

The following excerpt (pages 294-501) has been copied from *History of Pelham, Mass. From 1738 to 1898* by C.O. Parmenter, published in Amherst, Mass. by the Press of Carpenter & Morehouse, 1898.

This document does not include the Index, found on pages 509-531, nor does it include the list of Town Officers and Representatives to the General Court, 1763-1898 (pages 502-508).

Transcription by Happi Cramer. Pelham, Massachusetts.

REV. ROBERT ABERCROMBIE
And the Church at Pelham

The settlement of Rev. Robert Abercrombie as the first minister of Pelham in 1744 has already been given from the records of the town; also some of the troubles and disagreements between pastor and people, beginning soon after his settlement and continuing for a good portion of the ten years of his pastorate, as we are led to believe, from the far from full and clear information obtainable from the town records.

That pastor and people, or a portion of the people of his charge were not in accord, is quite evident, but a careful reading of all the data on the town record books referring to the differences, fail to give us a clear and distinct idea of what it was all about.

That the people were not prompt in the payment of the meager salary is made plain by the records, but anyone after learning all that the records afford upon the failure of the people to pay Mr. Abercrombie's salary when due, will be forced to the conclusion that there were other causes of disagreement and contention of which the records do not give intelligent information, only hints of what may have been.

The protest signed by a goodly number of the leading men among the proprietors or settlers, and probably members of the church, against the action which others, and probably the majority of the voters had taken, in extending a fall to Mr. Abercrombie to settle in 1743, led to the formal or informal postponement of the business of settling the first minister for about a year. This gives reason for the belief that there was an anti-Abercrombie party before his settlement, but the basis of their objection and protest is not made plain. The protest was much feeble in 1744 than the year previous but it is

possible that while those who protested over their names in 1743 were many of them holding the same opinions and beliefs as to the expediency of settling Mr. Abercrombie; - they had cooled down perhaps, but had not changed their minds materially on the question of settlement.

On the other hand we must believe that Mr. Abercrombie had a strong following of the 4 church members and voters with him, who were equally persistent in pushing forward the important business of settling a pastor, and were for settling Mr. Abercrombie.

While we do not understand the reason or reasons why a portion of the voters of the town were opposed to settling Mr. Abercrombie, or on what grounds the majority urged and demanded that he should be settled; it is quite easy to learn from these unfortunate conditions that the town and church was divided from the beginning, and consequently in a state of mind not conducive to harmony and mutual helpfulness so desirable in any community between pastor and people, and especially unfortunate in this newly settled colony where prosperity and happiness depended upon unity of action in all matters pertaining to church and town.

The people composing these two factions, who disagreed about settling the first minister, were much alike in the possession of strong wills, each party doubtless believed that it was working for the best interests of the little settlement, and at the same time may have been at a loss to understand how the opposite faction could take the stand they did.

Each individual Scotchman in the opposing factions had all the characteristic persistence of purpose common to that nationality, and consequently not much inclined to make concessions for the sake of harmony and unity; and might have been much more

inclined to argue with strength and vehemence in sustaining his own individual position, and that of the faction to which he was joined.

Rev. Robert Abercrombie, from all that can be learned of him, was a man in whom the Scotch characteristics of resolute persistence and determination were very marked. He was a descendant in an unbroken line of Abercrombies dating back to the twelfth century in Fifeshire, Scotland; --was educated at the Edinburg university, where he had the reputation of being a a profound scholar, familiar with Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Syriac; and brought testimonials from the Presbytery of Edinburg and Kirkaleby, also recommendations from distinguished Scotch divines. A man of sound sense and ability, well equipped for his chosen profession; a strict disciplinarian, and possessed of a resolute purpose to demand rigid adherence to the doctrines and requirements of the Presbyterian church of Scotland. After landing at Boston in the autumn of 1740, as a licensed preacher, he preached among Presbyterians at Boston, Worcester and other places, going about on horseback and in this work became acquainted with Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who went from Worcester to Pelham, before they had become fully established in their new settlement.

The foregoing outline of the differences and disagreements between Mr. Abercrombie and the people of Pelham, and a proper consideration of the tenacious and unyielding character of pastor and people when they honestly believed themselves in the right, should help to a better and more charitable understanding of the facts as they appear on the records, as we review and study them more carefully.

It was on May 11, 1742, that the people of Pelham “Voted to intercede with Mr. Robert Abercrombie to be our Supplayer as far as he can for this summer.”

In 1743, May 26, Ephraim Cowan, Samuel Gray and Robert Piebles were chosen a committee “to invite three neighboring ordained ministers to keep a day of fasting and prayer with us and to consult with the same whome we shall call to be our minister.” Although the time for holding this day of fasting and prayer was postponed from time to time, they being directed first “to desire the Ministers to attend on the last Thursday in June;” and at a meeting June 21 the committee was directed to “call it when they can have it with the best convenency.” We will assume that it was held though the date does not appear. Subsequent to this day of fasting and prayer a formal call was extended to Mr. Abercrombie to become their minister, but the date thereof does not seem to have been entered on the book. The next thing that attracts attention on the records is the protest already referred to. There are twenty-two names signed to the document, but as the name of James Gilmore appears twice there were only twenty-one protesting voters, - though it was possible one of the Gilmores was James, Jun., as there was such a man.

THE PROTEST

“Pelham, August 31, 1743.

We ye Subscribers Being Freeholders & Inhabitants of said town Do protest against ye Proceedings of Part of ye inhabitants of y^e s^d town in their calling of y^e Rev. Robert Abercrombie to be their minister in s^d town.

Test y^e Subscribers,

James Gilmore, William Fererson,
Samuel Fergerson, Adam Petterson
John Gilmore, Thomas Dick, James
Thornton, James McCulloch,
Alexander Mc Culloch, Hugh Gray,
Robert Fergerson, John Fergerson,
Robert McCulloch, James Fergerson,
James Dunlap, Thomas Petterson,
George Petterson, John Dick.”

No reasons were given for this protest, --and it is impossible to determine by the document itself whether they disliked the idea of settling Mr. Abercrombie, or whether they were opposed to settling any minister at that time; but the effect of the protest was the same as a formal order to halt, and all further action was abandoned until the next spring.

A glance of the names appended to the protest shows conclusively that there was earnest opposition to the action of the town. Among the names are such prominent men as James Thornton, one of the two men who led off in purchasing the tract and organizing the settlement. John Fergerson, at whose house the first meeting of the proprietors in Pelham was held; Thomas Dick and his brother John Dick were the men who built the meeting house, and both were important personages in the history of the settlement. Later on John Dick was town clerk thirty-five years in succession; and there must have been others Among the protesting faction whose influence in church and town affairs was an important factor. Taking the protest with names appended as a whole, it was of sufficient importance to cause delay and hesitation on the part of those most zealous for settling Mr. Abercrombie as pastor of the church of Pelham.

THE MINISTER'S LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

“Whereas we ye Subscribers have had some considerable acquaintance with Rev. M. Abercrombie, Preacher of y^e Gospel, and what we know of his qualification by Information and personal acquaintance, we advise y^e people of God in Pelham to Invite y^e s^d Mr. Robert Abercrombie to settle in ye Work of y^e Ministrie among them as their Pastor—as Witness our hands this 30th of August 1743.

Jonathan Edwards, David White, David McGregorie, David Parsons, Jun.”

The above recommendation by the ministers which is dated, Aug. 30th, the day before the call was probably extended, --tends to sustain the belief that the formal call was made Aug. 31, and that the protest followed quickly, and was given the same date.

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING, MARCH 5, 1743-4

The first article in the warrant for town meeting, March 5, 1743-4 was:

“To see if the town will order their vote of August y^e 31 1743 concerning Mr. Robert Abercrombie’s Call to Stand thus there being read in the meeting a Call from ye Inhabitants of Pelham unto Mr. Robert Abercrombie to be Minister in said Place.”

The record of action on the above article is as follows: --“Ye meeting did Unanimously concur therewith and Voted upon his being Approved, Accepting of Said Call and Settling With them he shall be Minister in said Town.”

(The date of the meeting, March 5, 1743-4 is really March 5, 1744, because of the practice of beginning the business of the new year March 25 rather than on January first. All dates up to March 25 were given as belonging to the year that ended with the previous December.)

Article 2. “To see if they will appoint a Committee to represent their Call unto & acquaint said Mr. Robert Abercrombie with their proposals and Receive His Answer.”

Article 3. “To act upon Every Peticular that may be found Necesery in Consequence of His Answer to Compleat his settlement.

Pelham, March y^e 5th 1743-44
Robert Peibols, Alexander Conkey, John Alexander, John Gray—Selectmen of Pelham”

John Stinson was chosen moderator. “It is Voted and Concorted with according as it is Mentioned in the Warrant.

Voted that Alexander Conkey, Ephraim Cowan, Matthew Gray & Robert Peibols be a Committee to Present a Call to Mr. Robert Abercrombie & Receive His answer &

also this Meeting is adjourned for one Houre & a half to y^e meeting House to Receive y^e Report of s^d Committee.

Then Meet and also voted y¹ meeting y² Proposals of Mr. Robert Abercrombie is Concord with By a Great Majority, --and also Voted that there be a Committee chosen to Complete y^e Work from time to time from this time to ordination. --Said Committee is George Cowan, John Stinson & Robert Peibols, --this meeting is adjourned to ye first tusday of April Nixt at ten of y^e Clock in y^e forenoon at ye Meeting House of Said Pelham.

John Stinson, Moderator.”

“March y^e 5th 1743-44

These May Certife y¹ James Thornton his entered His Protest against y^e above Meeting.”

Of the twenty-two men who the year previous recorded a formidable protest against the action of “Part of ye inhabitants of the town,” only James Thornton comes to the front in opposition to similar action at this time.

REV. ROBERT ABERCROMBIE’S ACCEPTANCVE OF THE CALL

“Pelham March y^e 5th 1744

Messrs: --You may Signife to your Constituents y¹ Having Considered ye Call from y^e Congregation Concurred in by them together With the Circumstances of y^e place I am at last Willing to Submit myself to be tried as to my fitness for such a Charge & Being found Qualified shall Consent to be Ordained * Indever in y^e Strength and Divine

Grace to Exercise y^e Ministerial office among them as God shall enable me Provided y^t in Place of what Proposals they have made for my Incouragement & Support they secure to me y^e land sett apart for ye first Settled Minister of this town wth a yearly sallery of 50 pounds Lawful Money to be paid at y^e present value of ye Bills of New tenor in case they should Depreciate upon ye Expiration of eight years if God pleases to continue us so long together Consider of their ability & my Needsesity require anything to be added thereto and act as they find cause or if they can propose anything Better for us both I should willingly Consent.

I am &c.

R. Abercrombie.”

THE ORDINATION OF THE FIRST MINISTER.

The ordination of Robert Abercrombie took place on the 30th of August, 1744 and was a notable occasion for the newly incorporated town.

“At a meeting adjourned from ye first Tuesday of July to the 30th day of July 1744 Then Meet on said Day and was nominated Mr. Jonathan Edwards, Mr. John Moorehead, Mr. David McGregorie, Mr. David Parsons, Mr. David White, Mr. Billings, Mr. John Graham to be invited to our Ordination ye time agreed upon is ye 30th Day of August Nixt.”

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING, AUGUST 28, 1744.

”at 2 of ye Clock in ye afternoon then and there to hear What their Committee appointed to see Mr. Abercrombie’s Settlement Finished may have to Say before them &

Act upon whatsoever Particulars may be found Necery to Compleat y^e same & make Everything Relative thereto Effectual and firm. Hereof fail Not & Make return of your Doings Sometime before said Meeting to one of us Subscribers as Witness our Hands & Seal this 9th Day of August 1744 and in y^e 18th year of His Majesties Reights.

Matthew Gray, Ephraim Cowan, George & John Stinson.”

There is no record of action under the abaoove warrant.

The Ordaining Council was composed of the following ministers and laymen: Rev. Jonathan Edwards, of Northampton; Rev. John Moorhead ,of Boston; Rev. David McGregorie, of Londondery, N.H.; Rev. David Parsons, Jun., of Amherst; David White, Mr. Billings and John Graham. No residence of the last named members of council is given, but they probably did not live far from Pelham.

Rev. Jonathan Edwards preached the sermon on this important occasion, and the great business of settling the first minister was accomplished.

Homelot No. 1 was turned over to Mr. Abercrombie, together with the second and third divisions of land that went with Lot No. 1.

On Lot No. 1, on the north side of the middle range road, the ministers' house was erected, and it was there that Mr. Abercrombie lived during his ten years pastorate, and there is no record to show that he did not continue to reside there until his death March 7, 1786.

In a warrant for a town meeting to be held on the 15th of April 1746, appears the following article: --

“6^{ly} to See What Method y^e town will take in paying y^e Rev. Mr. Robert Abercrombie his Sallery this Present year.”

Recorded action on this article follow: “Voted that y^e Rev. Mr. Robert Abercrombie be paid this Present year’s Sallery by Pole & Improvement.”

There is nothing upon the records to indicate that there as any trouble between pastor and people for the first two years of Mr. Abercrombie’s pastorate but the following copy of an order of the Court of Sessions shows that trouble had begun and the Court was appealed to by the pastor to settle some difficulty between them or compel payment of overdue salary. Just what the trouble was the brief court order does not inform us.

“Robert Abercrombie of Pelham, Clerk Complaint against the Town for Pelham, for & c. –Ordered that the Selectmen of s^d Town be notified to appear at the next Court and make answer thereto to which for further consideration thereof is referred. Northampton, May 19, 1746, Court of Sessions.”

The following document copied the exact size of the original was addressed to the selectmen by the town treasurer, Jan. 13, 1746-7.

[This is a copy of said document]

“To the Select Men of Pelham”

Pelham Jan the 13th 1746/ I sent men pleas to insert in your warrant as an articale to see whether I shall pay the Rev. Abercrombie last year’s salary without a discharge for the forman year seeing it is payed for he refuses to give it to see if the Town is willing to give him ten or twelve pounds for the fall of money which he demands of me therein for P. Dessien that you would do me justice to take the blame off me Sam Conkey, Treasurer.

The Warrant of March 11 for a town meeting, March 19, 1746-7 contained the following articles: --

“2^{ly} To see if ye town Will Impower the committee that was chosen at y^e Feb^y Meeting Meet y^e 9th of Said Month 1746-7—and Impower them With all Necery Power to wite to Imploy a Councler & a Retorney if in Case the Rev. Mr. Ebercrombie Suess ye town—

3^{ly} to See if y^e town Will Except of the report that the Committee his to Lay Before y^e town Concerning the Pepers that William Gray Hath and to see what ye town Will Do concering Said Peper—

8^{ly} To see what the town Will Do with y^c Money that Lays in the treasurer's Hands for Mr. Ebercrombie Hath Refused to take itt."

Recorded action of the town under the warrant for meeting, March 19, 1746-7:

"Voted that ye Committee that was chosen att ye Feb^r Meeting ye Ninth One Thousand Seven Hundred Fourty Six-Seven is Impowered to Imploy a Councler & Retorney if in Case y^c Rev. Mr. Ebercrombie Sue the Town.

Voted that y^c Old Committee that was chosen to Look over y^c Pepers is Im;powered to go and Receive y^c said Pepers and Deliver them to ye Present Clerk.

18th Voted that James Conkey, treasurer, is to keep ye Money that is in his Hands till y^c first of May unless y^c Rev. Mr. Ebercrombie Demand it from y^c aforesaid treasurer.."

Immediately following the record of action at the meeting, March 19 1746-7 there is a protest, and an agreement spread upon the records which are copied in full.

THE PROTEST

"We ye Subscribers Enter our Protest against ye Proceedings of Chusing a Committee to go to Law with ye Rev. Mr. Ebercrombie Relating to his Sallery as Witness our Hands this 19th day if March 1747.

William Gray, Thomas Hamilton, John Stinson, Jon Savige, Matthew Gray, Thomas Lowden, John Gray, Robert Pebles, Thomas Cochran, John Hunter, Patrick Pebels, James Johnson."

REV. MR. ABERCROMBIE'S AGREEMENT

"That for five years from my Settlement be payed fifty pounds in Bills of the New Tenor as ye same is Collected that upon no part of it being Kept back Longer than demanded and the last of it Payed Yearly I promise to aCcept of it as My sallery for these years and discharge aCordingly.

Pelham August 1st 1747.

Robert Abercrombie."

MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 1748-9.

Two articles in the warrant: --

“First to see if y^e town Will Chuse a Committee to Send to y^e Rev. Mr. Ebercrombie to See What Vote y^e town Hath voted against Mr. Ebercrombie that is Contrary to ye Law.

2^{ly} to see What the T\own Will be willing to add to ye Rev. Mr. Robert Ebercrombies Sallery for this Present year.”

“Voted that there be Nothing acted on y^e first article of ye Warrant.

Voted that there be one Hundred Pound aCording to ye old tenor added to y^e Rev. Mr. Ebercrombies Sallery for this Present year.

William Gray y^e 2^d Moderator.”

MEETING, APRIL 4, 1749

In the warrant for the meeting there were articles concerning the town debt and credit, --about the roads, --the schools, --and about building a bridge on the West Branch of Swift River and then, --

5^{ly} to See if ye town Will Consider those votes that Injurs Mr., Ebercrombie in his character as he says—

“6^{ly} to see if ye town Will Reconsider ye vot4es that is Contrary to ye town agreement With Mr. Ebercrombie as He says –

7^{ly} to See if ye town Will Chuse a Man or Men to Represent ye town at y^e Presbytrie if y^e town and Mr. Ebercrombie Don’t agree.”

“Voted there be nothing acted on ye fifth and sixth articles of ye Warrant.

Voted that Robert Maklem is to Represent the town at the Presbytrie—

George Cowan, Moderator.”

We y^e Subscribers Enter our Portest against ye vote of Not acting upon those votes Mentioned that is Grieviooros to Mr. Ebercrombie: --

William Gray, Patrick Pebels, John Gray, John Edeger, Matthew Gray, John Stinson, Thos Hamilton, Thomas Cochran, John Hamilton, James Taylor, John Lucore, Thomas Lowden.”

The 5th and 6th articles which were not acted upon and thereby caused the above protest, were called up again in another warrant for a meeting Sept. 9, 1752 and the injurious votes were recalled.

It is evident that the Presbytery had taken a hand in the trouble between Mr. Abercrombie and the people and were expected to make charges against the town at a session soon to be held at Pelham. In view of serious charges that might be made a town meeting was called on the 31st of May, 1749, to deliberate, and take such action as might be thought proper. There was but one article in the warrant.

MEEETING, MAY 31, 1749

Warrant. –“To see if the town Will think it Proper to Chuse a Man or Men to answer the Presbytrie in behalf of the town.

Voted that John Savige, Ephraim Cowan, Thomas Dick, James McConel, Robert Maklem, John Clark & John Johnson be a committee for to answer at y^c Presbytrie in Behalf of said town.

Thomas Dick, Moderator.”

WARRANT FOR MEETING, APRIL 30, 1751

In the warrant for a town meeting on the above date this article is found:

6^{ly} to see if the town Will be Willing to send a man to the Presbytrie with a pition to Have them Meet here in Respect to our Defeficualty Espacly Baptism to Chirdling.”

Infant Baptism was a subject over which there was radical disagreement between pastor and people and the article in the warrant indicates that the question of submitting the matter to the Presbytery had been considered and the own was called upon to decide whether they would send a man to ask the Presbytery to hold a session with them in regsrđ to the existing troubles and especially the important question if Infant Baptism.

What action was taken by the town when assembled cannot be learned from the record as no mention of action on the 6th article appears.

MEETING, JANUARY 8, 1750-51.

The warrant for this meeting contained five articles or “particulars” as follows: --

“First to see if town Will Continue Mr. Ebercrombie’s Sallery as it Was last year.
2^{ly} to see if ye town Will Chuse a Committee to Prosecute Jon Stinson at ye Law for afals Record that he Give to y^e Clerk. –Att y^e request of y^e Rev. Robert Ebercrombie y^e following articles is Inserted.

3^{ly} to see if ye town will Confirm and fulfill their agreement With Mr. Ebercrombie.

4^{ly} to see if ye town will Confirm Mr. Ebercrombie’s Proposals upon which he Settled with them, or oppose Him in ye Law Provided he apply to y^e Civil Authority to Settle this matter and fix his Sallery.

5^{ly} to see if ye town will chuse a Committee to Withstand Mr. Ebercrombie in ye Law Provided he apply to the same.”

Action of the meeting on the above warrant follows: “Att a Meeting of ye freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye town of Pelham Legally Assembled on Tuesday, the Eighth Day of January, 1750-51.

Then Meet on Said Day and then was chosen Thomas Dick, Moderator.

First voted to Confirm & Fulfill their agreement with Mr. Ebercrombie aCording to His Proposals upon which he Settled With them.

2^{ly} Voted that Mr. Ebercrombie’s Sallery be Continued as it Was last year.

3^{ly} past Negitivly that there be no Committee Chosen to Prosecute John Stinson at ye Law.”

“We ye Subscribers Enter our Protest against ye Vote of Mr. Ebercrombie’s Proposals Being Confirmed & fulfilled.

James Conkey, Ephraim Cowan, Goeorge Cowan, John Blair, John Clark, James McConel, David Thomas, Alexander Turner, James McCulloch, Robert Loutherridge, William Gray y^e 3^d, John Johnson, James Johnson, James Gillmore, Jun.”

The town record contains no account of the council or Presbytery that suspended or dismissed Mr. Abercrombie, but certain records indicate that the pastoral relation had

been severed and that the Presbytery had appointed certain preachers who were to act as supplies for the church at Pelham, and in this connection we copy the warrant for a town meeting, Nov. 29, 1754 and the action of the voters on the several articles.

WARRANT FOR MEETING, NOV. 29, 1754

“2^{ly} To see if the town Will Allowe the Selectmen to keep the Meetinghouse for ye Supplies ordered by the Presbytrie or Chuse others in there Room.

3^{ly} To see Who y^e town will order to Entertain the Ministers that is ordered to supply until y^e Nixt Presbytrie.”

“2^{ly} Voted that the Selectmen Keep the Meetinghouse for the Supplies that the Presbytrie ordered.

3^{ly} Voted that the Selectmen Provide for the Entertainment of the Minnisters that is ordered By the Presbytrie to supply.

William Crosett, Moderator.”

“We ye Subscribers Inhabitons of Pelham Protest Against the Second and third Bots Past in atown Meeting in Said Pelham y^e twenty Ninth of Novb^r one thousand Seven Hundred & fifty-four.

Thomas Dick, John Hamilton, William Petteson, Thomas McMullen, John Stinson, James Sloan, James Taylor, Joseph Rincken, Thomas Cochran.”

Judging from the nature of the “Second and Third” votes passed at the meeting of Nov. 29, which is the basis of the protest, we come to the conclusion that the men who signed the document were feeling very unpleasantly over the suspension of Rev. Mr. Abercrombie by the Presbytery and were not in a state of mind to accept of the ministers the Presbytery in their good judgment had selected to supply the Pelham pulpit. They probably cast their votes against allowing the meeting house to be opened for these ministers to preach in, and also against providing for their entertainment.

To aid in a better understanding of the articles in the foregoing warrant and the action thereon by the town, it can be said that the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie had been charged by the Presbytery with having acted contrary to Presbyterian principle and rules

governing the church and Mr. Abercrombie had been suspended from the exercise of the duties of his pastorate, while under this order of suspension. At the same meeting of the Presbytery "Supplies for the Pelham pulpit were appointed," and an order was directed to the selectmen to shut the doors of the meeting house against Mr. Abercrombie, and only allow preaching by those the Presbytery should send.

The Selectmen recognizing the Presbytery as authority shut the doors of the meeting house against Mr. Abercrombie as directed. Then came the warrant for the town meeting, Nov. 29, 1754, and the action of the town was as above recorded.

