

HISTORY OF GILFORD

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HISTORY OF GILFORD.¹

BY REV. J. P. WATSON.

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 Gilmanton, 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 Nuichawannock, 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, Nuichawannock 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 fall, 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 Cochecos 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, Chocorua, 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 Cocheco 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 Trueworthy. Hence the name Gilmanton was most natural. The charter bears date of May 20, 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 outbreaking 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

lots 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 Lougee'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 continuous 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 numerous 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 forehanded 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. Sanborn 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 Manohah 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 coeprage 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 Jeremiah 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-

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* Chatteborough 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 Samuel 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.

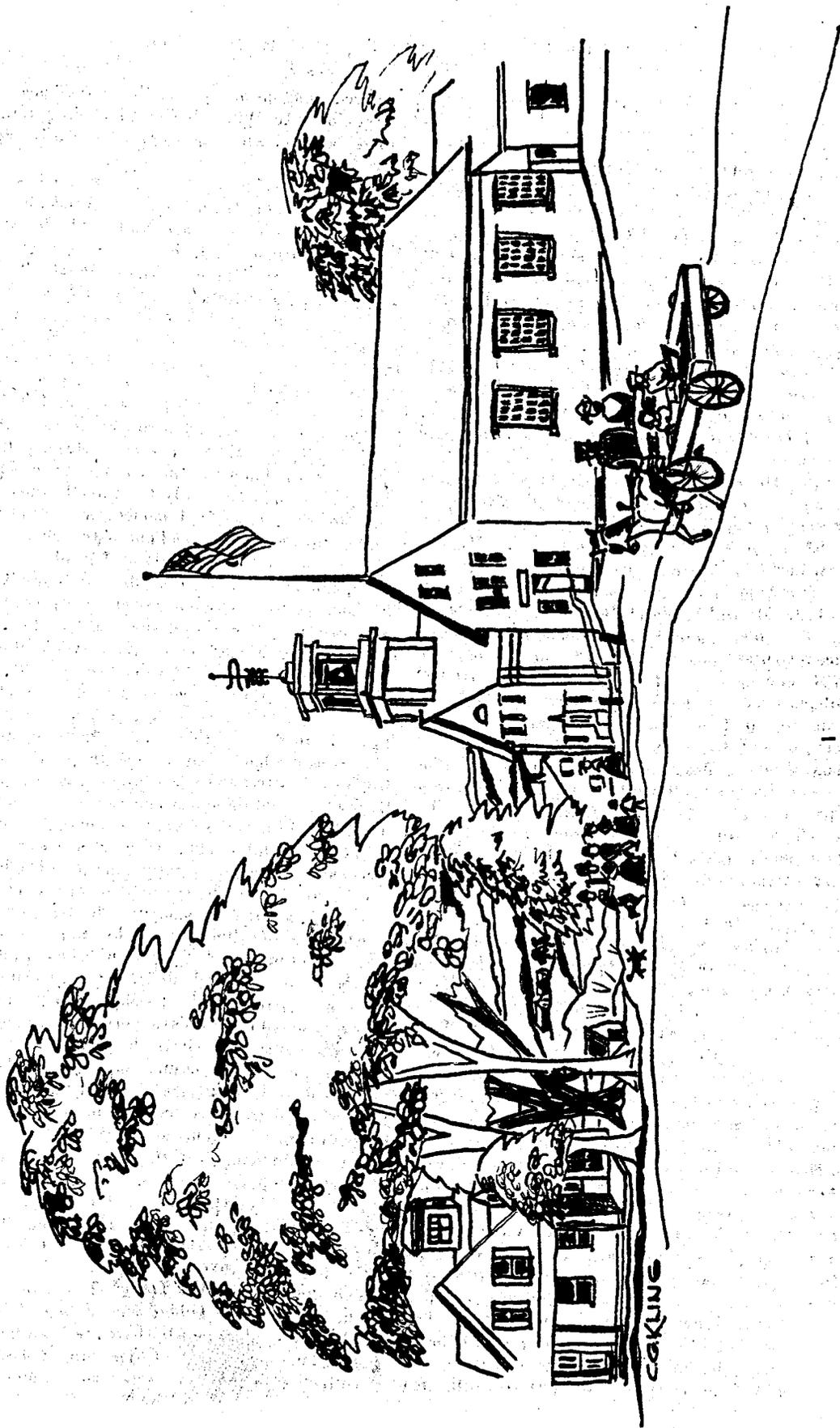
The bridges of the town, except a few of the larger and more costly, have been built by the districts. The only bridge on the Miles River, of much expense and difficulty, was the one at Miles Leavitt's, which went down-stream in a freshet, with the mill also, which was rebuilt higher up-stream. The one 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-



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