrimack, and thence 20 miles N. W. into the woods; and thence N. E. to the first-mentioned point, Nuchawannock Falls." This deed evidently did not comprehend Gilford territory; but on November 7, the same year, 1629, Mason took a new grant of territory, less in extent,

but more definitely bounded,—viz.: "From the mouth of the Piscataqua to 60 miles in the course of the river; and from the mouth of the Merrimack to its farthest head-waters; and so forward up into the land westward until 60 miles were finished, and thence to cross overland to the end of the 60 miles accounted from the Piscataqua River, including the Islands within 15 leagues of the shore." This evidently included the territory of Gilford; though it was not certain whether the line connecting the points designated on the rivers should be a straight line or a curve line, maintaining at all parts a distance of sixty miles from the sea. The lands included between the arc and chord thus drawn were in dispute, and were in part in Gilford, and claimed in Mason's right. The line subsequently was determined as a straight line, running from the point on the present State boundary sixty miles from the mouth of the Piscataqua (which was several miles north of its source, and in the town of Eaton), crossing the lake and Long Island, passing over Mount Major, of the Gunstock range, and terminating in the town of Rindge, on the Massachusetts boundary. Hence, the eastern part of Gilford was afterwards assigned to Mason's heirs, and called Masonian shares, when the remainder was bought of said heirs.

In 1632, the lake and its shores were visited by explorers from Portsmouth, but no settlements were made or marks left. Mason died in 1638, and willed his claims and property to various heirs. The disputed jurisdiction of Massachusetts over land included in the after-grant to the proprietors of Gilmanston, being found in part in Gilford, was apparently decided in 1652, when commissioners appointed by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Company were sent to establish the bounds agreeable to their construction of their charter. They claimed that the charter carried a strip of land on the left bank (north and east side) of the river, three miles in width, and extending to its source, at which point a line laid off due east and due west should mark the northern limit of their chartered lands. The extension of this line eastward, as well as westward, was the claim of the Massachusetts Bay Company, but was rejected by the claimants to the territory on the north side of the river, and was finally decided in their favor. But, agreeably to that interpretation of their charter, the said court appointed, on the 27th of May, 1652, a commission to settle the north line of their domain, and Captains Simon Willard and Edward Johnson were put in charge of this business. They procured the services, as surveyors, of Jonathan Ince, a student at Cambridge, and John Sherman, sergeant of Watertown, and these, following the guide of certain Indians, employed to direct the route, ascended the river to Aquadocton, the outlet of the lake, which was declared to be the head of the river (now the Weirs), and there they took astronomical observations, and determined the latitude thereof to

43° 40' 12". This point was indicated by inscriptions on a large boulder in the middle of the outlet. This inscription, made by drills, consisting of the date, the initials of Governor Endicott, and those of the surveying party, etc., may be seen at the present time, though the action of the elements for two hundred and thirty-three years has rendered them somewhat illegible. This bound was unknown, or unidentified, for many years and till 1846. From this point three more miles were to be included, north of the river, so three minutes more were to be allowed, making the utmost limit to be at 43° 43' 12" north latitude, and said to be "out into the Lake." As the course from the mouth of the river was westerly, and the charter said three miles *north of the river*,—i. e., on its left bank,—and the course at the last was nearly due north, it was, and is, a question where the limit should fall. If it be determined by a perpendicular line three miles in length, maintained throughout the entire course, then it would be three miles nearly due east of the Weirs, and off Smith's Intervale, or a little east of Governor's Island. If due north is taken, which seems to be implied by the addition of three minutes for the three miles, then the boundary line will pass through a point either three miles due north of this inscribed stone,—i. e., near or on Meredith Neck,—or three miles north of the point three miles east of the stone,—i. e., in the broad expanse northeast of Governor's Island and towards Bear Island.

These observations were made August 1, 1652, and report was made to General Court, October 19th. Jonas Clarke and Samuel Andrews, shipmasters, were sent to mark the same latitude on the Atlantic shore, and determined it to fall on the northern part of Upper Clapboard Island, in Casco Bay, near Portland. An east and west line drawn through these two points of the parallel 43° 43' 12" was to constitute the border line of the province of Massachusetts Bay; but this demarkation did not abide time and contentings, as it was based on a forced construction of the patent letter. Gilford territory, which was cut by it from near the Province road and Cotton's Hill and over Liberty Hill and down Gunstock Valley to the Intervale, was not permanently dismembered, and assigned to the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Company. At Aquadocton there was originally about three feet fill, which has been overcome by flowage in consequence of the dam at Lake village, formerly Folsom's Mill. While these lands, bordering on the upper Merrimack and on the South Lake shore, from Aquadocton southward and eastward, had evidently qualities valuable, and calculated to induce occupation and cultivation, and Aquadocton itself was one of the best fishing-grounds, yet, in opposition to all prospects, but for sufficient causes, this part of the common domain remained unused and undeveloped for more than a full century after 1652. These places were known, to be sure, but scarcely more than as a thoroughfare of the aboriginal wanderings, and assemblings,

and migrations, and as feeding-places. The settlers of Piscataqua made early reconnoissance of these regions, and as early as 1632 visited, in their course, the lake and the White Mountains, and penetrated even to Champlain. They evidently marked the place a desired resting-place and there built a block-house as early as 1722, "at the Lake," as it is supposed, farther east than the bounds of Gilford, probably in some part of Alton, or at Merry Meeting Bay, of after fame.

From the four quarters of the land there seemed to meet here, as in a centre, the great trails or pathways of the Indians, living in all directions. And Aquadocton was, even before, a place of no mean repute, or an unheard-of retreat of the savage wilds.

From the south came up the Penacooks, the Nashuas and various remoter tribes from Naumkeag and remoter parts of the Massachusetts Bay territory. From the west and northwest the Iriquois and St. Francis and others, through the valley of the Connecticut, Baker's River and the Pemigewasset. From the north, over the lake, and from the valley of the Ossipee, the Saco and Androscoggin, come the Pekwauketts, the Ossipees and others. From the east came up the Cocheeos and various tribes of Maine. Here was their general rendezvous, and here councils of war were held, tribal feasts enjoyed, questions settled and disputed, and here issues, now unknown, were made and destinies determined. The summits of the Gunstock range were the outlooks over all this region, and from them to the Ossipee, Chocorna, and the greater, more distant northern peaks and lesser southern hills, were heralded the decisions of the contending and the counselling savages. The Indian wars that marked that century had much of their scenes laid in this locality. The exceeding great hazard in effecting progressive occupation and settlement kept the few actual settlers closely compacted in five or seven towns that constituted the province of New Hampshire, viz.: Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, New Castle, Hampton, Oyster Bay and Great Island.

The changefulness of the mother-country at this time also had its effects, both directly and indirectly, on the expansion of the colony. The uncertainty of the sovereign *personnel*, and the spirit of the administration at home, and the changing figures of appointed magistrates and Governors here, made everything unsubstantial and problematic, and destroyed the vital germ of enterprise. The commonwealth lasted scarcely a decade from the execution of Charles I., and Charles II. for a quarter of a century from 1660, held the throne, but, in regard to these colonies, only to appoint six or seven successive Governors in the provinces of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The short reign of James used three more Governors, closing with the tyrannical and hated Edward Andros. William III., in a reign of a little more than one decade, constituted and removed five more; and the distressful King William's War vexed the whole

country and distracted and paralyzed the energies of the feeble band that had set down on the coast and the Piscataqua, but had their eye and hope on Aquadocton. Queen Anne's dozen years' reign and the succession of George I. brought not much better times; so that when Samuel Shute assumed the Governorship of the two provinces jointly, in 1716, there was scarcely any sign of Aquadocton's being redeemed from its wilderness state, or the condition of the older settlements being much improved. Indians periodically assembled on the shores of the lake, and men from Massachusetts visited the Weirs for a winter's stock of fish, but the glebe was yet unbroken, and the forests pathless, save by the trail of the red man.

By the appointment of John Wentworth as Lieutenant-Governor of New Hampshire, to act under and with, and, in certain contingencies, instead of, Governor Shute, of Massachusetts Bay province, on June 15, 1716, the interests of New Hampshire, and especially of the undeveloped places about the lake were revived, more carefully looked after and attended to. The decadence of the spirit of expansion and enterprise that followed the putting of New Hampshire under Massachusetts' protection and control, in 1689, and during the troublous times of William and Mary's reign, seemed to have reached its lowest point about the time of the accession of Queen Anne, in 1702, or of her death and the commencement of the reign of George I., in 1714. Those who had suffered loss and endured hardships in the earlier wars, from the time of King Philip's, in 1674, and especially in that of King William, in 1688-90, now begin to claim some indemnification or reward. This is sought in grants of unoccupied lands. The paralyzing effect of the massacre at Dover, and the ruin of Salmon Falls, and the absence of that master-spirit of Major Waldron, now dead, determined that the tide of progress would not set up the Cocheeo Valley to the shores of the lake and Aquadocton, though this would have been the most natural course of expansion. Nor did the contingencies of the disputed limitations and jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Company favor the extension of settlements up the Merrimack, the second most natural path of progress in occupation and improvement. Hence, the third and most unlikely movement was made from Exeter into the wilderness by the route of no river valley, but along the highlands. Hence, in 1727, these claimants, numbering nearly two hundred, a charter is granted to them of all the land left, from the corner of Chichester, northwest of Barnstead, and northeast of the north line of Canterbury (then including Loudon and Northfield), and extending to the lake and river, and abutting on both Barnstead and the unincorporated land eastward, afterwards known as the New Durham Gore, since Alton.

The occupation of this land was now considered feasible, since the Province Council and Assembly had caused a fort or block-house to be built and garrisoned on the shore of the lake. This was ordered in 1722,

and was to be fifty feet square, constructed with timbers eight inches square, having two wings, or flankers, and capable of giving accommodation to a garrison of one hundred and fifty men, and was to be provisioned duly. It was to be located near the bank of the lake, where there is an opening into the lake, and on the southeast side; which language, in its first statement, would seem to indicate Aquadocton, but, in its other words, appears to refer to Alton Bay, and probably the eastern side. The purpose of building and arming this block-house was declared to be to "annoy and check the Indians of this region," and so secure quiet to the settlers. Hence the grantees and actual settlers of Gilmanton had thus a defense in their rear, as far as it concerned some of the most unfriendly tribes in this region; and, therefore, the fear of molestation was measurably removed. The proprietors were not all from Exeter, but some of Portsmouth; many of the settlers first sat down temporarily in the southern part of the grant, and afterwards re-located in the northern section, or Gilford. The territory was divided into two hundred and fifteen shares, and severally apportioned to one hundred and ninety-two shareholders, besides the Masonian heirs; and the public and governmental reservations were five shares.

The proprietors were not, to a great extent, actual settlers, yet their names very largely correspond to those known in the history of the plantation. Ninety different names appear in the original list of proprietors, among which that of Gilman leads with twenty-four, viz.: Andrew, Caleb, Daniel, Edward (1st and Jr.), Jeremiah, John (Sr., Jr., 3d and Captain), Jonathan, Joseph, Nathaniel (Sr. and Jr.), Nehemiah, Nicholas (Sr., Jr. and 3d), Peter, Robert, Samuel (1st and 3d), Thomas and Trneworthy. Hence the name Gilmanton was most natural. The charter bears date of May 29, 1727, and in the thirteenth year of the sovereign, George I., and had three conditions, viz.: 1st, the settlement of seventy families within three years each in a separate house, and each having cleared three acres fit for tillage, and having paid all assessments. 2d, a meeting-house shall be built within four years. 3d, three shares shall be appropriated for public use, viz.: One for the ministerial support, one for minister's residence and one for support of schools; providing, however, that no Indian war prevent the settlement, and in such event, granting three years from the close of such war.

The consideration of this deed or title was the quit-rent of one pound of flax annually forever, if demanded, and due the second Tuesday of March. Also all pine-trees, twenty-four inches in diameter, were reserved, under the act of Parliament, for the construction of ships in the royal navy, which trees had been marked and registered by a surveyor, appointed first in the time of William, and agreeably to the provincial statute of 1708, by the approval of Queen Anne.

The line of boundary, as defined by the charter, was a straight northwest course, or, more accurately, north, 47° west, and from the southwest corner of Barnstead till the Merrimack waters were reached, about twelve and three-eighths miles, which terminal point was on the shore of the bay, a little south of the outlet of Great Brook and one and a half miles southwest of Burley's bridge, at East Tilton. The other line ran six miles on the Barnstead line, or, more accurately, six miles and one hundred and twenty-two rods, passing one mile, ninety-five rods beyond Barnstead northeast corner, as now established. This course was east, 43° north (said to be northeast), and thence the line was to run northwest (north, 47° west) two miles (two miles, sixty-five rods), and thence north (north, 1° west) seven miles to the lake,—i.e., seven miles, forty-eight rods. Thence the shore of the lake and the river, or series of bays, was to be the terminal margin, not including the islands off shore in the whole course. This tract contained about eighty-five thousand acres of land, about one-third of which constitutes the original town of Gilford as set off.

At the expiration of the three years, in 1730, the settlement of the seventy families had not been effected, and the proprietors petitioned for extension of time. It is not alleged that the condition of out-breaking Indian wars formed the basis of this neglect and needed prolongation of time; but the country was far from being tranquil during this period. The charter, still unpaid for, was held by the clerk of the Council; yet they made provision for its redemption, and for laying out the plant and making it accessible by a chosen and cut or cleared-out pathway or road; but this work was delayed another year.

The principal names connected with the survey and much of the early doings of the proprietors were those of Edward Gilman, who seems to be the accepted surveyor, and Jethro Parsons and Oliver Smith. These, with five other men as assistants, began the bounding of the town June 14, 1731, and simply ran the easterly line, as defined by the words of the charter. This took twelve days, as the line was about sixteen miles long, and lay over the mountains. Beginning at a beech-tree, they ran six miles to a birch, then two miles to another beech, and finally reached a hemlock at the pond. With these four trees, only one in Gilford, the domain is located. One hundred and fifty years might not have wrought the decay of the beech and the hemlock (perhaps the birch should have gone); but tradition identifies them not, nor are seen the initials inscribed on them.

The next year a plan of the town and the laying out of lots were ordered, and these lots were to equal or exceed the number of proprietors. Five ranges of home lots were laid out in tiers, resting on the southwest base line, containing about forty acres each, and extending to the base of the mountains and nearly to the extent of the present town of Gilmanton. These

were drawn by the proprietors for actual settling or for disposition to whomsoever they could induce to take up the land and improve it for themselves.

October 18, 1732, these lots were drawn and each one began to take measures to have the conditions of the charter carried out.

In 1733 it was decided to lay out a second division of lots, and to build block-houses at the extreme southeast part, and also at the extreme northwest, or Aquadocton, which is said to be "fishing-grounds," and also to examine the soil there, and see if it be good and fit for a settlement.

An opinion had already obtained that this part of the grant was more valuable and more desirable for a settlement than the lots already laid out. This proposition was not immediately carried out, but was renewed the three following years with variations in the committee to accomplish it.

In 1736 the committee performed their assigned work, and in eleven days from the 14th of June, cleared a pathway from Epsom to Gilmanton and built two block-houses, one at the southeast corner of the first division of lots, and the other at the Weirs. These were the first houses built on the grant. As they were simultaneously constructed, the one in the present Gilmanton and the other in Gilford, the two towns may be said to be of equal age. The former was eighteen feet square and the latter fourteen feet; and these, with the other and larger one at the eastern part of the lake, constituted a triangulation of the region for fortification and protection, and for aggression. The land on the lake-shore and river border was pronounced to be of good quality and suitable for settlement; and, therefore, its laying out was recommended and urged by the committee and demanded by others. The lay and quality of the land inclined the judgment of the committee, that these lots should face the river, or west; and as a detached section, should be erected in ranges extending from Aquadocton towards the Canterbury line, and not connecting with or reaching the first division.

A boom was now made for the settlement of the north part of the town, and two important privileges were offered, viz.: First, the choice of the lots to be laid out in the second division should not be in the arbitrary manner of drawing them by lot, but the proprietors, or settlers, could choose their shares together and at either end of the division, and so avoid being too scattered and exposed. Second, a bonus of forty shillings from each proprietor was offered to the first twenty or more settlers, who would within five years commence settlement, and would clear and break up two acres of land. This was an extension of time, two years, and a reduction of the quota of land to be cleared by one acre, as compared with the proposals made for settling in the first division; and, besides, the premium was not inconsiderable, as two pounds from each of one hun-

dred and ninety-two proprietors meant a little fortune in those days, to a mere settler, or husbandman. It would seem that these inducements should have been sufficient. But they did not secure acceptance; and the next year resort had to be made to the General Court to extend the time of settlement, and for authority to collect taxes of the proprietors. Already nearly two hundred pounds had been expended in surveying, building block-houses and cutting pathways, and several proprietors were in default of payment, and their shares had to be sold to satisfy the assessments made.

In 1738 a committee, increased to the number of twelve, was constituted to lay out these lots, which they did in June, by the assistance of twenty other hired men, in ten days from the 20th of the month. The first four days were employed in clearing a way from White Hall, or the first block-house, to the Merrimack River, presumably at Aquadocton. The lay or route of this pathway was sketched, but with some indefiniteness; and hence different opinions as to its exact location may be entertained. As the first cleared pathway, or road, in the town, its position is of importance. The surveyors' returns say that it lay "from White Hall to Loon Pond, one mile and a half; thence to Block-House Pond, a mile and a half; thence to Third Camp Meadow, four miles; thence N. W. by N., to Skeiler's Meadow, three miles; and on the same course, five miles, to the Pond." With the want of expressed direction in the first three courses, or stages of advance, we are to make special use of the definiteness of direction and distances mentioned in the last two stages. Reversing the course of northwest by north, and laying off five miles, the meadow land in the valley of the Miles River will be reached, near the estate of the late David Brown, Esq., or that near John Foster's and Jonathan Morrill's, above the flowage. Then, laying off three miles in the same direction (nearly), the pond at the summit or the head-waters of the Suncook will be reached (or, from Foster's and Morrill's meadow, the margin of Young's Pond). Loon Pond is easily identified, and there remains only Block-House Pond for identification. A radius of four miles from Third Camp Meadow, considered as at the head-waters of the Suncook, would very nearly reach the Reservoir Pond, or the small pond a little to the east of it, and at the head of Mill Brook; or, measured from Young's, would reach Pickerel Pond. Either of these three ponds may have been referred to as Block-House Pond. The only other plausible identification of points and direction of the route is, that Pickerel Pond, near Parsonage Hill, represents Block House Pond; and the vicinity of Young's Pond, the Third Camp Meadow; and the upper Gunstock Valley, south of Gilford village, to Esquire Weeks' estate, that of Skeiler's Meadow; and that thence the way crossed Meeting-House Hill to the Weirs; and this, though answering well as to distances, does not agree as to

the directions mentioned in the returns. As the first division of lots had already been laid out, it would be natural to follow them as far as they extended, and so avail themselves of the advantage of the surveyor's marks and partial clearing of pathways; and this would be in the direction of Young's Pond, and the pond at the summit, or head-waters, from which point Aquadocton, or its immediate vicinity, could be sighted, and its bearing taken; and hence at this stage first mention is made of direction; and the course thence is made as direct as possible.

With this way cleared, the communication between the first and second divisions was made easy; and these thirty-two men now divide themselves and their work into four parts. Two parties lay out the lots in five ranges,—in all, numbering one hundred and seventy-seven lots.

For encouragement to settle on these, not only might the settlers have the choice of their lots together, but they should receive forty shillings annually from each proprietor,—a generous offer indeed.

The third house was built by one section of this party "for their shelter," but its site was not described, nor does tradition locate it.

Another section of the party spent six days in "looking out a convenient place for a way to Canterbury." This second way in the territory was distinct from the one from Epsom, *via* White Hall, and ran parallel with the ranges, along the margin of the river at first, and then south through the upper part of the town, or Upper Parish.

When it seemed so assured that the town would be speedily settled, and the union of New Hampshire and Massachusetts under one civil administration had kept somewhat in abeyance the conflicting claims to lands on the margin of the river, so that without hesitation, question or protest, the second division of lots was laid out and offered to settlers, being nevertheless all comprehended in that part of the domain claimed by Massachusetts, and the settlement of the boundary in 1741 had given advantage and impulse to the projects and interests of the proprietors, there seemed unaccountably a stay in proceedings, as neither the town, or parts of the town, realized progress.

Then the unsettled state of affairs in Europe culminated in the declaration of war between England and France, and brought on the dark night of conflict in the American colonies, paralyzing all schemes. So that from 1738 to 1748 all things remained stationary, or were retrograding. Two cleared ways and three houses were all of Gilford and Gilmanton. On the cessation of hostilities, in 1749, there were attempts made to revive the interests of the scheme, and, as preparatory to it, a committee, with twenty men, by order of the proprietors, spent eleven long summer days in renewing the metes and bounds and repairing the houses and adding one new house at Third Camp Meadow (the claim to which is not determined either in favor of Gilford or Gilmanton, as its site is not set-

tled) and renewing the way cut ten years before, which by disuse, had become almost untraceable and useless.

But the time of peace was too short to admit of much progress, and a second war deferred for another decade all advancement; and this, despite new and generous offers held out to pioneers. To at most forty settlers, who, within one year, should build houses and bring under cultivation three acres of land yearly, there was proffered a premium of fifty acres of land additional from the undivided land, and this to be doubled at the end of six years, as an additional bonus.

The only immediate effect of this proposed bounty was some felling of trees in 1750 by parties from Penacook, on land chosen and intended for a homestead, but which was soon quit by reason of the renewal of hostile demonstrations. Indeed, so low did the enterprise run, that twenty-one shares were to be sold to pay arrearages of unpaid taxes. The sale of Mason's claim to twelve men of Portsmouth further complicated and embarrassed matters pertaining to the settlement of the town.

To overcome this effectual obstacle, the uncertainty of valid title, a way must be devised. A compromise was made whereby these purchasers, called the heirs of Mason, quit-claimed the remainder of the territory for eighteen shares in equality with the original proprietors; these shares to be reserved in guaranty to them and exempted from taxation till occupied. With this obstacle removed, a new bonus is offered of one hundred pounds old tenor, in eight quarterly instalments, and two forty-acre lots of land, to the first twenty settlers, and, when there should be ten families, to support a minister and also to build a saw-mill. It would seem that such liberal conditions should have secured a rush for the prize. But dangers and war are more powerful than all gain.

The contract with the Masonian heirs involved or required the survey and laying out of their eighteen shares and the making of a plan of the town, which was done in 1752 by one Nathan Sanborn, under the direction of a committee whose chairman was Oliver Smith. This was the third division, or third laying out of lots, and was made, as the contract specified, from the extreme eastern side of the grant. They were laid off in two ranges running from the lake-shore on the north, and extending to the margin of Young's and Longee's Ponds, and quite to the north-eastern limits of the first division of forty-acre lots. These lots were to be equal in quantity and quality to the shares of the original proprietors, and they varied in size from two hundred to four hundred acres.

Thus, having the two vexed questions settled,—*viz.*, that of title and that of jurisdiction,—the way seemed prepared to easily carry out the plans for improvement of the grant. But there remained still one, and an abiding, hindrance,—that of exposure to Indian cruelties and attacks. The block-houses and fort did not prove sufficient for defense. The borders of the lake were no ordinary or insignificant locality. The drama

of Indian conflicts and struggles was conspicuously laid on this battle-ground and rendezvous.

And another and extremely severe conflict was at hand; or rather the former one, supposed to have ended in 1748, broke out anew in 1754, and ended not till the most stubborn of these foes (the St. Francis tribe) was broken, in the year 1759, and peace was secured.

Indeed, the fear and reluctance of men to throw themselves too far from a base, into the unoccupied and exposed places, was not relieved till the various colonies began to combine and make common cause. The action of the congress of commissioners and their declaration in 1754, and the consequent successful conduct of affairs in the five following years, did much to assure men who would undertake enterprises in the new parts. But the second French War employed and exhausted all the reserve forces of the country, and no one turned his thoughts toward the development of his interests in unsettled lands till after 1760. Although, to any sagacious eye the northern part of Gilmanton had the most promising future, and, with its mighty motive-power in the three water-falls at the Weirs and Lower Weirs (Lake village) and Winnesquam (Laconia), was destined to outstrip the other sections, yet the settlement came up, and that slowly, from Epsom, through the cleared way, to the southeast part of the grant. Here the appearance of a settlement was effected in the last days of 1761. But, in order to effect this, increasingly generous offers had to be made.

The fourth laying out of lands was made of that lying contiguous to the first division of forty-acre lots, and was disposed into six ranges, and two ranges of gores, these equal in number on each side of the first division; and these, of one hundred acres each, (though varying somewhat), were offered in pairs to go with each home lot to the first forty settlers. A grist-mill and a saw-mill were also promised to be erected by the proprietors for the settlers as soon as there were ten families.

A great inconvenience and impediment to progress at this time was the want of proper roads. The one "cut" and twice afterwards "cleared," from Epsom to the Weirs, twenty-six miles in extent, and also others, were not much more than mere foot-paths or trails, capable, however, of use to riders on horseback, which mode of travel and transportation was then most common (even the iron-work of the first saw-mill and grist-mill being brought into town in this manner). A road for wheels was first partially made to the borderline of the town in 1750, but was impassable for ox-teams in 1762. The town had to make their road through the unsettled portions of the town next to it, in order to find access or approaches to its own domain.

Water communication in places bordering on the lake and river in a measure supplied this defect, and travel in this way was there common. The first im-

provement of land was not in the northern or second division. The two families that came in 1761, the eight that were added in 1762, and even the total of forty-five found there in 1767, comprising two hundred and fifty individuals, all took their choice of lots in the lower part of the grant, though some of them subsequently moved into the upper section, or Upper Parish. It was not till 1777 and 1778 that families made permanent location in the northern part. Contrary to reasonable expectation, and strange to say, one hundred and fifty-five years elapsed between the settlement of Dover and that of Gilford, though only less than forty miles lay between their boundaries, and a natural roadway extended directly from one to the other, *via* the lake-shore, and, moreover, though peculiar advantages offered inducements to expansion in this very direction. So, also, upwards of sixteen years has marked the progress of only ten miles in occupation northward from White Hall.

The laying out of the first parish, in 1761, in the southeast corner of the town, six miles by six and a half, almost identical, in position and extent, to the present town of Gilmanton, and the providing for preaching there, and the building of a saw-mill and grist-mill, respectively, in this and the following year, all by the proprietors for the benefit of the settlers, seemed to act unfavorably to the wider dispersion of the inhabitants, and to the development of the upper and better lands, and the using of its natural resources. This effected concentration of privileges and interests there, formed the germ of a distinct municipality, and gave rise to a counter and competing centralization, which resulted, after fifty years of municipal unity, in the dismemberment and separate civil existence of Gilford, and, in the end, of Belmont. The special adaptation of the upper part of the territory to agricultural purposes, and of its great motive-power in the immense volume of water furnished by the lake to manufacturing, as contrasted with the insignificant streams on which the first proprietors' mills were placed, only to be shifted or to go to decay, evidently pointed to future separation and growth. Men of keen foresight plainly saw this to be inevitable and wisely acted upon the evidence; and, first of all, after Samuel Jewett, two men, Captain S. F. Gilman and James Ames, in 1778, chose their lots here and pitched.

The way to this step was prepared, in a large measure, by the building of the Province road, eight years before. To facilitate the settling of new towns to be granted, and those already granted, but not improved (for many waited long for inhabitants), the General Court laid this road in 1770, to extend from Portsmouth to Canada; and its lay was diagonally across Gilmanton, from the First Division and settled portion to the narrows in the river as it enters Winnesquam, just below the Falls, in Gilford, at later times called Meredith Bridge.

The General Court imposed on the towns the

building of the road through their domain. The inhabitants of Gilmanton were opposed to the extension of the road into the upper part of their territory, and officially refused to construct it. It cut the lots diagonally and much to their damage, while the laying out of the town provided for a regular system of roads and made the lots rectangular. The expense was considered excessive and burdensome, while they were struggling to provide for other things, as schools and churches and the necessary roads to reach their individual lands and residences. It was also unfavorable to concentration and prosperity in the neighborhood already formed, to induce the forming of distant and rival neighborhoods; so that the project was not viewed with favor. But the General Court ordered the road to be built by contractors, and the cost, three hundred and thirty-one pounds, was assessed on the town. Thus a passable highway was opened, in 1770, into Gilford, and, very wisely, to the part where the power was. This assured a settlement there and growth.

About the same time Samuel Jewett settled above the Falls, at the terminus of the Province road. It is claimed this was in 1777.

The first two to locate afterwards were farmers, and, with good judgment, made their choice in the vicinity of the Intervale, the one at the southeast and the other at the southwest angle of that rich tract of alluvial land.

James Ames settled near the house built and occupied by Ebenezer Smith, Esq., and Captain S. F. Gilman at the head of the spur of the valley or meadow land, near the heads of Black Brook and the Meadow Brook.

About this time Levi Lovit made a temporary residence near the outlet of the Lily Pond, and opposite the house afterwards and lately occupied by Increase W. Davis.

Abraham Folsom began improvements at the Lower Weirs, and though his residence was in that part which, till recently, belonged to Meredith, and, later, Laconia, yet his enterprise was for the interests of Gilford, and his mill (grist-mill) was the one necessary accommodation of the first settlers.

Daniel Stevens located on the Gilford side of the river, and his house, still standing, was for many years the only house at that place on the Gilford side.

Soon after these came Malachi Davis, Samuel Blaisdell and Lowell Sanborn, the first two of whom settled near the residence of Captain Gilman, and the last of whom at the extreme end of the range, on the lake-shore.

Esquire Benjamin Weeks, who came into the lower part of the town in 1768, led a party into the upper section and located at the western base of Mount Major, in 1787, where there afterwards dwelt a large community of that name. He was a leading man and large land-holder, and successful in business.

The population of the town increased rapidly after the first few years. There are no returns extant that show the number of actual residents within the limits of that portion of Gilmanton which was set off to constitute the town of Gilford at the time of such detachment living there. But by the census of 1810 we find that the whole town then contained 4338 inhabitants; and by the census returns of 1820 it had then 3752 remaining in the old town, and Gilford had 1816; so that it is probable that about 1500 inhabitants were set off to form the new town. The little band of 250 in 1767, of 775 in 1775, or of four at the beginning of 1762, had a remarkable growth. And the increase in the second division was not less rapid than that of the first, or of the whole, which numbered only 775 in 1775, two years before the first families entered the upper part and actually made a beginning of settlement there. The census of 1790 gives a population of 2613, and that of 1800 makes it 3752. As above stated, in 1810 it was 4338, and probably in 1812 the aggregate was not less than 5000.

The list of tax-payers of Gilford in 1813, the first one made after the incorporation, contained 294 names, including a few non-residents. The assessment of that year was for \$1207.08, comprising State tax, \$182.68; county tax, \$67.35; and school tax, \$492.08; and town tax, \$465.73.

They spent nearly as much for schools as for all other town expenses, and maintained ten schools about six months each.

Captain James Follet was the first collector, and had been several years before for the Fourth Collector's District of Gilmanton, or the Second Division.