The first "Supply" or minister that came was Rev. Mr. McDowel and the reception he met with we quote from Mr. Abercrombie's account of it. "Mr. McDowel called at my house; He introduced himself with large Protestations of his aversion to come; He asked if I would willingly resign the pulpit to him? I absolutely refused; and told him I should look upon it as an unwarrantable *Intrusion* if he took it. I invited him to lodge at my house, which he refused.-- He went off and immediately concluded with the Selectmen not to take the meeting house upon the Sabbath but upon the Monday; which he accordingly did: The Selectmen keeping the doors shut until he came: and they, with one or two of the elders hurrying him into the pulpit, --while the Selectmen forcibly kept me from entering the same: where in a most *precipitant* manner he began his service." Rev. Mr. Burns was the next supply, he was followed by Rev. Mr. McClintock. The troubles which led to the suspension of Mr. Abercrombie will be gone into more fully later on, but it may be well to say now that it was as early as 1753 that the controversy with the Presbytery began and after he had expressed a desire to be dismissed from the pastorate at Pelham, and the Presbytery had declined to comply with his request.

MEETING, JAN. 14, 1756

The warrant for this meeting had but two articles or "Particulars."

"First To see if the town will Chuse a Committee to Defend the Coplaint That Mr. Abercrombie His Laid In Against the town for His Sallery.

2^{ly} to See What Method the town Will take to Get the Minits of the Presbytrie that Will be Needed.

Acting on the first article the town "Voted that there be a Committee Chosen in Behalf of the town to Attend the Court at Northampton. Said Committee is John Savige

* Allexander Turner.

2^{ly} Voted that John Blair is to Get the Minits of the Presbytrie.

3^{ly} Voted that William Gray is to asdsist the Present Clerk to Put the Minits ibn the town Book that William Gray Minited.

William Gray, Moderator.

From the court records at Northampton:

"Robert Abercrombie Complaint against the town of Pelham in y^e County of Hampshire for not paying him his salary as per Complaint on file. The parties appeared and y^e Courts having considered the Complaints and y^e parties pleas. It's considered that y^e Complaints be dismissed and y^e said Town Recover against y^e said Abercrombie 12-3 lawful money allowed them for Costs.

Court set the second of Tuesday of February 1756.

Rev. Mr. Abercrombie, having lost one suit against the town in February, 1756 for overdue salary very soon brought another, and in March of the same year Alexander Turner was chosen to answer the complaint in behalf of the town. The case dragged along year after year and Turner and others, including John Savige, were chosen to represent the town until it finally came to trial at Northampton in 1759, and the court records that follow are interesting:

"ROBERT ABERRCROMBIE VS. THE TOWN OF PELHAM.

Robert Abercrombie of Pelham in the County of Hampshire, Clerk Plaintiff or the Inhabitants of the town of Pelham in said County Defendants in a Plea of Trespass on the Case wherein said Abercrombie demands against the said Inhabitants of Said Town the sum of One Hundred & Seventy seven Pounds Sixteen shillings lawful Money being y^e arrears of the salary due him from s^d town as their Minister &c as is at large set forth in the writ on file, --The Parties in this Case appear Viz: the said Robert personally and the said Town by Alexander Turner their Agent and attorney, and enter into a Rule of Court to refer this Case and also to submit all Contracts Actions disputes controversies and Demands respecting any personal Matters now subsisting between them. The Plaintiff chose Oliver Partridge of Hatfield Esq. The defendants chose Thomas ---- of Deerfield Esq., and the Court appointed Timothy Woodbridge Esq of Stockbridge who are to hear the Parties, consider the Case and all personal matters submitted to them, and make report to the next Court whose Determination or any two of them is to be final, and the Action is Continued in the Meantime.

February 13, 1759.”

“1759 ABERCROMBIE VS. THE INHABITANTS OF PELHAM.

Robert Abercrombie of Pelham in the County of Hampshire Clerk Pltf or the Inhabitants of the Town of Pelham aforesaid defendants in a Plea of Trespass on the Case for that the Inhabitants of said Pelham having invited and Called the Plaintiff to be their Settled and ordained Minister he on the 5th of March 1743 at Pelham afore said by his Answer in Writing to the said Inhabitants qualified by Law to vote in the choice of a Minister these legally met in Town Meeting accepted their Invitation & Call abovesaid and the said Inhabitants of said Pelham promised and obligaterd themselves and

successors Inhabitants of said Pelham that in Case he the said Abercrombie would settle and be ordained their Minister to pay him the annual salary of fifty Pounds to be fixed at the then Value of Bills of the New Tenor in Case of Depreciation for every year after his settling so long as he shall continue their Minister and further comply with and perform all the other Terms and Conditions by him required in his Answer aforesaid and that in pursuance of the Call & Choice made of him said Robert by and with the advice of three Neighboring Ministers he on the 29th day of August 1744 at Said Pelham was duly ordained Minister and Pastor of the same Town & the Church to be gathered therein, and that he is and then was a person qualified as the Law requires for the Ministerial office and has ever since continued their settled Minister and Pastor and during the whole time performed and discharged the proper functions of his office and Trust aforesaid and on the 9th of September last four of said annual Sums or yearly Salery at the rate aforesaid for years then Compleat being of the value of Forty four Pounds nine shillings lawful money for each year became due and arrear being in the Whole one hundred & Seventy seven pounds Sixteen shillings, yet the Defendants tho often requested have not paid the same nor any part thereof but neglect and refuse to pay it to the Damage of the Plaintiff two hundred pounds all which is more largely set forth in the Plaintiff's writ on File.

This Case was originally commenced at the Inferior Court of Comon Pleas held at Northampton on the 2nd Tuesday of February last when and were the Parties entered into a rule of Court to refer to the Case with All Contracts Actions Disputes Controversies and Demands respecting any personal Matters subsisting between them as per Records of s^d Court appears. And now the Referees to whom the Case &c was referred Report that they met at Pelham where the Plt^{fs} & y^e Dfts by their Agent were present who agreed to

refer to their Consideration the Matters Contained in the Writ only and that after a full hearing of the Parties thereon they adjudge and determine that the said Robert shall recover of the said Inhabitants of said Pelham thirty Pounds, one shilling and Eight Pence & Cost of Court together with the Cost of this Reference and the Cost of the Referees.

It is therefore Considered by the Court that the Pltf shall recover against the Defts the sum of thirty Pounds one shilling and Eight pence lawful Money Damages and Cost of Court with the Cost of the Referees as per Bill allowed at Nine Pounds Eleven Shillings and Eight Pence.

Execution issued 6 July 1759.”

The receipts or discharges which Mr. Abercrombie gave when money was paid him on his salary has his peculiar autograph and hand writing. Space is allowed for one of them.

Now that the long drawn out lawsuit against the town which Mr. Abercrombie had been pushing since his dismissal had been settled it would seem but a natural result of such long continued litigation that the people of the town would feel incensed, and perhaps a revengeful spirit developed which would seek an opportunity to get even with their former pastor should a favorable opportunity present itself. But the people did not seem to be affected that way, or to lose respect for him in the least, so far as we may judge by recorded action. An opportunity to display revengeful feeling toward Mr. Abercrombie, if any such feeling existed, came very soon.

In the warrant for a town meeting Oct. 2nd, 1760, was the following article:

“To see if the town Will agree to Petition the General Court to have all unImproven Land taxed nfor two years at one penny per acer to finish the Meetinghouse and Charges arising on the town except what Land Mr. Abercrombie owns.”

Recorded action upon the above article”

“Voted that they Prefer a Petition to the General Court to have all the unImroven Land taxed for two year at one Penny pr acer Except what Land Mr. Abercrombie owns.
Thomas Dick, Moderator.”

At this distance we cannot understand why Mr. Abercrombie should be exempt from taxation on such lands as he owned that it was proposed to tax, and can conceive of no reason for making an exception in his favor unless it was because of the great esteem in which he was held by the people of the town, who, remembering his services as their minister for ten years were still desirous of showing their great regard for him when a fitting opportunity presented itself. Whether the recorded vote was unanimous does not appear, but there is no recorded protest against the action taken, and yet the people were not halting or backward in recording a protest against anything that it was possible to protest against. They seemed at times to be watching for an opportunity to record a protest.

In a warrant for a town meeting Dec. 2, 1763, article 4 reads as follows:

“Fourthly to See if the town will agree to free Mr. Abercrombie’s Party from paying their respective Proprtion of Mr. Graham’s settlement & yearly sallery and Consent that they and all such as Joyn with them in this request may be allowed to Pay there several Proportions of Yearly sallery to Mr. Abercrombie.”

On this article the recorded action was, --Voted that there is nothing acted on the Fourth article of this warrant.”

This action of the town was the cause of the Abercrombie party taking their case to the General Court, and the town was obliged to take notice of a citation which had been served upon the town of the petition which had been filed at Boston, giving the town opportunity to oppose its being granted.

The persistence of Mr. Abercrombie's friends in clinging to him is shown by their action in petitioning the General Court, and by an article in a warrant for town meeting, Jan. 16, 1764, ten years after he had been dismissed and denied the right or privilege of preaching at Pelham

“Article 8. Whereas there has been a petition lodged in the General Court of this Province by a Number of Petitioners Belonging to this town to Wite: --

Some adherents to Mr. Abercrombie and others to the Intent that they may be freed from Paying any Settlement or Sallery to Mr. Graham.

That the town chuse a Man or Men to represent their fase and make answer to the General Court in their Nixt Sessions, to said Petition according to the Citation we have Received from said Court.”

Hugh Johnson, Isaac Gray, George Cowan, John Savige and William Crosett were chosen a committee to answer the said petition. The General Court could not grant such an unreasonable request and they failed in their purpose to pay their assessments for the support of the Gospel to Mr. Abercrombie rather than to Mr. Graham.

After Mr. Abercrombie's dismissal from the church at Pelham there is little of record on the town books to show that he took a very active part in town affairs or that he preached any more to his former people. He lived on his farm in a quiet manner, preaching occasionally in other towns, there is a record of his preaching on one occasion at Amherst, and he probably preached in other places near by and may have supplied more distant churches.

AT A TOWN MEETING, JUNE 21, 1774.

The following vote was passed: --“Voted that the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie is cleared from all his Rats that is already assessed on him, --also voted that Mr. Abercrombie is cleared from Paying any Rats for the future.

Thomas Chochran, Moderator.”

The above vote covers all the record of action at the meeting, and exhibits the kindly and generous feeling of the town toward their former pastor.

AT A TOWN MEETING, APRIL 16, 1779.

“Rev. Robert Abercrombie was chosen a committee to meet other committees at Northampton at a County Convention to Consider the question of a Constitution for the state.” And at a meeting, March 23, 1780 it was “Voted that Mr. Abercrombie is allowed nine pounds for time and expenses for going to Northampton in behalf of the town.”

This is believed to be the first and only occasion that Mr. Abercrombie was called to serve the people of Pelham in any Public capacity after being released from his pastorate.

At a meeting of the town Jan. 9, 1782, near the close of the Revolutionary war and eight years after the action of the town in June, 1774 clearing Mr. Abercrombie from taxes already assessed, and also relieving him from paying any in future, there was an article in the warrant to see if the town would reconsider the vote of June 21, 1774 and it was voted to reconsider it. Whatever the reasons that led the people to exempt Mr. Abercrombie from taxation during all the years of the war we may not be able to determine, but it indicates that the people over whom he had been settled thirty years before the voter of June 21, 1774 was passed, and who had been dismissed twenty years when the exemption was extended, still retained so kindly an interest in his welfare as to be willing to exempt him from taxation when all the people had been so sorely pressed to meet the expenses of the struggle for liberty.

After Mr. Abercrombie retired from active labor in the ministry he seems to have spent his life in tilling his lands and in the care of his family of eight sons and three daughters.

REV. ROBERT ABERCROMBIE AND THE PRESBYTERY

In the year 1755, in letters to a friend, Rev. Robert Abercrombie gave an account of the proceedings of the Presbytery against him. In the same letters he criticizes their action and questions their authority to act as they did in the premises. The action of the Presbytery caused Mr. Abercrombie's suspension from the exercise of his functions as a minister, and later his dismissal from the pastorate at Pelham.

Mr. Abercrombie claimed that the first springs of differences between him and the Presbytery arose from the fact that he could not comply with all the measures of the Presbytery: --that he could not in faithfulness to his own convictions do so, and consequently desired the Presbytery to dismiss him from the pastorate of the church in Pelham on the 15th of June, 1748, but his request was declined at that time and his differences with the Presbytery increased.

We gather from the printed letters to a friend, that certain members of the church at Pelham were not such as should be admitted to the sealing ordinances of the church, as in the judgment of Mr. Abercrombie, it would be contrary to scripture and to Presbyterian principles. There seems to have been an inclination on the part of some to be more liberal in belief than a strict disciplinarian could allow, and until such members had purged themselves from such sins Mr. Abercrombie felt it his duty to withhold the ordinance of baptism from the children of such members. With this condition of affairs

and while his application for dismissal was pending, the “Presbytery proceeded to ordain Rev. Mr. Moorehead. Either now or on his return from Colrain to use the assistance of the Session of Pelham (in case Mr. Abercrombie declines it) in inquiring into the Christian conversation of those in Pelham who have children to baptize; and to baptize them whom he finds upon inquiring to have the Right to that privilege.”

Mr. Abercrombie having been suspended from his duties this action on the part of the Presbytery and of Mr. Moorhead in allowing the children of unfit parents to have the benefit of ordinance of baptism, and without giving him (Mr. Abercrombie) sufficient time for consideration before Mr. Moorhead acted in the matter, was displeasing to Mr. Abercrombie and he gave in a paper to the Presbytery in which he made a representation or criticism of the conduct of that body. The document is long and able. The Presbytery met at Palmer, Mass., Nov. 14, 1753, and the document was received by that body there. The opening paragraph was as follows:

“That whereas, next to the purity of Doctrine, which belongs to the Principles, a Discipline agreeable to the word of God, which may regulate the Practice of the Members, is necessary to the Well-being of every Christian Society; the first of these the Presbytery seem to have taken some care of, by requiring every probationer, under their care, to subscribe to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: But I apprehend, we are still defective in the *last*: and therefore I would now represent some things to the Presbytery concerning our past Conduct and what I apprehend to be our present Duty.

The representation embraced four points or heads, and under the first head he claimed that the Presbytery should bring all under such regulations that discipline might be exercised upon offenders, and such kept back from sealing ordinances until proper satisfaction be given, and ordinances only administered to such as are found worthy. Mr. Abercrombie claimed that the admission of unfit persons to sealing ordinances had, he feared, already been productive of many scandals and offences; and had “given to just

ground of complaint, to those who complain of our being too inclinable to favour a lax admission to sealing ordinances etc.”

Under the second head he argued that it was necessary for the Presbytery to reconsider their sentence in the affair of P---- and again take it into consideration; in other words, to review their findings in the case, at the same time declairing that the sentence (of suspension) did not stand upon sufficient grounds.

Part third of the paper is an argument for reconsideration of their determination in the affairs of Pelham, on the ground that the Presbytery “had no right at that time to meddle in the affair of baptizing the children of that congregation. --No reference was made to them, --no complaint entered, and no time nor indeed opportunity was given to answer upon that head.” Mr. Abercrombie also claimed that his being excluded from the deliberations of the Presbytery was what they had no right to do. “That they had no right to appoint one to moderate in the session, and baptize the children in case he declined; and that their conduct in that point was both irregular and without precedent.” Again we quote:

“What ignorant, what profane what scandalous people will pay the least regard to their own Ministers, who know their conduct and would bring them to censure, when they can find those who will readily administer ordinances to them upon easier terms?”

Further: “It is well known to any who are in the least acquainted with the Presbyterian Constitution that where the Case of a Minister is to be tried, there are at least to be *three Ministers* present: Whereas, in the present case there were only *two*.”

In the fourth and last division of the paper, Mr. Abercrombie calls attention to the rules and principles of the Reformed Church of Scotland in relation to procedure: “which

declare that the Constitutions, so far as agreeable to the Word of God, is the rule of procedure in our judicatories.”

He then calls attention to the danger to the church that might be expected from the endless disputes and protestations, “to the dishonor of religions, and hurt, if not the utter ruin, of this society at the last,” and closes with the following appeal:

“I hope therefore, the Reverend Presbytery will take these things into serious Consideration and do what may be for the Glory of God and the edification of those under our care. Which is the earnest desire of your Brother in the Work of the Gospel.

R. Abercrombie
Palmer, Nov. 14, 1753.”

At the next meeting of the Presbytery the “Representation” submitted by Mr. Abercrombie was considered and the following minute concerning it recorded.

“The Presbytery finding among their papers a long Representation put in by the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie at their last session and left by the said Session to the Consideration of this, in which are several things which at present appear Matters of high Charge Against the Presbytery. Voted unanimously, that as the author of said paper is absent, in order that no advantage may be taken of his Absence, the Consideration of said paper shall be left till next session, when the Author is expected to be present, and to make good those things that are Matters of Charge, either against the Presbytery, or any particular Member of it; and he is seasonably to be served with a copy of this Minute. SAMUEL MCCLINTOCK, Scribe
A true copy attest.”

The position taken by the Presbytery that the “Representation” brought serious charges against the Presbytery and that the author must appear before that body and make good what they construed as grave charges against the body itself or individuals composing it, and that he was called upon to appear and be tried before them, --*they*, whom he was charged with making accusations against, to be judges, --was in Mr., Abercrombie’s opinion, contrary to the principles of the Presbyterian body and in disregard of the rules governing the Presbytery. In other words, if the Presbytery was the

party accused it was contrary to all precedent that the accused should hear the case and render decision.

The first session after the “Representation” was received, was held at Boston, Mr. Abercrombie not being able to attend. The session following was at Newberry. At this session Mr. Abercrombie was appointed to preach Mr. Boyd’s ordination sermon at Greenwich but before the time, received a message from Rev. Mr. Moorehead forbidding him to do so.

At the next session, as Mr. Abercrombie claims, the Presbytery made repeated requests to have him withdraw the offensive “Representation.” These requests were declined, and being called upon to support the “Representation,” he respectfully declined to do so, because he was not to be heard as a representer, but as an accuser, and the accused were to be his judges.

Mr. Abercrombie then submitted a proposition to refer the case to the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, or to a number of Congregational ministers to be mutually chosen. These propositions were declined by the Presbytery.

At this session, Mr. McGregorie read a long paper covering the whole case exhaustively, --declaring that the papers of Mr. Abercrombie contained

“** diverse insinuations and reflections, also sundry more direct assertions against this judicatory, and declined their authority. *** Upon the whole the Presbytery judge that the said Mr. Abercrombie is guilty of insinuating things against the Presbytery false and groundless, and that he ought to be solemnly admonished and rebuked for his sin against God and the church, and exhorted to walk with more circumspection in the future.

That if he submits to said rebuke, he will be esteemed in his former standing, with this Judicatory; but if not he is *suspended* from the exercise of his Ministerial office four weeks from this time.

Mr. Abercrombie being called upon and refusing to submit to the rebuke the Moderator in the Name of the Presbytery proceeded to suspend him from the exercise of the Ministerial office, according to the foregoing vote.

From the Minutes of the Session at Newberry August 20th 1754.
Per SAMUEL MC CLINTOCK, Scribe.”

A few days later a man was sent to the Pelham people, and read to them the minutes of the Presbytery, and by an order from that body “discharged all from hearing Mr. Abercrombie.”

The suspension for four weeks was on August 20, 1754, and Mr., Abercrombie was continued under suspension until the meeting of the Presbytery in Pelham on April 15, 1755. At the session of the Presbytery April 15, 1755 Mr. Abercrombie submitted another document, addressed as follows:

“Unto the Gentlemen calling themselves the Presbytery to meet at Pelham April the 15th 1755.

In this paper as in the first he plead with them to receive the discipline of the Church of Scotland in her purest times, and to practice in such a manner that immoral and illiterate persons may not be admitted into the sacred office of the ministry, and those unworthy among the people may be kept back from sealing ordinances. He declined to accept them as worthy to decide in his case because to quote his words: “by your former conduct you have unqualified yourselves to sit in judgement upon any case wherein I am concerned. ** and I absolutely refuse to submit to your judgement.”

The closing paragraph of the paper follows:

“I appeal from you as Judges, unto the first free and impartial Synod Assembly or Council, to whom I may in Providence have access to apply, and who will redress those injuries you have done unto me. And finally, if the all wise Jehovah, in his adorable Providence see meet so to dispose of matters that such Synod, Assembly or Council cannot be obtained in Time, I appeal from your unrighteous Judgment, unto the

Righteous Judge of all the Earth, to whom I desire to commit my cause, before whose awful bar you and I must ere long appear to answer for our conduct, stand an impartial trial, and receive the final sentence, from which there is no appeal. Even so, Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

R. ABERCROMBIE

Pelham, April 15, 1755.

At this meeting of the Presbytery the people of Pelham submitted a paper to that body desiring light upon the matter of suspension of their pastor and expressing doubt as to the legality of the proceedings, and setting forth at length their reason for so believing, and closing with a desire that the Presbytery give answer in writing. The answer of the Moderator was that they had joined with a man the Presbytery had laid under suspension, and that going to hear him was against the wishes of the Presbytery, consequently the Presbytery had no more to do with them.

At a meeting oar session of the Presbytery at Boston, My 14, 1755, they reported that they had proven many of the charges against Mr. Abercrombie, although he was absent and declared:

** “that his usefulness at Pelham was at an end. Therefore the Presbytery by their vote dissolve the particular relation between said Mr. Robert Abercrombie and the Church and Congregation at Pelham: --and they do hereby in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great head of the Church, and by virtue of the authority committed by him to them, actually dissolve the relation of Pastor and people: between the said Mr. Robert Abercrombie and the Church and Congregation of Pelham; prohibite and discharge him to exercise the office of the holy ministry or any part thereof in said Pelham, under pain

of the highest censure of the church: and furdur; seeing Mr. Robert Abercrombie has rejected all proposals, made to him; by the Presbytery for an accommodation, and refuses to retract from or make satisfaction for the false and injurious things insinuated: we do in the same name suspend the said Mr. Abercrombie from the Exercise of the Ministry and every part of it until the next session of the Presbytery, or such time as he shall be orderly restored therefrom: under the pain of Disposition.

J. MOORHEAD, MOD'R
Signed per order SAMUEL MCCLINTOCK, Clerk.

Boston, May 14th 1755.”

In criticism of the decision of the Presbytery at its session at Pelham on the 15th of April 1755, Mr. Abercrombie remarks to his friend:

“I am threatened with the highest Censure of the Church, if I exercise any part of the Ministry of Pelham. I should be glad to know, whence it comes to be thought so highly censurable and criminal for me to exercise my Ministry in Pelham, more than in any other place. But not having the papers, upon which, it may be supposed, this sentence is founded, I cannot give you that light concerning it, which I would desire. I shall only say this Method, that the Presbytery have taken to condemn a man, without letting him or the world know for what, I look upon as mean unreasonable and injurious. While a man is thereby deprived of an opportunity to clear up the truth, to vindicate himself, the world are left in the ark, yea, are necessarily left to think it must be some *gross* immorality, some *heinous crime* for which he is so severely trated, and has such awful threatenings denounced against him.

When the case was examined at Pelham none but Messrs Moorhead, McGregorie, McDowel and Burns with their Elders were present. –It is customary to change the Elders every meeting: and at this, Mr. McDowel and Elder were absent. Messrs Parsons and Boyd, with their Elders, now present had *never* heard the case *examined*; nor those Elders who were not at Pelham. Mr. Moorhead was continued moderator. So that of *ten* members who were to judge, *seven* had not heard the case examined. In short, if *they* gave any *judgment* to must not be thought to result from their own knowledge, upon having heard the case and enquired into the affair; but grounded upon the testimony of Messrs Moorhead, McGregorie, and Burns, and if so, I can't see why these *three* could not have done the business *alone*; unless the others wanted to give their followers an *example* of practicing upon the principles of implicit faith, and convince them

that they required of other men no more than they themselves were willing to do. 'Tis plain there was not a majority of the Presbytery to act upon the affair. And so according to Presbyterian Principles, their sentence is of no force and claims no regard.

R. ABERCROMBIE.

Pelham, May 30, 1755."

It has been claimed that certain members of the church and society at Pelham appeared before the Presbytery and preferred complaints against their pastor. This was doubtless true, as there were people in Pelham that protested against the action of the town in calling Mr. Abercrombie at first, and may have carried their opposition along until another good opportunity came to express it publicly. In more recent times it is seldom that there cannot be found a small minority in any church or parish that do not like the settled minister whoever he may be. If one minister is dismissed and another settled, the same chronic grumblers and fault finders begin their opposition to the new minister where they left off with the old. Notwithstanding the fact of personal opposition to Mr. Abercrombie in Pelham, there is also indisputable evidence that he had a strong following among them through his entire ministry, and during his life until his death.

Whatever the cause or causes of the trouble between the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie and the Presbytery, or upon whom rests the blame for trouble between the pastor and the people of Pelham it was most unfortunate for the pastor and for the people, --unfortunate for all concerned. The absence of united and harmonious feeling and action between pastor and people worked for harm continually, and could only result in preventing the new settlement from becoming as strong and flourishing as it would have been, had all of the disturbing disagreements been absent. The people of Pelham should have been more largely benefited by the labors of such an highly educated, talented man as Mr. Abercrombie, and would have profited thereby to a much greater degree had they been

united in supporting him by prompt payment of salary, and in giving him amore united moral support. Strict disciplinarian as was the pastor, it is possible he was not as lenient as some more liberal members of his church thought he should be, and too much inclined to exact entire and unquestioned compliance with the Westminster Confession of Faith. He was a man of strong mind and will, and his convictions of duty would not allow him to preach smooth things, or allow any falling away from the strict letter of church discipline without reproof. His people were also Scotch and it is quite possible were firmly convinced that the pastor was too exacting and strict in church discipline, and disinclined to bow humbly under correction. Mr. Abercrombie was unfortunate in having a strong element of opposition to content with from his first connection with the people of Pelham as shown by the strong protest against his settlement. There was also a strong Abercrombie element or party that clung to him for years after his connection with the church was severed by the Presbytery.

STEPHEN BURROUGHTS, THE SUPPLYER

From 1739 to 1784, or for forty-five years the people of the town had enjoyed the services of a settled minister only about twenty-four years. From 1744 to 1754, during the pastorate of Rev. Robert Abercrombie, from 1764 to 1771 under Rev. Richard Crouch Graham, from 1774 to 1781 under Rev. Nathaniel Merrill. During all the years not covered by the pastorates of these three eminent ministers the town had received the Gospel from Suppliers; sometimes through the aid and recommendations of the Presbytery, at other times by their own exertions in securing a preacher. The cause of this state of things, judging from what the records contain of the troubles and trials of the people lay largely with the people themselves. They were all sturdy and zealous in their belief, conscientious and scrupulous in the matter of discipline, --consequently each man considered his individual ideas and opinions those that should be adopted. The result was a division of opinion and no spirit of concession for sake of harmony and unity.

Mr. Abercrombie continued to live in the town after his dismissal, and the strong minority of followers and adherents which his presence in the town kept together and active in their allegiance to him, could not fail to have a discordant effect, and had a tendency to prevent unanimity and harmony in the matter of calling a new minister, as well as tending to keep up and encourage dissensions. We would not wish the reader to think that we have any desire to charge Mr. Abercrombie with having a hand in preventing the harmonious action and unity among the people, but we do say that his presence in the town, and the loyalty of his friends, must have been harmful rather than beneficial, and we can but feel that to this fact among others, the trouble of settling and retaining men in the pastoral relation was due.

That ministers without settlements were not very numerous is attested by the records showing where men were paid for journeying to “the Jersey College and to Pennsylvania after a minister,” and there is a possibility that the good deacons of Pelham became a little careless in demanding the fullest and undoubted endorsement before accepting the services of a supplyer.

However this may have been it is certain that a Godless adventurer at last obtained entrance to the pulpit and was accepted as supplyer for a limited period.

The reader should bear in mind that at this time nearly all travel over the country was on horseback or on foot, and that the means of communication by mail were at long intervals and uncertain. It was not as easy to learn the antecedents of men as now. There was no quick communication by railroad, telegraph, or telephone, --no daily mail, --no detective agencies through which the records of suspicious person could be looked up. The ministerial office was above suspicion. A ministerial imposter and deceiver was unheard of, and yet the continual demand for suppliers was the means of these good people having experience with a first-class specimen of the genus so much more common now than then. The reader should be charitable in his consideration of the experience of these people at Pelham, having in mind their environment, and compare it with that of other towns and communities which have had experience with the hypocritical religious cheat, and ministerial wolves in sheep's clothing, and who have been deceived and cheated by such gracious imposters, while every modern facility for enquiry and investigation was at hand.

STEPHEN BURROUGHS: ALIAS REV. MR DAVIS

On a Tuesday afternoon in April or May 1784, a bright active young man nineteen years of age, rode up the steep hillside highway to Pelham, West Hill. He sought Dea. Ebenezer Gray and presented a letter of recommendation written by Rev. Mr. Baldwin, then minister at Palmer, which introduced the young man as Rev. Mr. Davis, and as one well equipped to discharge the duties of supplyer for the pulpit of the church at Pelham, at that time without a settled minister, Rev. Mr. Merrill having been dismissed. Dea. Gray read the letter of Rev. Mr. Baldwin and having great confidence in the latter as a man of piety and good judgment, he consulted with other prominent members of the church to whom Mr. Baldwin's letter was submitted. The result of the careful consideration of the letter and its recommendation, including the fact that the young man had preached acceptably to the good people of Ludlow the previous Sunday, was, that they engaged the applicant as supplyer for four weeks at five dollars per Sunday beside board and horsekeeping.

The young man's garb at the time was anything but ministerial, or that would be considered so at the present day. He wore a light gray coat with silver-plated buttons green vest ad red velvet knew breeches, and seems to have entered upon his duties as supplyer without any objection being made to his unministerial robes. Possibly they might have supposed that he had more fitting raiment for the pulpit within his capacious saddle-bags. Whatever he may have had in the way of clothing within the saddle-bags, he did have ten old sermons written by his father which he had purloined on leaving home. These sermons were his only reliance for success in his new field of labor in

addition to his abundant assurance, fearlessness and cheek, with which he was well equipped.

There seems to have been satisfaction with the preaching of the new supplyer during the four weeks of his engagement, as a new contract was then made with him to supply the pulpit for four months longer.

It was not long after he entered upon the performance of the duties of his second engagement before some of the watchful ones began to have certain vague suspicions that the new supplyer was not all that he claimed to be, and might be more and worse than he claimed: --the people became suspicious, consequently watchful, and alert.

Deaths occurred among these hardy people occasionally and there was at least one death during the ministrations of this bright but wicked pretender, and the supplyer officiated at the funeral. Sermons were required often at funerals among these people at that time, and it is said that this funeral being at a private house the supplyer did not have a position where he could easily read his sermon and at the same time be sure that none present could get a glimpse of it. Some one present looked over his shoulder and saw that the manuscript did not have the fresh, crisp appearance that should mark the newly written sermon; on the contrary it was yellow and dingy with age, and this fact being noised about roused a suspicion that the supplyer was preaching old sermons, and not of his own composition.

The suspicion based upon what was seen at the funeral was spread from man to man, until the whole town was discussing the situation. Doubtless this topic was the main one for days, until the ability of the new supplyer to write a sermon or to preach without obtaining one already written became seriously questioned. This was a very

important matter for the Scotch Presbyterians, and a plan was laid to test the young supplyer's ability to preach without a written sermon of his own or another's composition, and the plan was carried out. The following Sunday, a short time before the supplyer entered the church, he received a call from the leading members and was requested to preach from the words found in the first clause of the fifth verse of the ninth chapter of Joshua, --which reads as follows: "And old shoes and clouted upon their feet."

The supplyer without any show of surprise or appearance of being disconcerted, walked up the winding stairs to the high pulpit and opened the services preliminary to the sermon, and having only the intervening time to think out a sermon based upon such a strange and barren passage of scripture as the one thrust upon him.

He seems to have been equal to the situation however, and with a coolness and deliberation worthy of a more honest man and a less solemn occasion, he proceeded to preach a sermon that commanded the attention of the audience, and at the same time convinced his critics of his ability to preach an old sermon or a new one, if written, -- more than that, --it satisfied them of his ability to preach without any sermon at all, thought they might not have accepted with becoming grace the personal application of the subject with which he scored them at the close. His exordium consisted of a short narrative of the Gibeonites, and a history of their duplicity in general and toward the Jews, especially: The subject was divided into three heads:

First—The places of shoes.

Second—The significance of old shoes.

Third—Of clouted shoes.

Under the first head he discussed the nature and use of shoes, --calling attention to the fact that man is but a sojourner in the world for a season; all traveling to another and

better state of existence where all would arrive at last. He dwelt upon the necessity of being prepared for the journey, of being well and fittingly shod to render the journey easy; that the truly good man was careful to have his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. He called upon them to remember that there was no such thing as remaining inactive during this earthly probation, all are moving rapidly forward to their final end; and the way is not smooth, --it is filled with stones as well as briars and thorns, and unless well shod, we are wounded at every step. Mankind has learned that the way is rough and thorny and seeks such covering for the feet as they imagine will be a sure protection.

Secondly, of old shoes; --he informed his hearers they represented those who had been hewing for themselves broken cisterns that could hold no water. Generation after generation follow each other on the same road, --they follow in the footsteps of those that have gone before them, and their feet are shod with the same old shoes.

The old shoes also represent old sins. The spirit of jealousy and discord, of suspicion and lack of confidence among men is but a display of old sins, --of old shoes that are as old as any worn. Jealousy is an old sin, and of this old sin Solomon said, "Jealousy is more cruel than the grave." It causes men to hate each other, --it breaks up and destroys churches and all organizations wherever it is allowed to enter. Woe be to those who cherish and nourish the seeds of jealousy.

Thirdly, of clouted shoes. --Those who wear old shoes, who become suspicious and jealous of their fellowmen know very well how hateful and odious they become to all who are subjected to their wicked practices. Ministers and people, husbands and wives, parents and children fall a sacrifice to this unseemly jealousy. Such people know this is

all wrong, know that it is sinful and are ashamed, and they have recourse to patching and clouting; they cover themselves with false pretenses to hide their deserved shame and disgrace.

Jealousy is a most debasing sin, and the least excusable of all. My hearers, he said, you know that when this sin has taken possession of your souls all comforts and joys flee away, and this first born son of hell triumphed in your bosoms., O jealousy that green-eyed monster that makes the meat it feeds on.

The conclusion of the sermon from this strange text was a stinging application of the subject which must have made the suspicious Scotchmen writhe under the lash laid upon them by this nineteen year old stripling, from the high pulpit of the old meeting house.

“My hearers, where shall I apply this doctrine? Is it calculated for a people only at some great distance? Can we not bring it home, even to our own doors? Search and see. Try yourselves by the sanctuary and if there your garments are not washed in innocence, you will find ‘Mene, Mene, tekel upharsin’ written on your walls. Will you suffer this hateful monster to rage among you? Will you wear these old filthy clouted shoes any longer? Will you not rather be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace?”

The people who had selected the text for the “Supplier” under the suspicion that he had been preaching sermons written by others because he was unable to write them himself were abundantly satisfied that it was not necessary for him to write sermons in order to preach, and they were comparatively quiet for awhile. The Supplier had preached the four Sundays that Dea. Ebenezer Gray with the advice of other prominent

members of the church had hired him for and had begun his second engagement of sixteen Sundays at five dollars per Sunday besides board and housekeeping. He had secured for himself more fitting clothing, and had purchased a new horse, saddle and bridle; had disposed of the horse and outfit that he first came to town with and he seemed to be going along swimmingly. But there was trouble in store for this wicked pretender that all of his smartness failed to avoid. No one of his acquaintances knew where young Burroughs was or what he was doing save Joseph Huntingdon, a young man he had known at Dartmouth College. Burroughs kept up a correspondence with Huntingdon and the latter proposed to visit Pelham on his way from College to his home in Coventry, Conn., sometime in September 1784.

Joseph Huntingdon came to Pelham and remained several days and during his stay on several occasions addressed the pretender Davis, by his true name Burroughs. This was noticed by those that heard it and it excited suspicion that Davis was not his real name. Huntingdon concluded his visit and set out on a Monday morning for Coventry, Conn. On horseback. Burroughs accompanied him, and when the two young fellows were riding past the house of Rev. Mr. Forward, the pastor of the church at Belchertown, the latter came forth and desired them to call, saying that Rev. Mr. Chapin from Windsor was within and he wished Davis and Burroughs to make his acquaintance.

Burroughs knew Chapin already and declined, stating that he was in haste to move on with his friend Huntingdon, but while making excuses, Rev. Mr. Chapin came forth from Mr. Forward's house and addressed the supplier as Burroughs. It was in vain that he tried to convince Chapin that his name was Davis. Chapin was not deceived by talk of that sort and persisted that he knew the man before him and that his name was not

Davis but Burroughs. Burroughs and Huntingdon then rode on towards Palmer, the former leaving Mr. Forward and Mr. Chapin with not a little assumed indignation at being addressed as Burroughs instead of Davis.

Burroughs and Huntingdon parted some distance below Belchertown. Huntingdon to pursue his journey to Coventry, Conn., and Burroughs turned back towards Pelham, by the same road that led past Mr. Forward's house; and after passing the house he heard some one shouting from the parsonage to him calling Mr. Davis, and also Mr. Burroughs, but he did not turn back. Continuing along the hilly road toward Pelham, the supplyer had time to reflect upon the effect which the unpleasant interview with Mr. Chapin and Mr. Forward would have upon the people of his charge at Pelham when they came to know all about it as it was plain they would, the next day at farthest, when his true name and character would be laid bare to the people of Pelham, already suspicious, and who lacked but the information that Mr. Chapin could give them to cause the indignation of the people to burst forth and fall upon him in full measure. He had preached fifteen of the sixteen Sundays of his second engagement, and to meet the cost of new and fitting ministerial robes and his new horse, saddle and bridle had drawn all the salary that would be due after another Sunday's labors should be given, and as any further engagement was now impossible, he hastily decided upon leaving the town without the formality of bidding the people farewell. Arriving at his boarding place at Pelham that evening he put his horse in the usual place in the barn and went to bed as usual. When the family were all asleep he gathered his personal effects together, passed quietly from the house, took his horse from the stable, mounted and rode to the house of a trusted friend whom he calls Lysander. Who this man was or in what part of the town he

lived is not known, probably the eastern part. To Lysander he told the incidents of the day and what would befall him on the morrow if he fell into the clutches of those before whom he had been parading as a minister. Lysander secreted the guilty pretender in his house and hid the horse in his barn, and then they waited to see what a day would bring forth.

When the landlord of Davis, the supplier, rose on that bright September morning in 1784 and learned that his guest of the summer had departed in the night, leaving not a trace, he was greatly astonished and excited. He informed the neighbors and the news spread like wildfire. A man came from Belchertown and gave information showing that the supplier who said his name was Davis was a fraud and imposter, which added fuel to the flames of indignation that had begun to blaze. The whole town was in uproar. They mounted their horses and rode in all directions seeking for information that would lead to the Discovery of Davis. Just what they proposed to do if they could find him cannot be clearly understood now but it is enough to know that those good people had been outraged, scandalized, byt this unsanctified pretender who had been occupying the sacred desk of their meeting house, and they were all intent upon discovering the way he had gone and his whereabouts if possible.

During all that day of exciting thought and action among the people Burroughs was in the house of his friend, Lysander, and a witness of the hurrying to and fro of he angry people to whom he hae been preaching for five months.

About 12 o'clock at night, after the people had quieted down, Burroughs mounted his horse and took leave of his friend Lysander and family and rode out into the darkness, going eastward towards Greenwich. He could, and doubtless did have a review of the

past five months of his life in Pelham, now so suddenly terminated as he rode out of the town alone in the darkness of night. About one o'clock Burroughs overtook a man in the town of Greenwich named Powers whom he had known before coming to Pelham. He accused Powers of having been searching for himself with the Pelham people, which Powers at first denied but later confessed that it was true. Burroughs explained the situation to Powers and endeavored to have the latter promise not to divulge his whereabouts. Powers hesitated and then Burroughs frightened him into taking a solemn oath that he would not, and they rode along together until Powers reached his house and Burroughs kept on, having decided to ride to Rutland, and reached there about eight o'clock in the morning.

As soon as Burroughs had parted with Powers the latter forgot his oath and turned back to Pelham, giving the alarm and rousing the people into the greatest excitement again on learning the direction Burroughs had taken.

A goodly number saddled their horses and pushed on after the fleeing imposter. Burroughs was in the store of a friend named Frink when he heard the tramping of horses hoofs. Looking out the window near which he was standing he recognized a crowd of Pelham people rushing into town on horseback, and he very well knew the errand that brought them there. His first thought was to elude them by flight; he made a rush for the rear door of his friend's store or shop, when near the door he met a Mr. Conkey, one of the angry Pelham men, who tried to lay hold of him. Burroughs struck Conkey across the arm with a stick with such force as to break his arm. Rushing past Conkey, now disabled, he ran around the end of the shop or store and turning the corner he met two of the Pelham deacons; turning again to avoid them, all of the angry Pelham people gave chase,

shouting “Stop him! Stop him!” as they chased Burroughs down the hill. The fact of being pursued by the people and not very complimentary language of his pursuers angered their late Supplyer and he halted, picked up a stone and faced them, declaring that he would kill the first man who came near him. At this defiant attitude, the pursuers all halted in astonishment except Dr. Hinds, a prominent man of Pelham, who coming within reach of Burroughs, received a blow on the head which felled him to the ground. Burroughs seeing a crowd of Rutland people coming to see what it was all about, moved forward towards a small barn, his late people following at a respectful distance. Entering the barn, he climbed to the top of the haymow, taking a scythe snath along for defense. Rutland people came into the barn with the angry men from Pelham, and the former wanted to know what the disagreement was based upon.

Deacon Mc Mullen of Pelham then explained that the man on the haymow was an imposter who had come to Pelham, calling his name Davis while it was Burroughs, and had grossly deceived them by claiming to be a preacher, and preached to them all summer, and they had paid him for one Sunday that he had not preached.

The last statement seemed to strike the Rutland people as wrong, but as they Sunday had not yet come on which he had been engaged to preach, it constituted a mitigating circumstance.

Deacon McMullen then charged that Burroughs had nearly killed Dr. Hinds and Mr. Conkey and ought to be arrested and punished, he also spoke of the intimidation and threatening at Greenwich the previous night.

There was a wordy discussion between the pursuers of Burroughs from Pelham and the Rutland people who had followed into the barn where Burroughs had taken

refuge. Dea. McMullen and the party with him insisted that the law should take hold of Burroughs, and the Rutland people were not sure that he had done any great wrong by preaching under an assumed name if his preaching was good; neither did they think that collecting money in advance for a Sunday's preaching, that he had not given them, was any very grave offense. Finally the Rutlanders proposed, that as Burroughs had collected five dollars of the Pelham people beyond what he had given an equivalent for, the whole business should be settled up by an adjournment to Wood's tavern where Burroughs was to expend the five dollars at the bar for the benefit of all those who were thirsty, whether native Rutlanders or people from Pelham. This proposition was finally adopted.

Burroughs descended from the hay loft, where he had climbed for safety, and the party went to the tavern where Burroughs called for drinks for all hands, and an era of good feeling and satisfaction was rapidly setting in when Dr. Hinds, who had been knocked down for venturing to near while Burroughs was retreating to the barn, ;put in an appearance and began to foam with rage at the turn things had taken. Dr. Hinds was a prominent man in Pelham, was the heaviest tax payer as well as a noted physician at home, --and smarting under the pain of the blow from the stone in the hands of Burroughs was in no mood to condone the grave offenses of an imposter, such as he had ridden from Pelham to Rutland to overhaul. There was a consultation between the leading Pelham men to decide upon what their action should be, and it is said they decided to take Burroughs back to Pelham. The result of the consultation and the decision to force their late Supplier to go back to Pelham was made known to Burroughs in some way, probably by the Rutlanders, and having decided objections to returning to Pelham as a prisoner, he decide on a plan to escape. Being in a room on the second story

of the tavern, Burroughs locked himself in. The Pelham men went to the room to take the fugitive supplier, finding the door locked, an axe was sent for. Burroughs jumped out of a window to the sloping roof of a shed and from that to the ground, landing close by where the men were looking for an axe to break down the door to the room. Burroughs then ran and obtained a good lead before the fleetest of the irate Pelham men knew that their hoped for prisoner had escaped. Burroughs eluded them. Being unable to find their man, they gave up the idea of taking him back with them and returned to the tavern, mounted their horses and set out for Pelham, filled with vexation and anger over the failure of their expedition to secure and punish the wicked supplier.

Burroughs returned to Frink's store after Dea. McMullen and party had departed, spent the night in Rutland and the next morning started toward Providence, enquiring as he traveled, for a place to preach. On the way to Providence he learned that the people at Attleboro were without a preacher and desirous of obtaining one.

Arriving in Attleboro he offered his services to the proper persons and was engaged for a short season. Burroughs ministered to the people of Attleboro for four Sundays only, refusing to remain longer, because he had engaged to preach at Danbury, Conn., and desired to visit his friend Huntingdon at Coventry in the same state.

While it is not our purpose to go fully into the life of Stephen Burroughs there is one episode which should be given in connection with what has gone before. Burroughs was intimate with the man Lysander, a citizen of Pelham and with whom he was a guest for twenty-four hours after he disappeared from his boarding place as already stated. Who this Lysander was or what his family name was cannot be determined with certainty, but it was through Lysander that Burroughs became interested in a process of

transmuting copper into silver which Lysander informed him was known to one Phillips, who was working with the noted Glazier Wheeler, a counterfeit money-maker at New Salem. This secret Phillips had agreed to communicate to Lysander. Burroughs was greatly interested in the story, and Lysander wished to have his friend share in the wealth which he (Lysander) believed was to come from transmuting copper into silver, and personally had the greatest confidence in the practicability of the business, but his wife was not hopeful, on the contrary was doubtful. In order to make sure that there was no deception practiced by Phillips it was arranged that Burroughs should accompany Lysander to New Salem and together witness the process and note results. The visit was made in the night because it was thought it might cause unpleasant suspicion, should it become known that they had been seen in the vicinity of Glazier Wheeler's place in the daytime, especially for one supplying the pulpit of the Presbyterian church at Pelham.

They arrived at New Salem at ten o'clock at night, and informed Phillips of the purpose of their visit. Phillips kindly consented to gratify his visitors with practical evidence of his power to transmute ordinary copper to the best of silver.

Phillips weighed out half an ounce of copper and put it into a crucible, --put the crucible into the fire; after a short time had elapsed Phillips put something wrapped in a paper into the hot crucible containing the copper.

The contents of the crucible then began to foam and boil, continuing in that state for ten minutes when it settled down into a clear fluid which was poured off and cooled. It was good silver and weighed half an ounce. It withstood nitric acid and other well-known tests, so that there was no doubt as to the quality of the product turned from the crucible. The only unsatisfactory thing with Burroughs was the nature of the so-called

powder in the paper process. Phillips contended that it absorbed verdigris of the copper leaving the remainder pure silver.

Burroughs desired to see some of the powder, and after satisfying himself that it was really a powder as claimed, he then wished Phillips to perform the experiment again and put the powder in open, without the covering of paper. Phillips said it was not quite as good a plan to do that way, but consented to gratify his visitor's curiosity. The experiment was then repeated in all respects the same as before, except that the transmuter, Phillips, laid a large flat piece of coal over the mouth of the crucible after putting in the copper. The result was the same; --half an ounce of pure silver was poured from the crucible as before.