The first Board of Selectmen were John Smith, Thomas Saltmarsh and John Gilman. In 1806 there were in the Fourth Collector's District, nearly coterminous with the future new town, 166 assessed persons; and the amount assessed was \$643.60, out of \$2803.92, assessed on the whole town, showing that the district had not then attained to the fourth part of the taxable value of the whole. In 1808 this section had 192 tax-payers, including a few non-residents, and was levied upon for \$616.62 in the total of \$2574.42, or about one-fourth part. The list of assessed had increased in 1810 to the number of 206. The inventories of these years show that but few acres of land had been improved by each settler, they having been extensively engaged in constructing their buildings, and were now distracted by the opening of another war with England. Born or inaugurated in the warlike season, the public affairs were conducted somewhat in a spirit of contention. Not only political, but even ecclesiastical affairs witnessed many a battle, long drawn out and most bitter. A child of strife, nursed in conflicts, she grew valiant in war. With room for free exercise of her arms over the adjacent waters on the north and the west, she was prepared to meet any assailant from either quarter; and, trusting, in her munition of rocks, she attended to domestic

improvements without fear or distraction; and the result has been not otherwise than laudable, as the following exhibit will plainly establish:

The Personnel of the Early Settlers.—As an article of the prescribed extent for such a work as this does not admit of a book, or even full chapter, of genealogies, it will be sufficient to append a few words on the persons and characters of those early citizens who constituted the body politic in its first years of separate and corporate existence. And for this purpose will we use the list of tax-payers in the first year of assessment. Thirty-five years had doubtless witnessed some falling out as well as the gathering in of a body of inhabitants, so that our notices may be wanting in some names of parties who had come and gone already, and some who had not yet been placed on the list of tax-payers, though really resident.

Daniel Avery appears to be among the number as early as 1790, and he commenced trade here at that time, at the bridge, the terminus of the Province road. He afterwards enlarged his business and built a factory and ran it many years, and he was one of the heaviest tax-payers at the first year of the town's separate and independent management, and even before that date. His family remained there for many years, but are not represented in the place now by that name. James and David Ames are among the earliest on the ground. James settled at the foot of the hill in the road, now discontinued, near Esquire Ebenezer Smith's, and David located where Richard Dame lived, now owned and occupied by William W. Watson. They appear to have made a good beginning, but long since the families have been reduced and scarcely represented among us. The family is not, however, extinct, but have mostly removed elsewhere.

Jeremiah Bartlett came early to Gilford and took up land, about 1790, at the west base of Gunstock Mountain, and was a successful farmer and an upright, respected man. He lived to an honorable and ripe old age on the lot he first occupied, and in his later years was afflicted with deafness and a troublesome wen on the neck, which increased in size as his years advanced. His exemplary piety was characteristic. He had two sons and several daughters. One married John Jewett. His sons were dealers in stock and for a time drovers. The line of descent is not traced by numerous posterity, but the homestead is still occupied by lineal descendants, some of another name. Samuel Bartlett was a citizen also at the same time. Rev. Robert Bartlett moved into town in later times, with a large family, occupying the Osgood place, on Liberty Hill, and supplying the Universalist pulpit for a time, and dying only a few years ago at his daughter's, in Lake village, at an advanced age. He was a man of good ability and of activity in his early life, and had some good positions before coming to Gilford.

The name of Bean, so common in Gilmanton, was also well represented here in the persons of Elijah, James,

Solomon and John, and later by Henry, Joel, Chase and True. The first of these settled in the southern part of the town and the others in the northern. Their families are still represented, though not by great numbers of the same name, but by changed names.

The family of Bennett was among the first of the assessed, and the names of John, John, Jr., John (4) and Winthrop appear on the first year. They settled in Chattleborough and near Liberty Hill. Some of the name in after-years, as Harrison, was of honorable mention in public affairs and educational departments. The family is still represented by a few.

The Blaisdell family was a prominent one from the very first years. Samuel Blaisdell settled north of and near to Captain Gilman, at the Lily Pond. He worked at blacksmith work, and several of his sons afterwards carried on the same business. His sons were William, John, Daniel, Enoch, Aaron, Philip and Samuel, all men of intellectual and executive abilities. He exercised his talents as a lay preacher, holding meetings at his own house before a regular service was established or meeting-house built. Perhaps there was some lack of agreement of his doctrinal sentiments and those current or entertained by many in the vicinity. William, the oldest son, was later representative of and preacher to the Order of Christians, or, as they are sometimes called, Christian Baptists. He had good talents and education and was promoted in civil offices. Others of the family exercised limitedly their gifts in lay preaching. Mrs. Samuel Blaisdell was efficient as nurse and doctress to her sex before the regular physician was settled or could be easily called. The family were largely natural and apt mechanics. Samuel, of another branch of the family, was the framing carpenter of those and later days. The family is now numerously represented. Eliphlet and Jacob were also early settlers. Eliphlet (2), deacon a long time of the Baptist Church at Lake village, and some of that branch, were, by affiliation, Baptists and efficient members. Other branches of the family were Free-Will Baptists and prominent, and still others were of other and more liberal belief and practice.

Dr. Zadock Bowman was practicing physician at the beginning of the century, and located at Meredith Bridge. David Bowman was the successor in the estate, which was and has been one of prominence. Mrs. Daniel Tilton now represents the family. John Boyd is sole representative of that name in the tax-list of 1806, and was possessed of an estate near Benjamin Jewett's. Enoch Boyd represented the name in later years, and occupied the homestead. Abel and Ephraim Brown, with Ephraim, Jr., are the representatives of that name, the former living at the lakeside, at what was afterwards the Almshouse farm, and the others in Miles Valley. They were men of means, except Ephraim, Jr.; and Nehemiah and Daniel were the children in possession succes-

sively. Captain Daniel and Nehemiah were of honorable standing in town affairs.

The name Buzzell (or Buswell) is early mentioned, and the names of Isaac, Ebenezer, Ichabod, Ichabod, Jr., Stephen, George and James are enrolled. The family settled in the east part of the town, on both sides of the mountain. The family of manufacturing men at Laconia bearing that name came later to town, and first operated the fulling and carding-mill on Gunstock River, and also did business in the woolen line at Lake village, and since have prosecuted an extensive and successful enterprise at Laconia, first in the old Parker warp-mill and later in Morrison's carding and fulling-mill and the Belknap Mill and later enlargements. They have shown business tact and skill. The names of Boynton, Burbank, Bradbury, Badger, Burleigh, Blake, Beede, Burns and Bickford are found in the list; but some are non-resident, and of others but little is known.

Tradition locates Bickford at Richard Dame's or Joseph P. Smith's. Captain Charles Beede came later and did blacksmithing at Gilford village and later at Laconia, and enlisted in the Union army at an advanced age.

The name of Robert Carr is associated with the Quaker faith, and he is known as Elder Carr. He early settled on an excellent glade of land at the mouth of the Miles Brook, and was one of the frugal and fore-handed farmers, living in a stately and neatly-kept house—a semi-inn—of honorable repute. The teaming of products to Portsmouth and freighting back of groceries was a considerable branch of business in those days, and way-places for halting and accommodation were in demand. The sons of Robert Carr (John and Richard) located one at the homestead and the others at Alton. The family still remains in town.

The Clough family, represented by David, Aaron, Moses and Caleb, were here early, one at the east base of the mountains and the other at the Hoyt's neighborhood; and these families have gone. John C. Clough lived at Laconia and kept store on the Meredith side. The family remains in the place, but the business is closed.

The Clark name is more common, and applies to more than one lineage. Samuel Clark settled a little north of Folsom's Mills, and the family is of honorable mention, and from it came the Hon. Joseph Clark, of Manchester, Esq. Samuel Clark, of Lake village and others. William Clark settled farther north, on the Plains. Jacob and Mayhew were of Meredith Bridge, the former a shoemaker and musician. Others of the same name dwelt at Jewett's Corner and Laconia.

Ezekiel Collins settled here about 1807, in the neighborhood of Chattleborough Pond, and the family, in later generations, preserved its compact condition in its own neighborhood, and in large numbers. Seven sons settled near, and daughters settled here

and elsewhere. The mill in their plant has long been operated by some one of the name for sawing and threshing. They were an industrious and quiet people and mainly successful.

John Cotton settled near the hill bearing this name, in the south part of the town and a little off the Province road, and the family still has its representatives there. Simon Cotton was of the same line.

The Chase family is represented as early as 1806, and by the individual names of Mark, Green, James, Jr., and Widow Nancy. Their location is uncertain. Later, Albert and Hazeltine Chase came from Loudon and were connected with the business and firm of Jewett, Chase & Thing, store-keepers at Gilford village; Albert, also, as clerk in the store of Charles Stark there, or Stark & Goodhue. Samuel Connor is among the inhabitants as early as 1810, and Joseph Connor lived near Captain Gilman's and Lieutenant Rand's. The house has gone and the family name is not preserved at present. They were connected with the McCoys. The name of Cram is associated with inhabitants at Meredith Bridge. Jonathan and Widow Cram are the only names that appear in the lists.

Taxes were assessed on property of Dr. Call and James Crocket, residing in Meredith. A little later the Chesley family settled in the east part of the town, near Alton; but the family is no longer known among the people of that section. The Coles came later from Conway to Lake village and engaged in the furnace and foundry business. There were several of the second generation, and they at one time comprised a large portion of the active business men of Lake village. Benjamin Cole, Esq., has been prominent in public affairs for many years. The iron and hardware trade and works were largely in their hands, and it was successfully conducted and associated with general trade. The Crosbys have been of honorable mention. Josiah and Dixi have practiced medicine here with skill and ability. The former was also connected with the Avery Factory awhile. They were first from Sandwich and later lived at Gilman-ton Corner. The father, Asa Crosby, had an extensive practice in all the region. Sauborn Crosby was long an inhabitant near Meredith Bridge,—another family. Richard Dame settled near the Intervale and was a laborious and successful farmer; wore his uncut hair in a queue after the manner of the Quakers, and raised a large family, which have almost lost the name and representation in the place; yet, by marriage, the line is preserved under other names. Benjamin Dame pursued the blacksmith business and lived in different places in town. The family is largely gone, but few remain. The Davis family was prominent in early years. Malachi Davis settled, in 1790, near the Lily Pond and held a good estate. He was a father in matters of religion and politics. His house was for many years the place of holding the Democratic caucus, as well as the social religious meetings. His life was prolonged by means of a

difficult surgical operation. His family was not large in the line of sons, but several daughters of good ability became well connected in married life, and still some are alive in advanced age. Several families of the name, and related, settled in his immediate neighborhood and also on the east side of the mountains. A family of the name resided at Meredith Bridge, and one at Lake village, known as Neighbor John. Nathaniel, called also Island Davis, occupied Governor's Island. He was a stalwart and commanding personage, and exercised his gifts as a leader in matters of free church order in preaching and public discussion. He raised a family of four sons and about the same number of daughters, who became well connected. The sons and himself were leaders in political and other public affairs. One, John, was a prominent teacher and afterwards agent of the factory company at Lake village. They have gone from the island, but are represented elsewhere. The family largely embraced Miller's doctrine, though at first following one Osgood, of anti-church government sentiments. William Miller, in person, held a camp-meeting on the island in 1840.

Abraham Dearborn lived awhile near the head of the gully and elsewhere. Jeremiah Dow, Josiah Dow, Samuel Dicey, William Drew and Joseph Drew are among the voters of 1813. They were connected with Meredith Bridge, except Drew, who was in the central part of the town. These are now largely gone from the place as families. The name of Eager was formerly known, but is now not current. Lieutenant Winthrop Eager is mentioned in 1813. Asa Eager and John Eager were citizens at Meredith Bridge (Asa Eager was sheriff and otherwise a public man; he kept hotel in early years) and known as connected with the county affairs and the court. Eager's tavern was situated nearly opposite the court-house. The name is not at present met here.

The Eaton family settled in the eastern part of the town. The same name is associated with the settlement at the Weirs, as occupying on the Meredith side. We have, in 1806 and 1813, Joseph, Joshua, Benjamin and Elias. Later, Elisha, Jonathan and Sherburn are on the records. Daniel, Esq., was recently a successful teacher. John and Martin have been in trade here and in Salem, Mass.

The Elkins family was formerly quite large. Daniel, Richard, Jonathan, James, John and Ezekiel are among those early here, and for the most part lived near the Suncook Mountains (west of them), and one family on the Lake road.

John Evans, Esq., was a leading man, living on the east part of the Lake-Shore road. Samuel and George were members of the family, and the former a teacher. The name is not now found in the town.

The Edgerly name at Meredith Bridge, as Nathaniel, the register of deeds, is of later date.

The Edwards family was here early, and Nathaniel, in the second generation, was a long while a propri-

etor and conductor of the shoe business at Meredith Bridge.

The Foster family first located in the centre of the Intervale, occupied the D. Y. Smith place, and also, later, on Miles River, near the Morrill neighborhood. Thomas was first here before 1806, and Thomas, Jr., John and Daniel continued the family to recent years; but now the name is but little known.

Samuel Foss was early living near Mount Minor.

Ezekiel Flanders occupied land on the east side of Mount Prospect, and belongs to the large family of that name in Alton. The line is still continued here.

James Follet came to Gilford about 1792, and wrought at blacksmith work. He was brother-in-law to Rev. Richard Martin, and settled near him on Meeting-House Hill. He was efficient in public affairs, being repeatedly the collector of taxes, constable and captain in the militia. He carried on the tanning business, and engaged to some extent in trade, which his sons also took up and conducted at different places. He raised a large family of sons and daughters; the sons are all enterprising, efficient men, and the daughters have all married well. They have been scattered and reduced in numbers in later years, and the original house, so intimately associated with the early town-meetings and the Sabbath meetings, and the first store, Pearley's, has been burnt. Samuel Follet is once found on the tax-list, and that in 1810.

The Folsom name appears very early and in frequency. Jonathan Folsom signed the Test Paper (political), in 1776, as an inhabitant of Gilmanton; probably located not within the limits of the present Gilford, as it is conceded that there were no families then settled on its territory. He is, however, a taxpayer in 1813. Abraham Folsom is said to have settled in town in 1781, and to have built his mill at that date, for the town gave the five acres for a mill privilege and built the bridge at his mills, or the Weirs (Lower Weirs), the year before,—*i. e.* 1780,—and the bridge was located above the mills in 1782. He subsequently built his house on the Meredith side and was a citizen of that town, and the estate and property was included therein till that section was set off to Gilford recently. Two lots in the eighth range were sold to build the bridge, and the five acres given to him. The other families of this name were those of Nathaniel, Benjamin, John, Dudley and others, who have held high places in public affairs and several have been distinguished.

The Gilmans are both conspicuous and numerous. They came early and later. Foremost is Captain John F., who settled near the Lily Pond in the same year that Abraham Folsom came, in 1781. He was a principal citizen and land-holder, and by his captaincy was always a marked character. His family was by adoption, including James McCoy and Gilman Thing. Ezekiel Gilman came the same year and settled near Benjamin Jewett's place. Lieutenant John Gilman

settled on the south of Captain John F.; and Dudley still further to the southwest, coming in 1789; and Andrew possessed a large estate at the foot of the mountains, west side, and near by Samuel and Joshua. Levi and Samuel settled near Gunstock or Meeting-House Hill. Robinson Gilman located at Meredith Bridge, and Antipas on Liberty Hill. These all have held lineal connections with the great Gilman fraternity, and they are also, by one branch or other, connected by intermarriages with most of the families of the town at large. Most of them had large families.

Abel (elder) and Manoah Glidden settled near Alton line and the mountains. The latter came in 1796. They were leading men in that section, and their descendants are still in possession of the estates. Abel (2d) is also a minister. The father was a man of native talent.

Levi, John and Jethro Goss settled on the north part of Gunstock Hill, and from that place the large families of sons and daughters settled in different parts of the town and elsewhere. The homesteads have passed out of the name, but not all of them from the lineal heirs.

Elijah Gove settled on the west side of Gunstock Hill, and his son Daniel was a successor to the estate, and a mechanic and constructor of various farming implements. The estate is in the same name.

David Gould settled land to the southeast of Gilford village and had one son and one daughter. They all lived to a good old age and the family became extinct. They were engaged in cooperage and were in comfortable circumstances.

Jonathan Grant was early an inhabitant, and several families of the name, as Paul's, Daniel's and Levi's, have been citizens. They have been located in the south and in the north extremes of the eastern part of the town, and their families are but little represented now.

The names Godfrey, Greene, Gilbert and Gilford were known at Meredith Bridge.

Jacob Hacket and John Hacket settled in Chattleborough and their families have become extinct, or nearly so, and the remnant has removed.

David Hale settled on the Oaks road and was a prominent citizen and of good property, but died about the time the town was incorporated. The name has disappeared. The Hibbard and Plummer families succeeded to the estate, and they, in turn, have become extinct in that neighborhood.

Nathan Hatch settled in the lower Gunstock Valley and carried on the cooper's business, and had a family, who are still in Gilford, though not occupying the homestead or pursuing the trade.

The Hoyt family was one of prominence and large numbers and rank. Simeon, Daniel and Enoch Hoyt settled in Chattleborough and held large estates and excellent lands. They had large families, who settled in different parts of the town and many emigrated to

other places. Simeon Hoyt built, with Ebenezer Smith, Esq., the Gunstock Mills in 1789, six years after his settling in Gilford. Ebenezer Hoyt went to Hampstead, and Samuel, James and James, Jr., were citizens in 1806.

James Hoyt (3d) is also in the list of 1813 and 1808. One of this name lived near Lieutenant J. Gilman's, and one settled near the Upper Weirs and had two sons, who were well educated and held positions of importance in educational affairs, and a daughter, who was married to Captain Winborn Sanborn, so long in command of steamers on the lake and lately deceased. Colonel Peaslee Hoyt settled at the base of Mount Major; Nathaniel on Liberty Hill; Simeon, Jr., Enoch, Jr., and Thomas near Chattleborough Pond. These families were in good social standing and were active citizens.

The name of Hunt is also of prominence. Abel Hunt came in 1783 and settled near the Intervale. He raised a large family and carried on the carpenter's and cabinet-maker's business. He had the only turning-lathe in the place, and made chairs and other furniture. He was employed to do the inside work and construct the pews in the first church.

Enoch Hunt settled, in 1794, near Captain I. F. Gilman's and was a prominent citizen, and his sons—William, Samuel, Joseph, Ebenezer S., John S. and Enoch—were persons of standing and figured largely in public affairs. Benjamin Hunt also settled in this vicinity; his successors carried on mechanical enterprises and have settled elsewhere.

The names of Horn, Hadley, Hill and Hutchinson also are found among the early inhabitants; the two last named lived at the foot of Gunstock Mountain, and the name has ceased to exist there.

Aaron Jackson settled near Jacob Jewett's and was related to Richard Martyn by marriage. His son Stanford built near him and committed suicide in his building. The name has disappeared.

Major Jabez James came into town in 1784 and settled near Cotton's Hill, on the north incline, on some excellent land. He was one of the largest taxpayers in the first years. His estate still remains in the name and the family holds its rank. He was a Revolutionary soldier and had sons, John and Jonathan, who settled near. Jonathan and John James settled near each other in the same neighborhood and their families are still represented in the place, though some have removed to other places. The families were not large, but of good standing and worthy in example.

The Jewett families, already alluded to, are of honorable mention and have been important as connected with the business affairs and pursuits of the people. Samuel Jewett is said to have settled in 1777 (though another statement makes him to have been first mentioned in the records in 1789) and lived a half-mile from the Bridge, or Falls, and above them. He sold land for a mill privilege in 1780.

Benjamin and Jacob settled, successively, to the north of him, and their estates extended in a line two miles to the northeast. Their families have continued distinct and prominent till the present time. In 1806, Benjamin, Jr., is found in the list. He succeeded, about 1816, Jonas Sleeper in trade and other business at Gilford village and did the chief business there for many years. As postmaster, justice, town treasurer and in other positions of trust and responsibility he proved a valuable citizen and efficient official. His brothers were John and Moses. Other families of the name were John, Smith, Woodman, Samuel, Jr., and Rev. Daniel, all active men.

Joseph Jones was a citizen in 1813, but does not appear in earlier lists.

Abel, Samuel and Daniel Kimbal and George Keniston were assessed, but the time and place of their settlement is not certain. Later, Mr. Kimbal lived north of Samuel F. Gilman.

Elder John Knowles settled on the south part of Liberty Hill and became the minister of a church organized in that part of the town. He also preached at Gilford village and other places. He was a farmer at the same time and a man of high standing. His sons, John D. and Elbridge, became ministers also. The former preached at various places and embraced Second Adventism. The latter was settled at the Province Road Church, a Free-Will Baptist. William, another son, lived at different places, and was a while the miller at the Hoyt (then Morrill's) Mill. Another son became a Shaker at Canterbury. The family and name is but limitedly known at the present time.

Colonel Samuel Ladd came to Meredith Bridge and bought of Stephen Gale his mill and mill privilege. This mill was built about 1775 on the Meredith side and was carried away by a freshet in 1779. In 1780, Colonel Ladd rebuilt the mill on the Gilford side, and also built a dwelling-house, which was the first one at that place, and has ever since been known as the Mill-House. The dam built here proved insufficient to withstand the pressure of so great a volume of water. It was carried away three times (in three successive years) after Colonel Ladd built it and once before. The mill was burnt in 1788 and rebuilt and enlarged, with machinery for sawing added to that for grinding. With heroic courage, he established the milling business at this place. Dudley Ladd continued the enterprise, and Jonathan appears taxed in 1813.

John Lamprey settled near the Alton line and built a saw-mill on a small stream near his house. His was the only family of that name in Gilford at that time, but at a later date a family of the name located at Meredith Bridge. He was a man of great strength and endurance. His sons were John, Richard, Samuel and Reuben, who settled in different places. The family is but limitedly represented at the present time here.

Winthrop, Moses and Vowell Langley appear in the lists, and their location was in the northwest part of the town, and the name is not now common.

The Leavitt family is reckoned as among the early comers into town. Stephen is said to have come in 1785, and Jonathan in 1793. The particular families that have located in town, besides Jonathan's and Stephen's, were those of Reuben, Jonathan, Jr., Lieutenant Samuel and Miles, all on the Lake-Shore road; and Benjamin, Stephen, Jr., and Jacob, all on the Intervale; Miles Jr., in the Miles River Valley; Nehemiah, Samuel, Jr., and Jonathan (the Little) and Levi, elsewhere in town. The family grant was a large one, and the descendants are widely dispersed and variously connected. Frederick Lewis is in the list, but his location is uncertain. Joseph and Benjamin Libby settled on the Oaks road, and later, Elias occupied the place. The family was of good repute, and is still there. Levi Lovit was one of the earliest settlers, first locating near Black Brook, then near Governor's Island, after a short residence in Meredith; his trade was that of basket-making, and the sons followed the same business. Ephraim Mallard settled early at Meredith Bridge, and carried on the cabinet and furniture business; and he was for many years moderator at town-meetings, and was a man of distinction, and trustworthy. Was representative, and held several other offices in the gift of the people. The only other family of the name was that of Henry, a brother, who lived at the centre and eastern part of the town, in different houses. James McCoy was brought to town by Captain S. F. Gilman, by whom he was brought up, and near whom he lived. He had the care of the burying-ground in that part of the town, and was thought to have magic power, or art, to cure the toothache. His family and name have not been known in town for some years.

Elder Richard Martin came to Gilford in the year 1796. Four years previous, in 1792, two meeting-houses were begun in what was then called, as a whole, the Upper Parish, viz.: the Province Road and the Gunstock meeting-houses. The one was intended as a Second Parish Congregational Church; and, as the Baptist interests and cause was pushed in the Lower Parish, to a separation the Upper Parish Church (being built by common taxation, or town aid) was to be for the free use of Baptists also, and even of any other dissenting parties or bodies. The Baptists were conceded the use of the church a portion of the time, and to the occupancy of the church for that part of the time Elder Martin was invited by the Baptist party, as he had been ordained the year previous, at Lee, as a Baptist preacher. He settled on the lot next to the church. It is not stated that this lot was the one regularly reserved as a parsonage lot. It partly abutted on the lot set apart, in 1780, for the ministerial support, viz.: No. 10, in the thirteenth range, and the one on which the village is mostly situated,

A forty-acre lot, on the south end of the second division of such lots, was, in 1771, assigned, apparently, for each of the two Upper Parish ministerial supports, and another one hundred acre lot in Tioga, No. 13 of the seventh range, so that the two North Parish enterprises seemed to have their provisions made for support. Perhaps the Baptists did not claim exclusive right to this; hence Mr. Martin did not settle on it. He built his house conveniently near to the church, as it were, forty rods.

When measures were taken to install him by the Baptists he dissented from the Calvinistic feature of their articles of faith, being an Immersionist, but not a Calvinist. He therefore became a preacher of that party, which also rejected the Calvinistic sentiments, and which was organized into an Anti-Calvinistic Baptist Church, agreeing substantially with the preachings of Benjamin Randal and John Buzzell, and which had already been termed the Free-Will Baptists.

He exercised his ministry with and for this class of people, in this and adjoining places, for a little more than twenty-five years, until his death, in 1824. He was a man endeared and faithful. He cultivated his farm, and, with his sons, carried on some business in the line of tanning, as did his brother-in-law, James Follet, who was settled by his side. His family included two sons—Richard, Jr., and John L.—and a daughter, who married George Saunders. These were persons of marked power. Richard was efficient as a ready lay preacher, and John L. as a propagator of doctrines differing from those held by the father, and more coincident with the Universalist faith. He was prominent in public civil affairs while he remained a citizen of Gilford, from which he emigrated after the death of his father, and was of honorable standing elsewhere. Richard, Jr., lived at Lake village, or near there, for many years, and left a daughter.

Aaron Martin, of another lineage, was a manufacturer of paper at Meredith Bridge, in the days of its beginning. His paper-mill, located on the Gilford side, was burnt, and ceased operations many years ago, and the manufactory has not been rebuilt or the work resumed by other adventurers.

The Martin name has not been on the lists in later years.

Lieutenant Samuel B. Mason and Ephraim Mason are in the lists. Mason located near the lake, east from Governor's Island. The family, once of some standing, has not remained to the present.

Caleb Marsten came to town in 1793, and settled east of the Intervale, on the Mountain road. He was a man of leading ability, a leader in meetings, and improved his gifts as lay preacher, and was deacon of the first church. He had but one son, Captain Caleb O., who was a prominent citizen, and several daughters, who became well connected; and, though the name has disappeared, the lineal descendants are

many, and preserve the qualities of the parent stock. Some of the best elements of society are traceable to this source.

James Merrill settled on the Intervale, and from this family was Major J. Q. Merrill descended. The family had but few members.

Another brother settled south of Folsom's Mills, and was a farmer.

John Meloon was an early settler and miller at the Morrill grist-mill.

A son, Waldo, emigrated to Bear Island, and the name is no longer known here.

John Mooney came from New Durham, and settled near Alton, on the Mountain road. He was a man of standing and property. He had a large family; his sons were Benjamin, Burnham, Joseph, Stephen (who was a preacher among Adventists) and Charles. The estate is still held in the name, and many of the descendants live in the vicinity.

The Morrill families are prominent among the inhabitants. These are not from the same stock, and are located in different parts.

Barnard Morrill came early from Brentwood; worked with Jeremiaah Thing and learned the tanning business. Mr. Thing's residence and business was on Liberty Hill. Afterwards Mr. Morrill located at Hoyt & Smith's mill, on the ministry lot, and carried on the tanning and shoe business. Subsequently he purchased the mill and the grist-mill and the ministry lot, and carried on the large part of the business of the place. He was esquire and captain and a leading man in his times. He had but one son, General J. J. Morrill, who continued his business, enlarged it and, in company with other men at different times (in the tanning department only), prosecuted it for many years by steam-power. The lumbering interests have all the time engaged their special attention. The property held by them has been large, and located in different parts of the town and elsewhere. Farming, and on an improved plan, has been successfully and continuously conducted, and profitably.

Jonathan Morrill settled in the upper part of the Miles River Valley, at the natural pond included in the Foster's Pond flowage. The descendants, a large family of sons, settled in the immediate vicinity, called the Morrill Neighborhood. They have gained wealth by industry and economy, and still hold their numbers and standing.

James Morrill settled near the mountains; Zebedee, near the Jewetts; Samuel and John D., at the foot of Mount Major, and afterwards elsewhere.

Amos Morrill carried on the wool-carding business at Hoyt's Mills at one time, which business was transferred to the fulling-mill below, on the same stream, and carried on by other parties.

Benjamin and Henry and Uriah Morrison were citizens at early times, the latter being minister of the Baptist Church when it worshiped in the Gun-

stock meeting-house, or in the school-house and other places in the vicinity, as that was their custom for many years before the church was built at Lake village. He came from Somersworth to supply the Baptists in the Upper Parish, then organized into the Second Church, and placed under his care in 1811. He lived near the Locklin, in the house afterwards occupied by Dr. Josiah Sawyer. He died in 1817, after a pastorate of about six years, and his wife died soon after this, in 1819, and the family did not remain in town afterwards.

The other Morrison families were not long continued in town, save that of James and Abram. Benjamin is said to be of Deerfield.

The Morrison family located on Liberty Hill, of whom Mrs. Barnard Morrill, Esq., was descended (viz., Jonathan Morrison, who was a Revolutionary soldier), emigrated elsewhere, and was succeeded by John Stevens. (He lived awhile, after leaving Gilford, in Tuftonborough, N. H.)

James Morrison succeeded to his father's estate at Meredith Bridge, and was a teacher at times, and afterwards carried on the wool-carding business at Meredith Bridge, in the old Parker warp-mill, and added fulling and dressing of cloth to his business, and was succeeded in the business by the Buzzells,—father and sons. He left no family, and was a man of good ability and decided character.

Abram Morrison, his brother, has long been a business man at the same place. He kept the Eager Hotel from 1846 to 1857, the Willard from 1857 to 1868, and since then a livery-stable, and succeeds to the homestead and brother's residence.

Captain John Moody was assessed but not definitely located. The Moody family and name was known to the Lower Parish, and not, save as land-holder, here.

Jacob Morse settled on the border of Alton, near two sons,—Abner and David,—whose families still remain. They were industrious farmers.

Dr. George W. Munsey, in boyhood, lived with Samuel Blaisdell. In youth he studied at Dummer's Academy, in Newbury, Mass., and was a teacher; when a young man, married Hannah Barton, of Epsom, and afterwards practiced medicine in Moultonborough, Centre Harbor and Gilford, living in several places in this town, as at David Hale's, on the Oaks road, near the Alton line, on the Pond road, and at two places in the Centre village. He was a practitioner of no ordinary ability and skill; but, having a large family to support and an unremunerative practice, peculiar to those days, was often in straitened circumstances. He had good powers of oratory, and after the Washingtonian movement, led by John Hawkins, he lectured on temperance as a reformed man. He lived past his four-score, and his wife to her one hundredth year. Of his sons, Barton is a physician of the eclectic practice and the homœopathic principle. His skill as a practitioner and handiness as an artisan are beyond doubt. He early

worked at the jeweler's business, and in that showed rare inventive ability. His travel has been extensive, both in this and in other countries, and his attainments are commensurate.

The other sons were George W., Benjamin, William, Amos Prescott and David Hall. Of these, George W., first, and afterward Amos Prescott and David Hall worked at the trade of shoe-making; and William and Benjamin, who emigrated to Cape Ann, were in trade and business there. Of the six daughters, four remain living, and are active in their spheres. One of these is the wife of Rev. Josiah Gilman, of Lynn, Mass.