Burroughs then desired Phillips to furnish him with materials and allow him to proceed, with the details of the experiment and the handling of the crucible, while Phillips should remain at a distance from the fire. Phillips assented to this proposition. Burroughs weighed out the copper, put it in the crucible and at the proper time put in the powder and when the contents were foaming Phillips, standing at a distance from the forge, cried out to Burroughs to stir the contents of the crucible. The only thing at hand with which the crucible's contents could be stirred was an iron rod about the size of an old fashioned nail rod, such as blacksmiths of those days hammered out their own nails for horse and cattle shoes. Burroughs seized the rod and stirred the contents of the crucible, although he did not remember that Phillips stirred the crucible when attending it himself. On pouring out the contents of the crucible they weighed up a half ounce of pure silver as on the two previous occasions.

Burroughs begged for still further indulgence in the investigation and this time he stipulated that Phillips should not be even a spectator; that he should leave the room and remain out while Burroughs and his friend Lysander selected the materials for the crucible and manipulated it in the fire; to this Phillips gave assent. The two weighed out the half ounce of copper, placed it in the crucible, and when it was fully melted added the mysterious powder and stirred the contents with a short piece of walking stick, the nail rod not lying handy at the time. In stirring the contents of the crucible, about four inches of the stick was burned away, but as the stick of itself was worthless no thought was given to it at the time. After pouring out the contents of the personally managed crucible and giving it time to cool, a half ounce of pure silver was weighed up as in each of the former tests.

Satisfaction could not be more complete, and late that night Burroughs and his friend Lysander returned to Pelham filled with visions of fabulous wealth which was within easy reach, and they began perfecting plans to get this wealth in hand.

After two years in Dartmouth College, which he was forced to leave before the completion of the course, by fault of his own rather than that of others; he left his father's house at Hanover, N.H. and went to Newburyport and shipped on a packet having letters of marque for Nantes, France, shipping in the capacity of physician for the ship. On the passage out the packet halted at Sable Island, a lonely uninhabited island on which there was only a hut for the protection of such as might be shipwrecked on the surrounding reefs, and some wild hogs that might be used as food by such unfortunates, if by any possibility they could be killed.

The proposition which Burroughs and his friend Lysander considered was to charter a vessel, load her with copper, coal, and provisions, besides the necessary outfit for transmuting copper into silver and then take up their residence on Sable Island so that they might pursue the wealth getting business without interruption, expecting doubtless to bring back a ship load of silver instead of copper.

The consideration of this money making scheme was an all-absorbing one with Burroughs and Lysander, when the sudden exposure of Burroughs came by the visit of his friend Huntingdon, and the unfortunate collision with Mr. Chapin and Mr. Forward at Belchertown, made it imperative for Burroughs to leave Pelham. This broke off the consideration of their plans for a time, but Burroughs who had become an ardent believer in free silver, was desirous of completing the plans already begun, and after visiting his friend Huntingdon at Coventry, several weeks subsequent to his escape from the clutches of the enraged Pelham people at Rutland, he determined to return to Pelham to renew the consideration of the plans so suddenly broken off. He made the journey to Massachusetts and to Pelham, arriving at the house of his friend Lysander at one o'clock in the night.

He was received with hearty expressions of satisfaction by Lysander and his family, and Burroughs was as effusive in his greetings as they. There was a mutual recapitulation of the exciting occurrences connected with his departure from Pelham and the scenes at Rutland of which Lysander had of course received ex parte statements from his neighbors who were witnesses of the doings at Rutland. They laughed over the ludicrous antics of the leading citizens when they learned that Mr. Davis, the supplier had disappeared, and over the anathemas and execrations that his pursuers heaped upon

the Rutlanders for not joining heartily with them in securing the imposter and bringing him to punishment.

After all the incidents and happenings of the chase after Burroughs had been rehearsed and nothing of information concerning the great business of securing wealthy by changing copper to silver had been volunteered by Lysander, Burroughs ventured to ask how he was progressing in the business, and with much show of distress and disappointment was informed by Lysander that the scheme for getting rich was exploded. "Burroughs, we have all been deceived by Phillips, that king of villains," said Lysander, and then he went on to explain how the deception was practiced and made so plain as to fully convince them of its being a real transmutation of copper into silver.

When the half ounce of copper was placed in the crucible at the first test, Phillips put in a half ounce of silver wrapped in the paper with the powder which consumed the copper and left the silver. The second test was made to appear real by resorting to the following manipulations which neither Burroughs nor Lysander detected at the time.

As Burroughs desired to see the powder the silver could not be enclosed in the paper containing it, so Phillips unobserved laid the silver on the forge and covered it with a flat piece of charcoal broad enough to cover the top of the crucible, and with the tongs raised the silver with the charcoal and lad the coal across the crucible, the silver falling from the under side of the charcoal into the crucible when the tongs were removed. The third test was the one which Burroughs managed with Phillips standing at a distance from the forge and was directed to stir the contents of the crucible, which he did with a horse nail rod that lay handy on the forge. On the end of this rod the silver was fixed and

blackened to look exactly like the iron rod itself, --when used to stir the contents of the crucible the silver melted off.

The last test was performed by Burroughs and Lysander alone, they weighed out the copper, put in the mysterious powder at the right time and stirred the mass in the crucible with a short piece of walking sticking, --the only thing in reach at the time, --no thoughts being given to the disappearance of the iron rod which had been laid aside unnoticed and the innocent piece of walking stick left within easy reach to be sought to stir the contents of the crucible at the right stage of the operation. The handy portion of the walking stick was burned off for about five inches at the end and there was hidden the necessary half ounce of silver to complete the test and show up when cool as pure silver.

This statement of fact by Lysander caused a collapse in the hopes of great wealth which had filled the mind of Burroughs and had caused him to journey from Coventry to Pelham,, when he was aware that neither Dr. Hinds nor Dea. McMullen cared to see him except to put him under arrest as the worst imposter they had ever known . Burroughs had lost in his expectations but his pocket had not suffered from the skillful manipulations of the one-armed bunco man, Phillips, at New Salem, by Lysander and others had been fleeced in the sum of \$2,000, for Lysander was not the only one that Phillips was letting into the secret for a money consideration. It cost Lysander \$100 in money and a fine horse to learn that he had been duped. Phillips, having secured all that he thought it possible with safety to seek, disappeared and left his dupes in the lurch, including Glazier Wheeler, to whom he had promised half the swag he should collect from those anxious to learn the business of transmutation of metals.

According to the statement of Burroughs, Lysander then decided to try to better his financial condition by securing a quantity of Glazier Wheeler's counterfeit silver dollars, which the latter turned out at the rate of three spurious for one standard dollar, and in the race of the pleadings of his wife, and the arguments of Burroughs against it signified his intention to put them in circulation. He proposed to go to Springfield after certain drugs which Wheeler was in need of to fill an order he had placed in Wheeler's hands for more spurious money, and to take some of the bad money along to make the purchases. Arguments and pleadings were in vain, and because of his high regard for Lysander and his family Burroughs offered to take twenty counterfeit dollars and ride to Springfield to purchase the drugs which Lysander said must be obtained and for which he had determined to go in person.

Burroughs arrived in Springfield at 11 a.m., called at the drug store, ordered the drugs, and turned over some of the twenty bogus dollars in payment and was arrested in a printing office opposite the drug store a few minutes later.

Burroughs was thrown into jail to await trial, and it was while in prison that he decided upon the course which he would pursue at the trial. Instead of implicating Lysander in the business of passing bad money he concluded to keep his mouth closed and take the punishment dealt out by the courts because of the great suffering the implication of his friend Lysander would cause his innocent wife and family. Burroughs was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment in Northampton jail.

Stephen Burroughs was the only son of Rev. Eden Burroughs of Hanover, N.H. He had spent one year in preparation for Dartmouth College, was in that institution two years; went on a voyage to Nantes, France, as ship physician at seventeen; taught school

at Haverhill and Oxford, N.H., after his return from France; was obliged to leave home on account of being concerned in the robbery of a bee-house near Hanover, and for his attentions to a married woman at Oxford. When nineteen years old he follows the Connecticut river valley to Massachusetts; preaches his first sermon at Ludlow, and rides up the long Pelham slopes and bargains with good Deacon Ebenezer Gray to preach for four Sundays at five dollars a Sunday including board and horse keeping. Having followed the career of this talented young imposter so far as it has connection with the people of Pelham, as preacher or as passer of counterfeit money, we now take leave of him, with a good start in a career which became notorious, and whose operations covered a goodly portion of New England. The main facts of the Burroughs episode are condensed from the "*Life of Burroughs*," written by himself and published by M. N. Spear of Amherst.

THE HAY MOW SERMON

The famous Hay Mow Sermon of Stephen Burroughs has been a subject of great interest for more than a century. It has been asserted many times that it was preached from the hay mow in Rutland by Burroughs, to the people of Pelham who had pursued him from the tavern, and when hard pressed he had entered a barn and mounted the hay mow for safety. From the hay mow as a pulpit Burroughs doubtless made some pointed remarks in response to the incriminating charges that came up to him from the mixed audience on the barn floor of pursuing Pelham men, and the curious Rutlanders who were interested to see the outcome of the strange spectacle of a foot race between the staid churchmen from Pelham and their late "Supplier," who had proven to be a wolf in

sheep's clothing. But it is quite evident that the episode at the Rutland barn was only used to furnish an attractive name for a document issued several years later in pamphlet form, and probably ever preached at all.

The opening paragraphs refer to the several ministers that had been settled in Pelham before Burroughs was engaged as "Supplier" viz.: Rev. Robert Abercrombie, Rev. Richard Crouch Graham and Rev. Mr. Merrill. Rutland is mentioned truthfully as a land of hills and valleys—and the collision between Burroughs and Dr. Hinds, in which the latter received a blow on the head from a stone in the hands of the former is a matter of history.

Then the trouble between the Lincolnites and the Pelhamites is taken up. This refers of course to the Shays rebellion of 1786-7: proving conclusively that the Hay Mow Sermon was not preached extempore from the Rutland hay mow, but written after the rebellion had been crushed out, or not until three or four years after Burroughs climbed the hay mow. This feat having been accomplished in the autumn of 1784 after "supplying the vacant pulpit at Pelham for perhaps twenty Sundays and skipping the town with one more Sunday more paid for than he had preached."

That part of the so-called sermon which touches upon St. Patrick and the rased question was one upon which the people were very sensitive, as Burroughs well knew, and the charge that they could not pronounce the word faith, at all, --the nearest approach being the shorter and more quickly spoken word "fath" accompanied by the distinctive Irish brogue tended to make the Scotch people very angry, for they much disliked the title of Scotch-Irish often applied to them, and coming from Burroughs, the irreligious and

wicked youth who had by sanctimonious pretensions been able to deceive them and gain admission to the pulpit for several months, made it all the more unbearable.

The above comments and explanations will help to a better understanding of the circumstances under which the much too highly extolled sermon was evolved from the brain of the notorious Burroughs, and will take away much of the sprightly novelty and spice commonly supposed to be found in the extempore effort of Burroughs from the Rutland hay mow.

THE SERMON

“In those days the Pelhamites being gathered together, from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South: Stephen the Burrowite being the Prophet of Pelham, ascended the *hay mow*, and lifted up his voice, saying, “hear ye the voice of the Lord which crieth against the Pelamites, --for the anger of the Lord speaketh with furious indignation against you for the follies for the anger of the Lord smoketh with furious indignation against you for the follies which you have committed against the Lord and against his anointed. For verily, saith the Lord, I have given you my prophets, rising up early and sending them; but the first you rejected; the second, on account of your cruelty, I took unto myself; the third you drove away with great wrath, and pursued with great rage,, malignity and uproar.’ Then said the Lord, ‘I will give them a minister like unto themselves, full of all deceit, hypocrisy, and duplicity. But who among all the sons of men shall I send?’ Then came forth a lying spirit, and stood before the Lord, saying, ‘I will go forth and be a spirit in the mouth of Stephen the Burrowite.’ And the Lord said, ‘Go.’ Then up rose Stephen the Burrowite, of the tribe of the Puritans, and family of

Ishmael, and went forth to Pelham, sorely oppressing the Pelhamites, taking from them ten shekels of silver, a mighty fine horse, and changes of raiment, and ran off to Rutland.

Then the Pelhamites were moved with rage, like the moving of the trees of the forest by a mighty tempest, and gathered themselves together, and pursued their Prophet down to Rutland.

And now I, your Prophet and minister, being ascended on the *hay mow*, declare unto you, that I see an angel flying through heaven, crying, “Wo! Wo! Wo! To the *Pelhamites*. The first wo is past, but behold two other woes shall come, which will sweep you away with a mighty besom of destruction.”

Then arose up Nehemiah the son of Nehemiah, Daniel the son of John, and John the son of John, who was a trader in potash and were about to lay violent hands on the Prophet.

Then the Prophet lift up his rod, which he held in his hand and smote John, the trader in potash, across the right arm, and broke it asunder, but the rod breaking and falling out of his hand he caught up a great mill stone, and cast it on the head of Nehemiah and sunk him to the ground.

This Rutland being a land of hills and valleys, where groweth the sycamore tree, the fir tree, and the shittim wood, by the wayside, as thou goest unto Dan, which in the Hebrew is called Abandone, but in Syriac Worcester; it being the place of a Skull: And not that Dan which is called by Tom Paine and Philistines Lairh. The Prophet traveling through this land by way of Ur of the Chaldeans, sought him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them into his wallet; lest haply, Syhon King of Hesphon, and Ogg

King of Bashan, should come out against him. But it went out all round the land of Edom saying, “The Burrowite is not, but is fled and gone over the brook *Cedron*.”

“Therefore they blew a trumpet saying, ‘Every man to his ten, O Pelhamites!’ So they all went up from following after the Prophet; but when they came to the pass of the Jordan, behold a strong army had taken possession of the fords of the river! At which the Pelhamites were sore dismayed, and sought by guile to deceive the army of the Lincolnites. Therefore they say unto the Lincolnites, ‘We be strangers from a far country with old shoes and clouted upon our feet.’ Then said the Lincolnites unto the men of Pelham, ‘Say, Faith.’ Then the Pelhamites said, ‘Fath,’ for they could nor say ‘faith.’ Then the Lincolnites knew them to be Pelhamites, and fell upon them and slew them so that not one was left to lean against the wall.

When it was told in *Pelham* saying, “Our old men are slain, and our young ones are carried away into captivity, and our holy places are polluted with the abomination which maketh desolate, there was great lamentation, weeping and wailing; every family mourned apart and their wives apart—and their mourning was like the mourning of *Hadradimmon* in the valley of Megidon;” and they said, “alas! For the glory is departed from *Pelham*; the second wo which the prophet foretold is surely come to us; and when the third wo shall come who shall be able to stand. –The beauty of *Pelham* is slain upon the high places! Is slain! Is slain upon East Hil. The Grays, the McMullens, the Hindses and the Konkeys are fallen upon the dark mountains of the *shadow of death*! Tell it not in *Greenwich*, publish it not in *Leverett*, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice; alas, for our wives, and our little ones! So the hearts of the *Pelhamites* were troubled, and they drew around the altar of St., Patrick, and bowed down before the altar saying,

“O great Spirit! How have we offended that thou has left us to be destroyed by our enemies! Shall we go up again to fight against the *Lincolnites*, and shall we prosper?” But they received no answer, the Urim nor Thummin, by voices nor dreams; and the *Pelhamites* were greatly dismayed. Then said Ahab, the *Tishbite*, “Hear O *Pelhamites*! There liveth in the wilderness of Sin, as thou goest unto the land of *Shinar*, a cunning woman, whose name is Goody McFall, who has a familiar, and dwelleth alone, even with her cat. To this woman let the fathers and leaders of the tribe of *Pelham* repair and peradventure she may tell us what we ought to do.”

Then the chief men of *Pelham*, captains of tens, captains of twelves, and captains of twenties, arose up and disguised themselves in the habits of honest men, and went forth to Goody McFall, saying, “Bring us up a Spirit,” --and she said, “Whom shall I bring up?” And they say unto her “Bring up Father Abercrombie.” Then Goody McFall laid hold of her instrument of Enchantment and stamped on the ground, and then cried out, alas! For you have deceived me, for you are *Pelhamites* and not honest men. And they said unto her “fear not.” Then the ground was troubled and began to move --and they said unto her, “Whom sawest thou?” And she said “Abercrombie.” Then came there forth old Father Abercrombie; and with a countenance which made the *Pelhamites* quake with fear, said, “Why hast thou troubled me, even in my grave?” Then answered the *Pelhamites*, and said, “Because we are sore troubled. --We have fallen by the hands of the *Lincolnites*, and when we enquired at the altar of our great Prophet, we were not answered by Urim nor Thummin, by voices nor dreams.” Then said Abercrombie. --“You shall go out to-morrow against the *Lincolnites* and shall fall by their hands, and be utterly destroyed, --your wives and little ones shall be led away into captivity, for your measure

of iniquity is full.” Then the men of *Pelham* fell all along on the ground, and their hearts sunk within them. --Then fear and sore dismay spread through all the town of *Pelham* and the *Pelhamites* fled into the wilderness, and hid themselves in caves and holes in the earth.

And lo! It was told in the army of the *Lincolnites*, saying, --The *Pelhamites* have fled!” Then arose up the *Lincolnites* and pursued after the men of *Pelham*, sorely discomfiting them, and led many away captive to the city of Dan. Then Benjamin the *Lincolnite* blew a trumpet, and all the men left pursuing after the *Pelhamites*.

And the *Pelhamites* who were carried away captive to the city of *Dan*, besought Jammy the Bostonian, saying, “We be evil men, dealing in lies and wickedness; we have sought to destroy the goodness of the land! We digged a pit and fell therein; we have trusted to St. Patrick to deliver us, but he has utterly forsaken us; therefore O Jammy, in thy wrath remember mercy; and we will leave assembling ourselves together to talk politics, and follow our occupation of raising potatoes.” --Ten Jammy the Bostonian had compassion on the *Pelhamites*.

They then sung the following hymn, after which the Prophet passed out of their hands and fled from their sight.

THE HYMN

Says Irish Teague I do not know,
From whence came our Nation;
"I to St. Patrick's shrine will go,
And there get information.
Great genius of our Nation, tell
By whom we are befriended,
For the Irish are so much like hell,
I fear they from thence descended.
At which the grumbling spirit spoke,
Poor Teague I will befriend thee;
Since now my aid you do invoke,
My help I'll freely lend thee.
Once on the coast of Gadareen,
As flocks and herds were feeding,
A great herd of two hundred swine,
Which shepherds these were leading,
Were by a Legion then possessed—
** of minds were bent on slaughter."

Any further reprint of the hymn is impossible as the ancient copy is so worn and torn that the above is all there is left.

Pelham in the Wars.

French War. –Revolutionary War. –War of 1812. –Mexican War. –The Great Rebellion.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS

Information concerning the part Pelham men had in the French and Indian wars is not easily obtainable. The ancient muster rolls had headings printed in a business like manner, giving a heading for all information for the identification of every soldier, term of service, miles marched, amount of pay, etc., and yet the one heading, "Town From," that would locate each man definitely is left blank on most of the rolls. These rolls are pasted into large black volumes, ten or more in number, and not yet fully indexed, so that one must examine each roll for the names of men that have a familiar sound or that was a common family name in the town one is specially interested in. If one finds a muster roll of Hampshire county men, it is scrutinized closely for names of men from the town whose soldier record is being looked up. Absolute accuracy is hardly attainable under the circumstances.

The first man whose name appears as serving in the French and Indian wars is given on the authority of the town records, as follows: At a meeting, March 19, 1746-7, "Voted that James Fergerson is freed from Paying Rats y^e 1746 for his being in y^e War." At the same meeting it was "voted that Isaac Hunter and John Starling is freed from Paying Rats last year and this year." Robert Fergersen was also "freed from paying Rats last year and this year." The record does not state that the last three men were freed from paying taxes in consideration of their being in the war, but it may not be unfair to assume that the four men were in his Majesty's service fighting the French and Indians.

A muster roll of Capt. Isaac Wyman's company in 1755, has the name of John Gray as in service of that company, --no town being given but it is a Pelham name and it is assumed that he was probably from that town.

On the 15th of Sept., 1755, the regiment of militia under Col. Abraham Williams was mustered and thirty-nine men enlisted therefrom, by order of Lieut.-Gov. Phipps and among these names was that of Benoni Shurtleiff, afterwards innkeeper, constable, and a man of position in Pelham.

When such an order was sent out to the commander of any regiment the quota was filled by enlistment from the enrolled men in the regiment; or if men enough did not volunteer, men were "impressed" to make up the quota.

A demand was made upon the regiment of Lt. -Col. Thomas Williams, May 4, 1756, and not enough enlisting, Matthew Gray was impressed, and the squad was mustered in at Hatfield. Matthew Gray was a Pelham man.

Levi Gray's name appears in the list of men from Col. Joseph Dwight's regiment who enlisted for service at Crown Point, May 4, 1756. Levi Gray lived on the farm known as Eseck Cook farm.

Jon Dunlap was in Capt. Samuel Moody's company, Sept. 10, 1755, and Robert Dunlap in the company of Capt. David Dunning.

Robert Gilmore enlisted for service at Crown Point, Oct. 7, 1755, and William Oliver enlisted from Col. Jacob Wendall's regiment for service at the same place, Oct. 2, 1755, as did William Patterson. It is not absolutely certain that the last two names were of Pelham men but there were men of these names in the town and in the absence of

statement on the rolls as to nthe towns the men came from it is quite possible they were from Pelham.

Joshua Conkey and James Turner were doubtless soldiers in the French and Indian wars sometime previous to 1761, and it is believed that during their service they traversed some part of Washington county, New York, and it is supposed that the land in that section pleased them and caused the men to go out there in the spring of 1761 and secure a tract of land on the flats where the village of Salem, N.Y. now stands.

“A Muster Roll of the Company under Command of Capt. Robert Loteridge in the Regiment of which Isreal Billings is Colonel, which marched by the Captain Generals orders for the relief of the Garrison and Troops at Fort William Henry at the time it was invested in the year 1757 in which is given the names of men, their Quality, the number of miles Marched, the whole term of service in Days, the number of Horses, the amount of each mans wages, and the number of meals that were eat upon the credit of the Province, annexed to the names of those who eat them.”

Number of miles, 200. Time of service in days, 14 1/3.

About one quarter of the paper on which the muster roll was written, is missing, so that as many as sixty officers and men from Pelham marched to the relief of Fort William Henry in 1757, though but forty-six are now on the muster roll.

A billeting roll of Capt. Salah Barnard’s company in Colonel William Williams’ regiment has the names of the following men: year not given:

David Johnson	Isaac Davis
Robert King	Robert Gilmore
James Peebles	Eliot Gray
James Powers	Adam Gray
Isaac Stevenson	John Peeble
Seth Rowland	Robert Peeble

David Gowden
Robert Cochran.

Isaac White

These men enlisted May 2, served 33 days, and each received £1—2a.

“A return of Men in Col. Isreal Williams Regiment to be put under the immediate command of Jeffry Amherst for the invasion of Canada in 1759,” has the names of the following Pelham men. Their ages are given, and each man furnished his own gun and enlisted April 2:

David Cowden	35	Arthur Crozier	19
Robert Hamilton	28	Jon Edgan Jun	20
John Crozier Sen	59	John McCartney	40
William Gray	18	John Halbert	18
James Hamilton	18	James Halbert	24
Isaac Hunter	19		

Arthur Crozier, son of John Crozier. James Hamilton, son of John Hamilton.

A return of men enlist4d for His Majesty’s service in the reduction of Canada in 1760. Enlisted April 10; mustered April 12.

William Gray	19	Adam Clark Gray	17
Arthur Crozier	19	James Sloan	18

In the payroll or Capt. Thomas Cowdine’s company for service from April, 1761 to December following there is just one Pelham name: Robert Clarke, Srg’t.

The following signed document indicates that John Stinson, Stenson or Stevenson, the first town treasurer and father-in-law of Rev. Robert Abercrombie saw service in the army:

“Vol. 96, page 98, Archive3s.)
To Col. Ruggles: Please pay unto Capt Daniel Robinsdon our respective Billetting, --we being soldiers in his Company and you will oblige subscribers.
Northampton, May 3, 1758
John Stinson “

A muster roll of Capt. Samuel Robinson’s company dated April 4, has the name of John Stevenson, Rutland, son of John Stevenson, age 18. John Stevenson appears on a

list of men in South Regiment, Capt. Mirah's company, Col. John Worthington's regiment.

Page 346, Vol. 96, Archives.) "Billeting roll. List of men under Capt. Samuel Robinson, Col. Timothy Ruggles' regiment: John Stevenson, £12—5s."

John Savage, a noted citizen of Pelham from 1747 or earlier until about the year 1766, "Was appointed a captain of a company of volunteers in 1758 and served under Gen. Bradstreet in his expedition against Fort Frontenac and under Gen. Abercrombie in the assault of Fort Ticonderoga." --(From Salem Book 1896.)

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The temper of the men of Pelham concerning the oppressive acts of Great Britain in the year just previous to the opening of the Revolutionary war is shown in many places on the town records, and all of these items of record show that all were intensely patriotic and outspoken concerning the oppression of the Mother Country and ready for any demands that might be made upon them by the Continental Congress. There is no hint upon the records of any tories or tory sentiment among the people of the town.

The following iron clad oath, though without date, was evidently drawn up and subscribed to by the five men whose names appear, just before the war broke out. Just why these five and no more should sign the document is without explanation, so the paper is made part of the history of Pelham in the Revolutionary war without attempting to explain more than is done by the iron clad oath itself.

"I—A—B Truly and Sincerely acknowledge profess certify and declare that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is and of Right ought to be a free Sovereign and Independent state and I do Swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the said Commonwealth—And that I will defend the same against Traitorous Conspiracies and all hostile attempts whatsoever and that I do Renounce and objure all allegiance subjection and obedience to the King Queen or government

of Great Britain (as the case may be) and every other foreign Power whatsoever, and that no foreign Prince Person Prelate State or Potentate hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction Superiority Preeminence authority Dispensing or other Powers in any Matter Civil Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Commonwealth except the authority which is or may be rested by their Constituents in Congress of the United States and I do further testify and declare that no man or body of men hath or fan have any right to absolve or discharge me from the Obligations of this oath Declaration or Affirmation, --and that I do make this acknowledgement, Profession, testimony, Declaration, Denial, renunciation and obligation heartily and truly according to the common meaning and acceptation of the foregoing wo4rds without equivocation mental evasion or secret reservation whatsoever. So help me God.

JOHN RANKIN
JOHN HASKINS
ANDREW ABERCROMBIE
ALEXANDER BERRY
NATH'L SAMPSON.”

The town responded promptly to the call for men in the spring of 1775 and Captain David Cowden with a company composed of Pelham men was dispatched to the seat of war near Boston. The date of service of these men began April 19, 1775.

To better present this service of the Pelham men the old muster rolls have been copied and will be reproduced so far as may be thought advisable, or as fully as can be in type. [See Page 346 in Parmenter's History of Pelham for a minute roll of the company under the command of Capt. David Cowden in Col. Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment.]

Capt. Cowden's company was connected with col. Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment, and the date of the service is the earliest found. Some of the muster rolls have no date and it is impossible to fix the year of service of some of the men for that reason.

Time of service from April 19, 1775.

A muster roll of the company under command of Capt. David Cowden in Col. Benj. Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment to the first of August 1775, has the following additional names of Pelham men:

James McCulloch	William Gray
William Hays	William Haskins
Joshua Conkey, drummer	John Hamilton
Silas Conkey, fifer	Daniel Hathaway
Ethanon Cowling	John Kelley
John Cowden	John McCartney
James Fergerson	John White, Jun.
David Gilmore	

These were from enlistments in May and July mostly, most of the men having served more than three months.

A return of Capt. Cowden's company was made Sept. 28, 1775 from a point near Prospect Hill, show all the above names save those of James McCulloch, David Gilmore, John Hamilton, Joshua Conkey, and Silas Conkey, but with the addition of Adam Patterson and David Green. The absence of Joshua and Silas Conkey, drummer and fifer, respectively, may be because of their transfer to some other company or regiment as musicians.

Robert Salfrage or Selfridge, enlisted at the Lexington alarm as it is probable all of Capt. Cowden's original company did. He was a son of Edward Selfridge who died in Pelham in 1761, and Robert, a minor son, was placed under the guardianship of Jon Dick until he became of age. His service under his first enlistment was for eleven days. An order for Bounty Coat was dated at Prospect Hill, now Somerville, Nov. 13, 1775 and made payable to Capt. Cowden. He enlisted for another term of service Aug. 17, 1777 and is reported as discharged Aug. 20 of that year. He marched on alarm at Bennington. Sept. 23, 1777, he enlisted in Capt. John Thompson's company, Col. Porter's regiment,

and was discharged Oct. 17, after a service of one month and a day. He marched on alarm to reinforce the Northern army under Gen. Gates.

Robert Selfrage was the only man of the name that served in the Revolutionary war from Massachusetts. The surname is spelled Selfridge, Selfridg, Selfrage, Sulfrage, Salfrage, Salfridg. Sometime after the close of the war he removed to Argyle, Washington county, New York.

A muster roll of the company under Capt. Isaac Gray in Col. Jonathan Brewer's regiment to Aug. 1, 1775.

Isaac Gray, captian	Jon Donoley, private
John McLem, serg't	Robert Gray, private
Thomas McMullen, serg't	Andrew McGray, private
Alexander Conkey, corp	Jon Thurston, private
Wm. Crossett, corp	Zebulon Richmond, private
James Abercrombie, private	Thomas Thompson, private
James Barnes, private	Elijah Wilson, private
James Baker, private	Amos Whitney, private
Alexander Conkey, private	Jacob Conkey, private.

These men enlisted May 1, term of service three months and eight days, miles traveled 80, pay 6s—8d at one penny per mile.

In a muster roll of the Eighth regiment of the Continental Army at Dorchester commanded by John Fellows, the name of Timothy Rice of Pelham appears and the only one from that town on the roll, and the record shows that Rice went to Quebec with the Company to which he belonged; no date is given.

In a roll of Captain Coburn's company of Colonel Bridge's regiment dated Sept. 26, 1775, appears the name of Gardner Gould of Pelham.

William Haskins of Pelham was serving in Capt. Ezra Badlam's company of Colonel Gridley's regiment Oct. 8, 1775.

At a town meeting in Pelham Dec. 31, 1776, Abizer Edson and Andrew Abercrombie were chosen assessors, “In room of John Hamilton and James Caldwell McMullen Gone to the War.” Hamilton’s name appears on the muster rolls but that of jammed Caldwell McMullen does not though he probably was in the service.

A return of Capt. William Todd’s company in Col. Craft’s regiment of Artillery in Boston, Nov. 30, 1776 shows that David Sloan was in service in that company and drew pay for 83 miles’ travel to his home in Pelham.

An abstract of the Travel of Company commanded by Capt. Reuben Dickinson of Amherst—Col. Woodbridge’s regiment, to Ticonderoga and from thence home.

One penny per mile per day, one day for 20 miles—in year 1776.

Daniel Shays, serg’t	John Robinson, private
Alexander McCulloch, serg’t	John Crossett, private
David Cowden, lieutenant	James Baker, private
Silas Conkey, fifer	W. Gillmore, private
John Crafford, private	Jacob Conkey, private
Thomas Hamilton, private	David Abercrombie, private
Thomas Montgomery, private	Thomas Johnston, private
George Elliot, private	John Kelley, private
John Cochran, private	Dinnis Charleton, private
Wm. Haskins, private	James McCotton, private
Wm. Blare, private	James Abercrombie
John Donnelly, private	

Number of miles, 307, 1 penny per mile, £1—5s—7d, 1 day for 20 miles. £2—6s—od—1 far, average, per man, £1—5s—7d, average amount for the whole, per man, £2—6s—od—1 far..

Very little can be learned of the militia companies of Pelham previous to the Revolution or later, as no records have been found up to this writing to give light upon the make up of militia companies. A document dated South Hadley, March 16, 1776, and containing a record of election of officers for militia companies as the law directs, in the

towns of South Hadley, Granby, Greenwich and Pelham the following officers were elected for the Pelham company: John Thompson, captain; James Halbert, 1st lieut.; John Hamilton, 2d lieut.

Muster Roll of Cap't. Oliver Lyman's company, in Col. Dike's regiment, 3 months to March, 1777, had two Pelham men on it.

William Berry, Corp'l
James Harkness

No9. miles, 90, 1 penny per mile, 7s—6d, wages traveling home at 28 miles per day, 7s—1d, whole amount, 14s—7d, time in service, 7 days.

Company marched to East Hoosick on the alarm of August 17th. Cap't. Oliver Lyman made oath to the above before Jabez Fisher, Justice Peace.

“Amherst, May 15, 1778.

A return of men procured by Capt. Eli Parker to serve in the Continental Army.

Nehemiah Dunbar Pelham, enlisted or hired for the town of Amherst served under Capt. Maxell—Col. Bangliss, --time of engagement 8 months, time ends Decem 1778.

Enlisted for state of Massachusetts Bay.”

List of men mustered in the Continental Army for nine months services from the County of Hampshire in the State of Massachusetts

Pelham Men	Age	Height	Color of Hair	Regiment	Company
Hugh Johnson	50	5 ft. 9 in.	Brown	Col. Porter's	Capt. Thompson's
James Hill	49	5 ft. 9 in.	Brown	“ “	“ “
James Cammel	33	5 ft. 8 in.	Brown	“ “	“ “
John Cowden	35	5 ft. 10 in.	Dark	“ “	“ “
Amos Gray	16	5 ft. 6 in.	Brown	“ “	“ “

“South Hadley, June 17, 1778

Mr. Johnson. –Sir: You are Hereby directed to march the men committed to your care the directest Road & with convenient dispatch to Fishkill and deliver them together and not suffer them to do any damage to any of the Inhabitants of Towns through which they may march, and they are hereby directed to obey your orders on their March.

Noah Goodman, Superintendant for the County of Hampshire.

12 Men in Squad; Leverett 2, South Hadley 1 Granby 1, hatfield 1, Chesterfield 1, Northampton 1, Pelham 5—12.”

In a list of men raised in the several Counties in the state of Massachusetts Bay for the purpose of completing the fifteen battalions of Continental troops to be raised in the state for the period of Nine Months from the time of their arrival, agreeable to the resolve of April 6, 1778, the name of James Camble of Pelham is enrolled. It may be intended for Campbell.

The return of militia for Hampshire County who were drafted to march to Horse Neck under the command of Col. Sam'l How, that did not join the regiment, has the name of Wm. McMullen of Pelham. He was in Cap't. Thompson's company.

There were enlistments of men for short terms of service, three, six, and perhaps eight months, and the dates are sometimes omitted; among them we find a list of Pelham men—the date is indistinct and the record torn, --we copy all that it was possible to make out and the list follows

	Age	Stature	Complexion
Isaac Bennett	21	5 ft. 11 in.	Ruddy
Charles Handy	21	6 ft.	Dark
James Baker	33	5 ft. 9 in.	Ruddy
Samuel Abercrombie	18	5 ft. 9 in.	Ruddy
John Hamilton	18	5 ft. 9 in.	Dark
Andrew McGray	21	5 ft. 10 in.	Ruddy

In 1779, the following Pelham men were in CVoo. Moseley's regiment and Capt. Fowler's company serving on the Tours quota:

William McMullen	Joseph Gray
David McMullen	Alexander McCulloch
Joel Winship	John Dart
Peter King	

In the list of men received for nine months' service from Noah Goodman, Esq., superintendent for Hampshire county June 9, 1779, are the names of Pelham men as follows:

	Age		Age
Daniel Ranham, black	19	Nehemiah Dunbar, brown	17
Reuben Holland, brown	19	Nathan Richards, brown	17
Josiah Dunbar, light	18		

Col. Porter's regiment; Captain Thompson's company.

Descriptive list of men engaged to reinforce the Continental Army for eight months agreeable to the resolve passed June 9, 1779.

From Pelham	Age	Size	Col. Porter's Regiment	Capt. Thompson's Company
William McMullen	26	6ft.	"	"
David McMullen	17	6ft.	"	"
Joel Winship	21	5 ft. 6in.	"	"
Peter King	22	5 ft. 7in.	"	"
Joseph Gray	17	5 ft. 6 in.	"	"
Alexander McCulloch	16	5 ft. 2 in.	"	"
John Pratt	16	5 ft. 4 in.	"	"

All dark complexion.

Additional men mustered by Col. Elisha Porter, Aug. 10, 1780, and furnished by the town of Pelham's selectmen July 30.

Names	Age	Size	Complexion
William McFail	67	5ft. 7 in.	Dark
Christopher Stevenson	28	6ft. 11 in.	Dark
Benjamin Edson	21	5 ft. 11 in.	Light
James Cowan	19	5 ft. 11 in.	Light
Eziah Baker	16	4 ft. 10 in.	Light
Howard Alden	19	5 ft. 4 in.	Light
Micah Pratt	22	5 ft. 10 in.	Light
John Stevens	16	5 ft.	Light
Jonathan Ingraham	21	5 ft. 6 in.	Light

The eleventh division of six months' men marched from Springfield under or with Ensign Bancroft, July 11, 1780, and George Hackett of Pelham was on the rolls, probably as a private.

The 29th division of six months' men marched from Springfield July 26, 1780, and Joel Winship of Pelham, 21 years old and of ruddy complexion marched with them.

In the 41st division of six months' men who marched from Springfield Oct. 26, 1780 under Lieut. Cary was Peter King of Pelham, --light complexion, 5 ft. 10 inc. in height.

The 29th division of six months' men marched from Springfield under Ensign Simonds Sept. 7, 1780. In it was William Baldwin of Pelham, described as of dark complexion, 5 ft. 8 in. high and 30 years old.

John Harkness of Pelham, 20 years old,, 5 ft. 11 in. high and dark complexion, marched from Springfield with the 40th division of six months' men October 1780.

According to a Resolve of the General Court, Oct. 5, 1781, empowering the selectmen to make out pay rolls for the six months from the year 1780, the following roll was submitted:

John Hamilton marched to camp June 23; discharged Dec. 25.
Steven Perin, marched to camp Aug. 7; discharged Feb. 7.
Peter King, marched to camp Aug. 2; discharged Feb. 2.
Charles Kundy, marched to camp June 31; discharged Dec. 31.
John Hackett, marched to camp June 6; discharged Dec. 6.
Abner Smith, marched to camp July 30; discharged Jan. 30.
Seth Wood marched to camp July 10; discharged Jan. 10.
George Hackett, marched to camp July 10; discharged Jan. 10.
John Harkness, marched to camp Sept. 20; discharged Dec. 15.
James Baker, marched to camp June 25; discharged Dec. 25.
Isaac Bennett, marched to camp June 25; discharged Dec. 25.
Andrew Mc. Gray, marched to camp June 9; discharged Dec. 9.
Samuel Abercrombie, marched to camp July 9; discharged Dec. 9.
Amos Bran, marched to camp June 25; discharged Dec. 25.

Joel Winship, supposed to be deserted.

Whole time of service, 6 months, 8 days; number of miles from home, 160; total amount of wages, £12—10s—8d.

The original sworn to before William Conkey, town clerk.

From record of town meeting at Pelham, March 1782: “Voted To Amos Bran thirty pounds for his serving the town as a soldier in the war for three years or during the war. —Abraham Livermore, In behalf of the Selectmen.”

Pay-roll for the wages and traveling allowance of Capt. Oliver Coney’s company, Colonel Sears’ regiment of levies raised for the Continental service for three months.

Captain Coney was from Ware. Men from Pelham:

Joshua Conkey	Samuel Crosett
Ezekiel Conkey	Cato Dansett
Daniel Sampson	John McKlurn
Edward Brown	

These men enlisted Aug. 12, 1781 and were discharged Nov. 15. Pay, £6—3s—4d.

A return of men belonging to the town of Pelham in the Continental Army for three years or during the war, January 1781.

Robert Conkey, enlisted Jan. 30, 1777; enlisted by Lieut. Taylor in 2nd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Drew’s company.

George Eliot, enlisted Mar. 15, 1780; enlisted by Lieut. Taylor in 2nd Mass.

A return of men belonging to the town of Pelham in the Continental Army for three years or during the war, January 1781.

Robert Conkey, enlisted Jan. 30, 1777; enlisted by Lieut. Taylor in 2nd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Drew’s company.

George Eliot, enlisted Mar. 15, 1780; enlisted by Lieut. Taylor in 2nd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Alden’s company.

Nehemiah Dunbar, enlisted Mar. 15, 1780; enlisted by Lieut. Taylor in 2nd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Alden’s company.

Nathaniel Richmond, enlisted Dec. '79; enlisted by Capt. Howard in 2nd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Alden's company.
Amos Bryant, enlisted Jan. 13, '81; enlisted by Co. Greaton in 3rd Mass. Regiment, Capt. Alden's company.
Wm. Haskins, enlisted Nov. 12, '79; enlisted by Lt. Col. Newhall in 5th Mass. Regiment, Capt. Trotter's company.
John Pratt, enlisted Nov. 23, '79; enlisted by Calvin Sawyer in 5th Mass. Regiment, Capt. Trotter's company.
Dan'l McDaniel enlisted May '79; enlisted by Lt. Lunt in 7th Mass. Regiment, Capt. Trotter's company.

A list bearing date 1781 has the following names of Pelham men:

Bartlett Robinson, time of engagement Mar. 27, age 28, complexion dark, stature 6 ft. 3 in., occupation farmer.

Abijah Baruce, time of engagement Mar. 27, age 45, complexion dark, stature 5 ft. 7 in., occupation farmer.

Joseph Ganson, time of engagement April 11, age 20, complexion light, stature 5 ft. 10 in., occupation farmer.

Joseph Lamb, time of engagement April 6, age 18, complexion light, stature 5 ft. 5 in., occupation farmer.

Isaac Bennett, time of engagement April 20, age 22, complexion light, stature 5 ft. 10 in. occupation, farmer.

James Hill, time of engagement May 15, age 48, complexion light, stature 5 ft. 11 in., occupation farmer.

Wm Cando, time of engagement April 27, age 27, complexion black, stature 5 ft. 5 inc., occupation farmer.

James Baker, time of engagement May 15, age 24, complexion light, stature 5 ft. 4 in., occupation farmer.

John Atkinson, time of engagement May 14, age 46, complexion light, stature 5 ft., occupation farmer.

Ebenezer Searls, time of engagement April 16, age 32, complexion light, stature 6 ft 2 in., occupation doctor.

These men enlisted for three years.

“PELHAM, APRIL 5, 1781.

This may certify that the subscribers have Inlisted to serve Three years in the Continental Service for the town of Pelham & also we have Rec'd Ninety Pounds in hard money as a hire for s^d service—We say received by us.

JAMES BAKER, ABIJAH BRUCE, JOSEPH LAMB, JOSEPH GANSON, ISAAC BENNETT.”

James Baker was discharge by Gen. Washington, June 9, 1783, Baker having procured a man to serve in his place.

“In obedience to the General Court Act of Dec. 1780 we have raised & marched the quota of men sent for according to the Schedule in s⁴ order and these are the names of the men raised as follows with the sum annexed to each mans name Given to him as Hier or Bounty in Hard Money.

Alijah Bruce £90, Joseph Ganson, £90, Isaac Bennett £90, David Cowan £98-8s, Bartlett Robinson £90,, Ebenezer Sarls £80,.

Whole amount £686-8s-0.

This to certify that the Selectmen appeared before me and gave oath to this return
EBENEZER GRAY, Town Clerk.

Pelham, Jan. 12, 1781.”

Then Received of the class of Mr. Benjamin Edsons the sum of £78-8s for serving in the Continental Service for three years for said class.

I say Received by me,

DAVID COWDEN.

“PELHAM, APRIL 18, 1781

Receipts from Bartlett Robinson and Ebenezer Sarls for the money are on file.”

Return of men enlisted or Drafted into the Continental Army from the Fourth Battalion of militia in the county of Hampshire from Pelham.

Isaac Bennett, enlisted in Capt. Shay’s company, Col. Putnam’s battalion.
Bartlett Robinson, enlisted in Capt. Shay’s company, Col. Putnam’s battalion.
James McDaniel, enlisted in Capt. Shay’s company, Col. Putnam’s battalion.
Jacob Turrell, enlisted in Capt. Shay’s company, Col. Putnam’s battalion.
James Baker, enlisted in Capt. Shay’s company, Col. Putnam’s battalion.
Job Ransom, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
Robert Conkey, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
Cato—Negro, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
Daniel McDaniel, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
James Conkey, enlisted in Capt. Day’s company, Col. Alden’s battalion.
Joseph Rankin, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
Patrick McMullen, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
William Conkey, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
John McRankin, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.
John Prebble, enlisted in Capt. Maxwell’s company, Col. Bayley’s battalion.

No date to the above return. Moses Ransom was also in the service, but perhaps not in this battalion. These men enlisted from Capt. Thomas’ company.

In a list of men without officers names, or date, but including men from western Mass. The following list of men from Pelham are given:

Isaac Bennett	Joel Winship
Charles Handy	John Hackett
James Baker	Amos Brand
Samuel Abercrombie	William Baldwin
John Hamilton	John Harkness
Andrew McGray	Seth Ward.

The surname, Abercrombie, is spelled variously on the old muster rolls, viz.:
 Abercrombie, Abercromney, Abercrombey, Abercumby, Abercrombee, Abercromby,
 Abicrombey, Abercrumbe, Abercrome, Crombe, Ebercrombie. The common
 pronunciation in Pelham 60 years ago was the same as though the name was spelled
 Crummy, the first two syllables (Aber) were dropped entirely except when written.

A muster roll to draw billeting money for a company of militia under the
 command of Capt. Elijah Dwight of Belchertown, which included the following Pelham
 men, --no date.

John Thompson, lieutenant	Abraham Livermore
Asa McConkey, drummer	Mathew Clark
Daniel Gray	John Pebles
James Crossett	Adam Clark
Eliot Gray	Isaac Craford.

Elijah Dwight, captain. These men were paid 14 s each for 168 miles travel at
 one penny per mile.

Capt. Joshua Parker's company, Col. Nathaniel ward's regiment. At service in
 Rhode Island. No date.:

James Harkness, corporal	Peter King, private
Thomas Harlow, private	John Harkness,private.

Nathaniel Gray, father of "Cooper" John Gray, and grandfather of Horace Gray of
 Northampton and of Nathaniel Gray of San Francisco, deceased, is said to have died in
 the service at 32 but in what company or regiment is not known.

PELHAM MEN IN THE WAR OF 1812.

The records of the service in the war of 1812 to 1815 are not easily accessible. On enquiring at the State House one is referred to Washington, D.C., and no satisfying results are obtained as a reward for diligent and painstaking effort at the capital.

Not very many Pelham men were called out for service in the war of 1812, and those who were called out did not see much active service. The few that were called marched from Pelham to Cambridge where they were in camp or quartered for some time. The writer used to listen to the tales some of those men told of their experience during the time they were serving their country while in camp at Cambridge and they were not tales of suffering and fatigue from long marches and other hard service, but rather of jolly times in camp while awaiting marching orders which never came. All returned home in a few weeks or months at most as there was no further need of men in active service.