Josiah and Robert Moulton are early tax-payers, but tradition fixes not their habitat; and John C., of Meredith Bridge, was of prominence as postmaster, trader and later as a manufacturer. He began business at Lake village, where he was burnt out. His social and political and official standing has been high.

Captain Jonathan Nelson was tax-payer, but his habitat uncertain.

Captain John S. Osgood settled near Samuel Jewett's, and Samuel located on Liberty Hill; Prescott at Meredith Bridge. The name and family was of some standing. In later years Enoch Osgood (wheelwright) lived at Gilford village, and Dr. Osgood (dentist) practiced his profession at Laconia.

Of Micajah Osborne, only his assessment is mentioned.

John and Joseph Odlin have been citizens and tradesmen in recent times.

A Page family, that of a soldier in the War of the Revolution, was settled near Daniel Hoyt's. The house and family soon disappeared, but Henry Page, of Sandown, was a tax-payer for many years, and then ceases that name altogether.

Captain Rufus Parish is tax-payer for Cynthia Parish.

William Peasley also is a tax-payer, though probably non-resident.

Stephen Pearly was settled at Meredith Bridge, where he was in trade, and stocked a store at James Follet's, and by clerks carried on a business some years. He was a tax-payer in the early years of the town; a man of distinction and enterprise at the village where he lived. The family included Dr. John L. Pearly, of some note as a practitioner and as a citizen of Meredith and Laconia.

The Piper family was settled first in the southeastern part of the town, and the names of Nathaniel and Thomas are the only ones in the early tax-lists. Alfred lost an arm and lived many years at Meredith Bridge.

Henry Plummer came early to Gilmanton. Henry, Jr., settled at the base of Mount Minor, or the Piper Mountain; he was a mason by trade. William or Billy Plummer is in the list, and Jesse Plummer also lived near the mountain. The heirs of Hannah

Plummer are also in the list of the assessed. Thomas and Moses are found dwelling on the Oaks road on the homestead, and Thomas later at the Plains and in Lake village. He was a wheelwright and worked at that trade many years, and died at an advanced age and left no family. Moses left two sons, Thomas and James, who were active business men, but lived at different places. James was hotel landlord and tradesman.

Joseph and Israel Potter settled early in the vicinity of Gilford village. They were brothers, held good lots and their families remain to this day. They came directly from the Lower Parish, where Samuel Potter settled in 1783. Their families were not large and they both worked at shoe-making. In the second generation these families were large, through Joseph, Jr., of one, and Thomas of the other. The late Adjutant John M. and Thomas D., of Boston, being of considerable note as traders and manufacturers, represent these families respectively.

Jonathan Prescott came to Gilmanton in 1793, and died in 1809. Jonathan, of the third generation, son of Timothy, was tax-payer in 1813. Horatio G. was also a citizen at the same time, and did business at Meredith Bridge, and was the first postmaster there, in 1824. The office was named simply Gilford, though sometimes kept on the Meredith side.

Richard Palmer is assessed in 1808, but his habitat is uncertain.

Jacob Quimby was a resident at one time near the Intervale.

Lieutenant Philbrook Rand settled near Abel Hunt's in 1790, and north of Gunstock Hill, and improved some excellent land. The family still occupy the old homestead, and Simon, his son, has been a prominent citizen. Joseph Rand lived awhile at the village, and removed from the town in its first years. The Rand family was not large. George Rand was once a resident, but emigrated early, and Samuel also.

Benjamin Richardson appears to be an inhabitant in 1813. Habitat uncertain.

Joseph Robbins, from New Durham, settled in the Mooney neighborhood, and was, by trade, a tailor. He carried on also farming, and had a large family, of whom Charles and Joseph are successful business men in Boston,—dealers in iron and machinery. They wrought at blacksmithing before leaving Gilford. The family has gone from the homestead, and settled in various places.

The Rollins name, so common in Alton, had one representative in Gilford in John Rollins, who is taxed for property near the Alton line. Elder John Rollins, from Moultonborough, preached a while, succeeding Richard Martin.

The Rowe family is quite extensive, and was early settled in the place. Ezekiel and Jacob came in 1796. Jeremiah appears soon after, and Richard and Samuel; also Jeremiah (2d and 3d), and Joseph. They settled in the south part of the town, near

Liberty and Cotton's Hills. Kelley Rowe was afterwards a Baptist preacher, though never ordained. Benjamin Rowe came from Brentwood in 1816, and worked at the wool-carding business, at the Upper Mill, near Hoyt's saw-mill, and also at the Lower Mill, whither the machinery was removed. He also carried on farming, brick-making and the making of farming implements, as wheels, plows, rakes, etc. He lived to be nearly one hundred years old; was a teacher of vocal music and a drummer in early life. His oldest son, Hon. John M., was long engaged in the quarry business, at Frankfort, Me., and resides still there. Another son, Benjamin F., was professor of elocution, teaching that department at Bowdoin College and elsewhere, and died young. The members of this family were all excellent singers and musicians.

Moses Rowell settled on the Oaks road, between the Weirs and Upper Weirs, and had two sons, Jacob and Philip. These three families are nearly extinct; the name is not left.

Jacob Rundlet (sometimes spelled Ranlet) settled near Governor's Island, and was a man of influence, and held the office of deacon. The family name is lost, though a lineal descendant represents the family. Theophilus Ranlet is the only other one of the name on the tax-list.

Isaac Runnells settled on the Intervale at the Thomas Foster place. The name and family have not had a representative in later years.

Thomas Saltmarsh, selectman the first year of the town's corporate state, had settled at the Pond, called sometimes the Saltmarsh Pond, and sometimes Chattleborough Pond, after the name of one Thomas Chattle, who had lived awhile and squatted on the opposite (south) shore of it; and he (Saltmarsh) had a good farm and good social standing. The family continued, represented by three sons, Thomas, William and Seth, but has now disappeared.

The Sandborn, or Sanborn family, is extensive and of several distinct divisions. The numerous inhabitants of Sanbornton are allied. Deacon Jonathan settled at the foot of Liberty Hill, and had a good estate. He was a man of piety and influence, and his sons were Jonathan, Jacob and Joseph. The latter was a trader at Gilford village, and carried on extensively the cooperage business, making barrels for the Portsmouth market. Israel settled south of Liberty Hill, and his son was Deacon Levi, of Meredith Bridge, and daughter Mary, the school-mistress of those early years. Benjamin Sanborn, of another lineage, settled in the Jewett neighborhood; and his sons were Benjamin Jr., Esq., and Abial. Lowell Sanborn, of still another lineage, whose sons were Lowell, Richard and Elisha, settled near the lake, off Governor's Island; and Samuel Gilman Sanborn, father of Captain Winborn and John G. (also a son of Lowell, Sr.), was located in the same neighborhood, and was a man of uncommon ability and honorable influence.

Richard settled near Captain S. F. and Lieutenant John Gilman. He was a carpenter, as was Lowell and his sons, and also his own three sons,—Lowell, Jr., Richard, Jr., and Osgood. By these six or seven men much of the building of those days was done. Samuel and David are reckoned in the same connection. Benjamin, of Laconia, the carpenter, was of the family of Lowell; and Benjamin, the shoemaker, first at Lake village and later of Laconia, was of another family. Meshech Sanborn came later to Gilford village from Brentwood, to conduct the wool-carding and fulling business. He bought and ran the Chapman (or Mingo) Mill; was afterwards postmaster and store-keeper, alone and in company; was town clerk and in various places of responsibility. He had no sons, but five daughters, who are well connected, one of them being the wife of General J. J. Morrill, and another married Dr. A. G. Weeks. Lowell Sanborn, popularly termed Deacon Lowell, a millwright and mechanic at large, was from Gilmanton, and returned thither and was miller at Morrill's grist-mill awhile. Joseph Sanborn, the tailor, lived and worked at his trade near Gunstock Hill. John Sargent settled very near and to the southwest of Captain Gilman's. He had no son; so his estate was inherited by his son-in-law, John S. Hunt. William Sargent, drover and later a hotel-keeper at Lake village, first settled on that part of Meredith, and later of Laconia, which has been lately annexed to Gilford. He was a man of business, and had suffered the loss of an arm and an eye. George Sanders settled near the lake, by the Sanborns, and was a leading citizen. He married the daughter of Richard Martin, had a superior farm, and a son of his, George W., still lives in town, though not on the homestead, but near by, on the Intervale, at Captain I. P. Smith's place. S. W. Sanders, dealer in hardware at Laconia, is of another family.

Josiah Sawyer early settled on the height of land west of the Miles River Valley, and cultivated a large plant there and adjacent. His sons were Israel, Dr. Josiah, John and Joseph, and of these, Israel had the homestead, John settled in West Alton, Joseph in Gilmanton, and Dr. Josiah practiced medicine in Gilford. He was a practitioner of some medical skill, though not read in the regular course. Religiously, he held deistical sentiments. The Sawyer name is still kept, though there were but few males in the line. Seth Sawyer afterwards preached a while in the Gilford village church.

Thomas, William, Mathias and John Sewall are the individuals bearing this surname. Thomas first lived in the south part of the town, near Liberty Hill; subsequently he moved to the plains near Black Brook and married the widow of Samuel Bartlett; he was a drover at one time. Mathias lived near him there and also at other places, and worked at the tanning business, as did also Thomas. He lived at Gilford village at different times and worked at Thing's and Morrill's

tanneries. William and John are supposed to have remained at the south part of the town. The family name has disappeared, though a lineal descendant remains.

Levi Shaw settled first near Israel Potter's, on the Sanborn place, then at or near Saltmarsh Pond, and afterwards to the south of the pond. He was a man of great physical strength and endurance. The family name has become extinct, but the line is kept by other names. William Sibley early settled near Gunstock Mountain. His father was the first merchant in Gilmanton. His half-brother, George Littlefield Sibley, located at Meredith Bridge; was in trade many years and agent of the railroad company, and afterwards retired and died at great age. William Sibley had no male children, and Mrs. John Elkins succeeded to the paternal estate. The family name is now extinct.

The name of Sleeper is represented by Esquire Nehemiah, Henry, Joseph and Jonas. Nehemiah, Esq., settled on the lake-shore, near Esquire Evans', and was possessed of a good estate, to which George, now of Laconia, succeeded. Joseph and Henry were settled near Wm. Sibley's, at the west base of Gunstock Mountain, and Henry did business at Gilford village and emigrated thence. Joseph was the accredited surveyor of his times, and had defined for conveyance most of the lands of the town. He subsequently moved to the farm in the Jewett neighborhood. Henry, Jr., lives at Lake village, and has held important offices in the town government. Jonas Sleeper was trader at Gilford village and died of spotted fever in the epidemic of the winter of 1814-1815. His sons were Dr. Francis, of Laconia; Jonas, lawyer, of Haverhill, N. H.; and Sarah, lately Mrs. Smith, of Bangkok, Siam. It was an intellectual family. The mother was the daughter of Farmer Bean, of Gilmanton. The daughter was preceptress at New Hampton, and one of the first missionaries of the Baptist Society to India, and she has lived there for a period of some fifty years. Francis was maimed in childhood by the fracture of his skull from a fragment of a blast; and, though he sustained the loss of some portion of the brain, yet skillful surgery restored health, and there seemed no detriment of intellectual ability resultant. The mother married Benjamin Jewett, Jr., Esq., and died soon after.

The Smith family is of special importance in Gilford history. Judge Ebenezer Smith, of Meredith, was a man superior in the affairs of the State about the time of the Revolutionary War. His connection with the early surveys of this territory enabled him to know the location of the best lands. He chose considerable tracts on and near the Intervale, and between bogs in Meredith. His sons, Ebenezer, Esq. and John, Esq., improved the land thus selected here—Esquire Ebenezer at the head, and Esquire John at the foot of the Intervale. One Oliver Smith, also connected with the survey, had a

place and a rude building on the east margin of the Intervale.

The sons of Esquire Ebenezer were John, Isaac, Daniel, Joseph P. and Ebenezer, Jr. John occupied the homestead after the sudden and accidental death of the father, and had no sons. Ebenezer, Jr., located a little distance north of the homestead, and had one son, Jeremiah. Joseph P. settled at different places, elsewhere and at the village, and finally on the flank of the Intervale, near Caleb Marston's estate—a place bought of Joseph Fifield, and improved by True Bean, and he had no sons. Daniel was of an inventive nature, and engaged in manufacturing at Meredith village, and afterwards, on a reverse in business, lived at his father-in-law's, Richard Dame's, and engaged in farming, and still later lived at Gilford village, where he died, and left no son. Isaac settled on the Lake-Shore road, beyond the limits of Gilford, and he had no son. The family held social distinction from first to last.

The other son of Judge Smith, John, Esq., lived awhile here, and latterly at the homestead in Meredith, and his son, Captain John, or Deacon John, called John P., occupied the spacious house in Gilford. The property of father and son, as well as that of the grandfather, was great, and was increased by inheritance from another son of Judge Smith, Daniel, of Meredith. The religious character of Esquire John and Deacon John P. was well marked and of a high order, and generous gifts to the needy were of no infrequent occurrence. Here was an asylum for the distressed. John P. had two sons and one daughter,—Daniel K., a proficient scholar, a surveyor of precision and repute, who died in middle age, after holding a major's commission and being married, but having no issue; John P., Jr., who still lives in Gilford; and the wife of Richard Gove, of Laconia, many years ago deceased, and without issue. A son of Washington Smith, of Meredith (the remaining son of Judge Smith), by the name of Joshua, lived in that part of Laconia lately annexed to Gilford. John Rice Smith, of Meredith, has been a tax-payer in Gilford on account of land occupied by sons-in-law, Stanford Jackson and Dudley Gilman and Moses Dockham. The Smith name was not, as elsewhere, proverbially common here.

The Stevens family was early in Gilford. Paul Stevens, who worked at shoe-making, first lived in the south part of the town, and then near Israel Potter's, in the house built by Samuel Potter. He had a large family, of which was Colonel Ebenezer Stevens, who worked at the blacksmith trade at Gilford village, and since living at Meredith village,—a man of high social standing and rare ability. Also William, who also worked at blacksmithing at Gilford village, and afterwards emigrated to the West, having one daughter, the wife of Benjamin Wadleigh, Esq. Also Paul, Jr., who was a mason by trade; and Smith, and John and Moses, and several

daughters, who were residents, and conducted business in the line of millinery at several places.

John Stevens settled on Liberty Hill and had a large estate there, bought of Jonathan Morrill. He had sons, Sherburn, Hubbard and Sickum. The estate was later occupied by his daughters, but has since passed into other hands. The sons, except Sherburn, moved to other places, and the other members of the family also removed. Sherburn lived south of Liberty Hill and, at last, near Laconia. He had two sons, Frank and John, who were dentists, and the former was also physician.

Daniel Stevens was an early settler, and located at the south part of the town. Benjamin Stevens lived near Lieutenant John Gilman, and afterwards moved to the town of Hill. Ensign Stevens (so called), once lived on Gunstock Hill, where Jeremiah Gilman afterwards lived, and later lived at Lake village and elsewhere.

Nathaniel Stevens, a tailor, came to Meredith Bridge about 1840, and pursued his vocation there many years, and with good success.

Nathan Swain and Joseph Swain were citizens; the latter located near the Locklin, and had sons, Moses and Silvester, who live elsewhere. He was a man of religious activity. His wife died from burns, when his house was consumed. The estate has gone out of the name, but to direct heirs.

Chase Swain lived at different places, and a son, Charles, was a blacksmith at Gilford village and other places.

Henry Swasey lived in the west part of the town, and his son Henry served his time at Henry Whittier's, and has since been in trade at Lake village.

Littlefield Taylor was in the tax-list of 1813, and his residence not indicated.

Badger Taylor was a machinist at Meredith Bridge for many years. He had one son, who became a minister, and a daughter who was well connected.

General Tay (so called), lived at Meredith Bridge, and was builder there.

The Thing family is an old one, and includes Jeremiah, Jesse, Joseph, Jeremiah, Jr., and Morrill, and some of later generations, though not numerous.

Jeremiah settled on Liberty Hill before the beginning of this century, and carried on the tanning business, and had Bernard Morrill as apprentice, and others. He came from Brentwood and had two sons, Jeremiah, Jr., and Morrill, who also were tanners. The former lived at the homestead till, in later years, he went into trade with Jewett & Chase, at the village, and, still later, at New Hampton.

He was in his younger years a school-teacher and a severe disciplinarian. Morrill Thing carried on the tanning business at Gilford village for several years, and afterwards at the homestead; and, after the death of his parents, moved to the Mathias Weeks place, and remained there till death. He was repeatedly in office as selectman and representative

and in other positions. He was well versed in town affairs, and, in the Legislature, a man of ability and trust. His family were mostly short-lived, and but few of them remain. His wife was from the line of Esquire Benjamin Weeks, and an executive woman. Associated is Jesse Thing, of whom less is known now. Joseph Thing lived near the mountain, by William Sibley's. His son Joseph lived at Lake village, and a grandson is an artist in Ohio. He afterwards moved to Lake village, and was a man of ability. He was a carpenter by trade; built the Goodhue house, and kept a small store. He was elevated to positions of trust, and was a useful citizen. Gilman Thing succeeded to the Captain Gilman estate, and had no son.

The Thompson family was one of the early ones, and quite large. David Thompson settled near the Miles River in its middle course. His sons were Jonathan, Jr., and Levi B., the latter being the youngest of the family, and inheriting the homestead. After the death of the parents he removed to Topsham, Me., and was in trade in Brunswick, Me., for some years, where his son, Dr. A. J. Thompson, graduated. He afterwards was in trade at Gilford village with his older son, John, and, still later, moved to Sanbornton. Dr. A. J. Thompson was in practice at Meredith Bridge; went into the army, and, after practicing in Salem, Mass., awhile, died there. He was a man of superior talents and of high social standing. Samuel Thompson settled on the Lake-Shore road, near the Intervale, and had three sons, who lived elsewhere in the State. Jonathan Thompson lived on the road near Governor's Island. Jacob Thompson lived at various places. Thomas and Charles are also named. Most of the members of these three Thompson families were of great stature, and one was called, to distinguish him from another of the same name, "Long John." The families have been much reduced in later years, and there is scarcely any of the lineage bearing the name left in town.

The Thurston family was early on the ground as settlers. Benjamin Thurston came soon after Samuel, who is recorded as settling in 1791. Samuel located in the south part of the town, and Benjamin near the Intervale. Miles L. and Benjamin L. succeeded him in the order of descent and on the homestead. They held a large landed estate, and were in good circumstances and robust. The widow of Benjamin (1st) lived to be in her one hundredth year, and left one son and several daughters. Daniel, Benjamin, Jr., and Samuel, Jr., were of the other original family, and settled in various places, some on the Lake-Shore road and in Alton. Daniel Torsey settled near the mountain, in the south part of the town, but was reduced, and for long years lived at the almshouse, and died aged. Henry and Alva Tucker are in the list. The latter was a mechanic at Meredith Bridge. He was a man of ability and good

standing. Henry Wadleigh came to town with Esquire Benjamin Weeks in 1787. He was son-in-law to Esquire Weeks, and settled near him, and worked at blacksmithing. He had sons, William and Benjamin, who also worked at the blacksmith trade, and the latter also at stone-cutting, and has had important official positions, and is a skilled workman. The family is still represented in the third and fourth generations.

David Watson, of Meredith, cleared land in Gilford, near the Gunstock River and the present village, and began building in 1798. His sons, Jonathan and Job, lived on the place. Jonathan also subsequently lived near the Locklin, in the Swain house, and at length moved back to Meredith. His son, David, of Boston, was born in Gilford, and has been long in business in Boston. Job occupied the estate in 1811, and had a large family. Two sons, John and Charles, graduated at Bowdoin College and at Union Seminary, and have labored in various places. David became a carpenter, learned his trade in Lowell, and worked there some years, and, later, at Laconia, where he lives now. The daughters are settled in different places, and have been well connected. Others bearing the name have at times resided in the town.

John Webster, in 1806, and Dudley Webster, in 1813, are taxed; supposed to dwell near Malachi Davis, and at a time near Jackson's meadow.

The Weeks families are large and of special importance in the history of the town, both in its earlier stages and in its more recent course. Benjamin Weeks, Esq., as has been said, came to this part of the town in 1787. He had lost a barn and stock of hay in the Lower Parish a little before by fire. His father had died about the same time in Greenwood, N. H., and left not much property. He moved to Burton for two or three years, and returned without success, in 1792. He bought land largely, and sold many pieces, and had four hundred or five hundred acres. His older brother, John, came with him and lived near by, towards Jonathan Sanborn's, and died in 1816, aged about eighty-four years. Deacon Noah Weeks, another brother, came about the same time, and settled to the southwest of him, on Liberty Hill, or its vicinity. Esquire Weeks had six sons and one daughter, all born in the last quarter of the last century. He aided them in education and to commence trade. Daniel, the oldest, began trade in 1801 at the home place; Elisha, the third son, began trade there in 1802; Matthias, the second son, studied law, and ran the tan-yard awhile; and William attended the academy at Gilmanton, fitted for college and graduated, and, being feeble in health, went South, and taught a few years, and died in 1810, probably the first one from this town, or its territory, who graduated at college, which was in 1806. Benjamin and Levi R. also engaged in trade in their early life. Sally married Henry Wadleigh, and was inclined to

literary life, but died early. From these were a large community of active, enterprising citizens. Elisha settled in Strafford; Levi R. moved to other places; and from Benjamin's and Daniel's families, each large, came a number of tradesmen, and a good share of the business in this part of the town has been done by them. The family of Deacon Noah—viz.: Noah, Ira and Mathias—have also been of honorable career, and have been marked for piety and honesty.

The Whittier family are also of honorable mention and important. Deacon Andrew Whittier came and settled early near Daniel Hoyt's. He was a man of influence, and raised a family who were among the enterprising men of former days. Timothy succeeded to the homestead. Jonathan settled nearby on the north, and was a wheelwright and framer. He afterwards built and operated a mill, including grist-mill, thresher and carriage-shop. Andrew wrought at shoemaking nearer the village, and at later times lived, and died at his father-in-law's, Abel Hunt's. Moses and Henry settled on the Oaks road, near the Upper Weirs. Moses was a mechanic, but Henry was a farmer, and had no family.

John Weymouth is taxed in 1813; and Charles Willey, who lived near Governor's Island; and Jacob, at Lake village; and Job Wilson and Benning Wilkinson, concerning whom little is known; also Jeremiah Young, of uncertain location and history. Dr. I. K. Young preached only a short time in the church at Meredith Bridge, while it stood on the Gilford side. Samuel York lived on the Intervale and had sons and daughters.

These constitute the inhabitants till time brought in new ones.

The Topography of the Town.—The form of the plat is, in a measure, determined by the water frontage and the terminal mountain run. It would have been nearly rhomboidal, but for the truncation of the southeast corner, which was rendered advisable by reason of such section, by the line of the watershed upon a continuous chain of eminences. The only line that seems not determined by some natural feature is on the southwest, and is there in coincidence with the ranges of hundred-acre lots and lies between the eleventh and twelfth ranges—(a detachment of a portion of the eleventh range, near Winnesquam was made only a few years ago and annexed to Gilford, and still later that same, with the adjacent portion of the twelfth range and several of the southernmost lots of the second division of forty-acre lots and with the common lots, was detached from Gilford and annexed to Laconia). About two-thirds of the territory of the town lies on the northern slope, and is drained directly into the lake. The other one-third slopes to the west, and is drained by short water-courses into the river at Lake village, Laconia village and Winnesquam. There are only four inland natural ponds and these of small dimensions, and are the sources of as many

streams, which flow in three valleys in the town. The first is at the southeast border of the town, nearly on the division line, and while it has little or no basin of drainage, discharges any overflow in an almost indistinguishable outlet into the Suncook River. Proverbially, it is said to have no outlet or inlet, but catches and holds the rain fall on the surface and narrow terminal rim, and overflowing when this is in excess of its capacity. It abounds with horned pouts. The second is a little pool on the Miles River, near its source. It was largely increased in extent, at one time, by flowage in consequence of the dam at Foster's mill, which is no longer kept up. The third is a small circular pond on the west side of the town, which abounds in lilies (hence called the Lily Pond), and also produces a species of leeches. With a very slight fall, it discharges its water through Black Brook (so called) into the bog at the Plains (so-called) above Lake village. The fourth is near the centre of the town, and is known as the Saltmarsh Pond, being near the residence of Thomas Saltmarsh, a prominent citizen of Gilmanton, and afterwards one of the first Board of Selectmen of Gilford. It is larger than the other three, and also abounds with lilies and the horned pout, and discharges its waters through Jewett's Brook into the river above the falls at Laconia.

Besides the Winnipiseogee, or Merrimack, on the western side of the town, and by reason of the annexation recently of a portion of land detached from Laconia, also flowing now through a part of the town, there are seven other streams in or adjoining the town, and these, though mostly inconsiderable in size, furnish considerable hydraulic power. The most eastern rises and flows a short distance in Gilford, and then, flowing along the Alton line, passes finally into that town, and enters the lake at West Alton. It was not made much use of for motive-power, except in its lower courses in Alton. Its two branches drain the extreme eastern part of the town. The second is of greater volume, and rises near the Suncook Pond, and flows north through a deep and rapidly-descending valley-bottom to the lake, and is called Miles River, or Leavitt's Brook, taking its name from two men by the name of Leavitt, Miles and Samuel, who had mills on it. It drains the eastern side of Mount Major and Gunstock and the western side of Mount Prospect. Foster's and Colby's mills were also on this stream; only Colby's is now operated.

The third and still larger is the Gunstock, which extends through the entire length of the town from south to north. It drains the western side of the former mountains, and also Mount Minor, the northern side of Liberty Hill, and the eastern slope of Meeting-House Hill, or Gunstock Hill.

The valley of the Gunstock is broad in parts and contains some of the best land in the town. Midway in its course Gilford village is situated, where, in a narrow gorge, the mills are situated, and the power is great,

and the fall abrupt for a half-mile. Six mills have been located on this stream, and its lower waters course sluggishly through a plain of about one mile square, of alluvial formation and exceedingly fertile. A small stream, called the Meadow Brook, or Black Brook, courses through an arm of this plain, which is known as the Intervale, and enters the lake near the mouth of the Gunstock. This stream has no fall, and is more of a creek than a river. These rivers at certain seasons abound with the sucker, which comes up from the lake to spawn, in the manner of herring.

The stream flowing from the Lily Pond, by the raising of the dam across the rapids in the Winnipiseogee at Lake village, and the consequent flowage, has been rendered an inlet of Long Bay up half its course, and there is no hydraulic power on this stream.

The sixth stream has about three miles course and several small tributaries. Its main branch, in its upper course, has good power. Collins' mill is on it. It drains a section of the town extending nearly to the centre, in the direction of the Gully and the north-west slope of Liberty Hill. Its lower course is without much fall, and passes through some excellent farms, and reaches the river between bogs above the falls at Laconia village, in the original Samuel Jewett estate. It is called the Jewett Brook there, but Collins' Stream in that part where their mill is located, and where it issues from Saltmarsh Pond, or, as it is sometimes called, Chattleborough Pond. On the Gully branch lies an old meadow, called, formerly, the Jackson, or the Smith's meadow, owned first by I. R. Smith, of Meredith, and later by his daughter, Mrs. Jackson, and also by H. Bugbee and others.

The seventh stream rises in the southwest part of the town, and in the edge of Gilmanton (now Belmont), and one branch of it near Cotton's Hill, and also receives the waters of the north slope of Ladd's Hill, in Belmont. Passing the Province road, it courses through the plain in the southwest part of the village of Laconia, and falls into the Winnesquam at its southeast angle. It was called the Durkey Brook, and on its banks, near its mouth, there was a spring, once reputed to be mineral and medicinal. Some use of its power is made near the Concord stage road.

The great river, Winnipiseogee, has, or had, three places of power: At the Weirs, or Prescott's Mills, by wing-dams, three feet of head was utilized; but flowage has ruined this privilege and it has long been in disuse. At Lake village a single head of twenty feet gives great power, and it has, from the first, been well used. The Lower Falls, at Laconia, has also a single head of some greater height. The current, however, is not quite all utilized, the river proper being here nearly a mile in length from bog to bog, in the natural state, or level.

The altitude of the surface of the town is also re-

markable. There are four elevated portions that receive the title of mountains, and four that bear particular names as hills, besides some lesser hills that bear no names unless those known only to the immediate locality. The most elevated portion, in the eastern part of the town, is called Mount Major, or, on the chart (nautical), Gunstock Mountain. Its summit is about two thousand six hundred feet above the level of the lake, and that level is five hundred feet above the sea-level; hence, it is three thousand feet high. From its summit the surface of the ocean, off Portsmouth, can be seen, by the unaided eye, under the morning sun. It has been a surveyor's post, in the triangulation of the Atlantic region, for the purpose of making a chart of the coast. The United States government had property in monument signals, on it, and for a series of years occupied its apex as a signal and surveying-station, furnishing it with instruments and manning it with operators. It commands a view of the greater part of the State and a part of Maine. Its highest part is not wooded, and from it are seen some twenty-five bodies of water.

Mount Gunstock, locally so called (and sometimes Suncook, and still again, sometimes Peaked Mountain), is the next in altitude, but of some three hundred feet less elevation. It stands to the northwest of Mount Major. It is in the western slope of this, in a ridge running down the mountain, that the mine of iron ore is situated, it being a trap of some two feet in width, and extending downward and inward, and has once been worked. It is protoxide and peroxide of iron, in the proportion to make magnetic ore. It is, in some of its parts, eighty-five per cent. pure iron, and a well-formed horse-shoe nail has been made from it, directly, on the anvil, without going through the process of smelting. A road was built to it by the mining company some sixty years ago, but is not now used. By a circuitous route, the summit of the mountain can be almost attained by vehicle, and the remainder of the journey made on horseback or on foot. This summit was once much used for purposes of celebration. In one Presidential campaign an ox was dressed here and served, roasted whole, to a large assemblage of people,—a mass-meeting. A spur or wing of highland extends from this northward and abuts the lake in a bold headland, and is the ridge separating the valleys of the Miles and the Gunstock Rivers.

Mount Minor, sometimes called the Piper Mountain, is the next in elevation, and stands to the southwest of Mount Major as a spur in the direction of the line of hills that extends through the town of Gilmanton. This mountain is some eight hundred feet less in height than Mount Major, and forms a descending slope without much valley between them, as is not the case between Mount Major and Gunstock. A spur runs from Mount Major to the northeast, into Alton, in the line of Suncook Pond, and its ridge

is the dividing line of Gilmanton, and is sometimes called Morse's Mountain. These highlands cover about one-third of the town, and have been heavily wooded at times. Parts of this tract were subsequently cleared, and parts, at different periods, were burnt over by forest-fires. The whole tract, as far as it is cleared, is excellent grazing-land for sheep.

The lesser elevations, called by distinctive names as hills, are, first, Liberty Hill, a cultivated plateau, about nine hundred feet above the lake-level, and commanding a complete view of the western part of the lake and the northwest part of the town and the more distant highlands and towns. It contains some excellent farms, but is not so extensively cultivated on its southern part as it was formerly. A road cuts another road at right-angles at the highest point, where a liberty-pole once stood.