One or two of these stories may not be out of place here. Leonard Ballou, one of the Pelham militia that was called out by the war of 1812, marched to Cambridge with others and was probably no worse than others in raiding the country along the line of march for supplies. Toward morning of one night of the march to Cambridge the crowing of a cock in a large apple tree near a farm house attracted the attention of some of the young men and a plan formed to get the rooster. It was pretty dark and not easy to see just where in the tree the bird was. Two cider barrels that were found under the tree were used by placing one on the top of the other, and Ballou was lifted to the top of the two barrels standing on end and he quietly waited for the rooster to crow again so

that he might locate him. After awaiting in silence for some time the rooster started to crow again as in duty bound to usher in daylight in the east. The bird was within reach and Ballou seized him by the neck cutting off the clarion notes with a strangled sound caused by the grip, about its neck, of Ballou's right hand. In the effort made in seizing the rooster, the cider barrels canted sideways and Ballou and the barrels came to the ground, but he held fast to the rooster.

Uncle Eseck Coo, the Quaker, was a non-combatant in principle, but he took pity on young Ballou in being suddenly ordered to march to Cambridge, and loaned his long gray overcoat to him. Ballou accepted the offer of the coat and wore it when the weather demanded it and sometimes when it did not. The coat came down nearly to his ankles and was ample in size and Ballou found it very convenient and useful to hide an occasional fish from a peddler's wagon that came to camp, when opportunity offered by the peddler's attention being drawn aside. The folds of the long coat hid many things during the stay at Cambridge and was returned to Uncle Eseck when the Pelham contingent arrived home, and young Ballou thanked him for the loan, at the same time telling how handy he found it to secrete things the soldiers needed. Uncle Eseck was thunder-struck, but his only remark was, "I think it would have been better if thee had not had the coat."

The following list of Pelham men is all we have been able to obtain of those who were called out at that time. There may have been more but the inability to reach the muster rolls makes it useless to claim a full and complete list. The names and rank were as follows:

Capt. John Taylor, and privates
John J. Conkey

Leonard Ballou
Sidney Hannum

Grove W. Hannum
Luther Lincoln
James Smith
Amasa Jillson

Henry Hannum
Luther Thompson
Joseph Barrows

Capt. John Taylor was in command on the march from Pelham to Boston.

THE MEXICAN WAR

The Mexican war was not a long one and very few men from Massachusetts were called out for service then, and so far as can be learned no Pelham man saw service in Mexico.

RECORD OF PELHAM SOLDIERS IN THE REBELLION

The record of the town in its contribution of men and means for the suppression of the great rebellion of 1861 to 1865 is an honorable one. The population of the town in 1860 was 748 and the valuation \$162,635. The number of men between the ages of 18 and 45 on the rolls for military duty in 1861 was only 100. Seventy-five men were contributed to the great work of saving the country from destruction by those who had risen up in arms against it, and most of them by voluntary enlistment, or five more than the town was called upon to send.

In common with many other towns in the state it was found impossible to fill by enlistment the quotas of men called for by the state authorities with as much celerity as the need of men demanded, and there was a draft from the enrolled militia in 1863 of 20 men, a list of them being given in full. Of this number seven passed examination and were accepted. Two of the seven went to the front and the other five paid \$300 commutation money and remained at home. In 1864 the draft was resorted to again, when ten of the enrolled men were drawn; five were declared fit for military duty and each paid \$300 commutation money, and the other five were exempted, or failed to appear for reasons unknown or not fully shown by the town record.

The enlistments and service of Pelham men in the war of the rebellion are given in the order of enlistment as gathered from the rebellion record kept by the town and from regimental histories, the Adjutant General's report, and other reliable sources.

The first enlistment from the town was that of Joseph Freeland Bartlett, born in Ware, July 25, 1843. He enlisted in the 10th Massachusetts regiment June 21, 1861, and served with that regiment three years, when, having re-enlisted, he was transferred to the

37th Massachusetts regiment, and in June, 1865, was transferred to the 20th regiment, from which he was discharged July 28, 1865, having served continuously at the front during the entire war, with the exception of three months when he was in the hospital with wounds. He was promoted 2d lieutenant, 37th Massachusetts regiment, May 24, 1865; 1st lieutenant, 20th Massachusetts regiment, June 1, 1865. He participated in 33 of the great battles of the war, including all the battles around Richond in 1862, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Sheridan's battles in the Shenandoah Valley, Petersburg, Sailor Creek, and Appomatox at the surrender of Lee. He was also with the 6th army corps in North Carolina when Johnson surrendered to Sherman. He was slightly wounded in the battle of Fair Oaks and severely at battle of the Wilderness.

Manley Jillson, 45, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private June 21, 1861, mustered into 10th Mass. Regiment, Company C, for three years June 21, 1861; discharged for disability Nov. 29, 1862.

Henry E. Wheeler, 26, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private Sept. 21, 1861, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment Sept. 30, 1861 for three years, Company G; discharged July 29, 1862.

Solomon Rhoads, 18, born in Pelham, enlisted September 1861 as a private, was mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Sept. 20, 1861, for three years, Company I; discharged Dec. 24, 1863 to re-enlist; mustered in the second time Dec. 24, 1863, discharged June 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

George A. Griffin, 20, born in Pelham, enlisted Sept. 29, 1861, mustered into 27th Mass. Regiment, Company G. Sept. 29, 1861 for three years; term of service expired Sept. 27, 1864.

Charles Griffin, 35, born in Pelham, enlisted Sept. 30, 1861, mustered into 27th Mass. Regiment, Company C, for three years; discharged Sept. 4, 1862. Enlisted again July 11, 1864 in the Third Heavy Artillery. Received \$175 bounty from the town, discharged July 27, 1864, at Gallops Island on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Otis B. Griffin, 23, born in Pelham, enlisted Oct. 11, 1861, was mustered into 27th Mass. Regiment Company G. for three years, Oct. 11, 1861; discharged Aug. 29, 1862.

Erastus B. Southwick, 40, born in Pelham, enlisted Oct. 8, 1861, mustered into 27th Mass. Regiment Oct. 15, 1861, Company G for three years; discharged July 29, 1862.

Stephen Rhoads, 28, born in Pelham, enlisted Oct. 21, 1861, mustered into 31st Mass. regiment, Company C, for three years, Oct. 21, 1861, discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability at New Orleans, April 18, 1864. No bounty.

Francis A. Blodgett, 22, was mustered into the 31st Mass regiment, Company C, Nov. 20, 1861; he was discharged that he might re-enlist Feb. 14, 1864. He was a sergeant, discharged Sept. 9, 1865 at expiration of service. Bounty \$423.33. Record says New Salem was place of residence.

Charles R. Cleveland, 41, born in Pelham, enlisted Oct. 21, 1861, mustered into 31st Mass. Regiment, Company F, for three years, Oct. 21, 1861; transferred to Veterans' Relief Corps April 20, 1864.

William S. Pratt, 43, enlisted from Pelham in 31st Mass. Regiment, Company C, or was credited to the town, was mustered in Oct. 21, 1861; deserted Dec. 7, 1861. No bounty.

Stanford M. Lovett, 55, born in Cumberland, R.I., enlisted Nov. 1, 1861, mustered into 31st Mass. Regiment, Company F, for three years as a private Nov. 1, 1861; discharged Nov. 18, 1862 for disability. The Adjutant General's report says he was 44 when he enlisted, but 55 is believed to be his right age at that time.

Harrison J. Horr, 19, born in Pelham, enlisted Nov. 4, 1861, mustered into 31st Mass. Regiment, Company F, as a private, for three years, Nov. 4, 1861; discharged Dec. 20, 1864, at New Orleans, his term of service having expired. He held the rank of sergeant.

Charles H. Horr, 26, born in Pelham, enlisted Nov. 22, 1861, mustered into the 31st Mass. Regiment, Company F as a private for three years, died at New Orleans Dec. 7, 1864 from wounds received in the service. He was first sergeant of his company. The town record says that Horr enlisted Nov. 22, 1861, and the Adjutant General's report states that he was mustered in Oct. 22.

John Shaw, 40, born in Granby, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862, as a private in 27th Mass. Regiment, was not sent to the front; discharged in a few days. Received \$100 bounty from town, lived in town until his death.

Otis B. Hill, born in _____, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862, as a private in the 27th Mass. Regiment, was not sent to the front; discharged in a few days. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Patrick Bailey, born in Ballybane, County of Cork, Ireland, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862, as a private for three years, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment Dec. 21, 1863; discharged June 18, 1865, by order War department. Received \$100 bounty from the town,

Henry Barrows, 22, born in Pelham, enlisted for three years, Aug. 9, 1862 as a private in the 27th Mass. Regiment, did not go to the front; discharged Aug. 29, 1862. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Otis Kimball, 21, born in _____, enlisted as a private Aug. 9, 1862, for three years, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Company H, Aug. 26, 1862; discharged July 2, 1863 for disability. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Franklin Bramble, 35, born in _____, enlisted Aug. 9, 1862, for three years as a private, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Company K, Aug. 29, 1862; discharged to re-enlist Jan. 1, 1864, mustered second time Jan. 2, 1864; term expired June 26, 1865. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

John F. Nichols, 22, born in _____ enlisted as a private for three years, Aug. 8, 1862, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Company D, Aug. 11, 1862; discharged Dec. 31, 1863, at Norfolk, Va. Re-enlisted, discharged Dec. 31, 1863, at Annapolis, Md. June 15, 1865; was in Libby prison 18 days. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Joseph D. Whitney, 25, born in East Boylston, enlisted as a private, for three years, Aug. 25, 1862, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment Company I, Aug. 25, 1862; discharged June 23, 1863, at New Berne, N.C. for physical disability. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Joseph E. Boynton, 18, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private, for three years, Aug. 25, 1862, mustered in Aug. 25, 1862, died at Baltimore, Md. Dec. 4, 1864. Received \$100 bounty from the town,

Frederick Dane, 24, born in Pelham, enlisted for three years as a private, unassigned, mustered in Aug. 25, 1862, and was discharged Sept. 10, 1862, at Camp Day for disability. Received \$100 from the town.

Stillman Abercrombie, 32, born in Pelham, enlisted as a musician Aug. 27, 1862 for nine months in Company G, 52nd Mass. Regiment, mustered in Oct. 11, 1862, regiment started for Louisiana in November 1862, returned to Massachusetts Aug. 3, 1863; discharged Aug. 14, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Joseph T. Allen, 18, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private, Sept. 1, 1862, for nine months, was mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, left Massachusetts for Louisiana Nov. 20, 1862, regiment returned to the state Aug. 3, 1863; discharged Aug. 14, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Dexter R. Barnes, 19, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private Aug. 27, 1862, for nine months service, was mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, the regiment marched for Louisiana Nov. 20, 1862, did not return until Aug. 3, 1863; discharged Aug. 14, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

William P. Montgomery, 30, born in Enfield, enlisted Aug. 22, 1862, as a private for nine months, was mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, regiment marched for Louisiana Nov. 20, 1862, returned Aug. 3, 1863; discharged Aug. 14, 1864. Received a bounty of \$100 from the town. Re-enlisted Sept. 3, 1864, in the

First regiment Heavy Artillery, mustered in Sept. 3, 1864, mustered out June 4, 1865, at expiration of service. Received \$450 bounty.

Charles H. Sanger, 18, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private for nine months, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Aug. 11, 1862, marched south with the regiment Nov. 20, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Amos D. Leonard, 28, born in Minerva, N.Y., enlisted as a private for nine months, Sept. 3, 1862, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, went with the regiment to Louisiana, Nov. 20, 1862, returned Aug. 14, 1863; mustered out Aug. 14, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town. His last known residence was in Minnesota.

Daniel Cook, 32, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private for nine months, Aug. 27, 1862, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, was made corporal, went south with the regiment, Nov. 20, 1862, returned Aug. 3, 1863; mustered out Aug. 14, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Edmund S. Ellsbree, 19, born in Pelham, enlisted Sept. 1, 1862, as a private for nine months, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, sailed for Louisiana, Nov. 20, 1862, returned Aug. 3, 1863; mustered out Aug. 20, 1863. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Amaziah Robinson, 38, born in Jamaica, Vt., enlisted as a private for nine months Aug. 24, 1862, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, went with the regiment to Louisiana, returned Aug. 3, 1863; mustered out Aug. 11, 1862. Received \$100 bounty from the town. Has resided in Pelham since the war.

Nelson Witt, 29, born in North Dana, enlisted as a private for nine months, Aug. 30, 1862, mustered into the 52nd Mass. Regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862, went with the regiment to Louisiana, Nov. 20, 1862, was wounded at Irish Bend, lived to come back Aug. 3, 1863. Died at Belchertown. Received \$100 bounty from the town.

Thomas Linds, 40, born at _____ enlisted June 2, 1863, for three years, mustered into the Second Heavy Artillery, Company A, July 28, 1863; discharged Sept. 3, 1865, at expiration of service.

James D. Mower, 20, born at Brattleboro, Vt. Was drafted in 1863. Examined and accepted, mustered into the 22nd Mass. Regiment, July 20, 1863, Company I, transferred to 32nd Mass. Regiment, Oct. 6, 1864, Company M; company was mustered out when Mower was at home on a furlough in the spring of 1865.

Joel Cutting, 31, born at East Boylston, drafted in 1863, examined and accepted, mustered into the 32nd Mass. Regiment, Company B, Sept. 14, 1863; mustered out June 1, 1865, by order of War department.

John O. Rhoads, 22, born in Pelham, enlisted as a private Dec. 1, 1863, for three years, in First Regiment Heavy Artillery, Company I, mustered in Dec. 1, 1863, discharged Aug. 5, 1865.

George A. Gardner, 24, born in _____ enlisted Dec. 1, 1863, for three years as a private, mustered into the 4th Mass. Cavalry, Jan. 27, 1864, Company E; mustered out Nov. 14, 1865, at expiration of service. Bounty \$325.

George W. Allen, born in _____ enlisted Dec. 7, 1863, as a private for three years, mustered into the 1st Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company I, Dec. 7, 1863. Died of wounds Oct. 29, 1864 at Petersburg, Va.

Truman Squares, 18, born in Shutesbury, enlisted Dec. 21, 1863, as a private for three years, in 57th Mass. Infantry, Company B, mustered in Jan. 24, 1864. Killed at Spottsylvania, May 7, 1864. Bounty \$325.

Thomas Ferguson, 32, born in _____ enlisted as a private for three years, Dec. 26, 1863, mustered into the 4th Mass. Calvary regiment, Company E, Jan. 27, 1864; mustered out Nov. 14, 1865 at expiration of service. Bounty \$325.

Garrett O'Neal, 22, born in Northampton, enlisted for three years as a private, Dec. 28, 1863, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Company G.

Philander Pike, 38, born in Petersham, enlisted as a private for three years, mustered into the 27th Mass. Regiment, Company I, Jan. 5, 1864; discharged Dec. 7, 1864. Bounty \$325.

Simeon Gilbert, 42, born in _____ enlisted for three years as a private, mustered into the 2nd Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company G, Dec. 7, 1863. Died July 29, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga. Bounty, \$325.

William O. Kimball, 23, born in Amherst, enlisted in 1st Mass. Regiment Heavy artillery for three years, July 11, 1864, mustered into Company I, July 11, 1864. Discharged April 2, 1865. Bounty \$325.

Charles A. Abbott, 42, born in _____ enlisted in 1st Mass. Regiment Heavy Artillery, Company C, mustered in Aug. 1, 1864; discharged Aug. 16, 1865, at expiration of service, in Company M. Bounty \$325.

George E. Witherell, 22, born in _____ enlisted in 1st regiment Heavy Artillery, Company I, mustered in Sept. 3, 1864; discharged June 4, 1865 at expiration of service. Bounty \$181.32.

Henry Wood, 31, born in _____enlisted in 1st regiment Heavy Artillery, Company H; discharged March 13, 1864, to re-enlist, mustered in March 14, 1864; discharged April 1, 1865 for a disability. Bounty \$421.99.

Madison L. Fales, 18, born in Pelham, enlisted for three years in Company C, 1st regiment Heavy Artillery, mustered in Sept. n7, 1864. Died March 31, 1865. Bounty \$234.

Norman S. Fales, 19, born in Pelham, enlisted in First regiment Heavy Artillery, Company C, for three years, mustered in Sept. 7, 1864, died Dec. 18, 1864, in the 2nd Corps hospital. Bounty \$181.

Frederick Grover, 18, born in _____enlisted in First regiment Heavy Artillery, Company C, for three years, mustered in Sept. 7, 1864; discharged June 4, 1865, at expiration of service. \$125 town bounty.

Dennis V. Champlin, 23, born in Amherst, enlisted for three years in the 54th Mass. Regiment, transferred to the 55th regiment, Company B, mustered in Dec. 28, 1864; discharged Aug. 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

Joseph R. Hunt, 23, musician, mustered into 46th regiment, Company H, October, 1862; discharged for disability, Jan. 14, 1862.

Levi G. Osborn, 38, mustered into 52nd Mass. Regiment Oct. 11, 1862; discharged Aug. 14, 1863.

William B. Fales, 30, born in Pelham, mustered into 52nd Mass. Regiment, Aug. 27, 1862; was in the battles of Oak Ridge, Irish Bend, and the siege of Port Hudson; discharged Aug. 14, 1863.

Lauriston Barnes, enlisted as a private Aug. 29, 1862, mustered into the 52nd regiment, Company G, Oct. 11, 1862; discharged Aug. 14, 1863.

Murray B. Lovett, 22, born in Pelham, mustered into 10th regiment, Company K, June 21, 1861; died June 4, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia.

William Jones, 19, mustered into the 1st Infantry, March 8, 1865. Bounty \$325.

The number credited to the town by the re-enlistments of Joseph F. Bartlett, John T. Nichols, Wm. P. Montgomery, Franklin Bramble, Francis A. Blodgett, Solomon Rhoads, Charles Griffin, and Henry Wood carries the number up to 69. After the draft in June, 1864 there were five or six enlistments made in Boston, near the close of the war, of men who probably did not go to the front and whose names are not known, making 75 men that the town should have credit for, or five men above all calls made upon the town.

The men were distributed among various military organizations. Mass. 27th regiment, 16; 52nd regiment, 13; 1st Heavy artillery 10; 31st regiment, 7; 10th regiment, 3; 2nd Heavy Artillery, 3; 3rd Heavy Artillery, 2; 4th Calvary, 2; 37th regiment, 1; 20th regiment 1; 46th regiment, 1; 55th regiment, 1; 57th regiment, 1; besides those who were unassigned. We are indebted to Rev. John Jones, who was chairman of the recruiting committee during the war, for valuable aid in perfecting the roll of Pelham men who served in the army; many of whom he enlisted and took to the recruiting officers, and e[rs]pnally attended to the collection of bounty money for them

THE SHAYS REBELLION OF 1786-87.

The rebellion against the government of the state of Massachusetts in 1786-87, whose acknowledged leader was Capt. Daniel Shays, a citizen of Pelham, makes it

necessary to give a more extended notice of this insurgent outbreak than would be necessary in writing the local history of almost any other town in the state, as it was here the leading spirit, that gave the rebellion its name resided as a respected citizen, who was honored by election to positions of trust and responsibility. It was at the old Conkey tavern in the "Hollow" that he met the dissatisfied turbulent spirits who were weighed down with debts and numerous other real or imagined grievances, and discussed the situation before the wide open fire places of the hostelry, and when protracted argument and excitement caused thirst, they quenched it by sampling the well assorted liquors which Landlord Conkey was noted for keeping in his cellar.

Shays doubtless enjoyed the good cheer as well as any who gathered there with him to talk over their mutual troubles; he joined with them in charging the State with oppression; was as ready as they to declare for the removal of the General Court from the City of Boston; --to shout down with the lawyers; to demand the abolition of the courts; to cry for a revision of the constitution and to clamor for paper money and other things which they may have honestly believed were necessary for the relief of the people. And as the excitement increased and the mutterings of the people turned to open threats of opposition by force of arms, the experience of Capt. Shays as a soldier became of value in organizing and drilling the men in the manual of arms.

It must be conceded that the people were in much distress from the pressure of hard times and honestly believed they were oppressed with grievances unbearable; but it is by no means certain that they had any intention at the beginning of the agitation to take up arms against the state. They must have believe it perfectly proper to gather in conventions for consultation, for the nineteenth article of the Constitution of

Massachusetts declares: “The people have a right, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble to consult for the common good; give instructions to their representatives, and to request of the legislative body, by way of addresses, petitions or remonstrances, redress for the wrongs done them, and the grievances they suffer.” Certainly the earlier conventions were not to be considered disorderly, but seem to have been conducted “in an orderly and peaceable manner.” These conventions for the consideration of “grievances” began to be held in Western Massachusetts as early as 1781 or before the close of the war of the Revolution, but these gatherings did not attract much attention until the summer of 1786. This course would seem to have been a proper one for the people to bring the attention of the General Court to whatever real grievances the people were suffering under. Doubtless these conventions became less peaceable and orderly as the unrest and discontent increased under the leadership of rash and unscrupulous men who joined the movement, until the people found themselves with arms in their hands in rebellion against the constituted government of the state.

One of the most important conventions held, as the people believed under a constitutional right, for the redress of grievances, was held at Hatfield August 12, 1786. Fifty towns of Hampshire county were represented and the convention was continued for three days, Caleb Keith and Mathew Clark being delegates from Pelham.

They first “Voted, that this Meeting is Constitutional.” The further action of the convention is given with list of grievances.

“The Convention from a thorough conviction of great uneasiness, subsisting among the people of this county and Commonwealth, then went into an inquiry for the cause; and upon mature consideration, deliberation and debate, were of the opinion that

many grievances and unnecessary burdens now lying upon the people, are the sources of that discontent so evidently discoverable throughout this Commonwealth. Among which the following articles were voted as such:

- “1st. The existence of the Senate.
- 2nd. The present mode of representation.
- 3rd. The officers of Government not being annually dependent on the representatives of the people in General Court assembled for their salaries.
- 4th. All the Civil Officers of Government, not being annually elected by the people in General Court assembled.
- 5th. The existence of the Court of Common Pleas, and General Sessions of the Peace.
- 6th. The Fee Table as it now stands.
- 7th. The present mode of Appropriating the import and excise.
- 8th. The unreasonable grants made to some of the officers of the Government.
- 9th. The Supplementary Aid.
- 10th. The present mode of paying government securities.
- 11th. The present mode adopted for the payment and speedy collection of the last state tax.
- 12th. The present mode of taxation as it operates unequally between the polls and estates and between landed and mercantile interests.
- 13th. The present method of the practice of attorneys at law.
- 14th. The want of a sufficient medium of trade to remedy the mischiefs arising from the scarcity of Money.
- 15th. The General Court sitting in the town of Boston.
- 16th. The present embarrassments on the press.
- 17th. The neglect of the settlement of important Matters depending between the Commonwealth and Congress, relating to Monies and Averages.
- 18th. Voted, This convention recommends to the several towns in this County, that they instruct their Representatives, to use their influence in the next General Court, to have emitted a bank of paper Money, subject to a depreciation; making it a tender in all payments, equal to silver and gold to be issued in order to call in the Commonwealth securities.
- 19th. Voted, That Whereas several of the above articles of grievances, arise from defects in the constitution, therefore a revision of the same ought to take place.
- 20th. Voted, that it be recommended by this convention to the several towns in this county that they petition the Governor to call the General Court immediately together in order that the other grievances complained of may by the legislature be redressed.
- 21st. Voted, That this convention recommend it to the inhabitants of this country, that they abstain from all Mobs and unlawful assemblies, until a constitutional method of redress can be obtained.

- 22nd. Voted, That Mr. Caleb West be desired to transmit a copy of the proceedings of this convention to the Convention of the County of Worcester.
- 23rd. Voted, That the Chairman of this Convention be desired to transmit a copy of the proceeding of this Convention to the County of Berkshire.
- 24th. Voted, That the Chairman of this Convention be directed to notify a County Convention upon any motion made to him for that purpose if he judge the reasons offered be sufficient, giving such notice, together with the reasons thereof in the public papers of this county.
- 25th. Voted, That a copy of the proceedings of this convention be sent to the press in Springfield for publication.”