Cotton's Hill is on the border of Gilmanton (now Belmont), and is an isolated peak. Its northern slope is a gentle incline and contains excellent farms. Its southern and western declivities are more abrupt and the soil is less arable. It is crowned with a stately growth and is a conspicuous object from all directions, and beautiful for its symmetry.

Gunstock Hill, across the Gunstock Valley, and opposite Gunstock Mountain, is a long ridge, somewhat in the line of a detached section, called Boyd's Hill, and of the Loehlin, and extends north and south on the west side of the valley of that name, and is the eastern limit of the second division of forty-acre lots in the original survey. It was selected for the site of the first church, built in 1792, and is sometimes called Meeting-House Hill. Here it was that the first settlers intended to make the town and fix the centre and the pivot of all affairs; but, with water-power on either side and none there, it was the manifest destiny to yield to the valleys. This, at first, was the most improved part of the town, and, as far as excellency of glebe was concerned, it was not a bad choice.

Other highlands received particular and local appellations, from ownership or adjacent dwellers, save one, in the Miles Valley, called Cobble Hill, which is a conical pile between the two arms of the river, very symmetrical in shape and rising to about five hundred feet from the surrounding lands, like an artificial mound, and is of about one mile in circuit at its base. It is grazing-land, and beautiful to behold from valley or surrounding mountain brows. By slight change in the height of the flowage of the river, its waters would flow on the opposite side of the hill, and into the other branch.

The grades of soil and wood-growths are worthy of mention. A section adjacent to the river, or the west side, is mainly a strong, rocky soil, and produces a hardwood growth, with a slight exception of the plain near Black Brook. The northern part of this belt is called the Oaks road, and Oaks District. It produced a peculiarly good variety of white oak,

much sought after by wheelwrights for use in their craft. The more remote belt from the river was of a lighter soil, and produced a pine growth. This was of superior quality.

It was a stately forest, and extended from the lake-shore up the Gunstock Valley to the base of Liberty Hill. In it the royal brand might have been seen,—perhaps, destiny—fixing some of the mammoth forms for the royal navy-yards. From these, in the plain of the upper Gunstock, the first settlers practiced the art of turpentine gathering as a source of income.

These on that particular plot were early manufactured into the superior lumber of those days, which is now the wonder of those who witness the demolition of the original houses and buildings. The huge radical remains of these, seemingly imperishable in the soil, were cleared by a mechanical device called stump-wheels, which were constructed of some fifteen or twenty feet in height, with a revolving axle of great diameter and strength, from which a cable chain, of great size and strength, passed under and around a principal root, over which the wheels were set; and then the third wheel, fixed on the axle, with a chain wrapping it in a groove in the rim, to which chain the team was attached, and by a deploying advance wound up the cable and lifted the stump. Thus the ground was cleared and broken in, and now is some of the finest lots in this part. The third belt produces a hardwood growth, and is a rocky but loamy soil, with a clay subsoil and excellent for agricultural uses. It rises into the elevated parts, where there is a mixture of stately spruce and some inferior variety of oak. The average soil is best for grasses and native crops. There are partial or limited deposits of clay and of sands. The present town and county boundary is in mid-lake, but originally the grant was limited by the shore-line of the lake, river and bays, including no islands. Governor's Island, long known also as Davis' Island, and connected to the mainland by a bridge built by the owner of the island, was annexed to the town at a later period. It contains about five hundred acres of land of a very superior quality. It was formerly covered with a very heavy growth of timber, pine at the eastern extremity and hardwood on the western portion. This is not the original grant or share of Gilmanton, reserved for the Governor, as that share was laid out to Governor Shute, in the centre of the original town, and at the north extreme of the upper one hundred acre lots, and just to the west of Young's Pond, a rectangular plot of five hundred acres. But this island received its name from Governor Wentworth's taking a fancy to it. Another island on which were buildings built and a farm improved, and known as Welch Island, is also included within Gilford limits. Other smaller and unimportant islands—as Locke's, Timber and Mark—are associated with the south shore and contain excellent grazing land, and are in parts well stocked with timber-growth, and are valuable.

The system of ways or roads was provided for in the original laying out of the town by reserved range-ways and sideways at intervals in the setting out of the ranges and lots. Yet these, in a measure, were found to be so located as to be both inconvenient for use and impracticable for construction; and yet many of the roads correspond quite nearly to the old range-ways, and the original lots preserve, for the most part, the original form and entirety, so that from many eminences the view shows the quadrangular subdivisions of the whole territory.

The road designed to accommodate the first and second tiers of forty-acre lots was built within, or alongside these ranges, from the Weirs to the Province road at the Lower Falls, or the present Laconia. In its lower part it coursed along the river-side and through the land left undivided at the time of the laying out of the five ranges in the original survey, and which, lying between the river border and the second range, was later laid out and designated as the eighth range, the common and the village lots, and corresponded to like supplemental laying out in the upper part nearer the Weirs, which was classed as the sixth and seventh ranges, and a common or gore. On these lands were afterwards built the greater part of the two villages called Lake village and Meredith Bridge (now Laconia) and also a small collection of houses at the Weirs.

A road for the accommodation of the third tier of lots ran parallel to this first road in a most direct course, till half the course was passed over, and then, by reason of the broken surface of the land and the abruptness of its inclines, it deflected to the west and met the first road at Jewett's estate; only patches of it were built and are traceable in the south part of the town.

The third parallel road began a little distance from the lake-shore, at the head of the Intervale, and passed over Gunstock, or Meeting-House Hill; and, instead of crossing the Locklin Hill, deflected to the east and joined with the fourth road, which also began near the lake, on the east side of the Intervale, and ascended Spring Hill, and by some deflections continued past the village and over Liberty Hill to Gilmanton, keeping on the first and second tier of one hundred acre lots through the whole length of the town.

The fifth parallel road, on the third tier of hundred-acre lots, was built along the west base and under the brow of the mountains, from the Gilmanton line nearly through the town, though its last stages were not more than a drift-way. It was broken and disappeared for the last mile or two before reaching the lake, where it would have crossed high hills.

The sixth way was only opened as a bridle-road or cartway up the Miles Valley to near the Skeiler Meadow, and then, as a public, traveled road, to the base of the mountains; and in two branches (one of which becomes a substitute for a seventh road, which would pass over Mount Prospect and to the terminal

ridge on the south boundary line of the town, and through the Masonian lots). At the base of the mountain it turns to the east and goes to the Alton line, in two branches, as part of an east and west road.

The roads designed to cross these, and run east and west, were fewer in number and not so regular or easily traced, as the lots in different ranges overlapped and were not parallel to the extreme margins or border lines of the town. The first, however, known as the Pond road, was quite direct and continuous along the lake-shore from the Weirs to the Alton line, and was determined more by the natural features of the land than by the division of lots and settlements made.

The second road, in this direction, set off at the Plains, north of Black Brook, and continued to the head of the Intervale, ascended the Ames and the Sawyer Hills, and descended into the Miles Valley, and was deflected round the south end of Mount Prospect, and reached the Alton line as identical with the deflections of the sixth north and south road, and is known as the Mountain road or route.

The third sets off a little north of Lake village and by slight deflections extends to Hoyt's Mills, or Gilford village, and should have passed over the mountain by the Old Stair-Way, a ravine with regular rock formation.

The fourth sets off at Jewett's Corner, and in two branches reaches the mountain bases,—one *via* Chattleborough and the other by Liberty Hill. A third branch, of a later laying out, reaches Gilford village by the Gully route (so called). These, with later alterations constitute the road system of the town. The sharpness of the hills, in the roads, has given occasion for the re-location of many roads, around the hills, in different parts of the town.

While this system of roads and cross-roads was all provided for in the plan and survey of the town, they were laid out at different times, as necessity required, and in separate sections when demanded. The oldest road is, of course, the Gilford portion of the Province road, laid out as a State or colony road by the General Court in 1770, and committed to Gilmanton for construction through its own territory; but, on its refusal to build it, it was built by contractors engaged by the colony government, and the cost, three hundred and thirty-one pounds, assessed on the town. It had to be repaired and the bridge rebuilt in 1790, at town expense. The roads of the town have usually been built by direct individual assessment, and worked out by all the tax-payers of the town, but repaired and kept in order by a system of district supervision and taxation, the town being divided into some thirty highway districts.

Portions of highways were at first made by individuals for their own convenience, and on their own lands, without any formal laying out; while to others there are records of legal laying out by proper authorities. Among those returned are the following—

an incomplete list, but showing the progress of settlement: In 1782, one by Abel Hunt's. In 1785, one from Peaslee Rodgers' to Noah Weeks', one to Folsom's Mills and to Simeon Hoyt's and one from Samuel Smith's to Meredith Bridge. In 1787, from Thomas Foster's (Intervale) to the pond, etc.,—*i.e.*, on the Pond road. At the same date, from Ebenezer Smith's to the Gunstock Mills,—*i.e.*, probably *via* Spring Hill and Kelley Corner, though possibly a mill-road through the pine woods lot. The present road, by the tannery and carding and fulling-mill, was of a much later laying and building.

The older approach by traveled road was by Potter's Hill to the mills. In 1788, one from the Province road to Simeon Hoyt's, probably the middle road from Liberty Hill south. In 1789, one from Philbrook Rand's to David Clough's, that is, over Gunstock or Meeting-House Hill, to Thomas Hoyt's (now Mr. Rogger's.) Also one from David Ames' (R. Dame's) to Thomas Frohock's (late D. Y. Smith's), and one from Josiah Sawyer's to Ephraim Brown's. In 1790, one from Levi Gilman's to the Gunstock road. In 1792, one from Samuel F. Gilman's, *via* Ezekiel Gilman's (Zebedee Morrill's) to Jacob Jewett's (Deacon Isaac's), doubtless to meet a road already made from the Province road past Samuel Jewett's, the next house. In 1794, one by Daniel Hoyt's and one from Samuel Gilman's (3d) to Sannel Gilman's. In 1797, one from Jeremy Rowe's to Samuel Thurston's, in the south part of the town. In 1799, one from William Hunt's to Josiah Tilton. In 1800, one from Jeremy Rowe's to Meredith Bridge, and one from Thomas Foster's to James Ames', across the Intervale, in 1801. Also in the same year, one from John Smith's to the Upper Weirs. In 1803, one from David Hale's to the Great Weirs (Lake village). In the same year, one on Governor's Island to Nathaniel Davis'. In 1805, from J. Smith's to the Great Weirs, probably by Malachi Davis'. In 1807, from David Gould's to Joseph Potter's, and in 1808, one from D. Hale's to the Weirs (Oaks road), and from A. Jackson's to Samuel Thurston's (*via* the Collins neighborhood), and one more in 1812, from Bartholomew Gale's to Meredith Bridge. A few others, omitted here, make up most of the roads of the town.

The bridges of the town, except a few of the larger and more costly, have been built by the districts. The only bridge on the Miles River, of much expense and difficulty, was the one at Miles Leavitt's, which went down-stream in a freshet, with the mill also, which was rebuilt higher up-stream. The one at the town farm has also been damaged at times by the overflow of the stream. There are eleven bridges spanning the Gunstock, several of which have been carried away in high water. Three are on the Intervale, and that whole surface is overflowed in times of freshet. Two are at Copp's Mill and of recent construction; one at the fulling-mill; one at the tannery; two at the saw-mill and Village road; one at Whittier's Mill, often

damaged; and one at Esquire Weeks' residence. The bridges on the Winnipiseogee, including railroad bridges, are now ten in number, and expensive structures.

Providence road bridge is the oldest, and has been three times rebuilt, and is now a substantial structure. The first was a rude affair and short-lived. The bridge at Folsom's Mills was built in 1782, and has been two or three times repaired, or substantially rebuilt. The raising of the water-level by the new dam necessitated the construction of a bridge of greater height and firmer build. There has been added, in later years, another bridge near where the old footway on the dam was. The railroad crosses the stream above these and again twice at the Lower Falls, or Laconia. The Weirs bridge was built in 1803, and has been twice rebuilt and raised higher, to allow passage to steamers under it, in the river channel. The channel was cut deeper some years ago, and recently the United States government has appropriated money for the improvement of the passage into and out of the lake.

The second bridge was built at Laconia, on Mill Street, and has twice been rebuilt. It is just below the dam, and indispensable, though its approach from Lake Street or the Gilford side was difficult. The third bridge there, on Church Street, was built about 1850, and was unfinished for some years. Meredith laid her road to the river centre and built the bridge to that point. Gilford endeavored to defeat the building of the road and bridge, and refused to proceed in its construction. But at length the project succeeded, and the street and bridge is now much used. The Messar bridge, at the upper point of the narrows, or at the foot of Little Bay, was also strenuously opposed, as likewise the filling above it, which was deemed impracticable at first, and stoutly opposed. The bridge in the lower part of the village is of recent construction, but was found a desideratum by reason of the expansion of the village in that direction and the increase of business in that part. The bridge leading to Governor's Island was built in 1820, and mainly by the owners of the island. Its support being expensive, they asked the town's support of it, and the town at length assumed it. It is about thirty rods from shore to shore. Two natural formations project on the opposite sides and make a natural fitness for the place of a bridge. It was built by sinking a structure of logs in square sections and filled with stone, the greatest depth being about twenty-five feet, and there is left an open pass-way, not in the deepest part of the channel, of some fifteen feet width, through which row-boats, if small, may pass. The filling of stone on each side of the bridge renders it enduring against the action of the waves.

The Industries of the Town.—The main pursuits of the inhabitants of Gilford have been agricultural; and yet various other pursuits have also been followed, and the mingled interests of these projects have held the attention of those who were ready for any under-

taking that evidently might be profitable or honorable to the projector.

While agriculture has been engaged in by most of the people, it has been conducted with varying wisdom, and been variously successful in different departments thereof, and in different times. The soil, varying much in its productive power, and its special adaptation to particular growths, is, on the whole, good and remunerative. There are sections in the highlands of the east part that are particularly adapted to grazing, and there wool-raising has been one principal object, and its ends attained without great difficulty. On the higher parts of the mountains the native grasses are unmixed with the baser or inferior grasses of the wet lowlands, and are more concentrated, nourishing and sweet-flavored. Hence, sheep seek these places, both for the coolness of the air or refreshing breezes and for the abundance and richness of the feed. There they fatten, and yield their fibre, which brings in a good income to the investor and cultivator. Formerly, each and every farmer had his limited stock of sheep; and it was thought to be an absolute necessity to the proper exercise of good husbandry to have a little store of wool for domestic manufacturing, and a little stock of mutton in a well-replenished larder. The surplus above home demand in these two items of flock-growth sought the market for revenue, or exchange for other necessaries, or, perchance, for the mere glory of laudable and successful production. In response to this usual, known and tempting venal store, the far-seeing wool-monger was sure to be on hand at the fit season, and with the proper ore in sack or wallet, intent on a commercial raid. There is one "lost art," or *lost sight*, in these days of steam and vapor: that is, the old-time drover, in his long blue frock,—a professional uniform, half-driving and half-walking, and riding anon; and collecting from farm-yard to farm-yard, till his bleating throng and lowing host fill the way, resembling a crusading army; and when the muster is complete, taking up the long, tedious pilgrimage, in one line of march, from the Aquaducton hill-sides and sheep-cots to the noisy sale-yards and slaughter-houses of that far-famed and bloody Brighton.

The meritorious generalship of such a campaign was for no ordinary man. The special commission for this royal order fell to the lot of such meat-men as Nathan, Jeremiah (called Jed.) and Asa Bachelder, Thomas Sewell, William Sargent, Nathan Bartlett and a few others, and in the later days, John O. Sanborn, Harrison Gilman, Joseph Sanborn, Jr., John Weeks, Carroll Follet, Ladd & Co. and a few others, who now are content to skirmish a little at short-range and on the offensive. While the old stock variety was generally raised, an improved variety of fine-wooled stock was kept in the mountain region by principally the Weeks Brothers & Sons. This merino wool was very superior for fine cloth-making, and brought a very high price in the market,—sometimes

as high as a dollar per pound, and nearly double that of the common-stock wool. But as the sheep were of a diminutive size bodily, each one yielded a less quantity both of fleece and meat, and they were less remunerative for the purposes of food or clothing; and so merino wool-culture declined.

In later years, still another species was generally kept, of greater size, and producing a staple of coarser and longer fibre. But the extent of sheep and wool-raising has grown less of late, by reason of lower prices of wool, though the less value in the fleece has been offset by higher prices for the lambs and the mutton.

In the line of stock-raising, the production of beef is and has been an important branch of business.

The ridges of land devoted to pasturage were well adapted to neat-cattle-feeding, and produced beef of an excellent quality, and gave abundant thrift to the stock so devoted. In the earlier years, in times of less demands for meats, with less population, and greater production of feeding, a large surplus of beef was sent to market by drift. Stock was kept less sumptuously at the barns, and in winter seasons, and almost universally, beef was grass-fed and young, and less expensively produced for the market.

The average farmer depended on his neat-stock sold for the greater amount of cash needed to meet obligations and procure other means of living. Nearly all the yearly increase of live-stock by generation was kept, and little slaughter of the young was tolerated. Veal was a rarity on the table of the farmer or the inn.

The dairy interests were important, and were mostly for distant markets. Cheese-making was as extensive as butter-making. The better farmer was accustomed to take his ox-load of butter and cheese in the fall season, and draw it to Portsmouth, and exchange them for West India goods,—that is, for sugar, salt, and perchance a cask of "the ardent," and fish. The lesser farmer had to obtain these through the medium of the common store, and make the home-made spruce beer and domestic cider answer for the more costly and stronger drinks of the gentlemen. In those days, at about every tenth house was the cider-mill; and hence, the demand for the cooper's service was immense. This craft, as far as the making, or rather, the repairing, of cider-casks was concerned, was carried on in a decidedly unique manner.

About the time of the apple-picking and cider-making, in November, a set of craftsmen took up the march, and went the rounds of the neighborhood, to renew the hoops on the casks needed, and merry indeed was the music of the cooper's whack, ringing over the hills. Cider was scarcely a commodity for market; either it was considered too sacred to be bartered, or it was not sufficient in quantity for more than the limit of home consumption. Improved fruit, or its culture, was quite largely undertaken

some years ago; and both new orchards were set from grafted nurseries, and old orchards were grafted. Very limited attempts were made to propagate or cultivate other fruits. The cherry, the plum and pear were considered as the luxury of the favored few. Sugar-making, from the maple, has been engaged in only to a small extent, and that in a diminishing proportion.

Poultry-raising has always been engaged in to a considerable extent, and in greater variety formerly. The vigil-keeping goose and the turkey have *had their day*, but are fast disappearing. The former is almost unknown, and the latter scarce. The hen is current, but egg-production was never extensive.

Other animals were sometimes kept, not entirely for profit, or for executing undertakings, but more particularly for convenience and fancy. The horse was thought to be as necessary to a complete furnishing of the barn-yard as the dog or cat was to the complete house. But yet some business was done in raising horses for the market or to sell. And now and then more than the one "domestic horse" graced the barn-yard of the more opulent; and, perchance, was spared to supply the needed horse-power in those days of stage-coaches, or even to supply and serve the desire and passion of the rich and those indulging in pride-show. An exception, perhaps, may be taken in pork-producing, for though the keeping of swine was for domestic ends, to furnish the home larder, yet many a dressed porker found its way to Portsmouth market, and later into other cities, whither trade was subsequently directed, and sent back in lieu of it the daintier luxuries of commerce or clean cash. In earlier times wheat-raising was quite extensive and fairly profitable. But from about 1830 this crop became oftentimes uncertain or a failure, by reason of the weevil-fly, whose ravages were great after the decrease of the native clover-growth, in which they had before that worked and spent their fury. Hence, gradually the wheat-culture declined, and the crop became insufficient to meet demands, and is now almost absolutely a thing of the past, and not likely to be revived. It was a rare thing in former times for a farmer to buy a barrel of flour. It was considered evidence of miserable husbandry, and a sure omen of ill success, or a failing fortune, or a precursor to a financial ruin. Likewise the corn crop was abundant and extensively put on the market. But very little of it was used for stock-feeding, either in their ordinary keeping or for their fattening. The surplus above home consumption and local supply of the domestic market was not inconsiderable. The oat crop and the potato crop were also in excess of home consumption, and became articles of merchandise in the market. The cultivation of flax was formerly extensive, and now is unknown. As a general rule, each farmer had his plot annually sown, and its yield carefully secured, properly treated or cured and well stored. And in due time it was manufactured,—the seed into

linseed oil, which was once successfully and extensively done at Meredith Bridge, and the fibre to the stage of the dressed hank, or thread, or the fabric. The diminutive linen foot-wheel, and the larger tow-wheel, also usable for wool-spinning, were the absolutely necessary and commendable articles of outfit to the then diligent housewife. The factory was not then on the water-courses, but the substitute was on all the hill-sides. Home-made fabrics of wool and flax, and to some extent of even cotton, were the almost universal supply for apparel and house-furnishing, and somewhat for the market. The blithe, sweet-singing maid of those days, standing at the helm of her new-improved,¹ Shaker-made patent spinning-wheel, was in her dignity, and when the accredited stent of four skeins daily of seven knots, each containing twenty double threads, on an honest reel, was got off, and in good season in the afternoon, she was in her felicity, having earned the title of "*clever girl*" or "*spinster*."

The diligence of all the members of the family made it no onerous service to provide adequate raiment and other textile furnishing for the household. The house was a busy place, and resonant with the hum of the spindle, the rattle of the whacking-loom and the hundred processes of domestic labor.

One industry in the agricultural department deserves mention, and that was the silk-culture. About 1840 the mulberry-tree was cultivated on the light soil in the Gunstock Valley above Gilford Village, having been planted and introduced by Mr. Benjamin Rowe. The silk-worm grub was obtained and fed by the mulberry leaf, and a successful product of the silk cocoons was realized. These were sold unreeled, and the manufacturing of the silk of commerce from these was done elsewhere. An enthusiasm in this new industry was for a time quite extensively shared by the people possessing light soils, which were pronounced to be especially adapted to the mulberry culture; but the enterprise, though not fruitless, was not extended, and for a want of interested, enterprising operators, the scheme was not long prosecuted, and the silk-producing interests ceased. A few remaining trees only indicate the former attempt. From the "light infantry" of domestic manufactory we proceed to notice some of the "heavy artillery" of man-operated machinery. And first of these is the saw-mill. Lumber-making has been practiced since the settlement of the town, but only at first to meet existing necessities in the first building of dwellings. In later years much lumber has been manufactured for the general market. The saw-mills at first were

¹ The improvement of the Shaker wheel consisted in the patent head (so called), which secured greater velocity to the revolving spindle, by means of some gearing between the band-wheel and spindle-block, and also by an apparatus for adjusting the tension of the larger and lesser wheel-bands. This invention saved many a weary whirl during a day's work, for which benign appliance there was often heard a "God bless the good Shaker!"

mainly for producing boards and plank. The first dwellings were covered with shingles and clapboards made by hand, being rived and shaved by the farmer in his leisure days. Afterwards sawn shingles were used, but were vastly inferior. The saw-mills of the town have been the following: Lamprey's, near Alton line, which was abandoned forty years ago. It was operated by a small and inadequate stream, and only survived to meet a local need at that time. Foster's mill was built after Lamprey's went to disuse, and was to supply its place in the interests and demands of that part of the town. It also was inappropriately located, and proved unsuccessful, and ran but a few years. A large tract of heavily-wooded land in that section of the town was subsequently cleared, and its timber was manufactured into lumber by steam-power, and the lumber marketed. Colby's mill, on the same stream, the Miles River, was built after the disuse of Foster's, but was more the successor of the Leavit mill, which had been twice built and carried away, the first being a grist-mill, and the second for sawing, and the third now in use, for both sawing lumber and also shingles, and lately for threshing, besides. On the same stream, below, was the ancient Brown & Leavit mill, for sawing, not now in operation.

One of the earliest mills for sawing lumber was that built on the Gunstock stream by Simcon Hoyt and Esquire Ebenezer Smith, in 1789. As this was erected at the waterfall included in one of the public shares or the ministerial lot, it was subject to some conditions and limitations, and the permission of the use of the waterfall and adjacent lands was granted to these two gentlemen in 1788, to extend fifteen years, and conceding the right to clear and occupy for their mill-yard two acres, and on both sides of the river. They are also bound not to unnecessarily cut timber on the adjacent lots and to remove the mill at the expiration of the lease, or to sell it to the town; and, meantime, to give free right to saw on the part of the people any material desired for a meeting-house in that part of the town. This mill was then the only one in that heavily-wooded section. It was the source of all the board and plank-stock of that part, and shared, with other parts, the general patronage of the whole region. There was not much sawing of timber, that being almost always hewn. The mill was not removed nor sold to the town; but the encroachments on the public lot being so frequent and easy, the whole lot was sold and the proceeds of the sale invested for the benefit of the ministry. The mill, with the lot, was bought by Bernard Morrill, and it has been owned and run by him and his son until the present time. The flowing of the meadows above the village, while owned by parties not operating the mill, was limited to the 20th of May yearly, when the mill must stop; but by a single ownership, both of the mill and meadow, the flowing, and, consequently, the business of the mill, was afterward unrestricted as to times and seasons.

This mill has been operated by employed men at most times and has not often been idle for want of work on hand when there was a water supply, and it has been the source of a good income to the owners and operators. It has been several times damaged by freshets and substantially rebuilt, and, in later time, has been furnished with circular instead of upright saws. The greater part of an immense forest of timber in the Gunstock Valley and western mountain slopes has been converted into lumber at this mill, and thence taken to market or used in building in this vicinity.

It has been an appreciated accommodation to the public and a source of revenue to the owners and the class of men to whom its business furnished employment, and who lived upon the results of their engagement in its operation.

About 1835 a movement was made to build a mill on the lower part of the stream, near the only remaining large tract of pine timber land. This was built by Joseph Potter on his land, and under the foremanship of Mr. Bachelder (called Boston John). Mr. Potter and son entered upon the business of the manufacturing of lumber, including shingles and clapboards and lath. The mill was operated many years, mainly by John M. Potter, and was afterwards sold to Hazen Copp, who built dwelling-houses near by, and is still operated by his son, Augustus Copp. Facilities for grinding corn were added recently, and it has cut the entire growth of heavy pine timber in its vicinity into marketable lumber. It was only after years of endeavor and repeated trials that the dam was made permanent and substantial.

The location of the mill was, at first, on no public road, and it necessitated the laying and maintaining of the Valley road past it, and from the Intervale to the Fulling-mill route or road, involving two bridges over the stream. Shingle-sawing was early added to wool-carding and fulling, at the Mingo Fulling-Mill, and is still carried on by Deacon Heman Hunter. The same business has been carried on there by the successive owners, Meshech Sanborn, Christopher Gilman, Benjamin Gilman and others.

There were two mills at the Weirs—one on either side of the river. The Prescott Mill there gave name to the place for a time, as it was currently denominated "Prescott's Mills" as well as Weirs. The head was so slight at this point that the power was small, notwithstanding the great volume of supply of water and its being constant; hence the privilege was considered as unimprovable and of little value, so that it naturally fell into disuse, and, later, the heightening of the dam at Lake village destroyed the privilege altogether, and so both mills ceased long ago.

The lumber manufacture was extensive at the falls at the foot of the bay. Here Abraham Folsom built in 1780, and the mill has been in nearly continuous operation for more than one hundred years. He also

built and operated a grist-mill, and another saw-mill was afterwards built on the east side of the river, then called, by way of distinction, the "Gilford side," and was called at a time Bachelder's Mill, and again Lyford's Mill, and by the name of other owners or operators. In it the experiment was made of running a gang of saws, without good success.

These mills have largely been supplied with a stock of logs from the lake and bay, by being rafted from places on the borders of the same. These mills could do business the year round; whereas the mills on the smaller and variable streams would be capable of operation only in the seasons of the year when the water supply was abundant. This, however, was not altogether unfavorable to the owners, who had other business to prosecute, and the demand for sawing was limited to seasons intervening between the pressing claims of agricultural interests. So great was the volume of lumber manufacturing at Lake village, and proportionally so in excess of all other pursuits and products, that the place became known best by the current designation of "Slab City," and bore that title for a long time. Well might it have been called Log Town, as the river approaches were crowded at nearly all seasons with rafts of logs, floated thither from the lake.

At the season of low-water there was not the desired height of head or quantity of flow into the wing-dams and upon the rival wheels there on the different sides of the river; hence a device was resorted to to effect this matter, viz.: the construction of a sort of submerged breakwater—a curb of plank-work filled with stone, to anchor or ballast it, extending far up the middle of the channel into the current places of the river,—which should divide the flow and direct it in due proportion into the respective mill-ponds, and not suffer it to flow in greater measure to either one side, as it was inclined to do by reason of any obstruction or change of channel.

Competing interests were the foundation of rivalries and jealousies and devices on the part of the actors in the Folsom and the Bachelder enterprises, which, however, gave life and thrift to the business undertakings.

The lumber-mill at the Lower Falls—Meredith Bridge—was subject to just the same local competition; yet it found rivals and antagonists both in the competition of the upper mills and also in the competition of other and diverse interests and enterprises near to it.

In 1780, Colonel Samuel Ladd built his mill as the successor of that of Stephen Gale, who, in the four or five previous years, had been endeavoring to use the water-power at that place and had built a mill on the Meredith side, and had lost his hold on the reservoir by the yielding of his dam-structure to the force of the stream. Fire and flood alike opposed Colonel Ladd's determination, and his works were

four times destroyed, but only to be rebuilt and enlarged by his indomitable will and equally-matched courage. He added compass to his undertakings and enjoyed a fair share of patronage in the lumber-making engagements of the time and place, and he even surpassed Folsom in the grinding and flouring patronage of the wide field. This saw-mill continued, till a comparatively recent date, to do its proper work. But it was unfortunately located in regard to its yard-room and its approaches, and hence went into disuse many years ago; and the sawing business at this place has been done since, first, by water-power, on the canal on Laconia side, by Cook & Co. at their sash and door manufactory, and still later, by the same company, by steam-power on the Gilford side, where no inconsiderable amount of lumber-making has been done.

Besides the above enumerated sawing establishments, the Collins mill has been in operation for some years, where the sawing of both lumber and shingle has been prosecuted; and the Whittier mill did gig-sawing and had small circular saws for the cutting-up business in carriage-making.

With these saws Gilford has not only met its own building demands, but has done no small amount of work in furnishing other parts with stock. Its great wooded area and stately forests made this department of industry to be both inevitable and successful, and also inspiring and inviting enterprise. These primitive growths have disappeared before the vigorous lumbermen and made useful under the severe attacking saws; but the broadaxeman's blade played no unimportant part in bringing this beauty and service out of the rough wilderness and unused bower.

A branch of industry akin to lumber-making was formerly prosecuted extensively, viz., stave-making and the associated cooperage. The oak growth of the mountain-sides furnished abundant and excellent materials for making casks of various sizes and uses. These staves were rived on the hill-sides and wrought in the many cooper-shops and transported to the markets far and near. Shooks, for casks of one hundred gallons capacity and upward, were extensively made and sent to the West Indies for the molasses manufacturers. Barrels for fish-packers, beef and pork-packers and for liquors were made and transported to Portsmouth. This work of manufacturing was done principally at the centre of the town, though to some extent in other parts. Jonas Sleeper, Joseph Sanborn, Henry Sleeper, George Wm. Weeks and others engaged extensively in this as a branch of trade and enterprise. Workmen were employed by them both for stave-riving and cask-making. The coopers in business were Nathan Hatch, Ebenezer S. Hunt, Joseph Sanborn & Sons, Samuel & Joshua Gilman, Moses Jewett, David Gould, Ezekiel & Nathan Collins, J. L. Davis, Simeon & Nathaniel Davis and many others. Indeed, the cooper-shop was a

common annex to the other buildings of many a place, and *Cooper* was not an unfrequent prefix to a surname, as, for example, Cooper-Gilman and Cooper-Jewett. The latter emigrated to Cape Cod, where the fish-barrel was in requisition.

The transportation of the manufactured casks was an undertaking of considerable magnitude. The huge load on the mammoth vehicle, drawn fifty miles in two days by stalwart ox-teams, was no trivial matter to carry out; and the sight of these huge moving piles was no tame affair to youthful curiosity and astonishment, as was also the music of the coopers' instruments, deftly handled, to their admiration of the artificers.

The mills for grinding have been erected and operated as follows: Folsom's mill, at the Lake village site. This was first and chiefly used for corn-grinding. In due time a rye crop was raised and was ground in the same set of stones, producing an unbolted meal. Finally, wheat was a product and required bolting, and hence a bolter was added, and it became a flouring-mill of general patronage.

Ladd's mill was successfully run, from 1780, in connection with the saw-mill, which was in the upper story of the building, and the grinding on the lower floor. This mill rivaled the Folsom mill, being more accessible by the main part of the population. There was some competition between the two as to the quantity and quality of flour made from a bushel of farmer's wheat; and so high did the enthusiasm of good millership run at times that it was declared of some that flour was produced and returned from their favorite mill exceeding the weight of the grist taken to the mill. But this must have been to special customers. Yet it must have effectually annulled the tradition that millers were not scrupulously exact in taking only lawful toll, or, at least, it should have proved that Gilford millers were exceptionally honest.

Ladd's mill was succeeded by one built by the factory company, and located farther down-stream and below the factory, or Ticking-Mill (so called). Its capacity was increased by adding two runs of stones and using two bolters. Many farmers used "fine Indian," or bolted corn-meal, as a substitute for wheat-flour, to make a superior bread.

Millers Bachelder and Dimond successively and successfully presided for a full term of service and years at the wheels of the Meredith Bridge Grinding and Flouring-Mill. The universal custom was for each farmer to carry frequent and small grists to the mill, and have them milled for a toll of one-sixteenth, or two quarts on a bushel. Ready-ground meal, or even flour, was at first rarely ever for sale or to be purchased. The toll-grain was on sale, but oftener transported than sold in the place and to residents. The balance of most crops was in favor of exportation or the market, and usually went to the cities, Portsmouth or Boston. In later years the great bulk of milling is that of the stock imported and on sale.

The mill at Gilford village, at the Hoyt's and Smith's privilege, was built not many years after the two other ones at the river. It accommodated the centre and eastern end, to some extent, the southern parts of the town. It did both grinding and bolting, and continued in use till about 1840, or till the building of the tannery at the same dam, and was repeatedly repaired. It is still standing, and has been owned some seventy years by the same parties and the same that owned the saw-mill, viz.: Esq. Bernard and General J. J. Morrill and son. The millers at this mill have been J. Pickering, S. Trefran, W. Meloon, William Knowles, Lowell Sanborn (Deacon Lowell, so called) and others temporarily. At this mill, and at others also, for a limited appointed time in the spring, the yearly stock of gypsum, or plaster of Paris, a cheap fertilizer, was ground, and other grinding was deferred for that period and afterwards resumed. Also, in the last of May usually, a day or two was appropriated to salt-grinding, for dairy uses, which-wonderfully accommodated farmers' wives and saved them innumerable poundings of the mortar and pestle, whose music, however, was the delightful *matinée* of hill and dale, announcing to many a hungry toiler the sure progress of kitchen-work, and, like gong or bell or trumpet, was the first prelude of an unannounced but ready breakfast.

The disuse of the mill at Morrill's left the field open for enterprise. Moreover, the Leavitt mill, on Miles River, had been carried away, and the eastern part of the town was left dependent on some other mill. It was opportune to build.

At this time Jonathan Whitcher built a mill on the Upper Gunstock for grinding and bolting, to which he added also a threshing-machine, a turning-lathe and other machinery for making wheels, carriages and furniture. This mill continued only a few years, and, after repeated damages to its long, weak and expensive dam, and to the mill itself, by freshet, by reason of a want of patronage and its unprofitableness, it ceased to be maintained and was consequently abandoned.

Jeremiah Hunt was in business at this mill for himself, in the wheel and furniture interests, and in company in other departments, and was miller at a time. Then the whole of grinding and flouring was centred at Lake village and Laconia, except a little corn-grinding at Copp's mill at a time later. With less cereal products produced, and more imported and used, this is an adaptation both wise and in the line of natural drift. Yet it involves more labor and furnishing, and makes the result less lucrative. The old-time going to mill, with grist on the shoulder or on horseback, has given place to more extended trips in vehicles, light and heavy. The preparation of the grain for the milling state has been variously done. At one time the flail and coursing breezes were all the mediation used. Then the mechanical fanning-mill was resorted to to conquer a calm. Then the

separating-mill, or thresher, was used and operated by horse-power and by water-power.

Two styles of the portable horse-power machines were invented and used. One was constructed with a sweep and gearing and rope-tension, operated by horses in draught. The other with a treadle incline and belting, and operated by horse-weight on the treadle. One of the former was owned and operated by a Mr. Bachelder, going from farm to farm. Samuel Blaisdell & Sons owned and operated one of the latter pattern; and still others were brought into parts from adjacent towns. But the inconvenience of so frequent relocation and transportation, and the entertainment of the workmen and horses, was such that the stationary mill, to be operated by water-power, promised better success and speedy introduction; and proved so. Hence, the almost simultaneous construction of two such mills about the year 1835 or 1840,—the first at the Whittier mill and the other at the carding, fulling and shingle-mill, owned by Christopher Gilman, then by Meshech Sanborn, Benjamin Gilman and Hermon Hunter. The same provision for the threshing season was made at the Collins mill and at Meredith Bridge and Lake village, and, later, at Colby's.

The first years these mills were in use the patronage was extensive. Farmers drew their two, five, or ten tons of grain from one to eight miles to have it threshed and returned, each one going at an appointed time. These mills have but little patronage now, and some of them have ceased to be used at all. So little grain is raised that it is not a great task to separate it by hand-flail, or not very unprofitable to feed the oat crop unthreshed. And rye is rarely threshed in this machine, because of the damage to the straw.

Mills for wool-carding and cloth-dressing, were put in, one at Laconia, operated by James Morrison and afterwards by John Buzzell, who, though they lived in Gilford, did their work on the Meredith side. This was discontinued some years ago, on the decline of home-made cloth and yarn, and to give place to their enterprise of cloth-making.

The carding was first done by machinery at the village on the Hoyt's and Smith's mill privilege. Subsequently a mill was built a mile below, at the junction of an eastern branch of the river, and machinery for fulling and dressing and pressing cloth was put in and operated by skilled workmen, and the carding machinery was transferred from Hoyt's mill to this. Fulled cloth for men's wear and the pressed cloth, a kind of flannel, for women's wear, was the general dependence. This mill and work was continued till the fashionableness of satinet came about, and then both the Buzzell's mill at Laconia and the private loom of the farmer's house produced that pattern of fabric. The warp (cotton) for the domestic article was made for many years by Mr. Parker and his children, at the end of the bridge opposite Ladd's grist-mill.

Stephen Chapman was a fuller at Gunstock Fulling-Mill, and others conducted the business for a term, and the business ceased nearly a half-century ago. Later the wool-carding ceased, and neither is now in use.

The Ticking Company was located on the Gilford side, at Meredith Bridge. It was very early in operation, making bed-ticking; while the brick mill made sheetings.

The Ticking, Company of which W. Melcher, Thomas Bobb, Mr. Green and three others were members, was a well-managed and successful firm.

It realized less changefulness than the other companies. Some changes occurred, however, in after-years, both in the *personnel* of the company and in its business. The new company built more extensively, and changed the machinery from cotton-working to that of wool-working, and from that of cloth-making to that of knitting-works, and are producing hosiery goods in all the mills belonging to the company. The daily products of these mills are immense, and go to commission agents in Boston, and thus are put upon the general trade, and are of a high standard.

The first cotton-mill at Lake village was one of the earliest built, and in near succession to the Avery mill at Meredith Bridge. Later the woolen mill (so called) was built, but not immediately put into operation or furnished with machinery. These were both built on the then Meredith side of the river. The change of the ownership of the property at this place was unfavorable to the development of the interests in manufactures here. The Pingree ownership and management promised better times, but soon left no better condition, and the Locks and Canal Company, while, by a higher dam, it created greater head, left the use of the motive power undeveloped, and rather restricted and retarded expansion at this place. In quite recent years a mill has been built and put into operation on the east side of the river, and is producing hosiery goods. Hosiery was also made at one time in the carding-mill at Gunstock Valley, by Augustus Copp and others; but it did not continue many years.

The foundry industry was early and latterly an important one. The smelting furnace was never completed. It was begun at Folsom's or Bachelder's Mills, and was designed on a grand scale. A huge conical chamber was half-built of stone, and remained in *statu quo*, unfinished, for a time, and was then finally removed.

Mismanagement and a fatal casualty at the mountain, the distance of transporting the ore and the expensiveness of getting it out, the cost of preparing and running the furnace, so as to compete with other iron-mining companies in the northern part of the State, together with the limitation of capital, proved too great obstacles to the success of the iron-mining project; and hence it was soon utterly abandoned.

But a blast furnace was put into operation for using pig in castings. This industry proved feasible, and, being well managed, was profitable. As the use of stoves came to be so extensive, their production was an important industry; also hardware, in the line of culinary utensils and farming implements, were in increasing demand.

The discontinuance, gradually, of the old wooden and iron-clad plow, and the introduction of the cast-iron one, made ready market for a great quantity of foundry products, and gave employment to a large number of moulders and foundry-workers and much capital. This industry, conducted chiefly by the Cole family, has been an extensive and leading one at Lake village, and a substantial benefit to both the village and the town in general. The trade in, as well as the production of, this class of merchandise has been mainly at Lake village and in the hands of these men. Hence the place was called, for a long period, the Furnace village.

The iron-work done in the repair shops of the railroad located here has also increased the business of casting and added much to the bulk of foundry production, and the shops have given employment to a large force of workmen and given impulse and growth to the place.

This village, in population and business, has increased rapidly of late years, and is now the rival of Laconia, and by water approaches is even better connected. These two largest centres of business and population were begun at nearly the same time, but the lower one had decidedly the advantage for many years, particularly in having the court, the academy, the greater trade, the greater extent of manufactures, better connections in the old modes of travel by the stage lines, the bank, the taverns, the law-offices, the resident physicians, the churches and the central position in relation to the other towns already then settled. All these things contributed much to the prosperity and importance of the Lower village, and were almost entirely wanting in the Upper village.

From the working of cast-iron to that of wrought-iron the transition is natural and easy. The initial department of this work was that of the common blacksmith. The places and parties of this industry have been alluded to in the notices of the *personnel* of the first settlers and need now no minute tracing. The services of the blacksmith were a primary necessity and demand, as not only for horse-shoeing and ox-shoeing and the ironing of vehicles and making of farming tools, but even the nails used by the carpenter were made of wrought-iron and produced at the common smith's forge in the early days of the settlement.

Some of the first artisans in this line were Antipas Gilman, in the south part of the town, and his two sons,—Winthrop and Josiah,—the latter of whom worked also afterwards at the village and subsequently became preacher to the Universalist Society there and

finally settled in Lynn, Mass., following his profession there; and Henry Wadleigh, in Chattleborough; and Samuel Blaisdell, at his place in the northwest part of the town; succeeded by some four of his sons, particularly Philip O., who worked at the same place; and John, who wrought at the village and elsewhere and finally on Gunstock Hill; and Daniel, at the Lake-side road (the Captain Locke place) and afterwards at the Plains, his present residence; also James Follett, on Gunstock Hill; and at the village also William and Ebenezer Stevens, successively; and Josiah Gilman, already mentioned; and William H. Wadleigh, who wrought in several shops and for many years; and in later times Charles Beede, Benjamin Dame, Gilman Leavitt, Dudley Leavitt, with Charles Beede, Jacob Blaisdell, Charles Swain, a Mr. Cross and others temporarily. There have been six shops at the village, and the work done there has been of considerable variety as well as magnitude. John Blaisdell made hoes and edge-tools. His shop stood near the present site of the church and town hall. Beede (alone and with D. Leavitt) made axes and pitchforks and chains, and he built, on the new road, the present Wadleigh shop. Gilman Leavitt and Wadleigh, and, to some extent, others, ironed wagons, carriages and sleighs, and were tire-setters, and all did shoeing.

Smith-work was done at Lake village by Rabie and Hiram Gilman, and later, for carriages, by Rublee, who puts up the wood-work also. The same business, on a large scale, was done at Meredith Bridge by Thomas Babb, on the Gilford side. The most of the smith-work there was done on the Meredith side by Daniel Tucker and others.

The machinist business was carried on in connection with the factory and afterwards in separate buildings. Badger Taylor and Alva Tucker were early workmen at this trade. Later, a large building has been devoted to the business, located on the site of the old Ladd's mill.

The tanning and shoe-making and peg-making industries have been important. The old-style tannery and the bark-mill was quite common in different parts of the town. Benjamin Weeks, Esq., built one in 1792, and he did some business in the line and in connection with his son Matthias. Jeremiah Thing, nearly as early, pursued the business on Liberty Hill. Captain James Follett and also Richard Martin had yards on Gunstock Hill. The latter was run by John L. Martin afterwards and bought by Joseph & S. S. Gilman. These all have ceased to be operated.

Bernard Morrill carried on an extensive business at the village, which was enlarged and continued by I. I. Morrill and by I. I. & J. D. Morrill and by I. I. Morrill and Samuel Wright. About forty years ago the old yard was abandoned and a new mill was built, with steam works and water-power, for grinding bark. This has been in operation till within a short time

for tanning, but the currying ceased some years ago. Another yard was many years in use at the village, run by Matthias Sewall and also Morrill Thing, but ceased to be used thirty years since. Matthias Sewall had a yard and business at the Plains before and after doing business at the village. James Crocket did a large tanning business at Meredith Bridge, near the Eager tavern and court-house. This was abandoned nearly fifty years ago. The main business in this line was done on the Meredith side by Worcester Boynton, on the site of the Buzzell mill and at Morrison's livery stable. A small amount of business was done in this line at other points in town.

The craft of the shoemaker was a special one from the first. William Clark was the itinerant shoemaker, going from house to house to do the yearly shoe and boot-making for the families in turn.

Joseph Potter, Sr., was a permanently-located shoemaker at his homestead.

Samuel Gilman (1st), a deformed or crippled man, practiced cobblery on Gunstock Hill. His son Jeremiah and grandson Daniel continued the business at the village (at B. Morrill's) and on Gunstock Hill, and the last-mentioned at three different locations in the village, and, finally, at the homestead, near the original place, on the hill. Paul Stevens pursued the trade first in the south part of the town and afterwards near the village. Israel Potter and, lately, his grandson, T. O. Potter, worked at the business at the old homestead and near by.

Leavit Sleeper very early was shoemaker at Gilford village. George W. Munsey early learned the business at Meredith Bridge, with one Muggert, and for many years pursued the business at the village. David Hale Munsey and Amos Prescott Munsey also carried on the business, in connection with George W., and the former also separately, and the work has not entirely ceased at the shop of David Hale Munsey. He has worked, or located his shop, at some four different points in the village. Thos. Perkins Ayer carried on the business at three different places in the village, and finally at the Plains. Daniel Gilman and T. P. Ayer worked also at harness-making. George Crosby, at Gunstock Hill, worked also at harness-making and shoemaking. Andrew Whittier pursued the trade in the east part of the village for many years; and Joseph Potter, son of Joseph Jr., was his apprentice. John Avery was apprentice of Daniel Gilman, and Jonathan Leavitt of Thos. P. Ayer. Warren Thompson worked at the business at the village, and at Laconia afterwards. Nathaniel Edwards and Jacob Clark were shoemakers at Meredith Bridge, and Daniel Dinsmore carried on the harness-making business, first on the Gilford side and afterwards on the Laconia side. Simon Rowe also for a time worked at the business at Gilford village, on sole-work. There has been no shoe manufactory on a large scale in Gilford, but the workmen at the business have been numerous. Some

of these have also been dealers in leather, especially George W. and D. H. Munsey, Thos. P. Ayer and Daniel Gilman. The sole-leather trade was considerable. In later years ready-made shoes, for sale in shoe-stores, supply the greater part of the demand, so that, with a greater population and larger volume of business in the shoe line, the custom-workers are less. It was the almost universal custom for each man to buy a stock of leather and have it made into shoes and boots for the family on measure. The first settlers rarely had boots, but used the shoe and buskin, and some thought it a sinful extravagance to wear boots, especially of calf-skin.

The manufacture of shoe-pegs was begun on the north side of the river, on the canal, by Mr. S. K. Baldwin, and was brought to a pause by the great fire, which, originating in the peg-factory, destroyed the greater part of the business section of the place. This industry was resumed on the Gilford side in the place of the grist-mill, at Ladd's mill. It was carried on for a term of years, turning out about fifty bushels of pegs daily, many of which were exported to Europe after supplying the home market. After the destruction of these works the enterprise was started anew, with increased capacity, in buildings erected a short distance up-stream, and operated by power at the dam, communicated by continued shafting. The drying process is attended by considerable danger of conflagration. The timber used, principally white-birch and white-maple, was at last brought by railroad from the upper part of the State and Vermont. The business was attended with success by Mr. Baldwin & Sons.

The manufacture of hats and caps was undertaken by different parties at sundry times and divers places. A hat manufactory was started very early at Avery's, and Mr. Hibbard, on the Oaks road, was a hatter, and J. G. Weeks, at the village, conducted the business. G. W. & John G. Weeks, at the village, made also a stock of caps, of cloth and partly of fur. The industry of millinery was very limited in the days of home-made apparel. Miss Nancy and Fanny Stevens conducted a limited business in that line at the village, and some volume of business of the same was done at Meredith Bridge and Lake village. Likewise, dress-making was but limitedly conducted as an industry of itself, the average woman considering herself a master of the art, if the construction of their apparel in the simple style of former days could be said to involve anything of artifice at all. Yet to the higher class there were some ministering adepts to meet the imagined exigency; and these were represented slightly among other craftsmen, and their services were generously rewarded.

The tailor and tailoress were much more in demand, though the major part of men's apparel was made up by the clever maid of the house, or her training and instructive mother and sister. The craft was, however, represented from the beginning.

The primitive tailor was also an itinerant, and, with bodkin and goose and press-board, migrated through the neighborhood to uniform the lad and sire; the "hailed of all men" was the tailor. A clever dame by the name of Hannah Parsons, from Gilmanton, used to make her yearly tour a-tailoring, to the infinite delight of the ragged urchin and tattered swain. Joseph Sanborn, Sr., was also of this craft, and lived near Meeting-House Hill. Misses Ann and Sarah Munsey carried on this business some years at Gilford village; and later, Simon Goss and one McFarland; and in the east part of the town Joseph Roberts practiced the vocation. Mrs. Bartlet, on the Plains, and Messrs. Bugbee and Odlin, at the Furnace village, conducted the business. At Meredith Bridge the main business was done at first on the Meredith side by Francis Russell, and afterwards by Charles Russell and others. In later times, Nathaniel Stevens carried on the business in different shops.

The artisans on wood-work have not been few in Gilford, nor inapt. Chief of these has been the carpenter, including ship carpenter and framer. The average settler was a clever worker on wood, and he consequently rudely constructed many things himself, as out-buildings and many things needed in husbandry, and left for the carpenter the more difficult mechanisms, or the superintendence of non-journeymen workers. In the class of skilled journeymen workers were the following,—viz.: The Sanborns (Lowell, Richard, Lowell, Jr., Richard, Jr., Osgood, Benjamin, Lowell (Deacon) so-called) and others. They all, or nearly all, were practicing farming, or some other collateral vocation also at intervals. Then the Blaisdells (Samuel, the framer, Eliphlet and Hugh) and others. Then Joseph Thing, Sr. and Jr.; also John and Abel and Abel, Jr., Hunt. The Hunts were finishers in panel-work, banisters and ornamentations. In later years there were David Watson, Gardner Cook, Thomas M. Smith, F. Follet, P. Lovit, Jeremiah Hunt, A. Woodward and many others. Jonathan Watson and Thomas Ayers were broad-axemen, and had worked at ship-carpentry. Samuel Leavit and a Mr. Bacheider were handy as millwrights. Thomas Plummer, Joshua Gilman, Enoch Osgood, Jonathan Whittier, Daniel Gove, Benjamin Rowe, Simeon Hoyt, Jr., John Abel, Jr., and Jeremiah Hunt and a few others were wheelwrights, as well as handy at carpentry.

Door, sash and blinds were formerly made by the common carpenter, but now at factories. The trade of carpentry has been an important one, as the work to be done has always been of considerable magnitude, the most of the buildings having been made of wood, and not a few of large dimensions and improved patterns.

Cabinet and furniture-making, as an industry, has been carried on at different places, as at Meredith Bridge by Ephraim Mallard, and on the Meredith side by the Somes Brothers; at Gilford village in the

Whittier mill, by Jeremiah Hunt; at Abel Hunt's by himself and son, and by a few others at other places.

Coffins and caskets were formerly made by common carpenters.

Artisans on stone work have been of some note and carried on a limited business, both here and in some other places. Esquire Benjamin Wadleigh and Prescott Goss are still in active life as stone-cutters. Formerly there was quite a general inclination on the part of the young men of this town to enter upon the stone-cutting business. John & Freeman S. Gilman were engaged in the business extensively here and especially in Massachusetts. John M. Rowe in Frankfort, Me., where he quarried for Boston market great quantities of building-stone. William Levi, Dudley and Benjamin Folsom were also engaged in the business, and Joseph, son of Joseph Potter, Jr. Simeon Hoyt, Jr., also pursued the building of stone-work, and various other parties engaged in the coarser grades of stone-work and building, as stone-masons. There were here only a few formations of stone which were good for quarrying. The mountain deposits were of coarse and not compact substance, and the boulder masses were not usually fissile; yet some good monumental works have been made of them.

Workers of marble have been Jno. Merrill and Merrill, Hull & Co. This establishment has been a successful one, and has been lately located on the Meredith side, at Laconia, and employs several workmen.

The ordinary work of brick-masons has been limited, as but few brick buildings have been built in town. William and Henry Plummer, and Paul and Smith Stevens and some others did the masonry of former years, and in later times the work is dependent on artisans in the craft from other places.

The industry of brick-making was prosecuted in town a few years, particularly by Benjamin Rowe, on the Pine Hill stream, and this yard supplied the domestic market. But the notable Del brick-yard, at the Weirs, on the Meredith side, was such in capacity, and by reason of the peculiar character of its clay, and in the quantity and quality of its products, that competition was impossible; hence, the few clay deposits in the town were not extensively used in brick-making.

The industry of pottery was carried on for many years, conducted by one Mr. Goodhue, at Gilford village. The clay was obtained from the Weirs, and was made into kiln-burnt brown earthen-ware. For milk-pans and crocks of various sizes and forms it was an excellent article, and was in general use till, in later years, the use of tin in the manufacture of wares for dairy uses, and stone for making jars and other vessels, superseded them, and caused this industry to be discontinued, and much to the satisfaction of the using public, as the earthenware was very fragile, as well as ponderous, and its glazing poisonous.

The manufacture of artificial limbs has been an industry pursued. The Palmer limb was invented at Meredith Bridge, and manufactured by him there (the iron-work by Charles Clement), at the corner of Main and Church Streets; but, subsequently, Woodman Jewett pursued the enterprise in Gifford, and then Samuel Jewett and others engaged in it, and finally the works were mostly removed to other places, as New York and Philadelphia.

Paper boxes have been manufactured by E. Beaman and another firm at Laconia. The demand for them has been great, and the industry employs many hands and considerable capital. The old-fashioned band-box, of a wooden veneer, has been superseded by the modern paste-board box of various forms and sizes, in which light manufactured goods are packed and sent to the market or the commission agent.

The trade of basket-making was pursued by Levi Lovit and Ichabod Buzzell at the east and west parts of the town respectively; also the sons of these, respectively, at the same places; and that of the former at Laconia in later years. Ezekiel Collins also pursued the business near Laconia, and Abel Hunt & Son at his place. These last also reseeded the ash chairs, and manufactured other articles. The industry of palm-leaf braiding was extensively pursued at one time. The work was done in the families, and conducted by the traders; those at Gifford village, Laconia and Lake village; particularly G. W. Weeks, Mesheek Sanborn, Horace Bugbee and a few others.

The enterprise and business of general trade has been important, and was early entered into, and is continued in increased amount and compass. Benjamin Weeks, Esq. began trade at his residence in the last century. His sons, Daniel and Elisha, were conducting the business there in the two first years of this century, the former succeeding the latter. The latter also did business later in Boston, which business was crippled in the time of the War of 1812, and he returned to Gifford and did more or less trading here in an informal way afterwards. His sons, John G. and George W., were long in trade at the village, and the latter, later, at Lake village. A store was stocked at Gunstock meeting-house by Stephen Pearly, of Meredith Bridge, and was run a few years by a clerk, and the same was closed and the building removed to the village. After this, Joseph Sanborn was in trade there for several years, and was succeeded by Jonas Sleeper, and he, in turn, by Benjamin Jewett, Jr., Esq. About this time Levi R. Weeks began trade there, but soon removed from town, as did also Elisha.

Charles Stark entered into trade at the Goodhue pottery, and in a few years was succeeded by Benjamin Weeks, Jr., and later by George W., and then by Weeks & Follet. These stores were well patronized and successfully conducted.

About the year 1840, the business being large, rivalry began, and a new firm was formed by Ben-

jamin Jewett, formerly in the business, and Albert Chase, who had been clerk at the Stark store and also at Jewett's, and Jeremiah Thing. The firm of Jewett, Chase & Thing continued but a few years, became embarrassed, and was dissolved. The firm of Weeks & Follet was afterwards dissolved, and G. W. & Benjamin F. Weeks went into trade in the Jewett, Chase & Thing store. Richard Glidden was afterwards associated with G. W., and B. F. went out of trade. In later years George W. went into trade with his sons at Lake village. Levi B. Thompson returned from Brunswick, Me., and set up trade in a new store, and George W. & John Munsey traded at the Jewett store, and afterwards in the Thompson store. Mesheek Sanborn, a long-term postmaster, traded in a third store, and was succeeded by John Sleeper. Trade began to decrease under the facilities of transit to Meredith bridge, after the building of the Gully road, and the three stores were succeeded by two, and at length by one, and, in reduced volume of business, Martin Eaton continued the business for awhile, and at present the Jones store supplies the demands.

At Lake village the store on the west side was the only store at first; afterwards, Cole's store at the furnace, and the Bugbee store, at the bridge, were added; afterwards, G. W. Weeks and various other dealers opened places of trade, and the business is now of large capacity, and holds an enlarged place in the supply of the outlying districts, and in the patronage on the part of those who more and more make their marketing here.

The bakery business has been carried on at Lake village by Charles Elkins. The trade at Meredith bridge in early years was predominantly given to the Meredith side, and to this day the bulk of trade is there.

The French store, however, has done a fair share of business since its opening, which was at an early date, and has not frequently changed ownership. Henry French conducted it for many years, and was principal member of later partnerships. Avery's store was the first opened, in 1790, at the end of the bridge. Various other business concerns were located in two small buildings on each side of the roadway, at the abutment of the bridge. The one on the up-river side of the roadway was built by L. B. Walker, Esq., and extended beyond the natural shore-line into the river, and its supposed obstruction to the water-flow created a sensation on the part of those interested in the water-power above, and demands were made for its withdrawal, on penalty of its being overturned into the river.

Richard Gove conducted, for nearly a half-century, the jewelry business in this and other buildings. The post-office, established in 1824, was once kept in the building on the down-river side of the way by Mr. A. C. Wright, who conducted the paper, the *Winnipisaukee Gazette*, and did business as shoe-dealer, and

afterwards in Lowell, Mass., whence he came, and whither he returned. The large block on the corner has been occupied by various parties for offices, residences and trading-places, and on its site, since its destruction, have been located various structures, among which is a market, a shoe-shop and drug-store. Swain's store has been recently added, and one opposite the hosiery was in occupancy by I. Tilton for some years.

Hotel-keeping, a branch of trade, has been of some importance and has been conducted by a few enterprising men as landlords.

The Lawrence tavern, on Gilford side, was rival of the Robinson's tavern, on the other side. It was kept by Ebenezer Lawrence, and afterwards by John Tilton, and then became the Willard Hotel, and was considered "beautiful for situation," and a favorite resort to the best class of the traveling public and for boarders. It was afterwards kept by Young, Morrison & Everet. The Eager tavern was nearer the courthouse, but "the court" usually made his abode at the Willard, and the litigant more generally at the Eager and Robinson's. The Eager has often changed landlords and name. It has been kept by Asa Eager, Frank Chapman, Charles Beede, Hiram Verrill, Mr. Tuck, A. Morrison, John Blaisdell and others, at different times, and known as the Belknap House and by other names, and been enlarged and rebuilt. The building of another house at Winnesquam, "The Bay View," and now still another, "Vue De L'Van," has been in response to summer travel and required boarding, which has greatly increased; and other houses for boarding, such as the Maplewood, etc., have been opened.

At Lake village, Sargent's tavern was opened some thirty years ago, and before that there was no public-house and not much travel to require one. The travel by stage was mainly through Meredith. As to travel, its mode, direction and extent, great changes have occurred. The stage-lines were from Conway and the upper parts of the State to Concord and Boston. Daily trips were made each way. One day took passengers from the upper towns to Concord, and the next day to Lowell and Boston. These stages were usually filled. Daniel Greene drove a mail line from Meredith Bridge, through Gilmanton, to Pittsfield, and a bi-weekly stage ran to Alton Bay. This last route underwent some alterations,—at one time passing through Gilford village, and, at another, *via* Intervale to Lake village, and was finally discontinued and a special route made to the village; and West Alton was connected with Alton Bay.

Robert Carr kept a semi-hotel, or entertained teamsters and travelers, as a halting-place between Emerson's, at West Alton, and Meredith Bridge. Captain James Follet furnished meals and entertained at town-meetings and on other public occasions at the Meeting-House Hill. These, with many other places recently, furnishing board in the summer sea-

son, constituted the hotel provisions in the town and vicinity.

About 1845 travel by rail began. The Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad was first opened to Meredith Bridge, and afterwards to Plymouth, and finally to Wells River.

The repair-shops were located at Lake village, and a wharf and landing at the Weirs.

Before this, in 1832, the first steamboat, the "Belknap," was built at Lake village, and got up into the lake by being buoyed up, to pass the shallows at the Weirs. She was a heavy, clumsy boat, and ran only a few years till she ran aground near Long Island, and was finally broken up and disposed of. Captain Winborn Sanborn was the commander of her, and he was, in after-years, also of the "Lady of the Lake." Since that time the "Lady of the Lake," the "White Mountain," the "Long Island," the "Winnepesaukee," the "Minneola," the "James Bell" and many other smaller steamers have been put upon routes on the lake, and communicate with the Weirs and Lake village. Much transportation has been made also by the horse-power toll-boats, and in gondolas (so-called popularly), and by rafts and smaller boats.