Daniel Gray of Pelham was chairman of a committee chosen to issue an address to the people for their better understanding of the causes of reasons for their being under arms; they discharged the obligation laid upon them with zeal and earnestness, and though mistaken as to the means chosen to correct the evils complained of, we believe there was a large measure of honesty in the mass of the insurgent forces under arms, and that Daniel Gray believed he was serving in a righteous cause.

“An address to the people of the several Towns in the County of Hampshire, now at arms. Gentlemen, We have thought proper to inform you of some of the principal causes of the late risings of the people. Also of their present movements Viz:

- 1st The present expensive mode of collecting debts, which, by reason of the great scarcity of cash, will of necessity fill our goals with unhappy debtors, and thereby a reputable body of people rendered incapable of being serviceable either to themselves or the community.
- 2nd. The Monies raised by imports and excise being appropriated to discharge the interest of the government securities, and not the foreign debt, when these securities are not subject to taxation.
- 3rd. A suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus by which those persons who have stepped forth to assert and maintain the rights of the people, are liable to be taken and conveyed even to the most distant part of the Commonwealth, and thereby subjected to an unjust punishment.
- 4th. The unlimited power granted to justices of the Peace and Sheriffs and Constables, by the Riot Act, indemnifying them to the prosecution thereof; when perhaps, wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred and envy.

Furthermore, --Be assured that this body, now at arms, dispise the idea of being instigated by British Emessaries, which is so strenuously propagated by the enemies of our liberties: And also wish the most proper and speedy measures may be taken, to discharge both our foreign and domestic debt.

Per Order, DANIEL GRAY

Chairman of Committee for the above purpose.

Thomas Grover of Worcester, an insurgent leader took upon himself the liberty to fulminate his individual ideas of some of the grievances the people were suffering under in the *Hampshire Herald*;

“To the Printer of the *Hampshire Herald*: Sir. It has somehow or other fallen to my lot to be employed in a more conspicuous manner than some of my fellow citizens in stepping forth in defence of the rights and privileges of the people, more especially of the County of Hampshire.

Therefore, upon the desire of the people now at arms, I take this method to publish to the world of mankind in general, particularly the people of this Commonwealth, some of the principal grievances w3e complain of and of which we are now seeking redress, and mean to contend for, until a redress can be obtained, which we hope, will soon take place; and if so, our brethren in this Commonwealth, that do not see with us yet, shall find we shall be as peaceable as they be.

In the first place, I must refer you to a draft of Grievances drawn up by a committee of the people, now at arms under the signature of Daniel Gray, Chairman, which is heartily approved of; some others are also here added, viz:

- 1st. The General Court, for certain obvious reasons, must be removed out of the town of Boston.
- 2nd. A revision of the Constitution is absolutely necessary.
- 3rd. All kinds of government securities now on interest, that have been bought on the original owners for two shills, three shillings, four shillings, and the highest six shillings and eight pence on the pound, and have received more interest than the principal cost the speculator who purchased them, --that if justice was done, we verily believe, nay positively know, it would save the Commonwealth thousands of pounds.
- 4th. Let the lands belonging to the Commonwealth, at the eastward, be sold at the best advantage, to pay the remainder of our domestic debt.
- 5th. Let the monies arising from impost and excise be appropriated to discharge the foreign debt.
- 6th. Let that act, passed by the General Court last June by a small majority of only seven, called the Supplementary Aid, for twenty-five years to come, be repealed.
- 7th. The total abolition of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.
- 8th. Deputy Sheriffs totally set aside, as a useless set of officers in the Community; and Constables who are really necessary, be empow4red to

do the duty, by which means a large swarm of lawyers will be banished from their wonted haunts, who have been more damage to the people at large, especially to the common farmers, than the savage beasts of prey.

To this I boldly sign my proper name, as a hearty well wisher to the real rights of the people.
Worcester, Dec. 7, 1786.”

THOMAS GROVER

Possibly Grover issued his manifesto from Worcester, but at other times his name appears as Capt. Thomas Grover of Montague.

The causes which led to the prevailing discontent, the calling of conventions, and the formulation of a long list of grievances and the resort to arms, may need further explanation for the better understanding of the disturbed condition of the people 112 years ago, by those who may read this portion of the history of Pelham.

CAUSES OR REASONS WHICH LED TO REBELLION

The War of the Revolution had been ended but a few years. It had been an expensive war. The state debt was £1,300,000 besides £250,000 due to officers and soldiers. The state's portion of the Federal debt was £1,500,000. Every town was more or less embarrassed by advances of money which they had made to equip the frequent requisitions of men, called for by the state, and for supplies to support the army, which had been done upon their own particular credit.

The burden of debt was enormous as compared with that before the war. –when it was less than £100,000.

Taxpayers will now appreciate the burdens laid upon the people at that time, when they know that the third part of all sums raised by taxation was laid upon the rateable polls alone, and the rateable polls little exceeded 90,000 in the state.

The people had secured freedom from Great Britain, but were under grievous embarrassments which pressed upon them sorely. For eight or nine years they had been fighting for liberty and now they felt as though they were fighting for life, --for mere existence as it were. Upon the right management of the public debt depended the tranquility and happiness of the people.

They were strongly prejudiced against raising monies by duties of impost and excise, for paying running expenses of government, or for paying public debts. It was considered anti-republican by the leading men of that day. The paper currency was depreciating day by day and it seemed an impossibility to save the public credit, upon which the happiness of the people depended.

The opposition of the people to paying interest is another thing which astonishes us in these times when interest paying by states, counties, towns and individuals is so common. They said it was "*a cankerworm that consumed their substance without lessening their burdens.*" We should have said, fund the debt and pay interest annually and the principal by installments. But the installment plan had not been invented at that time. They wanted to pay the debt at once, but could not.

Another cranky notion was this: That trade, --commerce, --the importation of goods, led to luxury and vice. The commercial men said all trouble came from the regulations under which commerce had to be carried on. To destroy commerce would not lessen the evils complained of; and finally the opposition to impost and excise duties began to give way. The export trade was almost destroyed, and if goods were imported they must be paid for in specie, --which tended to drain the country of ready money.

The private or individual indebtedness was large; those who had been fighting for liberty came home and found indebtedness they had left, unpaid, and more modern debts had been added to the old. Paper money was of little value, and specie was not easily obtained, while creditors were pressing for payment. The Tender Act of July 3, 1782, provided that private debts might be paid in neat cattle and certain other persona property at an appraisement by men under oath. The law did not satisfy debtors or creditors. It had the effect to suspend lawsuits in some cases, but also served as the signal for hostilities between creditors and debtors and really because of this law debtors thought their creditors were under their control.

The pressure of creditors had made the people irritable and turbulent, and the burdensome taxes made the load heavier still; and there was clamor for another issue of paper money for relief, but it was not issued.

The lawyers brought suit in the courts for creditors and attached personal property if it could be found. If a debtor had a stock of cattle the sheriff seized them and drove them off the farm. The debtor could not offer a receiptor for the cattle, as now, until trial. The effect of such action being to absolutely block the work of the farm, and there is little wonder that the farmers became sullen and angry and cast about for successful opposition to such practices. That they were in dead earnest to get rid of lawyers is shown by the foregoing draft of grievances by Thomas Grover of Worcester, which doubtless expressed the prevailing sentiment of the people toward lawyers.

There was great increase of these suits for debt, pushed by lawyers, urged on by creditor clients anxious to realize on accounts long overdue. This persistence on the part of lawyers caused the impecunious debtors to hate lawyers without stint. Inflammatory

newspaper articles against lawyers increased this hatred. The leading insurgents insisted that “this class of professional men ought to be abolished.” They instructed the representatives elected to the General Court in 1786 “to annihilate lawyers” but they failed to accomplish it. Perhaps it would have been better for the country if they had. They practically excluded lawyers from the General Court for the session of 1786, and convinced the House that their distresses were greatly increased by the exorbitant fees exacted by lawyers and attorneys, and passed a bill through the House fixing the fees for attorneys and providing for their taking an oath previous to pleading in every cause, that they would not receive more than the lawful fees, but it failed to pass the Senate.

The lawyers being odious to the people the next step was a logical one; --the lawyers were intimately connected with the court of justice, and the courts somewhat under their control, so the extension of this hatred of lawyers so as to include the courts was a natural one, so the clamor for the abolishment of court became loud, and the purpose to stop the courts by force of arms was soon formed, and carried out in many instances.

On the last Tuesday in August 1786, only a few days after the Hatfield convention where they urged the people to abstain from all mobs and unlawful assemblies, 1500 men under arms assembled in Northampton, took possession of the court house and effectually prevented the sitting of the court. The next week the court was prevented from holding session in the court house in Worcester but held court in a private house. The foregoing brief explanation of the reasons or causes which led the people to resort to arms for the relief they sought is perhaps sufficient, though it may not be satisfactory to those who may read it

ENLISTMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF THE INSURGENTS

The massing of armed men for raids upon the courts in the shire towns of the counties in the state required organization and some sort of method for securing and enlisting men. A meeting for the consideration of this important business was held, and a committee of seventeen insurgents was appointed to raise and organize a large force of men in Hampshire country; among the members of this committee were Capt. Shays of Pelham and Capt. Billings of Amherst. The form of enlistment used in recruiting these forces was as follows:

“We do Each one of us acknowledge our Selves to be Inlisted into a Company Commanded by Capt. ---- & Lieut. Bullard & in Colo Hazeltons Regiment of Regulators in Order for the Suppressing of tyrannical government in the Massachusetts State. And we do Ingage to obey Such orders as we shal Reserve from time to—to time from our Superior officers, and to faithfully Serve for the term of three months from the Date in Witness hereof we have hereunto Set our names—the Conditions of Will Be for a Sarge Sixty Shillings per Month Cop Fifty Shillings a Month Privet Forty Shillings a Month and if git the Day their will be a Consedrable bounty Ither Forty or Sixty Pounds.”

The enrollment of men went on under the direction of the above committee among the restless and turbulent element until a large number of the able bodied men in many of the towns were drawn in, and were in arms against state authority under local leaders; constituting a formidable insurgent body who were determined to prevent the sitting of the courts they would stop the entry and trial of suits for debt by impatient creditors who employed the lawyers.

The insurgents took possession of court houses in Middlesex county and at Worcester, also at Great Barrington in Berkshire. They also determined to prevent the sitting of the court at Springfield on the 27th of Sept. 1786. Six hundred of the state militia under Gen. Shepard were ordered to take possession of the court house which

they did. Capt. Daniel Shays with more than 600 insurgents appeared on the scene and sent a request to the judge that none of the late rioters who were under arrest should be indicted. The court did little business, and after three days' session adjourned, after resolving that it was not expedient to proceed to Berkshire for a session of the court in October following.

In October, Capt. Shays marched his men through the streets of Springfield in the face of Gen. Shepard's men, by permission of the General; it is said the one condition of the permission was, that the insurgents behave well; which it is said they did. There was a gathering of insurgents at Great Barrington the same month because they feared that an attempt would be made to hold court, but there was no attempt to hold a session.

The legislature which was called together on the 27th of Sept. 1786 had passed some stringent measures which caused Capt. Shays to issue the following order:

“Pelham, Oct. 13, 1786.

Gentlemen: --By information from the General Court they are determined to call all those who appeared to stop the court to condign punishment. Therefore I request you to assemble your men together to see that they are Well armed and equipped with sixty rounds each man, and be ready to trun out at a Minute's warning; likewise be properly organized with officers.

Daniel Shays.”

The General Court adjourned on the 18th day of November, 1786 after suspending the habeas Corpus act and passing other acts that it was hoped would pacify the excited people of the state. At that time it was estimated that one-third of the entire population was in sympathy with, or in active action against the constituted authorities, and in some sections of the state the proportion of insurgents was larger. On the 23rd of November there was a convention of insurgents at Worcester after the courts had been unable to enter the court house on the 21st, and obliged to hold court in a tavern.

Governor Bowdoin then began to take active measures for the suppression of this uprising. The militia in Middlesex was called out and four regiments in Essex. The insurgent leaders having rejected offers of pardon, warrants were issued for the arrest of the leaders, and Parker, Page and Job Shattuck, leaders in the eastern part of the state, were arrested in Groton.

Shays with the largest part of the insurgents left Worcester after stopping the courts on the 21st and marched to Rutland where he remained until Dec. 3rd when he returned to Worcester, but marched back to Rutland again on the 9th of the same month where he remained for some time, some of his men freezing to death on the march. There was a great scarcity of provisions, and 'tis said that Shays made known his willingness to leave the people to themselves and accept the pardon if the Government would offer it.

WARRANTS FOR THE ARREST OF REBEL LEADERS

On the 10th of January, 1787, Gov. Bowdoin issued Warrants to the sheriff of Hampshire County for the arrest of

Capt. Asa Fisk of South Brimfield	Joseph Hinds of Greenwich
Alpheus Colton of Longmeadow	Capt. Joel Billings of Amherst
Luke Day of West Springfield	Obed Foot of Greenfield
Capt. Gad Sacket of Westfield	Capt. Abel Dinsmore of Conway
Capt. Aaron Jewett of Chesterfield	Capt. Matthew Clark of Colrain
Capt. John Brown of Whately	Samuel Hill of Charlemont
Samuel Morse of Worthington	Capt. Thomas Grover of Montague
Capt. Daniel Shays of Pelham	John Powers of Shutesbury.

These men were the leaders of the insurgents in Western Mass. Of whom the governor wrote the sheriff as follows: "That the enlargement of the above named persons is dangerous to the Commonwealth, its peace and safety." Sheriff Elisha Porter reported to the governor: "Day, Colton, Clark and Brown, jailed,--the others not found."

The governor found that calling out a few men here and there was having no good effect in quelling these rebellious citizens and by the advice of the Council 4400 men were called out, 700 of them from Suffolk, 500 from Essex, 800 from Middlesex, 1200 from Hampshire and 1200 from Worcester counties, with two companies of artillery, detached from Suffolk and two from Middlesex. The troops from Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex were ordered to gather near Boston on the 19th of January, 1787. Those from Hampshire county at Springfield on the 18th. Troops from Worcester to join those of the eastern counties at Worcester. All were raised for thirty days' service, unless sooner discharged. Major-Gen. Benjamin Lincoln was placed in command.

The state treasury was so low at that time that there was not money enough to place the troops in the field and private citizens furnished the money to do it. Gov.

Bowdoin issued his orders to Gen. Lincoln to take command and protect the courts, to apprehend all hostile persons, etc., --and closed with this paragraph:

“On these attempts to restore system and order, I wish the smiles of heaven, and that you may have an agreeable command, the most perfect success, and a speedy and safe return; I am with much esteem, sir, your most obedient servant, James Bowdoin.”

THE REBELS MARCH TOWARD SPRINGFIELD

Capt. Shays and his insurgent forces had withdrawn from Worcester toward the western part of the state. Gen. Lincoln arrived at Worcester on the 22nd of January. The court was to sit on the 23rd, and it did without any trouble. Gen. Lincoln and his army prevented any outbreak.

Gen. Shephard was in command of 1100 men from Hampshire county guarding the arsenal and stores at Springfield and the insurgents under Capt. Shays and others were concentrating there for an attack. Luke Day had 400 men at West Springfield. Shays with 1100 men was on the Boston Road while Eli Parsons was at Springfield, North Parish (Chicopee) with 400 more. Most of these men were old Continental soldiers.

Shays informed Day that he proposed to attack the post at Springfield on the 25th, which was the next day. Day replied that he could not assist on the 25th, but would be ready on the 26th, but his letter was intercepted by Gen. Shepard. Shays thinking it was all right marched his forces from Wilbraham to the attack. Day in the meantime had sent a preemptory demand to Gen. Shepard that the troops under his command be surrendered to him, but it did not terrify the General as Day perhaps hoped it might.

Gen. Lincoln was two days' march from Springfield, but hurrying forward through the deep snow. With more insurgent troops near him than he had militia, Gen. Shepard discovered Capt. Shays and his forces approaching from the Boston road about 4

P.M. on the afternoon of the 25th of January, moving toward the arsenal which he had been ordered to defend. The General sent an aid accompanied by two citizens to Shays, several times, to ask what the latter's intentions were and to warn him of the danger. Shays was informed that the militia was posted there by order of the Governor, and of Congress and if he should advance further the militia would certainly fire upon his men. Shays declared that he would have possession of the barracks. "Barracks I will have and stores," and marched to within 250 yards, when Gen. Shepard ordered his men to fire the cannon; but the first two shots were fired over the heads of Shays and his men, who continued to march upon the arsenal. The third shot was aimed at the center of the advancing column and fired with deadly effect.

There was a cry of "murder," and old soldiers though they were, the whole body of men were thrown into confusion. Shays tried to rally his men but could not, and his whole force was soon in full retreat in the direction of Ludlow, leaving three dead and one wounded upon the field. Shays joined forces with Eli Parsons at Chicopee on the next day but the arrival of Gen. Lincoln on the 27th prevented another attack by the Shays men.

Gen. Lincoln had four regiments, three companies of artillery, and one company of horse or cavalry as they would be called now. At 3:30 the same day, Gen. Lincoln crossed the Connecticut River on the ice after Day and his men, but they fled in confusion and spent the night on the march to Northampton. On the 28th, Gen. Lincoln began the march after Shays who had retreated through South Hadley towards Amherst. The pursuit of Shays and his followers began at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 28th, and Gen. Lincoln pushed along as fast as the drifted snow would permit. Capt. Shays had a

pretty good lead and kept out of the way of his pursuers, arriving in Amherst quite a little in advance of Gen. Lincoln, but knowing he was not far behind, pushed on toward Pelham.

A short time after the Shays men had gone from Amherst, ten sleigh loads of provisions from Berkshire came to East Amherst and stopped to feed their horses at the tavern kept by Oliver Clapp. Landlord Clapp knew that Gen. Lincoln was in pursuit of Shays and his men and that the men were about finished. He told the men in charge of the provisions not to think of stopping to feed the horses, but to push on towards Pelham before they were gobbled up by Lincoln. The teams hurried on after Shays and the famished men got the provisions which they would have failed to receive, had not Landlore Clapp, who was a personal friend of Shays, hurried up the teams. Gen. Lincoln and his army arrived in Amherst and on being informed of the passing of Shays and his men towards Pelham, decided not to pursue them further that day.

The people who were in the farm houses along the road from Amherst to Pelham, West Hill, consisting mostly of women and children, saw a very strange and unusual sight as they looked out to the west along the deeply drifted snow-covered highway on the afternoon of the 28th of January, 1787. Stragglng along the untrod road, they saw 1100 armed men, foot-sore and weary, toiling slowly along up the hills after their long march from Springfield. No such sight had they ever seen before, and never since that day has so large a body of armed men been seen in the town.

Captain Shays, they knew, and their husbands and sons and brothers also, but the men from Middlesex, Worcester and Berkshire counties they did not know. The travel-worn army of rebels was halted on the common in front of the old meeting house. A

portion of the men camped as comfortably as it was possible with the great lack of tents or camp equipage, and the other half, with the rebel captain moved on through the snow of that old fashioned winter down the slope to the "Hollow" where the old Conkey Tavern was located, and then up to the summit of Pelham, East Hill, where they camped. Capt. Shays making himself comfortable at the old tavern he knew so well. That 1100 men could be maintained in any sort of comfort on these bleak hills in the dead of winter would seem almost impossible to anyone who will visit them any year in January; but they were quartered on these hills from Jan 28 to Feb. 3 and none were frozen so far is known. Doubtless the ten sleigh loads of provisions, which Landlord Clapp hurried a long after Capt. Shays' rebel army, helped to make their stay in Pelham more agreeable than it otherwise would have been.

General Lincoln made an examination of the houses in Amherst and discovered that they contained mostly women and children, most of the men being with the insurgents under Shays. He also learned about the ten sleigh loads of provisions, which had gone forward. He then forbade the remaining inhabitants from furnishing any supplies to the insurgents; and pushed on to Hadley where he might find cover for his weary troops.

As we have already said the Shays men were quartered in some sort of comfort on these two hills in Pelham and Capt. Shays was at his old headquarters at Landlord Conkey's tavern in the great hollow between the east and west hills. Gen. Lincoln was at Hadley ten to twelve miles west of Pelham, with his forces and from his headquarters sent the following letter to Captain Shays on the 30th of January, 1787:

Whether you are convinced or not of your error in flying to arms, I am fully persuaded that before this hour, you must have the fullest conviction upon your mind that you are not able to execute your original purposes.

Your resources are few, your force is inconsiderable, and hourly decreasing from the disaffection of your men; you are in a post where you have neither cover nor supplies, and in a situation in which you can neither give aid to your friends nor discomfort to the supporters of good order and government. Under these circumstances you cannot hesitate a moment to disband your deluded followers. If you should not, I must approach, and apprehend the most influential characters among you.

Should you attempt to fire upon the troops of the government, the consequences must be fatal to many of your mnenm the least guilty. To prevent bloodshed, you will communicate to your privates, that if they will instantly lat down their arms, surrender themselves to government, and take and subscribe the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth, they shall be recommended for mercy. If you should either withhold this information from them, or suffer your people to fire upon our approach, you must be answerable for all the ills which may exist in consequence thereof.”

To this letter General Lincon received the following reply:

“Pelham, January 30th, 1787.

To General Lincoln, Commanding the Government Troops at Hadley, *Sir*. –The people assembled in arms from the counties of Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire, taking into serious consideration the purport of the flag just received, return for answer, that however unjustifiable the measures may be which the people have adopted, in having recourse to arms, various circumstances have induced them thereto.

We are sensible of the embarrassments the people are under; but that virtue which truly characterizes the citizens of a republican government, hath hitherto marked our paths with a degree of innocence; and we wish and trust it will still be the case. At the same time, the people are willing to lay down their arms, on the condition of a general pardon, and return to their respective homes, as they are unwilling to stain the land, which we in the late war purchased at so dear a rate, with the blood of our brethren and neighbors.

Therefore, we pray that hostilities may cease, on your part, until our united prayers may be presented to the General Court, and we receive an answer, as a person is gone for that purpose. If this request may be compiled with, government shall meet with no interruption from the people; but let each army occupy the post where they now are.

Daniel Shays, Captain.”

On the following day three of the insurgents from the camp at Pelham appeared at General Lincoln’s headquarters at Hadley with the following communication:

“The Honorable General Lincoln, *Sir*. –As the officers of the people now convened in defense of their rights and privileges, have sent a petition to the General Court, for the sole purpose of accommodating our present unhappy affairs, we justly

expect that hostilities may cease on both sides, until we have a return from our legislature. Your Honour will therefore be pleased to give us an answer.

Per order of the committee for reconciliation,

Francis Stone, Chairman
Daniel Shays, Captain
Adam Wheeler.

Pelham, January 31, 1787.”

General Lincoln sent answer to the foregoing letter as follows:

“Hadley, January 31, 1787

Gentlemen. –Your request is totally inadmissible, as no powers are delegated to me which would justify a delay of my operations. Hostilities I have not commenced. I have again to warn the people in arms against the government, immediately to disband, as they would avoid ether ill consequences which may ensue, should they be inattentive to this caution.

B. Lincoln.

To Francis Stone, Daniel Shays Adam Wheeler.”

It was while this correspondence was going on that the time for the assembling of the General Court arrived according to adjournment, but owing to the unsettled state of the people the legislators did not arrive at Boston in sufficient numbers until the 3rd of February. On the 4th a declaration of rebellion was passed by the Senate and concurr4d in by the House. When General Shepard and General Lincoln dispersed the rebels at Springfield the latter discharged 2000 militia because he believed they would not be wanted, but when Captain Shays posted his men at Pelham, the rebellion began to assume more importance, and Governor Bowdoin issued orders for 2600 of the militia in the middle counties to take the field.