The corporations located in the town, or doing business therein, have been the Iron-Mining and Foundry Company, the Ticking-Mill Company, the steamboat companies, the Academy Corporation, the Horse Railroad Company (formed in 1883, and running street cars from Laconia and Lake village), the Savings-Bank, National Bank and some smaller concerns that do business on joint capital and have common interests.

In educational work and facilities, the town has a commendable record in the past, and standing at present.

When the town was incorporated there had been formed ten districts in which schools had been maintained, and the money raised that year for the support of these schools was four hundred and ninety-two dollars. These districts have since been increased till they numbered fourteen. The added districts were the Lake village (the village having grown up since that time), the Zebedee Morrill District, the Daniel Brown District and the Captain Marsten District. These schools were maintained by the school-money, divided according to the valuation of the district, as bounded. Hence, they varied in duration, and often were of short duration. Usually, a summer and a winter term was held, of eight or twelve weeks each. Select schools were occasionally held at Gilford village and at Lake village in more recent years, and, in 1829, an academy was established at Meredith Bridge, which was sustained some forty years, and then consolidated with the High School or graded schools of that village. This was a rival school of the Gilmanton Academy, which was established there in 1794.

The academy had not, alas! the prestige of that of

Gilmanton, a generous grant of land from the State and the appropriation of its school-lot from the town. But it had the moral support of the better class of the community, and a liberal patronage. It was well instructed and managed under Preceptor Joshua M. Pitman, from Meredith, and Dyer H. Sanborn, from Gilmanton, and John C. Clark, Mr. Emerson and others, whose preceptorships were the good fortune of the corporation and the praise of the patrons and students. There had been a short interim in the principalship when Benjamin Stanton, from Lebanon, Me., and a graduate of Bowdoin College, assumed the duties of principal, and Clara Stanton those of assistant and preceptress, which was in 1849, and continued till 1853.

The school was sustained a few years afterwards and was taught by several teachers, among whom were Woodbury L. Melcher, A.M., Mr. Richer, Professor Hammond, Professor Burleigh and, after consolidation, by J. G. Jewett and others, and was at length consolidated with the graded public schools, and its record becomes merged in that of the town schools. At different times select schools were held for a single term at Gilford village. Such were taught by Albert G. Weeks and Nathan Weeks, William H. Farrar, C. C. Watson, D. S. Frost, Dr. Dearborn and others. The old-time teachers were severe disciplinarians, and the scholars of that day stalwart and rude. The female teachers of the summer school were somewhat noted for their matronly kindness and care and advanced age. Two by the name of Mary Sanborn followed the vocation till in far advanced years.

Among the male teachers who exclusively taught the winter schools were William H. Farrar, Albert G. Weeks, Ira G. Folsom, Rev. Mr. Damon, Daniel K. Smith, Rev. D. C. Frost and others, who were men of ability and extended education, and some were collegians. Of another class, athletic and disciplinarians, were Jeremiah Thing, James Morrison, John Davis, J. J. Morrill, Daniel Eaton, George Hoyt, Samuel Evans, Jonathan Weeks, Harrison Bennet, William B. Weeks, Benjamin Sanborn, David Y. Smith, Aaron Blaisdell, Daniel Blaisdell, John M. Rowe, Nathan Weeks, William Morrill, Harrison Sanborn, Rufus Morrill, S. S. Ayer, William Hunt, George Sanders, George Sleeper, Nehemiah Sleeper, Simon Rowe, Shepherd Rowe, Rev. J. L. Sinclair, M. B. Smith and many others. Nehemiah Sleeper was school committee for the town at its commencement, and Esquire Benjamin Weeks was a leading man in educational interests even before the incorporation of the town. A few sons of Gilford have graduated at college,—William, son of Esquire Benjamin Weeks, Albert G. Weeks, Ira Folsom, J. P. Watson, Woodbury L. Melcher, C. C. Watson, John B. Morrill, A. J. Thompson, Jonas Sleeper, Daniel Dinsmore, Joseph B. Clark and a few others.

The town early contained circulating libraries, which did much for the instruction and general intel-

ligence of the community; these were well read, but have not been maintained. A public library is provided by Laconia for that part of Gilford now detached.

There have been two newspapers published in town,—one more recently at Lake village and one formerly at Meredith Bridge,—but papers published in Boston and New York have larger circulation.

The *Gazette (Winnipesaukee)*, at Meredith Bridge, was edited and published sometimes in Gilford and sometimes in Meredith, and under changed names. Among its editors and managers have been Charles Lane, J. C. Moulton, A. C. Wright, Mr. — Baldwin (of unhappy and premature death), and several others. Mr. Drake was some years foreman printer. The *Laconia Democrat* may be considered the successor of the *Gazette*, and has been well conducted, but belongs to Laconia properly. The *Lake Village Times* is under the management of the Hon. Mr. Haynes, member of Congress, and is a successful issue and patronized by readers of the town of the Republican party and sympathies. Gilford has not been distinguished for authors and authorship, unless we except the work done in the line of text-books by Dyer H. Sanborn, and the ordinary editorials in the regular issues of newspapers.

In professional ranks and services there have been adepts and honorable success. The medical practitioners have been many, and by no means in dishonor. They have been generally trustworthy and efficient, and, in some instances, distinguished. In the first years after the settlement of this part of the Gilmanton territory the demand for medical and surgical services was met by the abundant supply of doctors resident in Old Gilmanton. Many of them had a wide practice, even spanning Gilford, and extending across the lake into towns adjacent to the northern shore. Such men were Dr. William Smith, in 1768 and to 1830; Jonathan Hill, 1778 and onward into the present century; Obadiah Parish, 1790-94; Abraham Silver, 1790-1801; Simon Foster, 1793-1824; Daniel Jacobs, 1796-1815; Benjamin Kelley, 1801-39; Asa Crosby, 1816-32; Thomas H. Merrill, 1814-22; William Prescott, 1815-33; Dixie Crosby, 1824-38, and at Gilford, 1835-38; Otis French, 1828 and onward; Jacob Williams, 1816-28; Nathan C. Tebbetts, 1825 and onward; John C. Page, who practiced at Gilford village in 1826 and Gilmanton, 1832-36, and was afterward a minister; Nahum Wight, 1832 and onward many years; Joseph Gonld, 1820 and onward; Edward G. Morrill, 1834 and afterward; and some others for a short time.

Those who have located and practiced in this town, more exclusively, were Zadock Bowman, at Meredith Bridge, in early times; J. C. Prescott; Dixie Crosby, about 1835, and who became distinguished as surgeon and professor in Dartmouth Medical College; Josiah Crosby, succeeding Dixie; Andrew McFarland, 1838 and onward; J. L. Peasley, who soon retired

from practice; Dr. Garland, about 1845-60; Dr. Ayer, 1850 and onward; Dr. Francis Sleeper, native-born, and practicing till about 1860; Warren Sleeper and Warren Leach, homeopaths, or of the Botanic School; Dr. Knowles, a few years, about 1845; Dr. Prescott, succeeding Knowles; Dr. Wilson, about 1875, and again at present; Dr. Weeks, homeopathist; Dr. Foster, to the present time; Dr. B. Munsey, eclectic to the present time at Gilford village and also Laconia; Dr. Josiah Sawyer, at the village for many years prior to 1845; Dr. George W. Munsey, at the village for some forty years prior to 1856; Dr. Charles Tebbets, at the village and later at Laconia; Dr. Dearbon, at the village a short time; Dr. Devan, at the village and Lake village; Dr. Moore and Dr. Goss, homeopaths at Lake village; Dr. Frank Russell and Dr. I. S. French, native-born, and graduating as residents; Drs. Frank Stevens and Hosea Smith and others studied medicine with Drs. Garland and Ayer, and practiced elsewhere. There was also in early times a class who practiced limitedly without professional education, as Mrs. Samuel Blaisdell and Mrs. Frohock, and others; also, Nathaniel Davis, Sr., D. Y. Smith and I. S. Gilman, by patent preparation. Mrs. A. F. Wiley is sole representative of female practice, under a regular diploma, and after a full course of medical education. Her location was first at Gilford village, and afterwards at Laconia.

The spotted fever epidemic was in 1816, and Dr. Asa Crosby discovered an effectual remedy for it; other fevers, notably the typhoid, has been at times epidemic, but this array and force of medical ability has proved a defiance to their ravages, and protected life effectually.

A special instance of surgical operation was the case of Malachi Davis, who was opened and had gravel extracted, and lived many years afterwards. The surgery of Dr. Ayer was skillful, as was also that of the Crosbys.

The legal profession, though not represented by so numerous a host as was the medical, was nevertheless not without distinguished men. The shiretown of Strafford County, and later of Belknap, would naturally collect into its domain much legal talent and furnish much practice.

The first court-house and courts were at East Gilmanton, where there is now no village. In 1799 the courts began to be held at the Academy village, and the legal men were collected and resident there. Later still, the courts and court-house were located in what was thereafter Gilford. The several lawyers of Gilmanton and from other places came here to transact business in the court, and at length the legal talent was massed at this point. Timothy Call was here as early as, or before, 1801, and ten years later Lyman B. Walker, and Stephen C. Lyford in 1815, and Benjamin Boardman ten years later. Gilmanton was thirty-two years without a lawyer, when, in 1793, Stephen Moody, pioneer of the profession in this part

of the county, appeared in that capacity among the inhabitants of the Lower Parish. The more important matters in question had been managed by lawyers of Exeter and other places of older settlement, and Joseph Badger, as magistrate, with the justices in their official administration before him, disposed of the matters of minor moment. In the immediately subsequent years the law business of the early settlers of Gilford was done by the lawyers of Gilmanton proper, where there were practicing, besides Stephen Moody, John Ham, after 1801; Nathaniel Cogswell, after 1805; Benjamin Emerson, after 1822; Nathan Crosby, after 1824; James Bell, about 1825 (who afterwards pursued his profession in Gilford); George Minot, in 1831; Arthur Livermore, in 1833; Ira A. Eastman, in 1834; E. St. L. Livermore, in 1835; William Butterfield, in 1841; George G. Fogg, in 1844; and others later. The courts of Strafford County being held at two places, Dover and Gilford, the share of litigation in the county was less for the term sitting at Gilford than that for the term sitting at Dover; yet some very important cases were tried at Gilford, and "court time," especially "great day,"—i.e. the day for criminal cases, viz.: the first Thursday—was a season of great concourse and a gala-day for venders and jockeys and horse-racing, and all manner of excitement and excesses, personal and social. The effect of the time was both to partially clear and to replenish the docket, and both to empty and to fill the pockets, *as depended*.

Many lawyers of Dover and Portsmouth, of Exeter and Concord and other places, were accustomed to practice at the Strafford, (later, the Belknap) bar; and many a powerful plea and weighty charge and able opinion or decisive verdict was made and heard and given and rendered in the court-house at this place. The mighty men, Pearce and Hale, Atherton and Bellows, Butters and Bell, argued causes *musterly* here. Later and not much lesser advocates before this bar were Whipple and Stevens, Bibbard and Lovell, Hutchinson and Melcher, Vaughan and Clark (both Joseph B. and Samuel), Jewel and Jewett, and others who follow in the train of Walker and Boardman, and Lyford and Hazeltine.

The common justices of the town, who did much of the minor law business of the town, were headed by Esq. Benjamin Weeks, who, as mediator between man and man, heard and advised in those interminable questions of disputed rights of possession, arising from the imperfectly-defined boundaries of plants in the wilderness; as also in matters of dues, not considered consistent with ability or determination; and in matters of demeanor, private and public; and this, no narrow sphere for the good esquire.

Among those thus honorably constituted and acting were the following: Benjamin Jewett, Jr., Bernard Morrill, E. S. Hunt, Mesheck Sanborn, Josiah Sawyer and Daniel Weeks, for the centre of the town; Joseph P. Smith, Daniel Brown and Daniel

Eaton, for the east part of the town; John Evans, Samuel Leavitt, Ebenezer and John Smith, for the north; Charles Hibbard, Joseph Libbey, Aaron C. Blaisdell, G. Thing, George Saunders, Samuel G. Sanborn and Aaron Robinson, for the northwest; Benjamin Sanborn, Joseph Sleeper, Benjamin Cole, John Blaisdell, V. Barron, for the west part of the town; and Morrill Thing, J. James, Ephraim Mallard, Ebenezer Lawrence, Woodbury Melcher, and many others, in the south part of the town and Meredith Bridge.

The Probate Court was held at Gilford, and after the division of the county Warren Lovell was many years the judge and Esquire Vaughn the clerk. The successors will be learned from reference to another chapter, treating of the courts, the bench and the bar.

The Sheriffs of the county have been Asa Eager, — Philbrick, Bartlett Hill and others, as will also be seen from the section appropriated to the bench and the bar. The deputies have been these, some before promotion, and as not promoted, Dudley, Smith and others, as will also be seen from reference to the same article. There have been important causes tried at this bar of the Court of Common Pleas, — *e. g.*, the case of Hain *vs.* the town of Alton, to recover damages by reason of imperfect or obstructed highways; twice tried without agreement and verdict by the jury, and transferred. The cases of land-holders *vs.* the Locks and Canal Company, to recover damages for unnatural flowages. The company, by Hon. James Bell, Esq., their agent, assisted by Hon. Charles G. Atherton and others, defended themselves *vs.* many land-holders and mill-owners on the Winnesquam and other bays, who brought suits for damages to lands and mill privileges. The company lost their case, and appealed, and afterwards compromised. The company, to secure greater capacity of reservoir in the lake and bays, instituted a critical survey of the lake and its surroundings by a skilled civil engineer, Daniel K. Smith, assisted by others, and caused an accurate computation to be made of the whole basin's increase in capacity, by a definite increase of height by flowage (above the natural level); also the amount capable of being drawn by reducing the natural level to a definite extent. The result of the litigation in cases on the Winnesquam, and the unexpected amount of damages that would result from raising the surface of the lake, led to the decision to attempt only a slight increase of flowage, and an extra draught by means of a canal, cut in the bed of the river at Aquadocton, which decision was carried into effect, and whatever damages were occasioned, either by draught or flowage, were paid, by agreement with the parties sustaining them. The surveying of Smith & Crocker, of Laconia, was notable and of fine specimen. The desire of the company to add height to the dam at the foot of Winnesquam, and at Lake Village and Meredith

Bridge, and thereby to increase the reservoir capacity of the lakes and bays, was accomplished in a measure, but by purchase, and not by court decisions.

The litigation of citizens with one another, or the town with individuals, or either with corporations, has not been to a great extent, and the courts have been generally good arbiters of justice. Pauper cases and disputed possession, and building of roads and bridges, have constituted the greater part of legal actions and contentions. Cases of prosecutions for liquor-selling without license were at one time quite numerous. Criminal cases have been few, and the courts and the legal profession, in such cases, have honorably dealt with the arraigned, according to the law and the testimony.

The Ecclesiastical History of Gilford is of importance and interesting. It will embrace the relation and development of several denominations; the annals of the several particular churches organized in the town; and the biographical sketches of the ministers raised up and laboring here, with notices of the leading men in these churches and of special issues taken and decided. The aims and the provisions of the proprietors of Gilmanton and, more primarily, of the colonial authorities, were religious rather than ecclesiastical. They did not foresee or anticipate a heterogeneous moral community, and yet the primal stock and idea was narrow and exclusive, and, to their surprise, was found to be thus developing itself. Their religious sentiments manifested a dogmatic nature and tendency. At the first a man was placed in service by comparatively disinterested authorities, the district proprietors, who labored more for the *moral* improvement of the people than for the special ecclesiastical outlook, or even the spiritual culture.

He, the Rev. William Parsons, was a man of moral rectitude and devotion, and of great catholicity of sentiment and fellowship. He was sent by the proprietors to fulfill their stipulated engagement as a religious instructor for the first ten years of the settlement. This he fulfilled with punctilious exactness and faithfulness. But the germs of two faiths and typical life were in this nascent body politic; and when the throes were past it was found that twins were brought forth, and they, like the typical pair, had been taking each other by the heel in ante-natal strife.

The people, when they came to exercise their choice in regard to a settled minister, found a portion of them united on Rev. Isaac Smith. Without disrespect or averting any regard for Mr. Parsons, who was then nearly sixty years of age and in many ways still useful, the people attempted to provide for the future spiritual guide to the rapidly-expanding settlement. In 1773, when this point in religious affairs had been reached, the thoughts of many prospectors had been directed to the outlook of the place at the terminus of the Province road, which had now

been built three years, and the inevitable enlargement in that quarter expected was taken into account when they were devising ways and means for having a settled ministry. Yet, evidently, some foresaw two parishes in their laying out and defining the First Parish, but doubtless did not forecast two faiths. In deciding the question of the location of the first church, as well as in the selection of the minister, there was developed a decided opposition; and this opposition was found to be not altogether as to the question of convenience and accommodation, but involved matters of belief and special interest. Hence, in 1774, about the time Stephen Gale was locating and building his mills at Meredith Bridge, the people were building their churches in the Lower Parish. The Baptist element proved to be strong and persistent. They felt able to rival the Congregationalists, and succeeded in raising their church building the same day that the other party did theirs. Their church was existing, as the first in the State, on November 16, 1773. The Congregationalists' interests and affairs were managed townwise. Hence, no action churchwise antedates the Baptist records. Mr. Smith preached preliminary to a stated engagement in the fall of 1773 and regularly after May 18, 1774, and was inducted into the pastorate November 30th of the same year, at which date the history of the church, as an organization, may be considered to begin, prior doings being not organic action.

The Baptist Church, though already organized, with moderator, clerk and deacon, was without a regular minister installed. Ministers of that order from other places supplied them occasionally and administered baptism. Deacon Thomas Edgerly and Samuel Weeks, as clerk, officiated in public service in the interval and a few years later, in 1777, Samuel Weeks and Edward Locke were licensed to preach in the church, and go forth on all the field as preachers of the gospel and hold meetings anywhere. These going forth accordingly, and Mr. Smith as well, visited places beyond the First Parish lines, in what was beginning to be called the Upper Parish, including what was afterwards called the Gunstock Parish, and also what was in later years denominated the Upper Parish of Gilmanton, the former being now Gilford and the latter Belmont. The sowing of this seed of dissent and independency yielded its first harvest in 1779 and 1780, when it was seen to be a game at which more than one could play. Edward Locke, the licensed preacher, had become tinctured with Arminian sentiments, and dissented from the articles of faith adopted by that church three years previous. Samuel Weeks was then ordained, but soon took the same course and left the church and town, leaving thus the church unsupplied.

Four years later Dudley Young was appointed to officiate in public services; and soon after this Elder Powers was called, who was constituted pastor of the church by ordination and installation, which took

place on the 14th of June, 1776. The town took action, in which the words "Upper Parish" are used, as early as 1777. In 1780 the two ministerial lots were designated as No. 13 in the seventh range and No. 10 in the thirteenth range. These were situated outside of the First Parish, the latter in Gunstock Parish, and which was afterwards known as the ministerial lot appropriated to the benefit of that parish in particular; and the former in the Tioga Parish, or Upper Parish, Gilmanton, and hence, presumably, designated for the special benefit of that parish. Thus there was at this early date a recognition of the prospect of three parishes. There were issues made on the taxation of all citizens to support the Congregational, or the town's, meeting-house service, and the decision was that they should be exempt who should file a certificate from the wardens of the Baptist Church that they had paid to the support of preaching at their church. But in regard to the inhabitants of the Upper Parish, it was voted by the town in 1787, that they be taxed to either the Congregational or the Baptist support, and that the money so levied be appropriated to supply preaching in that part of the town, and given to the two regular ministers, Powers and Smith, who should render service there, each according to the amount so raised and designated. The place of holding their services was left to the judgment and choice of the adherents, or their preachers, respectively, as there were no churches yet built in the Upper Parish, or parishes more properly. The same action was taken in 1788 also, and thus it appears that Mr. Smith and Mr. Powers were the first authorized preachers in this part of the town, or in Gilford. The people now began to provide for the building of another church to accommodate that part of the town. The same rivalry and contention on the question of location, or of division, took place here as had been encountered in the Lower Parish, and the result was the same, viz.: two houses built the same year, 1792. One was located on the Province road, two or three miles south of Meredith Bridge, and the other on Gunstock Hill, now in Gilford; and these were some four or five miles apart. These became centres of two distinct parishes, Gunstock and Upper Gilmanton. The Congregationalist interests more largely centred in this lower, or now middle house, and the Baptist influence predominated in the upper, or Gunstock house, and in that vicinity; though that house, being built by the people in common participation, was open to each society, or to preachers of any denomination who might be invited by any considerable party of citizens, and to these each for a time in proportion to the number of citizens inclining and allying themselves to each such order or preacher.

In 1792, before the completion of these houses, the town voted to tax the Congregationalist Society in the Upper Parish the same as in the Lower Parish, and that the society (implying that one had been already

formed) in the Upper Parish may lay out their money as they see fit. In 1794, after the houses were built, the town granted leave to Mr. Smith to preach in the Upper Parish, if an agreement could be made between him and the people there. They evidently were supporting a separate interest, and yet not united nor strong enough to support entirely a separate minister, and much less one for each of the two or more parties. It is understood that Mr. Smith's preaching in the Upper Parish was mainly at the Province road house, and that on that service the Congregationalists resident in the Gunstock region generally attended.

The Baptists, who had established themselves in Meredith in 1782, controlled affairs largely in the north part of the town, and had the principal occupancy of the Gunstock meeting-house for several years. The defection of Weeks and Locke had checked their fervor, and put the Baptist cause into a serious disadvantage. Nor were they alone in the departure. John Shepard, Esq., afterward most popular and prominent in public civil affairs, who had been a member of that church almost from its beginning, was in sympathy with Locke and in connection with him, and Elder Tozer Lord, of Barrington, laid the foundation of an extensive and organized secession from the Baptist order and denomination, and the founding of the order of Free-Will Baptists, which was an anti-Calvinistic movement and successful in many parts. He professed afterwards to have received these views by a special Divine unfolding or revelation before they were known to Locke and Lord, and that he communicated the same to them, and with them founded the order.

These three men, voluntarily shutting themselves up in the untenanted house of Esquire Piper, on Clough's Hill, over the Gilmanton border, in Loudon, fasted and prayed for a week, as they said, and then wrote out their articles of faith, mutually ordained themselves, Locke and Lord as preaching elders and Shepard as ruling elder, and went forth as a new church. The genius of the new order was zealous propagandism, and the immediate action was to go, the 1st of April, 1780, to New Durham, and ordain one Benjamin Randall, who became the apostle and reputed originator of the new faith. This doctrinal faith thenceforward was advocated in various places; and when the Baptists sought a man to occupy the Gunstock field, and had united on Richard Martin, of Lee, who had been ordained in 1795 and came to labor here the following year, they found that he held like views.

The project to form a Second Baptist Church at the Gunstock meeting-house, by a council called October 12, 1797, was therefore abandoned, and the next year a Free-Will Baptist Church was organized there, and Richard Martin became its pastor and continued such a little more than a quarter of a century, and until his death, by apoplexy, October 17, 1824.

The Baptist cause was thus checked, or super-

seded, and but little effort was made to sustain meetings regularly in Gunstock Parish until 1811. At this time the Second Baptist Church was formed by a territorial division of the First Church, and Elder Uriah Morrison was placed in care of it, and it was convened part of the time at the church and the greatest part of the time at other places, till 1817, when Mr. Morrison died. He was succeeded by Elder Strong, who preached at the school-house and at various other places.

Soon after this the Baptists built a house of worship at Lake village and concentrated their interests and held their meetings there. A large and flourishing church has been gathered there under the labors of Elders A. M. Swain, L. Chase, H. D. Hodge, Mr. Huntley, J. M. Coburn, A. Brown, W. A. Horn, King Solomon Hall (who has been twice in the pastorate and once State commissioner of education) and several others, as J. B. Damon, J. M. Chick and A. R. Wilson. Kelley Rowe improved his gift as lay preacher with this church and elsewhere. Deacon Eliphlet Blaisdell has been a life-long, active and devoted member.

The church building has been rebuilt and enlarged and rededicated in 1871, and is an elegant and spacious edifice.

For a few years after the death of Richard Martin his church continued to occupy the Gunstock meeting-house the major part of the time and was ministered to by various ministers from abroad, one of whom was John Rollins. The other denominations claimed its use their share of the time, and there was no little contention for its occupancy and complaint for too frequent occupancy by others. The Baptists, too, complained of exclusion. The Universalists demanded it a part of the time; William Blaisdell occupied it part of the time in the interest of the Christians, or Christian Baptists, whose tenets and faith he indorsed and advocated at that time. The Congregationalists claimed its use a fourth part of the time. Under the force of these existing circumstances and conditions, and these discordant and jealous sentiments, the several parties successively relinquished their claims, and, for peace and prosperity's sake, located themselves in different quarters; and so the old church was abandoned. And for several years it served only for a place to hold the town-meetings, till the building of the new town hall, about 1840.

It was finally sold to Captain Benjamin Weeks and others, and taken down. It was a stately edifice, two stories in height, steepleless, with two porches for entries to the end-doors and for stairways to the galleries; a broad door in front, leading to the broad aisle; galleries on three sides, the east, west and south; a sounding-board suspended over the high and narrow pulpit, and the singers' seats opposite, in the left; square (and a few oblong) pews, above and below, built in panel-work, with rail and banisters; and

double rows of small and thickly-set windows, thus making a grand appearance, and commanding admiration in the beholder, and wonder and pride to the townsman. Its timbers were massive and frame strong, and should have endured ages, and yet it stood scarcely fifty years. It sat on the very summit of a hill, about six hundred feet above the lake-level, and commanding one of the finest prospects and scenery of New England, and itself a conspicuous landmark and object of veneration and beauty in all this region; but its glory was despoiled by discord and strife, alienation and division; its beauty had departed. Soon after the close of Elder Martin's pastorate, or bishopric (for he was not confined to labor in this church, but superintended, or oversaw, churches or enterprises in Gilmanton Upper and Lower Parishes, and Sanbornton and elsewhere), the church was reconstructed, and they built a house at the village. This had a large congregation in attendance, coming from all parts of the town. The church has been ministered to by Elders John L. Sinclair, Abel Glidden, John D. Knowles, John Knowles, Elbridge Knowles, John Pinkham, Ezekiel True, Maxy Burlingame, D. C. Frost, Seth Perkins, G. Sanborn, G. A. Park, I. C. Kimball, J. W. Rich, F. E. Wiley, Mr. Emery, Mr. Hyatt and some others. It was reorganized about 1855.

The Second Free-Will Baptist Church was organized November 6, 1816, in the southern part of the town and northern part of Gilmanton. It was not to be considered as distinctively a church of the Upper Parish of Gilmanton, though it used the Province road meeting-house most of the time. The church at Fellows' Mills, under Peter Clark, was the regular church of this order in Upper Gilmanton, and this church, whose members mostly lived in Gilford, was considered, as appropriately classed, a church of Gilford, and it was under the care of Elder John Knowles, Sr., while sometimes supplied and superintended by Elder Martin. It had about fifty members, and continued till the death of Elder Knowles, in 1837. After that time the major part of the members joined the First Church, at Gilford village, and a new church was organized at the Province road house, and became distinctively a church of Upper Gilmanton, and is not, in a proper sense, the successor of the Second Church, though some of its members are residents of Gilford, and a large part of the Second Church was incorporated into it. Elbridge Knowles, son of John, Sr., was its pastor, and it has had a continued line of succession since then.

A Third Free-Will Baptist Church was gathered at Lake village in 1838. Meetings were at first held some four years, in a room in the upper story of the woolen-mill, by I. L. Sinclair and others. Subsequently a chapel was built on the main street, north of the Baptist Church, in 1842, and Elder Waldron (T. N. H.), Nahum Brooks, John Pettingale, William Johnson and Uriah Chase supplied the congregation.

At length a commodious house was built on the Commons Hill, in 1852, and has been occupied since. J. L. Sinclair and Elders H. S. Kimbal, Smith Fairfield, Kinsman R. Davis, Ezekiel True, I. N. Knowles, S. D. Church, Hosea Quimby, C. B. Peckham and others have supplied it; also, M. C. Henderson, I. W. Scribner, C. E. Cate, E. W. Ricker, E. W. Porter and a few others more temporarily.

A Fourth Free-Will Baptist Church was gathered at Meredith Bridge, which worshiped awhile in the court-house, and afterwards built a commodious house, which has been rebuilt, then burnt and rebuilt again. The church has prospered, and the congregation has been one of the largest of the place. It has had for its supply Revs. Nahum Brooks, I. D. Stewart, Ebenezer Fisk, A. D. Smith, Elders F. Lyford, F. Locke, Lewis Malvern, Granville Waterman, F. George and others. Its sanctuary is elegant and spacious.

The Universalists built a church at Gilford village at the time of abandoning the old Gunstock house, and held services in it a few years, with intervals of discontinuance. Josiah Gilman and Robert Bartlett supplied the society some years, and lived on Liberty Hill, the latter on the Osgood estate and the former at his father's, Antipas Gilman, and, later, at the village. William Blaisdell preached for the Christians. Other preachers occupied the pulpit at times, and, in later years, the Second Methodist Church have used the building and held service regularly.

The Universalist society that was gathered at Meredith Bridge built a house and held services there many years, but subsequently sold the house to the Methodist society, who now occupy it. The Universalist society was supplied by Elders Atchinson, Prince and others. The society was not large, but was prosperous for a number of years, and then was given up, and has now no open existence.

The people of Unitarian sentiments, not being numerous and wealthy enough to maintain a separate church and services, and being well pleased with the Rev. Dr. Young and his preaching, united in the congregation worshiping in the North Church, and only in later years have had a church and supply. Their church was located on the Laconia side, but some of the principal adherents lived in Gilford.

The Congregationalists, who at first held services in the Gunstock and Province road meeting-houses, having but limited privileges in those houses, by reason of the claimed rights of other sects, began to centre their interests at Meredith Bridge, and built a church in the south part of the village, which was about midway between the Gunstock and Province road meeting-houses. Here a church was organized in 1824, the year in which Elder Martin died, and the current began to run in favor of relinquishing claims to, and occupancy of, the old church. They enjoyed the services of Mr. Jotham Sewell Norwood for five years, and in 1832 settled Rev. J. K. Young.

Soon after the beginning of his pastorate the church, together with the dwelling-house of Esquire L. B. Walker, was burnt. It stood south of the Lawrence tavern (since the Tilton and the Willard). The society decided to rebuild on the Meredith side, and thenceforward the church is no longer called a church of Gilford, though a large part of its communicants and attendants have belonged to this town; and they are the only representatives of the orthodox faith in the town, and are citizens of good standing and of financial ability. Some of that religious belief mingled in the Free-Will Baptist congregations at Gilford village and Lake village, as a matter of convenience, there being no Congregational Church near in either direction. This church has had prosperity, and enjoyed distinction among other churches, under the long pastorate and able services of Dr. Young and his successors, the Revs. Stone, Bacon, Fullerton and Thurston; and it supplies an important place in the religious interests and moral power of Gilford society.

The two Methodist Churches, already alluded to, one located at Gilford village, and the other at Laconia village, are of recent origin, and yet hold some prominence in the religious elements and forces of society. They are neither of them strong, but jealous of their interests and zealous in their work. Their growth has not been rapid, nor yet quite limited. The succession of appointments, by Conference, has been, to the Gilford Church,—Rev. A. R. Lunt, — Knott, James Morrison, — Hardy, — Berry and — Tisdale; and in the Laconia Church, the appointments have been well-chosen and good.

The Catholic portion of the community have had church privileges at Laconia, where a church was built about 1850. It was afterwards burned by lightning, and rebuilt. It is a large and well-built edifice, and has a numerous constituency and attendants from both Gilford and Laconia.

The Adventists have had a chapel at Lake village, and for several years maintained regular services there. Likewise, the same people held services at Governor's Island, or vicinity. Nathaniel Davis preached that doctrine, and arranged for its proclamation by Miller himself and other leading advocates, at the island and vicinity, in camp-meetings and other assemblies. The faith was held by many in the east part of the town, and preached by Stephen Mooney, Abel Glidden (2d) and others. Their chapel is in Alton. Rev. J. Knowles, Jr., also embraced and advocated the doctrine.

Nathaniel Davis, in earlier times, embraced and propagated a peculiar faith of one Osgood, who rejected and discountenanced all forms of church government, or covenant, and holding a free religion.

There have been a few inhabitants holding the tenets of the Friends, Elder Robert Carr being perhaps the best known among them. There was no regular meeting of their adherents maintained in

town, and the nearest Quaker meeting-houses were that near Gilmanton Academy and that near Wolfborough Bridge. These were not so distant as to be inaccessible at the times of their Yearly and Quarterly meetings. Their numbers have decreased and their Meetings are not regularly held at Gilmanton.

A few from Gilford have adopted the Shaker faith and joined the Canterbury Family, or colony of them, particularly a Knowles family, in the south part of the town, and related to the family of Elder John Knowles. The community at Canterbury was in good favor in these parts prior to the years 1840 or 1845, and were adjudged to be sincere and upright, honorably industrious and enviably ingenious, prosperous and pure. Attendance on their public Sabbath service, for recreation and curiosity, was one while quite common by young people of this and other towns. Their public services were discontinued and the attendance ceased.

To complete the list of special religionists, which, as will be seen by a careful observer, has already reached no inconsiderable breadth, there must be added the Deist and Atheist, which were not unrepresented among our sober and thoughtful population. Dr. Josiah Sawyer secured, from some source, ordination for the propagation of sentiments which he professed to hold, and which he represented and endeavored to inculcate or proclaim. These seemed to be deistical or, later, atheistical, seemingly included a certain type of annihilationism, or, at least, the non-immortality, and perhaps, more correctly, the non-existence of the soul and a future state. He was not without some following, and that on the part of persons in good intellectual and social standing, who, when elected to positions of public trust and responsibility, and consequently were required to take oath, declined to do so in the usual form on grounds of disbelief in either the Divine interposition or of the actual Divine existence.

These remarks perhaps sufficiently cover the various phases of religious life and sentiment, unless we include witchcraft and necromancy. It was once widely believed that a Mrs. Rogers and a Mrs. Clark were representatives of the world of mystery, or witchdom. Jugglery, not of the modern spiritualistic type, was indeed exercised by some, though not claiming for it any religious nature or relation. Many marvelous facts and peculiar features of ecclesiastical history might be added, which have diversified the fields of church as well as state, without exhausting the reservoirs of memory or the store-house of the common annals and tradition, but these may suffice. A word, however, may be due in regard to Sabbath-schools. In the time of Mr. Nathaniel Goodhue's residence a school was opened at the Mill-House and then at the Potter's shop about the year 1820. The Baptists, and notably Miss Sally Sleeper, afterward missionary to Siam, were enthusiastic in the new type of Christian work. During the following half-cen-



Benj James Cole

tury this means of religious instruction and moral culture has been made a prominent feature of church labor in all of the evangelical churches of the town.

Military History.—The matter and the facts embraced in the military history of the town are worthy of mention, and no less important and interesting than those of other departments. The Revolutionary War began, but was not ended, before there were any settlers occupying seats on the soil of the present town of Gilford, and hence we may not expect to find men from this place in the Revolutionary army. Yet there were men there who afterwards were some of our own citizens, as, for example, Thomas Frohock, one of the men in the battle of Bunker Hill (one of the three-months' men, serving from April 23d to August 1, 1775). He knew no fatigue, and would accept no relief while the redoubt on Breed's Hill was being constructed in the night of preparation before that eventful day, June 17, 1775. He was one of one hundred and fifty-one men in Gilmanton between the ages of sixteen and fifty, according to the military census taken in that year, twelve of whom went to the front at the first call of the American cause. He also re-enlisted in 1776 and served three months and eight days under Washington at New York, and was one of the thirty-six men enlisted in that year; and the family name was originally Sparhawk, or Sparrow-Hawk, but to escape British apprehension and execution for deserting the British cause before this, he changed name Frohock was taken and has been ever since retained. Before the close of the war Gilmanton had furnished one hundred and twenty-five enlisted men, among whom are other names of Gilford inhabitants, as Major Jabez James, John Cotton, Benjamin Libbie, Lieutenant Samuel Ladd, David Clough, Abel Hunt, Enoch Hunt, Mr. Page, Ichabod Buzzell, Jacob Jewett, Jeremiah Bartlett and others. A part of the militia was called into service in 1781 and ten men went. The afterwards-organized militia called for two companies of infantry from Gilford proper; also a rifle company and light infantry company and some artillerymen and cavalrymen.

As the territory was first settled in the time of the Revolutionary War, so it was set off and incorporated into a township in the time of the War of 1812. Born and reborn amid the throes of civil strife, she would be expected to inherit a somewhat belligerent nature and develop into a championship. Into this war she, as the youngest municipality, sent her honorable quota. Nor were her sons wanting in courage when the conflict grew severe. There were three drafts made for the army and many watchers went to the Canada line to stand as sentinels and watchers on our borders. The men were Joseph York, Stephen Langley (who had settled near the Benjamin Libbey place, by Long Bay), Frank Bowman, who lived near the Weirs and who died in the army. He was an Indian doctor and said to be a Prussian. He was one while located at

the Stone-Dam Island, then previously at or near the Weirs; Daniel Foster, Joseph Libbey going to the line; Ira Seabury to go to Portsmouth; and from Captain Bradford's company,—Lieutenant Henry Mallard, who was a carpenter; and Mark Chase, who went as a substitute. Captain Mason led his company to the line. Lieutenant Samuel Leavitt was officer in Mason's company. The men of 1812 were mainly sent to Portsmouth. The spirit of resistance ran high, and yet there were opposers.

The matter of pension was not hotly handled in those days. Lieutenant Philbrick Rand was prominent in military affairs. So was also Lieutenant John Gilman. The distress was considerable, but not extreme, on account of the war.

The organization of the militia and its annual muster were continued till about 1855, when the old organization was abolished and muster was no longer required, and so this gala season was lost sight of, to a great relief.

Under the old *régime*, the Tenth Regiment was raised in the original towns of Gilmanton and Barnstead, or, later, of Gilford, Gilmanton and Barnstead. The muster-field, in earlier years, was at Lower Gilmanton; but in later years it was by circuit, held, in turn, at Gilford and Barnstead also.

The law required a company parade and drill in the month of May annually, and for preparation for the regimental parade a company drill was practiced, at the option of the officers and company, in September, a short time previous to the annual muster, and besides these three regular parades there were also occasionally other special drills. The officers in the regiment, the commissioned ones, also had a regimental drill before the muster, at which arrangements for muster-day were made between the regimental and the subordinate company officers and orders given accordingly.

The men of Gilford who held regimental and higher official rank were Peasley Hoit, Ebenezer Stevens, Benjamin F. Weeks and George W. Weeks, successively, colonels; and John M. Potter, J. Q. Merrill and Daniel K. Smith, majors; Nathan Weeks, regimental staff-officer; J. J. Merrill, general; Major Robie, drum-major; J. M. Potter, adjutant.

The independent companies, Riflemen and Light Infantry, received their arms and equipments from the State, and they were usually uniformed. The Rifle Company was of later organization and enlisted from the north part of the town. The Light Infantry company was enlisted mainly from Meredith Bridge.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

HON. B. J. COLE.

Hon. Benjamin James Cole, son of Isaac and Han-

nah (Atwood) Cole, was born in Franconia, N. H., September 28, 1814.

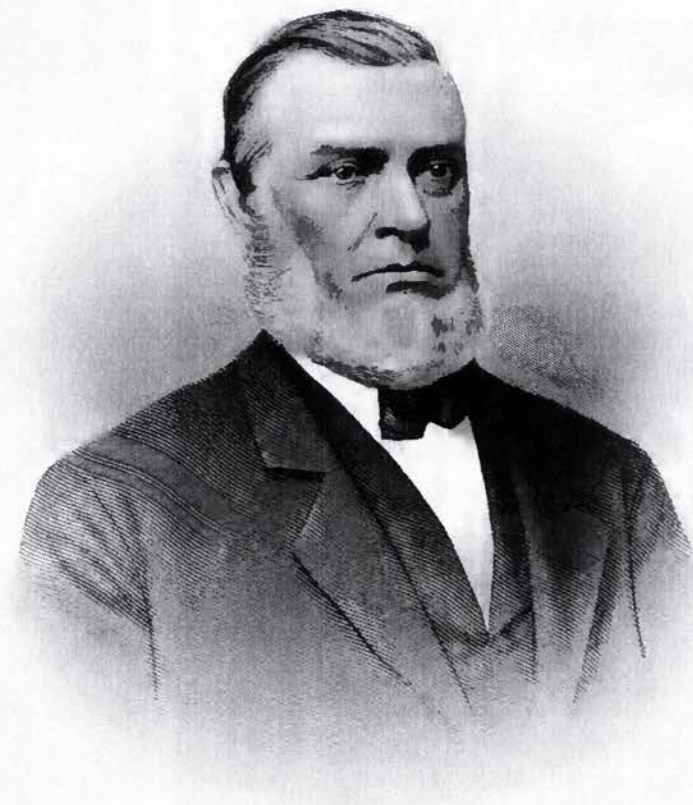
James Cole, the first of the name in America, came to the Plymouth Colony in 1633, and was granted lands on Leyden Street, Plymouth, in 1637. His descendants scattered to various parts of New England, and we find the name a prominent one in Rowley, Mass. The family is an old and honored one, and, in the early part of the eighteenth century, the great-grandfather of Benjamin James Cole was a man of solid worth and property in Rowley. Among his numerous children was Solomon, born in 1742. The family was strongly patriotic, and Solomon and his brothers performed twenty-seven years' service in the colonial army of the Revolution. Solomon was engaged throughout the war, participated in the battle of Bunker Hill and in numerous other engagements, and was wounded at Chippewa Plains. The house in which he was born is still standing in Rowley, and occupied by one of the name, Caleb Cole.

Solomon married a Barker, and had eight sons,—Timothy, John, Isaac, Benjamin, Solomon, Kimball, Samuel and Asa,—and was one of the stalwart men to whose patriotic principles, firmness of purpose and religious character so much of our modern prosperity is due. He was of medium size, pleasant and social manners and a tailor by trade. He lived in Rowley and Methuen until 1796. From that time until his death, in 1835, at the age of ninety-three, he resided with his sons, Isaac and Rev. Samuel, in Landaff and Lisbon, N. H. (Samuel was a minister of the gospel for forty years, and his son, Rev. Moores Cole, has been in the Christian ministry forty-eight years.)

Isaac Cole was born in Rowley, Mass.; became first a cooper, then a carpenter; married Hannah Atwood when he was about twenty-three, and settled in Chester, N. H. (Mrs. Cole was a woman of deep religious principle, who carried her belief into daily life. She was a native of Atkinson, N. H., and a cousin of Harriet Atwood, who married Rev. Mr. Newell, and was one of the first female missionaries who went to India from the United States.) Mr. Cole lived in Chester for a few years, when, purchasing new lands in Landaff, he removed thither and gave his name to "Cole's Hill." His nature did not incline to agriculture, and, about 1813, he went to Franconia to assume the superintendence of the wood-working department of the New Hampshire Iron Manufacturing Company, located there, and continued in this position eight years. In 1821 he changed his residence to Salisbury (now Franklin village), where he constructed one of the first foundries built in New Hampshire. This he conducted six years, when, in 1827, the very great advantage afforded at "Batchelder's Mills" (now Lake village), in Gilford, induced his removal to that place. Here he established the small foundry which was the germ of the large works of the present Cole Manufacturing Company, and was carried on by him nine years. He

was an active man, of mechanical aptitude, of great industry and a worthy member of the Free Baptist Church for many years. He died aged eighty-five.

Benjamin James Cole was seven years old when his father removed to Salisbury, and had the advantages of education afforded by the public schools of that town and Noyes Academy until he was thirteen, afterwards attending Sanbornton Academy. When about nineteen he was, for nearly a year and a half, unable to attend either to study or business, by reason of ill health. In December, 1836, in connection with his older brothers, Isaac and John A., he purchased the foundry of his father at Lake village, and succeeded to his business, taking the firm-title of "Cole & Co." This firm continued operations, and, in 1846, it became "Cole, Davis & Co." This co-partnership had an existence of ten years, when, in 1857, Mr. Cole became sole proprietor, and conducted it until 1873 under the name of "B. J. Cole & Co." The various demands for his manufacture had steadily developed, from the small iron foundry established by his father, a diversified and rapidly-increasing business, necessitating the erection of new and additional buildings, the introduction of machinery and a large increase of the capital invested. In 1873 the plant was taken by a stock company, incorporated as the "Cole Manufacturing Company," with a capital of sixty thousand dollars, of which all the stock was owned by Mr. Cole and family, except about eight per cent. This company has carried on extensive operations. Their annual product has ranged as high as one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, with one hundred and sixty employes, and during the present depressed times the product is about sixty thousand dollars, with sixty operatives. They construct machinery for the manufacture of various kinds of products, such as hosiery, woollen goods, lumber, paper-pulp and paper. During and after the Civil War they have made one hundred thousand dollars' worth of looms in one year. They also make a specialty of manufacturing water-wheels. In their forge and foundry they manufacture car-axles, agricultural implements and stoves. The company has just completed eight sets of machinery for manufacturing "excelsior," which will be placed in the first mill erected for that purpose in California. The management of this corporation has been under the personal supervision of Mr. Cole. He was the treasurer and superintendent of the company until 1883, when Colonel Henry B. Quimby was elected to the superintendency on Mr. Cole's resignation. This establishment has done all the castings for the B., C. and M. Railroad since the road was built, the business of this one production amounting from ten thousand dollars to thirty thousand dollars per annum. The power for this large manufactory is given mostly by water, of which they have two hundred horse-power. They have been necessitated to use steam but a few months in thirty years' time.



M. A. Sanborn

In 1848, Mr. Cole was an incorporator of the Winnepesaukee Steamboat Company, and was elected its first president, which office he still retains, and, in 1849, with the late Captain William Walker, built the steamer "Lady of the Lake" for this company. He has built several mills and bridges on contract; was one of the incorporators of Lake Village Savings-Bank, and for ten years its president; also, one of the incorporators of the Laconia National Bank, of which he was a director ten years; and an incorporator and the present president of the Wardwell Needle Company, of Lake village. In connection with his manufacturing Mr. Cole carried on merchandising for over thirty years, and for half a century he has been intimately connected with the growth and prosperity of Lake village, and one of the vital factors of its flourishing condition.

He married, June 17, 1838, Mehitable A., daughter of Nathan and Peace (Clifford) Batchelder, of Lake village. She is a descendant, on the one side, from the celebrated colonial minister, Rev. Stephen Bachiler; on the other, from the honorable old English family of Clifford. Their children are Ellen A. and Octavia M., who married Colonel Henry B. Quimby, and has two children, Harry Cole and Candace E.

Mr. Cole was a Democrat until the breaking out of the Rebellion, in 1861; since then he has been a Republican. He represented Gilford in the State Legislature of 1849 and 1850. In 1862, 1863 and 1864 he was a candidate of the Republican party for State Senator in the Sixth Senatorial District; but as he represented a minority party, he was not elected. He was nominated and elected a member of the Governor's Council for the Second Councilor District, and served as such in the years 1866 and 1867. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1868. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention which renominated Lincoln at Baltimore, in 1864. He is a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church and a trustee of New Hampton Institution.

Mr. Cole is a man of influence in his town and church, and throughout a large business acquaintance. He has a kind, social and affectionate nature, and cherishes home and friends. He has a winning personal magnetism, which makes for him many friends. To these he is loyal, and he enjoys, to an unusual degree, the marked confidence of the better portion of society and leading business men. He is generous in the highest degree in contributing to religious and charitable objects, and no case of deserving need or suffering ever appealed unsuccessfully to him. He is not only a prominent and leading business man, an active temperance worker, but, higher yet, a consistent Christian, whose active zeal has done much for the church and society of his locality.

CAPTAIN WINBORN A. SANBORN.

In the "History of Belknap County" it is fitting that there should be a record of Captain Sanborn,

who was so widely and pleasantly known, and so intimately identified with steamboat navigation on Lake Winnepesaukee, and to whose energy and enterprise the development of that beautiful summer resort, Weirs, is largely due.

WINBORN ADAMS SANBORN, whose life commenced December 13, 1810, in Gilford, N. H., was the eldest of the four sons of Samuel Gilman and Sally (Mason) Sanborn. The Sanborn family is of English origin, the name being derived from the parish bearing the name Sanborn. The emigrant, John (son of John, who married, in England, the daughter of Rev. Stephen Bachiler), came to America in 1632, and to Hampton, N. H., in 1640. He was a man of note, with the title of lieutenant. One of his descendants in the seventh generation was Samuel Gilman Sanborn, a man of marked ability, who was born March 20, 1787, on the Sanborn homestead, in Gilford, which was the first land cleared in the Weirs district, and the home of his ancestors from the first settlement. When a mere lad, his ardent desire was for an education, and, in response to his earnest request, he was permitted to attend the academy at Sanbornton Square for a few terms. The sacrifices his parents made in order to pay his expenses were amply rewarded by his progress. He was, for many years, a successful teacher. He was a man of intelligence in public affairs, served his town many years as selectman and representative, held a commission as justice of the peace for a long period, and was universally known as "Squire" Sanborn. After a useful, honored and respected life, he died at the age of eighty-two, upon the farm where he and his wife had lived for nearly sixty years. Sally (Mason) Sanborn, his wife, was the daughter of Captain Lemuel B. and Molly (Chamberlain) Mason, of Durham, N. H. Captain Mason was among the early settlers of Gilford. He was a Revolutionary soldier, having joined the Continental army at Portsmouth when only sixteen years of age, and remained in constant service till the close of the war. He also enlisted and took part in the War of 1812. When the division of Gilmanton took place, according to the family tradition, corroborated by the testimony of the old inhabitants, he was invited to name the new town, which he called Guilford, from the battle of Guilford Court-House, S. C., in which he was an active participant.

Winborn Adams Sanborn (8) received his name in remembrance of the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel Winborn Adams, who bravely fought and lost his life during the Revolution, at Stillwater. His early life was passed upon the farm aiding his father in his labors. His opportunities for learning were extremely limited, and his only chance for an education, beyond a few weeks at the district school each year, was one term at "Master" Leavitt's select school at Meredith, and two terms at Gilford Academy. Books and newspapers were scarce; but the few that fell into

his hands were eagerly perused, and their contents carefully stored in his memory. By improving his leisure moments he became a man of rare intelligence. To the last of his days he never allowed a newspaper to be carelessly destroyed. When only seventeen, he began teaching, and for several winters taught in Gilford and adjoining towns. His life was uneventful, and his active and energetic nature was not content with quietude, and, at the age of twenty, he left home to carve out his future alone and unaided. With his love of adventure, he went to Massachusetts and engaged as a common sailor for a twelve months' voyage on an East India trading-vessel, bound from Salem to Bombay, India. To a country boy, who had never been beyond the capital of his own State, a sea-faring life was particularly attractive; but, to gratify his parents, he relinquished his plan of following the sea as a vocation, after this voyage. His neatly-written log-book is still preserved. In 1833 he became the first commander of the "Belknap," the first steamboat on Lake Winnepesaukee. At the end of two seasons he gave up his position, and, with his love of adventure still unabated, started west. He first stopped at Wheeling, Va., where he at once secured a situation as assistant teacher in Wheeling Academy; then, allured by the letters of a friend, he journeyed to St. Louis. He readily found employment, but was soon compelled to return home on account of ill health. The entire journey—going and returning—from New Hampshire to St. Louis was by stage over the Allegheny Mountains. (Postage between the two places was twenty-five cents a letter.)

On arriving in New Hampshire, he resumed the command of the "Belknap." After a few seasons, he left this position to establish himself as a "country trader" at Alton Bay. In this undertaking, he was financially unsuccessful; but, with unfaltering courage, he tried again,—this time as book-keeper for "Isaac & Seth Adams," iron founders, of South Boston, Mass. Here, by a faithful discharge of his duties, he won the confidence of his employers, and the strong friendship thus formed continued to the end of their lives. All his leisure moments were now given to the study of machinery, and, in a short time, he became an engineer of one of the harbor steamers. He soon procured a better situation as engineer of the steamer "Decatur," running between Boston and Newburyport, and retained this position till he was offered and accepted a more lucrative one as engineer of the steamer "Ohio," on the same route. While here, a long and distressing illness began, and he once more returned to his home in Gilford, where, for two years, he was unable to attend to any business.

In the winter and spring of 1851 he superintended the construction of the "Dover" at Alton Bay, and, on its completion, became its captain, and continued in that office for several summers, his winters being

mainly passed upon his farm, in Gilford. In the fall of 1852 his friends and old employers, Isaac & Seth Adams, needed a man of trust, and secured him to superintend the erection of machinery in Cienfuegos, Cuba, where he passed several months. In 1863, he became a large stockholder in, and the captain of, the "Lady of the Lake." In the fall of 1869, Captain Sanborn, with his brother, went on a pleasure trip to Florida, and, while there, found a good opening for the lumber business; and the next spring, 1870, he formed a partnership with Charles L. Hoyt, a fellow-townsmen, purchased a saw-mill and commenced the manufacture of lumber in Fernandina. When he relinquished navigation, in 1869, he fully expected to exclusively devote himself to his Florida interests; but his natural liking for a seaman's life and the power of habit were too strong for this, and, in 1878, he again became captain of the "Lady," which position he occupied until the time of his death. As captain, he came in contact with people from all parts of the United States, and his courtesy, combined with his extended knowledge gained by travel, reading and discriminating powers of observation, speedily won their friendship. During this time, however, he continued the southern business, which had now become extensive, embracing the manufacture and wholesaling of lumber, merchandising, etc. In 1880, in addition to his many other cares, he conceived the idea of building a hotel at Weirs. With him to think was to act, and in six weeks from the time the sills were laid, "Hotel Weirs" was ready for occupancy. Of all his enterprises, this interested and pleased him the most.

In 1835, Captain Sanborn married Lavinia Peaslee Hoyt, a very fine-looking and intelligent woman, only daughter of James Hoyt, Jr., and his wife, Ruth (Ayer) Gordon. Mrs. Sanborn was born in Gilford, and died on the home farm, April 20, 1877. Of their two children, the son died in infancy; the daughter, Ellen E., married Captain John S. Wadleigh, the present commander of the "Lady."

While in the full possession of all his faculties, after a brief illness, Captain Sanborn met death as bravely as he had life, at Fernandina, Fla., February 21, 1882. His remains were brought to Gilford, and deposited, with Masonic rites, in the family burial-place, March 3, 1882.

In politics, Captain Sanborn was one of the "Old Guard" Abolitionists. He represented his native town two years in the Legislature. He was, for many years, an active member of Mount Horeb Commandery of Knights Templar, F. and A. M. He was decided in his views, yet charitable to all; in religion a "Liberal;" sincere in his friendships; generous to the needy, yet unostentatious in his manner of giving. He was courageous, self-reliant, strong in his convictions, and his keen observation and well-balanced mind enabled him to decide promptly and justly in matters of importance. He possessed the



Yours truly, R. J. Hall

soundest common sense and that practical view of matters that made him competent to guide his own affairs with discretion and give helpful advice and counsel to others. The humane side of his being was quickly and energetically responsive. All the ties of nature and of friendship rooted deeply in his soul, and whoever won his confidence found in him a rare and valued friend.

REV. K. S. HALL.¹

Rightly to estimate achievement in any department, account must be taken alike of the impelling and repelling forces, the aids and hindrances, the encouragements and rebuffs, which have combined to make it what it is. Heredity, social position, wealth, poverty, dictate most careers. Social aptitude, wise training and family influence send countless numbers of men triumphantly to their goal; while the want of these often makes every step wearisome and success well-nigh impossible. The thoughts of one man move to the music of rhyme and rhythm, and he cannot but choose to be a poet. Those of another clothe themselves in the sonorous language, the felicitous expressions of an orator; the imagination of a third is an exhaustless fountain, overflowing in pen-pictures which delight the world. We admire the result; yet we remember that the genius of each was given, not won. An illustrious name, an attractive physique, a graceful address, smooth the way for merit, commend it to notice, make it conspicuous to the common eye, and this we perceive. It is the battle which is fought without adventitious aid, but against the odds of hostile circumstances, which excites our deepest sympathy and our most hearty praise. These ideas apply with striking force to Rev. King Solomon Hall, of Lake village, N. H. He was born in Groton, N. H., October 22, 1819, the offspring of Josiah and Sarah White Hall. His father died when he was three years old, leaving a family of six children in circumstances of indigence, mainly dependent for support on their widowed mother. At the age of seven he went to reside in a farmer's family, where he remained about seven years. The facilities offered him in childhood for acquiring an education were extremely limited. From the age of six to fourteen he attended the district school about six weeks each year in winter, none being held in summer. These were kept in private houses, no school-house having been built until after he left the district. The seats and desks were of the rudest pattern, the former being made of slabs, with legs fitted into the oval sides. In very cold weather it was necessary for comfort to draw the seats around the open fire. The childhood of Mr. Hall was overcast with many shadows. While kindly cared for, as the

world goes, his sources of pleasure were ~~meagre~~ his mother's companionship cheered him in his daily tasks, and his father's voice was silent in the grave. The elasticities of youth were checked and left a deep impression on his future character. The stern battle of life was begun. At the age of fifteen he found employment in a factory in Lowell, where he remained about four years. In the spring of 1839 he attended a select school, taught by Miss Spaulding, at Rumney, where, at the age of nineteen, he commenced the study of English grammar. The writer, a member of the same school, well remembers how keenly he felt the loss of early training, and how deeply he deplored the fact that he was so far behind many so much younger than himself. But a new revelation inspired him with fresh zeal. He clearly saw the necessity of educational acquisition. A new life opened before him, which was filled with promise, though many discouragements darkened his daily life. He had no advantages of early study; consequently his abilities for acquisition were not rapid. But he was thoroughly in earnest, and he here developed the careful and patient investigation which were marked characteristics of his after-career. In the autumn of the same year he entered the Academic Department of the New Hampton Institution and graduated from the theological department of the same school in 1845. The writer, a room-mate for two years, clearly recalls his heroic struggles during this critical period of his life. He was entirely dependent on his own earnings for support. Not the gift of a dollar did he ever receive from a relative after he was seven years of age. But some friends in Rumney and New Hampton, touched by his manly efforts to secure an education, rendered him some assistance, which, although small in amount, was most gratefully received. He taught school during the winters, together with evening schools in singing, writing and geography; and during the latter part of his connection with the institution, besides occasionally preaching elsewhere, he regularly supplied, for several terms, the pulpit of the Baptist Church in Danbury, frequently walking fifteen miles to reach an appointment.

During one term, while other students were engaged in recreation, he cultivated the soil, giving the proceeds for a copy of "The Religious Encyclopædia." But these struggles with adverse elements were not without reward. He never grew discouraged, and these fierce contests were daily developing into a sturdy manhood. With self-reliance came firmness and moral strength. He was sedate—perhaps a native feature of his character, enhanced by the surroundings of his boyhood and his earliest recollections, mingled with poverty and the laborious toil of his mother's needle. Still, he was always cheerful, and had a host of friends.

The frivolities and merry-makings, in which too many of the young men engaged, had no allurements

¹By S. H. Quincy, Lancaster, Mass.

for him. His aims in life were too serious, his efforts too arduous, his time too precious to give to any hours spent in such amusements, the glitter of even a passing pleasure.

In the first term of his academic course he had become deeply interested in a religious life, and, in November, 1839, he was baptized and received into the Baptist Church in Rumney, and by the same licensed to preach in September, 1840. During this period of his life he had the aid of high religious convictions, and in his greatest straits found comfort and strength from the Father, who, out of this severe discipline, was to raise an efficient helper in his earthly vineyard. The same patient study was continued. No subject was left until thoroughly understood; and what had been somewhat slowly acquired was not forgotten. He graduated with credit to himself and with the confidence and well-wishes of the entire faculty. His after-life belongs to the Baptist denomination of the State. He was ordained a pastor of the Baptist Church in Hopkinton, N. H., April 22, 1846, having supplied them regularly from the September previous.

On the 30th of July, 1847, at Warner, he was married to Ann Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Caleb and Eliza Follausbee Buswell. He was dismissed September 30, 1851; settled with the church at Lake village October 1, 1851; dismissed February, 1859; with the Merrimack Street Church, Manchester, March 30, 1859; dismissed October 1, 1862; with the church at Methuen, Mass., October 1, 1862; dismissed April 30, 1867; with the church at Lake village May 1, 1867; dismissed August 1, 1880; with the church at Rumney April 17, 1881; dismissed October 1, 1883.

It is safe to say that, during this long period of thirty-seven years of active pastoral work, the ministry of Mr. Hall was remarkably successful. He was thoroughly devoted to his calling, and his whole heart was enlisted in the salvation of mankind. He was warmly welcomed to the several churches at his settlements, and when the stern decree of duty called him away there were very many grieving friends.

The amount of good that he accomplished will never be known until the veil is lifted from the future.

He will have many stars in the crown of his rejoicing. As an illustration applicable to all his parishes, I quote from the history of the First Baptist Church in Methuen, published in the Minutes of the Association for 1880; after speaking of especial trials, it says:

"The coming of Mr. Hall at this time was very opportune, and gave encouragement to the church to renew their diligence and reconsecrate themselves to the work of God. He was especially adapted to the field, and by his genial manner, dignified bearing and sympathetic heart won not only the hearts of his church and congregation, but the respect of the community. His labors are frequently referred to now among the older members of his church, and his kindness is cherished with tender recollection by those who shared it in times of trials and sorrow.

His labors were blessed to the strengthening of the church and a continuance of harmony and spiritual activity. In the spring of 1866 there was a quickening of the church and many were added, who became useful and efficient helpers. . . . Having labored earnestly and successfully for about five years, Mr. Hall resigned his pastoral care March 27, 1867. The church, being anxious to have him continue his labors, urgently requested him to reconsider his determination and remain with them. Still adhering to his purpose, the church very reluctantly accepted his resignation."

But the labors of Mr. Hall were not by any means confined to those pertaining strictly to his profession. His reputation extended far beyond his pastorates, and he became a power in the denomination throughout the State. His advice was widely sought. He was deeply interested in educational institutions, and his keen insight and patient endeavor fully equipped him to be of great service in this direction. All charitable organizations of merit found in him an active helper. His has been truly a busy life. Among his published works are some twenty or more reports as school committee of various dates for the towns of Hopkinton, Meredith and Laconia, N. H., and Methuen, Mass.; reports as school commissioner for Belknap County for 1854, 1855, 1858 and 1859; report of the New Hampshire Board of Education to the Legislature, 1855; seventh and eighth annual reports of the board of trustees of the New Hampshire State Normal School; seventeen reports as secretary of the New Hampshire Baptist Convention; discourse delivered at the funeral of Mrs. Martha R. Herrick, wife of Rev. J. S. Herrick, Rumney, N. H.; the first half-century of the First Baptist Church in Methuen, Mass., 1865. The honorary degree of A.M. was conferred on him by Dartmouth College in 1860; that of D.D. by Central University, Iowa, in 1882. Mr. Hall was a member of the New Hampshire Board of Education for Belknap County for four years; secretary of the board in 1855, and chairman in 1858. He was for several years a trustee of New Hampton Academical and Theological Institution, previous to its removal to Vermont; and for twenty years held the same position in regard to the New London Literary and Scientific Institution (now Colby Academy). He was also a trustee of the New Hampshire State Normal School for seven years, from 1872, and for two years secretary of the board. He was secretary and treasurer of the New Hampshire Baptist Pastoral Association from 1851 to 1861 inclusive. He was a trustee of the New Hampshire Baptist Convention from 1849 to 1862 and from 1867 to 1878, and secretary of the same from 1856 to 1862 and from 1867 to 1878—in all seventeen years. In all these various trusts, strict fidelity to duty, an unswerving integrity and an unvarying courtesy were the marked characteristics of his office.

The great measure of success which has attended his career, Mr. Hall cheerfully claims is largely due to his wife, who, by her ability and liberal culture, combined with strict economy, industry and tact, has proved a helpmate in so many ways for nearly forty years.



Martin A. Hayes

Mr. Hall does not possess the qualities that make what the world would call a brilliant man. Conclusions do not come to him as intuitions or startling revelations.

His grasp of mind, always comprehensive, is too massive to move by electricity.

Results are rather worked out by careful investigation. Conscientious in every fibre of his being, he desires clearly to see the right. Consequently he has always been a safe counselor, and his judgments have seldom failed. As a pastor, he has been prudent and watchful, pure and dignified in his daily life, always casting oil upon troubled waters. His heart has always been open to the anguish of suffering or the wail of sorrow.

In his religious views, it seems unnecessary to say that he has always been a Baptist to the core. To him the doctrines of the Bible are clear and explicit and a living truth.

But he is exceedingly catholic and tolerant of the views of others, as it would be a part of his nature to be. Firm and uncompromising in what he believes to be the teachings of the Scriptures, and in his preaching never withholding them, he would not willingly injure the feelings of a single human being.

Mr. Hall is not a controversialist for the sake of argument. There is nothing pugnacious in his nature. He loves those things that tend to peace. Still, when principle is involved, he is firm and even aggressive. An indomitable perseverance is one of his marked characteristics. Without this quality, he never would have achieved success. Indeed, his better aspirations would have been utterly crushed in early life; and by this alone he has borne the most serious responsibilities and carried through the greatest enterprises of his life.

Mr. Hall has, from his earliest boyhood, been a staunch temperance advocate, having never drunk a glass of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, nor used a particle of tobacco in any form. Besides lecturing on temperance, he has always sought to persuade young men to abstain from the use of these stimulants, and he has joyful reason to believe that, through his earnest efforts, many children and youth have been saved from the terrible evils of intemperance.

Since his return to Lake village, Mr. Hall has found recreation and pleasure in fruit-culture, particularly that of grapes and pears, of which he has had on his grounds about fifty varieties of each. Premiums for the best show of these fruits have been repeatedly awarded him by the Gratton and Belknap Counties Agricultural Fairs.

Long-continued illness alone compelled him to relinquish the active work of the ministry; with returning health, many pulpits would be gladly opened to him. But it is not probable that he will enter upon another pastorate. He and his worthy wife are living quietly in their pleasant home at Lake

village, where so many hope that the evening of their days may be spanned with the bow of promise.

He is still frequently called to the bridal and the funeral. His interest is in no manner relaxed in the success of Christian effort; and as the shadows begin to gather, a long life devoted to the welfare of his kind grows luminous with a brightness which merges into the glories of the hereafter. This hastily-prepared sketch is the tender testimonial of an old schoolmate and a life-long friend. To those, so few of whom are living, who know the privations of his childhood and youth and the heroic struggle of his early manhood, out of which came ultimate success, it will not seem like words of adulation, but a calm and dispassionate rehearsal of some of the events and characteristics of a valuable life.

MARTIN ALONZO HAYNES.

Martin Alonzo Haynes comes from old Puritan stock, being a descendant, in the eighth generation, from Samuel Haynes, who came over from England, in 1635, in the ship "Angel Gabriel;" was wrecked at Pemaquid (now Bristol) Me., in the great hurricane of 15th of August, same year; finally settled at Portsmouth, N. H., in the parish of Greenland, in 1650; was one of the nine founders and a deacon of the First Congregational Church of Portsmouth; was a selectman from 1653 to 1663, and held many other offices of trust.

The subject of this sketch was born at Springfield, N. H., July 30, 1842, and four years later his parents removed to Manchester, N. H.

His father, Elbridge G., was for thirty years a prominent figure in the city's history, noted for his unswerving convictions, his old-fashioned integrity and sound judgment and his interest in public affairs.

He was anxious that his children should enjoy better advantages than had been his in youth, and the outbreak of the Civil War found Martin, his oldest child, with a good High-School education and the printer's trade acquired. But President Lincoln's first call for troops found the boy of eighteen ready, and he enrolled his name and was mustered into the "Abbott Guard," the first company to enter the camp of the First Regiment at Concord. Before leaving the State the company was transferred to the Second Regiment and re-enlisted for three years.

Shortly after the regiment's arrival at Washington he was appointed clerk to the regimental commissary; but when the first advance was made into Virginia, learning the arrangements contemplated his remaining back in camp, he threw up his clerkship in disgust, demanded his musket and took his place in the ranks of his company.

It is his boast that he served as a private soldier for three years, that he participated in every engagement of the regiment from Bull Run to Cold Harbor, that

he never answered to "surgeon's call" and was never a day off duty.

He was three times slightly wounded,—at First Bull Run, in the neck by a splinter from a fence-rail, while defending, late in the day, the sunken road, immediately in front of the Henry house; at Glendale, receiving a severe contusion in the groin from a spent ball; at Second Bull Run, in the famous bayonet charge of Grover's Brigade, when the Second Regiment pierced two rebel lines of battle, he received a savage blow in the face and bled profusely, but carried out of the mêlée the wounded Lieutenant Rogers, who died in his arms.

In this affair the regiment lost 132 out of 332 men. At Gettysburg, where the regiment rendered the "Peach Orchard" famous and suffered the terrible loss of 193 out of 354 engaged, the three men nearest him in line were all wounded by fragments from one shell, but he escaped unmarked.

Upon his return from the war he resumed newspaper work at Manchester for a while, serving upon the editorial staff of the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Union*, until he left to take the position of clerk and paymaster of the Rockingham Mills, at Portsmouth, N. H. He remained there until the suspension of the mills—about a year.

In January, 1868, in company with Benjamin F. Stanton, he founded the *Lake Village Times* newspaper, and has retained control of the paper ever since, with the exception of the first three years, as sole proprietor.

He represented the town of Gilford in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1872 and 1873, in the first year serving as chairman of the committee on fisheries, in the latter as chairman of the military committee. He was an aide-de-camp on the staff of Governor Prescott, with the rank of colonel. In 1876 he was appointed clerk of the Circuit Court and the Superior Court of Judicature for Belknap County, retaining the position until 1883, when he resigned to take a seat in the National Congress. In 1881 and 1882 he served as president of the New Hampshire Veteran Association, which he turned over to his successor not only free from debt, but with several thousand dollars' worth of buildings for the accommodation of its annual reunions at Weirs. He was also Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New Hampshire, during the same years.

Upon the approach of the fall elections of 1882 his old comrades-in-arms brought his name forward for the Republican nomination to Congress from the First New Hampshire District, and after a canvass which is memorable in the history of New Hampshire politics he was nominated in the convention, at Dover, and elected in November by an unprecedented plurality of nearly thirty-eight hundred. In 1884 he was renominated by acclamation in the convention held at Wolfeborough, and received nearly twenty-five

hundred plurality at the polls, his opponent being Rev. L. F. McKinney, of Manchester, one of the ablest and most popular men of his party in the State. In both elections he ran very far ahead of his ticket, receiving hundreds of Democratic votes.

He was married, in 1863, to Miss Cornelia T. Lane, of Manchester, and two daughters survive to bless their pleasant home, which is delightfully situated in Lake village, surrounded with fruit and forest-trees and looking down upon the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee.

He has delivered many addresses and poems at soldiers' reunions and gatherings; but his chief literary work was a "History of the Second Regiment," copies of which are now eagerly sought for by collectors. He is decidedly a man of the people, makes friends and keeps them, and delights in the sports of gun and rod.

JOHN S. CRANE.

Among the vigorous, active and successful men of Belknap County must be mentioned John Summerfield Crane, of Lake village. He was born in Springfield, Mass., February 3, 1834, and was son of Luther and Rebecca (Manter) Crane.

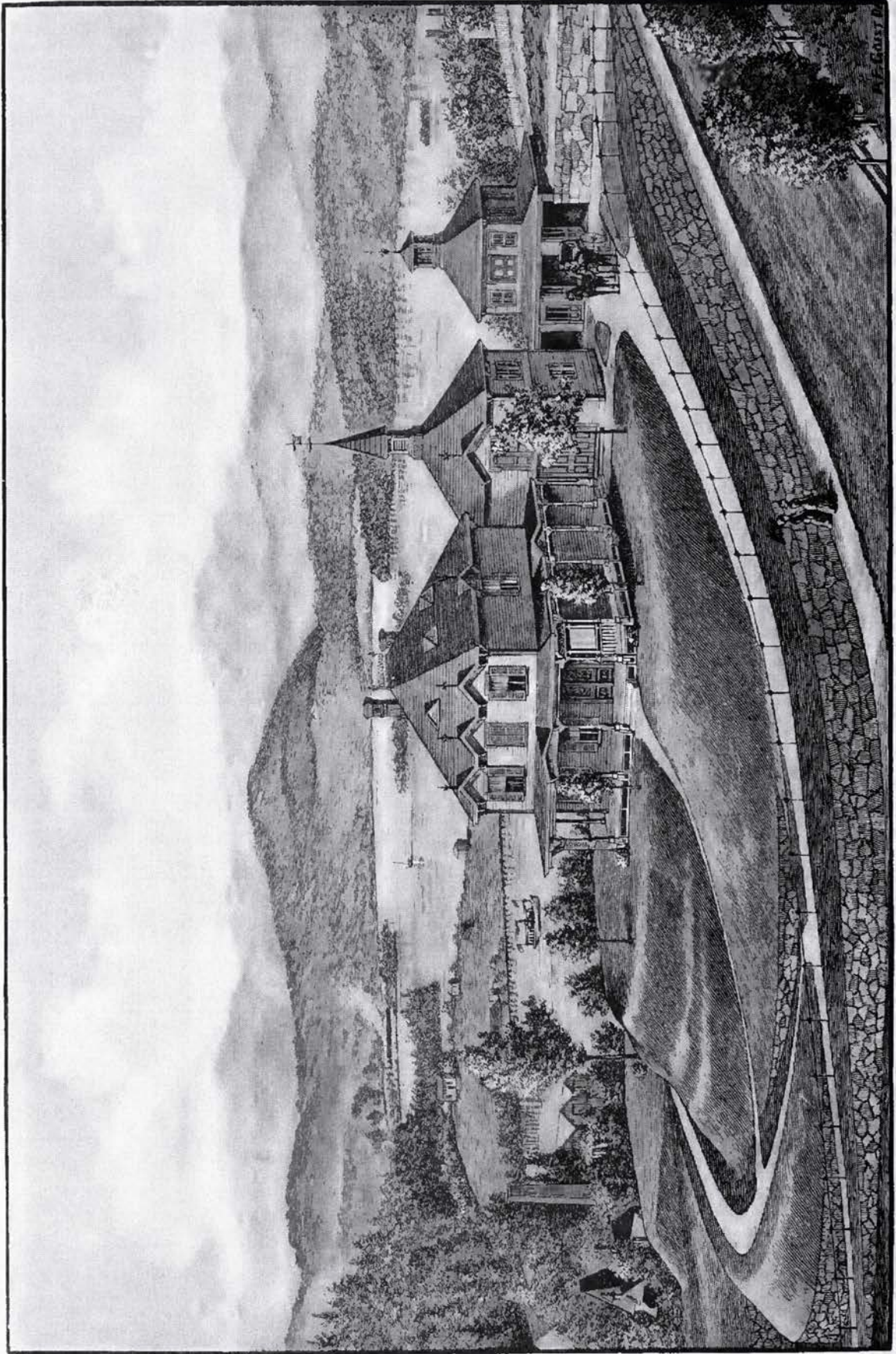
The Crane family has been a representative one in various spheres, in New England from the days of its first settlement. Jasper Crayne was one of the founders of the New Haven colony, signed its "fundamental agreement" June 4, 1639, and became one of its leading and influential members. Another branch of the same family settled in Berkley, Mass., at its first settlement, and the descendants of this pioneer have ever held positions of responsibility, and been represented in every generation in medicine, law and theology. Henry Crane settled in Dorchester early. His descendants are numerous. One of them, John, was a pioneer of Taunton, and he is the progenitor of the numerous families of that name in Norton and Canton. Luther Crane was a native of the latter town, but, owing to the incompleteness of the records, we find it impossible to give the exact line from Henry.

John S. Crane not only descends from good paternal stock, but his mother, a native of Plymouth, Mass., was a lineal descendant of the famous Governor and writer of "Plymouth Colony," William Bradford. From such a stock we should expect good offspring, and when we see the odds against which Mr. Crane has been compelled to battle, and the signal success that has attended his career from the humble condition of his boyhood up to the station he now occupies of a leading and wealthy manufacturer, we must concede to him his full share of the ability of his strong progenitors, and acknowledge him as one who, in the highest sense of the term, is a "self-made" man.

Luther Crane was a latter, of an ingenious and



J. S. Crane



RESIDENCE OF J. S. CRANE,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

mechanical nature, and was employed by the Hamilton Cotton Manufacturing Company as a spinner in the first cotton-mill in Lowell. He then removed to Ohio, and when John was nine years old came to Salmon Falls, N. H., where he became a resident. John was a lad of quick conception, and made good progress during his attendance at the district school and South Berwick Academy. His skill in drawing was so great that a gentleman voluntarily offered to educate him as an artist; but, with the impulsiveness of youth, he did not avail himself of this offer, and at fifteen years of age shipped as a boy before the mast on a clipper ship bound for India. The voyage lasted twenty-two months, and the vessel circumnavigated the globe. On the return from the Sandwich Islands Mr. Crane was the ship-carpenter. The hard actualities of a sailor's life dispelled his romantic dreams, and, during the long hours in which there was nothing to do but think, he decided to "make a man of himself" by honest industry and patient application. So, returning to Salmon Falls, he entered a shop to learn the trade of machinist, which was his choice from his aptitude for mechanics. Remaining here one year, he went to Lawrence for six months' labor, then to the Lowell Machine-Shop, in Lowell, conducted by Lucius Cutter. By this time he had attained proficiency in his calling, and, after six months' service here, was engaged by Lucius Waite to fit up and take charge of a sewing-machine manufactory for one year. This business was then discontinued, and Mr. Crane, after working a short time in Manchester, concluded to visit the West, and see if he could find a suitable place to establish himself with the small capital acquired by his industry and careful savings. Not finding a situation to his mind, he returned to Lowell and became the superintendent of a pattern and model-shop for one year. In 1855 he removed to Franklin, N. H., to complete and place in running order some knitting-machines for a Lowell house. This kept him busy for only a short period, and, in the spring of 1856, he began the connection with the manufacturing interests of Lake village, which has been of such value to him, and which links him with every step in the rise of an important industry in this place. He was employed by B. J. Cole to build knitting-machines for Thomas Appleton, the manufacturer. This was the introduction of this branch of manufacturing to this vicinity, and began a new and successful era in its progress. He worked for Mr. Cole six months, and then made a contract with Mr. Appleton to build knitting-machines at his mill, and, about the same time (fall of 1857), became his superintendent. These positions he occupied until the spring of 1862. Designing and perfecting, in connection with John Pepper, what was called the "Pepper Knitting-Machine," he then took the contract to build the machines, and, with William Pepper, formed the firm of Crane & Pepper. They began work with fifteen operatives,

in a building owned by B. J. Cole, and constructed from fifteen to twenty machines per month. They were burned out about 1863, and John Pepper built a new shop for the firm on the site of the old Small mill. About this time Mr. Crane, Benjamin F. Peaslee, of Lake village, and Thomas Joyce, of Boston, formed the Winnepesaukee Hosiery Company, purchased the machinery of the Pulsifer mill, and, in 1864, began the manufacturing of hosiery, employing thirty hands, with Mr. Peaslee in charge and Mr. Crane as superintendent. In December, 1864, Mr. Crane purchased the interests of his partner, and after running the works till March, 1865, sold the whole to R. M. Bailey. The manufacture of knitting-machines continued until about 1869, when Mr. Crane sold out this business and became connected with Walter Aikin, of Franklin, in the proprietorship of the "Gilmore Revolving Diamond Stone-Dressing Machine," for dressing mill-stones. Mr. Crane spent most of his time in Franklin, and for two years was engaged in introducing this invention to the public. Returning to Lake village, he purchased, for two thousand dollars, the interest of Charles H. Young in the firm of Young & Peaslee, engaged in manufacturing circular knitting-machines under Young's patent, and, in the spring of 1872, the firm of Crane & Peaslee began its existence with six men, and for two years made one hundred and fifty hosiery-machines a year.

In 1873, Mr. Crane designed and perfected a machine for making shirts and underwear on the same principle, which he secured by patents, and in September, 1874, moved his manufactory to its present location. The new machines became an important addition to this business, as they were rapidly called for. In January, 1875, the firm employed ten men, with a monthly pay-roll of four hundred dollars, and, in spite of the depressed times, they continued to do a most prosperous business. In November, 1878, Mr. Peaslee sold his half-interest to Mr. Crane for four thousand dollars. B. F. Drake purchased one-third interest, and the firm became J. S. Crane & Co., and they carried on the business until July, 1884, employing as high as sixteen men, and, from a production of five thousand dollars, in 1868, the business steadily increased until it amounted to fifty thousand dollars annually. Purchasing Mr. Drake's interest at the above date, Mr. Crane has since continued manufacturing under the same name, with his son as partner. They now employ from twenty to twenty-five men, and have a yearly business of seventy-five thousand dollars. Their specialties are circular knitting-machines, for hosiery, underwear, Jersey cloth and stockinet.

About 1883, Mr. Crane became jointly interested with R. F. M. Chase in a patent knit fabric,—the "stockinet,"—which bids fair to become one of the leading features of this class of goods in the country, and to assume enormous business proportions. To

this Mr. Crane has given his whole attention, has invented and improved inventions, patented improvements, and also constructed machines for making Jersey cloth and stockinet. The machines of his manufacture are in use in all parts of the United States, but to the greatest extent in New England. He has taken orders for this class of machinery as high as fifty thousand dollars' worth at one time.

Mr. Crane married, in 1856, Clara J. Smith, of Nashua, a lady well fitted to appreciate and promote the artistic ideas of Mr. Crane and be an efficient associate of his life. Their only child is Mazellah L.

In politics, Mr. Crane is a pronounced Republican. He represented Laconia in the State Legislature of 1875, and Gilford in that of 1878. He was one of the incorporators and is now a director of Lake Village Savings-Bank, and belongs to the various Masonic bodies to the commandery.

Mr. Crane can attribute his success to persistent and indefatigable industry, to the close and concentrated action of mind and body and his quick and intelligent appreciation of men and things. His natural tastes are in harmony with artistic and cultured surroundings, and his business has enabled him to gratify his desires. He has designed and erected the handsomest residence in the town, a view of which appears on another page, and his home abounds in all the comforts that money will buy. He is a lover and owner of fine horses, intelligent dogs and a fine steam yacht, and is passionately fond of aquatic and field sports. He is a good citizen, a social companion, a strong friend, and, with his positive and energetic nature, may be truthfully called a good type of the rushing, active, impetuous and successful Americans of the nineteenth century.

MOSES SARGENT.

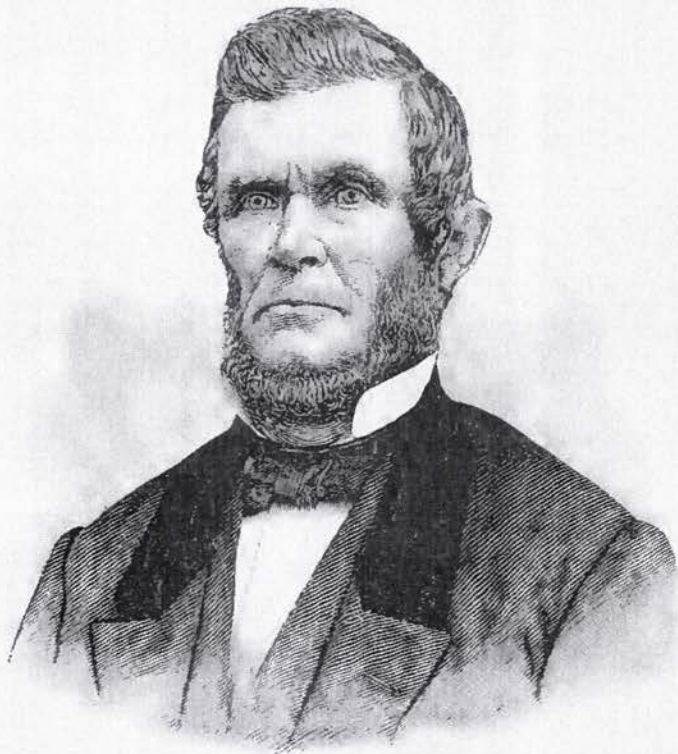
But little more than a quarter of a century had passed after the long and exhausting Revolutionary war, when manufactures were few and in their infancy, and our people were chiefly agriculturists and day laborers, compelled to exercise the utmost economy, and but a limited number were able to give their children the advantages of a liberal education, when Moses Sargent, son of Moses and Nancy (Morrill) Sargent, first saw the light of day, in the old town of Amesbury, Mass., December 16, 1803. His father was a ship-carpenter, wholly dependent on his daily labor, and when Moses was but a few years old Mr. Sargent met with an accident, which seriously crippled him for life, and incapacitated him from longer attending upon his vocation; so, at the age of nine years, the young lad was obliged to go out into the world of work and struggle for a living, not only for himself, but for his parents, without any of the adventitious aids of education or inherited rank, and with only his brave heart and willing hands.

He commenced work in a factory in Amesbury,

which was the first broadcloth-factory erected in the United States. Being a good, honest, industrious, hard-working lad, he soon attracted the attention of his employers, and the agent of the factory gave him one term's schooling, when he was about thirteen, and he also wrote off the multiplication table for him to learn while at his work. But to the eagerly desirous and willing searcher for knowledge the way is made, opened or found in some manner, sooner or later, and at a school, which was kept on Sunday, by a Quaker gentleman and philanthropist, for the purpose of giving the factory operatives an opportunity to obtain some education, Moses learned the rudiments of mathematics, and took a peep into that realm of knowledge which he had so longed to enter. His diligence and rapid progress, and his wish for an education, so impressed his teacher, that when he was about sixteen he offered to pay the expenses of Moses' tuition at some good school, but as he was almost the sole dependence of his parents he was forced to decline this kind offer.

He remained for eight years in the broadcloth-factory, when Amos Lawrence and his brother, with others, under the firm-title of "A. & A. Lawrence & Co.," started a flannel-factory, where Moses engaged work and was employed for twelve years. About 1830 this firm purchased a broadcloth-factory a short distance up the river, for the purpose of using it for making satinets, and Mr. Sargent, who had grown up almost to manhood in the factories, and had made capable and good use of his time, and become a skilled and experienced workman, was given the superintendence of the putting in of the machinery and getting the manufactory in running order. He held this position for about three years, when he went to Byfield, leased a water privilege, and with one set of cards he started the manufacture of yarn in a small way on his own account. He continued in business here for two years, when his health failed and he was advised by his physician to leave the proximity of the salt water, and in December 1835, he came to Batchelder's Mills, N. H. (now Lake village), and leased a yarn-mill of the Lake Company, and fitted it up to make woolen yarn for domestic knitting purposes. Mr. Sargent was the pioneer manufacturer of this yarn in New Hampshire. He commenced with one set of twenty-four-inch cards and ten operatives, and for twenty-nine years he was engaged in this industry. The business steadily augmented, and the one set of cards was increased to five, and for the last two years Mr. Sargent himself manufactured the yarn into stockings; among his contracts, filling two for the United States government, amounting to one hundred and fifty thousand pairs.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War Mr. Sargent disposed of his business interests to the Belknap Company, of Laconia, and for about a year was not in active business. He then went to Upper Gilmanston, bought a cotton-mill, fitting it up for



W. Sargent



Joseph C. Moore

making cotton stockings, and carried on this manufacture for six years, employing two hundred operatives. His factory was then purchased by "A. Lawrence & Co.," who after a few years formed a stock company; fifty shares of the stock were given to Mr. Sargent, in consideration of friendship, long acquaintance and the pleasant business relations which had always existed between them.

During his residence in Upper Gilmanton he took an interest in the affairs of the town, and it was through his influence that the name was changed to Belmont. Politically, he was a Whig, and is now a Republican, and represented Belmont in the State Legislature in 1872, and its prosperity and growth is due, in a large measure, to Mr. Sargent's enterprise. He relinquished business after the sale of his interests in Belmont, and returned to Lake village, which has since been his home.

Mr. Sargent married, first, October 27, 1824, Judith, daughter of Stephen and Esther (Reynolds) Hoyt. Their children were Mary (married H. O. Heywood, has two surviving children, and resides in Lake village.); Stephen H., who now lives in Salem, Mass.; Moses, who is agent of the Gilmanton Mills, Belmont; John, deceased; David, deceased; and Frank S., now an overseer under Moses. Mrs. Judith Sargent died July 26, 1849; and Mr. Sargent married, second, Mrs. Mary Huntington (born Seavey), in February, 1850. She died December 2, 1854, and he then married, Sarah, daughter of Gilman and Sally Thyng.

Mr. Sargent has been a resident of Lake village for many years, but his devotion to business has prevented him from being especially active in its public affairs or taking official position; yet he has always contributed generously to every worthy object, public or private. He was one of the incorporators of the Lake Village Savings-Bank, and director and vice-president from its establishment until the present time. For forty years he has been a member of the Baptist Church, and conscientiously acted according to the truths and doctrines of the same. For forty years, also, he had been a member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, and has taken an active part and taken all the degrees. His attention has been drawn somewhat in the direction of military organizations and at one time he was a lieutenant in the militia.

Mr. Sargent for more than three-score years has been a producer, and not a mere consumer, earning his own bread, and assisting his parents while yet a mere lad, and before attaining his majority he had provided a comfortable home for them. The patient industry that characterized his early years, when his daily bread and that of others was earned by the toil of his hands and the sweat of his brow; the persevering energy which he manifested when, starting from an humble beginning, he entered upon the special line of manufacturing through which he gained suc-

cess.—all these are worthy of record; for, "men may come and men may go, but the work they do lives after them, and the industries they plant or aid in advancing go on after they are gathered to their fathers."

Mr. Sargent, mindful of early struggles, has assisted many young men to start in life, both with his counsel and means. Social, kind-hearted and cheerful, he is a pleasant friend; of sterling integrity and an enterprising man he has made a deep impress upon the industrial development of this section, and now, in his eighty-second year, honored and esteemed by a large number of acquaintances, there will be nowhere found a tongue to whisper aught against his integrity or his broad Christian charity.

JOSEPH CLIFFORD MOORE.

Hon. Joseph Clifford Moore, editor of the *Manchester Union* and the financial head of the Union Publishing Company, is a thorough representative of that valuable class known as self-made men. He is the second son of Dr. D. F. and Frances S. Moore, and was born in Loudon, N. H., August 22, 1845. His early education was limited to the common schools, and more or less shared with labor. Later in life, having made the best of such advantages as came within his reach, he pursued with success a course of medical training at New York Medical College. From this training he returned to Lake village, the business centre of the town of Gilford, which has been his home since he was ten years of age, and entered upon the practice of medicine in partnership with his father, Dr. D. F. Moore. This was in 1866, and from that time up to his joining in the newspaper enterprise at Manchester, in November, 1879, he followed his profession with untiring industry and gratifying success. His practice extended over a wide section, and involved long hours and much arduous travel. During this time he was also active in general business enterprises.

Mr. Moore began his journalistic career without the benefit of any special training whatever, but brought to the work a clear, cool head, ripe judgment and honest purpose; but it was early apparent that he possessed that rare quality, "the newspaper faculty." Careful, prudent, cautious and conservative by nature, he applied that faculty with constantly increasing shrewdness and wisdom; so that the enterprise not only developed a remarkably rapid, but a sound and healthy, growth. Exercising good business judgment and methods, he successfully maintained the financial standing of the paper, notwithstanding the excessive demands of a rapidly-growing plant. In shaping the tone and conduct of *The Union*, he has uniformly aimed to give it a character for independence, integrity and respectability, advancing it on the true line of progressive modern journalism. He is a ready editorial writer on

political and general topics, eschews the ornamental and descriptive, and goes straight at the meat of a matter in a plain and direct style. His methods are convincing as well as terse and vigorous.

Mr. Moore has always taken a warm and active interest in politics, not from the selfish motives of the office-seeker, but as an ardent believer in and staunch supporter of a sound, sterling and progressive Democracy. At the State election of 1880 he was elected a member of the State Senate from the Sixth Senatorial District, and filled the seat with credit to himself and his constituency. He introduced and was chiefly instrumental in securing the passage of the measure which created the present State Board of Health. Always under self-command, easy and agreeable in manner, he proved to be valuable in legislative work, and was invariably relied upon to release the Senatorial body when sharp conflict of opinion led it into a jangle. Since the expiration of this official trust his time has been given exclusively to business matters and the conduct of the *Union*.

In January, 1885, he was unanimously chosen president of the New Hampshire Club, an organization comprising the leading business and professional men of the State, and shortly after accompanied it on a successful excursion South. As president of this body he is broad and liberal, seeking only to develop its interests and extend its influence.

Dartmouth College, at the June commencement, 1884, conferred upon him the degree of A.M.

Mr. Moore retains his residence at Lake village, with his aged parents. He is married, but has no children. In manner he is easy and agreeable, and is favored with an excellent address and attractive personal presence. In business affairs he is careful and conservative, and at the same time enterprising. Honorable and just in his transactions, he enjoys the confidence and respect of business men. At this writing he is in the full vigor of his powers, with the promise of a useful and successful future before him.