The petition, which Shays and his associates of the committee of reconciliation referred to as having been sent to the General Court, reached Boston and was duly presented to the honorable body. It was in language as follows:

“PETITION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COUNTIES OF WORCESTER, HAMPSHIRE, MIDDLESEX AND BERKSHIRE NOW AT ARMS.

Humbly Sheweth: --That your petitioners being sensible that we have been in error, in having recourse to arms, and not seeking redress in a Constitutional way; we therefore heartily pray your honours, to overlook our failing, in respect to our rising in Arms, as your honors must be sensible we had great cause of uneasiness as will appear by your redressing many grievances, the last session; yet we declare, that it is our hearts desire, that good government may be kept in a constitutional way; and as it appears to us, that the time is near approaching, when much human blood will be spilt, unless a reconciliation can immediately take place, which scene strikes us with horror, let the foundation cause be what it may.

We therefore solemnly promise that we will lay down our arms, and repair to our respective homes in a peaceable and quiet manner, and so remain, provided you honours will grant to your petitioners, and all those our brethren who have recourse to arms, or otherwise aided or assisted our cause, a general pardon for their past offences. All of which we humbly submit to the wisdom, candour and benevolence of your honours, as we in duty bound shall ever pray.

Francis Stone,

Chairman of the Committee for the above Counties.

Read and accepted by the Officers.

Pelham, January 30, 1787.”

The General Court took the petition in hand and at once “Voted that the said paper cannot be sustained,” and gave seven distinct reasons for their action, a few of them we copy. “First, because those concerned therein openly avow themselves in arms, and in a state of hostility against the government, and for this reason alone, the said paper would be unsustainable, even if the tenor of the application had discovered a spirit suitable to the object of it. Fourthly, the said applicants appear to view themselves on equal, if not better standing than the legislature, by proposing ‘a reconciliation.’ Fifthly, they appear to threaten the authority and Government of the Commonwealth, with great effusion of blood, unless this ‘reconciliation’ can immediately take place.”

In a letter written by General Lincoln to Governor Bowdoin dated at Hadley, Feb. 1, 1787, he says:

“I have just been honored with the receipt of your Excellency’s favor of the 25 ult. *** I wait with a degree of impatience for such weather as will permit my reconnoitering Shays’ post, which as I have advised you before is a very strong one. Every exertion will be made to bring this matter to a happy close.

B. Lincoln.”

It is probably true that there was a reconnaissance of Capt. Shays' position by order of Gen, Lincoln and it doubtless caused the rebel leader to set his forces in motion towards Petersham.

The terse answer of General Lincoln Jan. 31, 1787, did not satisfy the committee of insurgents of which Capt. Shays was one, and a private conference was sought by one of the leading rebels to further consider the subject of promised pardon. It was granted and the conference was held at Hadley, Feb. 3, 1787, the day the General Court assembled. While the conference was in session Capt. Shays, who seems to have forgotten the petition that had been sent to the legislature, concluded not to wait for the result of the conference, at Hadley, but while it was going on the wily Captain started his men on the march across the hills and through the valleys towards Petersham.

Dr. Nehemiah Hinds kept a tavern at that time on Pelham East Hill where a part of Capt. Shays' men were gathered while in Pelham. It stood on the site of the present Congregational parsonage in Prescott, and Landlord Hinds had for a sign the painting of a horse held by a groom. The board on which this sign was painted was hung on a post or pole set in a solid rock in front of the tavern. The tavern and the sign are gone but the rock with the hole six inches in diameter and about two feet deep remains. The rains in summer keep the hole filled with water and the children of all generations from 1787 to this day have made mud pies on that rock.

It was by this rock with the tavern sign above it that Capt. Shays is said to have treated his men, (probably the officers of his insurgent force) as they were leaving the town by the snowy highway, continuing their flight from the larger and stronger body of State Militia under General Lincoln encamped at Hadley, that Capt. Shays knew would

continue the pursuit just as soon as General Lincoln became aware that the private conference was sought only for the purpose of gaining time, and the General should learn of his leaving Pelham.

This march of the rebels to Petersham was the last move in any considerable numbers of the insurgent forces. There was trouble from small bodies of rebels afterwards for some time in various parts of the state, but it is not thought best to follow up this sort of guerrilla war that was kept up for several months.

The march of General Lincoln's army from Hadley to Petersham, as given in Minot's History of the insurrection:

"Information that Shays had put his forces in motion and left Pelham was carried to Gen. Lincoln at Hadley at noon of the same day (Feb. 3, 1787) but it was first thought that he had only marched the men on the West Hill to join those on the East Hill of Pelham.

Gen. Lincoln issued orders to his army to be ready to march at a moments notice and to have three days provisions ready. At 6 o'clock that day news came that Shays had really left his position at Pelham and gone eastward. In two hours from the time or at eight o'clock in that winter night Lincoln and his army were on the march after the rebels. Through Amherst, Shutesbury and New Salem they marched as fast as the deep snows would permit, hour after hour without any unusual incident of note save the bitter cold. At two o'clock in the morning they were in New Salem. By this time a violent snow storm had begun, accompanied by a fierce north wind, which sharpened the cold to an extreme degree. The route lay across high lands, and the falling snow filled the road. The soldiers were exposed to the full effect of these circumstances, and the country being thinly settled did not afford a covering for them within the distance of eight miles. Being thus deprived of shelter by want of buildings, and of refreshment by the intensity of the cold, which prevented their taking any in the road, their only safety lay in closely pursuing a march, which was to terminate at the quarters of the enemy. They therefore advanced the whole distance of thirty miles subject to all these inclemencies without halting for any length of time. Their front reached Petersham by nine o'clock in the morning (Feb. 4), their rear being five miles distant."

Shays and his men have been comfortable housed during the cold and storm, while Lincoln and his army were greatly worn by the fatigue of the march and suffering from the intense cold. It would seem that Shays had the advantage, but he did not seem to

know it, or Gen. Lincoln didn't give him an opportunity to use it, for the latter advanced into the town with some artillery in front. Shays was taken by surprise—he had not the least suspicion that any danger of attack was possible; and he and his men immediately evacuated the houses where they had been quartered and thronging into a back road, fled towards Athol without scarcely stopping to fire a gun. Many of the privates retired to their own homes—others including officers fled to Vermont, New Hampshire and New York.

After breaking up the main body of the rebels under Capt. Shays at Petersham, Gen Lincoln marched his forces back to the Western part of the state to look after and disperse other small bands that still kept up a noisy but not a very dangerous campaign.

As some may ask whether any of these rebels were ever punished, it may be best to say right here that the state government had no desire to execute the extreme penalties of the law against these rebels, but they wished to show that it was dangerous business to rebel. A commission was appointed consisting of Gen. B. Lincoln, Hon. Samuel Phillips and Hon. Samuel Allen Otis for granting indemnity to some persons concerned in rebellion, and 790 persons came under its benefits, of whom 12 were convicted of treason in the western part of the state and sentenced to death. Seven or eight of these were extended a free pardon by the governor on the 30th of April, 1787, and a reprieve granted to the others on the 21st of June following but the sheriff of Hampshire Co., was directed not to open his orders until the criminals had arrived at the gallows and all arrangements for the execution attended to. Among these was one man from Pelham and his name was Henry McCulloch.

A member of the House of Representatives was arrested by a state warrant for sedition and sentenced to sit upon the gallows for a time, to pay a fine of £50 and give bonds to keep the peace for five years and the sentence was executed.

Those who had been guilty of favoring the rebellion were excluded from the jury box for three years. Unless they could get a vote of the town to restore them. In some towns there were hardly men enough in town not tinctured with rebellious sentiments for town officers, and all town officers were required to take and subscribe to the oath or allegiance for some years.

Shays and Parsons and others of the leaders sued for pardon in February 1788 and it was granted to Shays in the following June.

Although Capt. Daniel Shays was the acknowledged leader of the insurrection, and the disturbance received its name as the Shays rebellion from the fact of his leadership, he escaped the notoriety of being sentenced to death for his crime against the state, and the honor or disgrace fell upon Henry McCulloch, being the only man from Pelham who had the death penalty passed upon him.

Henry McCulloch was a farmer and his farm was the whole or part of of home lot 48 originally drawn by John Stinson on the middle range road about a mile weswt of the Old Meeting House and now occupied by Mr. C. P. Hanson a soldier of the Civil War. The site of the residence of McCulloch is back from the highway and northeast of the farm house of Mr. Hanson. Some stones of the foundation remain and the well with its moss covered stones and abundance of pure water can be seen by the visitor interested in tracing such lines of history.

Henry McCulloch of Pelham, Jason Parmenter of Bernardston, David Luddington of Southampton, James White of Colraine, and Alpheus Colton of Longmeadow, were tried in April 1787 and found guilty. McCulloch was sentenced to death by hanging on the gallows for participating in the insurrection, the date was fixed and he was confined in jail at Northampton awaiting the fatal day.

Petitions numerously signed for a reprieve were forwarded to Gov. Bowdoin and the following order for delay in the execution of the sentence was forwarded to High Sheriff Porter.

“BOSTON, MAY 17, 1787.

ELISHA PORTER, ESQ., Sheriff of the County of Hampshire.

Warrant deferring the execution of Henry McCulloch and Jason Parmenter. We therefore by and with the advice of ther Council do hereby direct you to suspend and delaya the sentence aforesaid until Thursday the twenty-first day of June next, and hereby require you then, between the hours of 12 and three o'clock in the daytime to execute the said sentence of death in execution against them and cause them to be hanged up by the neck until they be dead as directed in the warrant. JAMES BOWDOIN.”

After the reprieve petitions for his pardon and release were circulated. There was a petition from Hatfield signed by 73 people of that town; one from Hadley having 44 names; one from Colraine and from other towns. Pelham people were greatly interested for the release and pardo of McCulloch and the following petition with appended list of names shows that almost all of the male inhabitants must have signed it.

“PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY, JAMES BOWDOIN, ESQ.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Honorable Council. The Subscribers, Petitioners, Inhabitants of the town of Pelham, in the County of Hampshire, in behalf of Henry McCulloch of said Pelham, now a prisoner within the gaol in Northampton under a sentence of death for treason against the Government most humbly shews: --That, very deeply affected with the unhappy condition of the said Henry McCulloch and anxiously desirous to do everything within their power and to use every proper and reguyklar method in order to avert if possible his impending Fate, they have presumed to approach your Excellency & Honors with their most Honorable petition in favour of the said Henry begging the clemency and mercy of the government

to spare his forfeited Life and Pardon his offenses for which he is sentenced to die. — They beg Leave to assure your Excellency and Honors that although he sands convicted of so high and aggravated an offence, yet he is by no means in other respects of an abandoned Character but has been in the vicinity where he dwells considered as benevolent and useful citizen, and that it is the op9inion of your Petitioners that in case his Life might be saved he would be induced from his past errors, misfortunes and Dangers to yield due submission to the Laws of the Government and make all possible atonement for Pat Offenses, by future obedience; —your Petitioners further beg leave to suggest to your Merciful and compassionate consideration of the distresses of an aged and impotent Parent, and all the tender agencies surrounding Neighbors and Friend, and likewise to spare your Excellencie’s and honor’s in case the said unhappy Prisoner would receive a pardon, it would be considered by your Humble Petitioners and would lay them under the most particular obligations to use their utmost influence in future in order to promote and secure a due submission to Government and obedience to the Laws: your Petitioners therefore Most Humbly Pray that the said Prisoner’s life may be spared, and he may receive a full pardon for his offences, and as in duty bound shall ever pray. May 1787.

Ebenezer Liscom	(Blotted) Peebles
Hugh Johnson	John Hood
John Crawford	John Harkness, 2 nd
John Bruce	Ebenezer Gray
Ephraim Church	Adam Johnson
Adam Clark	William Dunlap
Orles Keith	Reuben Lothridge
Wm Johnston	Robert Crossett
Joseph Packard	Starling King
Joseph Thompson	Wm Wells
James McMilleon	Thomas McMillan
Jonathan Gray	James McMillan
Matthew Brown	James Thomson
Barnabas Blackmer	Nathan’l Sampson
John McCulloch	John Rincken
James Taylor	Jacob Gray
Jonatrhon Hood	Andrew Conkey
David Conkey	----- Thompson
Levi Packard	James Abercrombie
Robert Houston	Isaac Conkey
James Thompson	Jonathan Leach
Elihu Billings	Stephen Fish
Thomas Dick	Daniel Tyler
Eliakim Barlow	Jonathan Engram
Joseph Tinkham	Alase Crosther
M Clark	Hugh Holland
James King	Ezekiel Baker
John Peebles	James Kim
John Hamilton	Wm Hays

Samuel Hyde
Thomas Harlow
Ezekiel Conkey
David Houston
Alexander Conkey
Alexander Conkey, Jr.
John Coal
Levi Arms
Isaac Barlow
Joel Crawford
John Thompson
Matthew Gray
Isaac Abercrombie
Robert McCulloch
Wm Baldwin
Robert Abercrombie
Peter King
Joseph Rinken
Matthew Rinken
Isaac Dodge
Gideon Hacket
George Hacket
Ichahod Hayward
John Abbott
Andrew Abercrombie
Thomas Montgomery
Samuel Holley
Samuel Stevenson
John Johnson
Stephen Andrews
James Cowden
Uriah Southworth
Abner Amsdill
Robert Sekell
Elisha Conkey
James Latham
William Choate, Jr.
James Cowan, Jr.
James Cowan
Joseph Hamilton
George Eliot
Jeremiah McMillan.

Savanna Hays
David Harkness
John Harkness
Timothy Engram
James Hyde
Timothy Clapp
Nathan Perkins
Thomas Fuller
Clement Marshal
Daniel Harkness
John Barber
James Rinken
Jonathan Snow
Alexander Torrence
Ebenezer Sarls
Samuel Rhods
Thomas Conkey
Robert Maklam
Wm Conkey, Jr.
Robert Young Peebles
Ebenezer Wood
James Hunter
Isaac Baker
Lewis Baker
Elam Brown
Wm Ashley
David Sloan
Samuel Fenton
Aaron Gray
Matthew Gray, Jr.
Eliot Gray
Barber Gray
Patrick Gray
Joel Gray
Thomas Gray
Jeremiah Gray
James Conkey
James Baker
James Conkey, Jr.
Patrick McMillan
Jonathan McMillan

The above petition was forwarded to Gov. Bowdoin, at Boston. Gen. Ebenezer Mattoon, who it is said counted McCulloch among his personal friends, wrote to Lieut. Gov, Thomas Cushing in which he said:

“I am fearful McCulloch will suffer for want of proper knowledge of his character. He is rash and bad in many of his expressions, exceedingly so, yet when he is out of bad company and himself, I declare I know not of a person of more honesty and fidelity, nor a person more generous according to his ability; *surely less guilty* than either of the four who are pardoned. I am certain of it, from my own knowledge. –He is forward; had a good orse and was frequently called upon by Shays, Gray and other leaders in Pelham. –He frequently told me he wished he were out of it, but he could not live in Pelham unless he joined them. Have been acquainted with him a number of years and knew him in private life. I should have been happy while at Springfield with the Government troops, and Shays I Amherst, if I had known that my family were protected by McCulloch.

I have suffered much in person and property by these people, --I have been obliged to move my family to a Neighboring town for Shelter. –Notwithstanding all this I must beg for McCulloch. I cannot express my feelings on this subject, but am sure McCulloch is not the person to make an example of. EBENEZER MATTOON, JUN.

TO MAJOR THOMAS CUSHING, BOSTON

Northampton, May 8, 1787”

The earnestness and feeling displayed in the above letter shows that Gen. Mattoon had more than an ordinary interest in McCulloch and a story that has come down from the time of the insurrection touching Gen. Mattoon’s relations with McCulloch may explain to some extent this peculiar interest.

McCulloch and Mattoon were said to have been associated together in years previous to the Shays rebellion when they were young men and they made a compact or agreement each with the other that in after life should one become well to do and the other be poor and in need, he should have the privilege of making his wants known and receive assistance. Later in life McCulloch was in rather straightened circumstances, and it is said, used to come to Gen. Mattoon’s home at Amherst and say to the General, “Dost thou remember the compact?” and in response McCulloch’s bags were at once filled with

grain from the General's well filled granary, which the former would take home to his family in Pelham.

As Henry McCulloch and Jason Parmenter were associated together in the warrant for execution and in the reprieve it may not be out of place to state that active measures were taken by Parmenter's friends for his pardon.

A petition for the reprieve of Jason Parmenter was sent to the Governor dated at Sudbury, May 11, 1787, signed by

	Ruth Parmenter (mother)
Brothers	Micah Parmenter
Of	Deliverance Parmenter
Jason	Israel Parmenter
	Silas Parmenter.

There was also a petition sent to the governor by the condemned Jason and signed by himself alone, in which he pled earnestly for pardon. The result of the various petitions and letters poured in upon Governor Bowdoin seemed to have the desired effect and not only reprieve for a few weeks but a "full and ample pardon" was granted.

Whether there was any real purpose to hang these men, on the part of the state authorities may be questioned, but the men under sentence of death were led to believe that the state would punish rebels by death.

Governor Bowdoin went out of office before the final decision was made concerning the cases of the two condemned rebels and they were pardoned by Governor John Hancock. The document which relieved the men from their fears and set them at liberty read substantially as follows, only the important and effective portions being copied.

"We therefore by and with the advice and consent of the Council of our Special grace do hereby remit to the said Henry McCulloch and Jason Parmenter a full free and

ample pardon of all the Pains and Penalties they were liable to suffer and undergo by Vertue of the Sentences and Judgements aforesaid and of which the Sheriff of our said County of Hampshire is in an especial manner to take notice.

JOHN HANCOCK, GOVERNOR

BOSTON, SEPT. 12, 1787.”

While the friends of Henry McCulloch were doing their best to get him pardoned and set at liberty during the spring and summer of 1787, the rank and file of the Pelham people who had been engaged in rebellion against the state government had taken the oath of allegiance and had been at work on their farms as law abiding citizens.

From the rolls among the records at the State House the following list of men from Pelham, who had been in rebellion, has been copied in full. Some delivered up guns they had used against the state; some did not, while others offered such excuses as they had for their conduct.

“Pelham men who took oath of allegiance April 16, 1787, because they had been engaged in the insurrection:

Thomas Johnson	Joseph Rinken (+ his mark)
George Eliot	John Hamilton, Jun.
John Harkness, 2 nd	James Cowan, Jun.
Daniel Harkness, Jun.	James Johnston
David Hays	Joel Crawford
James Baker, Feb. 27, 1787	Moors Johnston
Stephen Andrews	Jacob Edson, gun
Stephen Pettingall	John Bruce, gun
Samuel Rhods, gun	Eleakim Barton
George Hacket, gun	Isaac Abercrombie
Uriah Southworth, gun	Abiah Southworth
Joseph Tinkham, gun	Justus Cowan
William Cowan	Jonathan Baker
John Cowan	Eliot Gray
Lewis Ames, gun	Jonathan Snow
John Cole, gun	Joel Rinken

Thirty persons on the right hand of this column (meaning the first thirty names) Personally appeared and took and subscribed to the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth on the 16 day of April 1787.

Before Isaac Powers, Justice Peace.”

“Hugh Johnson subscribed March 14, 1787 Excepting the words ‘Ecclesiastical or Spiritual.’

March 16 Ebenezer Gray carried no arms he said.

March 19 Simeon Smith delivered his Gun

March 20 Medad Moody ‘lent a gun unwillingly’

March 21 Josiah Whitney aided only by leading home his brother’s horse

Feb 6 Elias Smith, Samuel Smith received their arms at Amherst

Henry Lee never bore arms

March 23, 1787 Ezekial Conkey

James Abercrombie

David Pratt

Samuel Robins

Elliot Gray, 2nd

Thomas Clelland

Joseph Johnston

Ezekial Conkey

Thomas Thompson

Ezekial Baker

John Thompson, Jun.

Andrew Hyde

David Conkey

James McMillan

Robert Crossett

Jeremiah McMillan

Jonathan McMillan

Wm McMillan

Elisha Gray

Joseph Waiscoat

Thomas Conkey

John Hunter

Wm Johnston

Before Isaac Powers, Justice Peace.”

“Sept. 10, 1787, Lieut. Timothy Packard of Pelham took oath before me, E. Mattoon, Jun.”

“Hampshire SS Feb. 1, 1787.

Then John Hood, Adam Johnson, Jonathan Engram, Samuel Engram of Pelham informally appeared before me and took and subscribed to the oath of Allegiance.

Before me Abner Morgan.

Elisha Baldwin

Samuel Wright.”

Lieut. Timothy Packard was one of the last to take the oath, while Hood, Johnson and the two Ingrams were the earliest; the date on which they subscribed to the oath of allegiance was one of the four days that Capt, Shays and his men were quartered at Pelham after his repulse at Springfield and before he marched to Petersham. Baldwin and Wright were Pelham men and doubtless subscribed to the oath but the record was not filled out.

CAPTAIN DANIEL SHAYS

Daniel Shays is said to have been born in Hopkinton, Mass. In 1747. His parents being poor, and his early education neglected. It is also said that he removed from Hopkinton to Great Barrington before the Revolutionary war. How long before the war his removal occurred we have no record, neither is there any means of determining when he came to Pelham. But he was there when the Lexington alarm was sent out and joined a company of minute men under Capt. Reuben Dickinson of Amherst. This Company served eleven days. Shays was an ensign in this company. Capt. Dickinson organized another company May 1, 1775, which served three months and eight days and Daniel Shays was sergeant in this company. He was promoted for bravery at the battle of Bunker Hill. Shays was in Capt. Reuben Dickinson's company of Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's Regiment on the expedition to Ticonderoga in 1776 and detached on recruiting service; enlisted a company which he took to West Point, whose engagement to serve was conditioned upon his being appointed captain. He was not appointed captain and the men were apportioned to different corps. Shays was at the surrender of Burgoyne and at the storming of Stony Point. In 1779 he received a captain's commission and was with Col Putnam's regiment at Newark, N.J. in 1780, when he resigned and left the service.

Capt. Shays probably returned to Pelham soon after resigning his position in the army. Landlord Conkey was a friend of the Captain and there had been business transactions of some sort between them as shown by the following receipt:

Received by William Conkey, Jun, the som of four hundred dollars. I say Re'cd
by me, "Sudbury February 11, 1779
Abigail Shays."

Abigail Shays was the Captain's wife, and the dating of the paper at Sudbury may indicate her place of abode while her husband was in the army.

On the 9th of March 1781, Capt. Shays was chosen a member of Committee of Safety at Pelham; was chosen again in 1782 on the same committee and three committees were directed to attend the County Convention. He was also chosen one of the town Arnden for several years, and held that office the year the insurrection broke out. He was sent as a delegate to several of the conventions for the consideration of grievances which began to burden the people before the war closed. It was while he was a member of the Committee of Safety that he filed the following petition or bill for services at conventions:

“Pelham, March 18, 1782

This is to see if the town will allow me 1£-17s-8d for tending the Convention held at Hatfield and Hadley nine days and seven nights.

DANIEL SHAYS.”

March 26, 1783. Capt. Shays was allowed 12s for attending a County Convention. The last office to which he was chosen in Pelham was as delegate to attend a convention at Hadley in October, 1786—but he was excused and another man chosen in his place.

The farm on which Capt. Shays lived is one the Prescott side of the West Branch of the Swift River; for the last hundred years known as the “Johnson place.” The farm house now on the place is not the one occupied by the rebel captain, but is only a little removed from the site of the one that preceded it. The farm lays along the middle range road and the Old Conkey Tavern was half a mile or so farther down the road in the Hollow. Capt. Shays was no stranger at Landlord Conkey's tavern, nor at the hostelry of Dr. Nehemish Hinds on the East Hill, living as he did between the two.

The open fire-place in the bar room of Landlord Conkey's tavern was a pleasant place during the long winter evenings, when the hard times began to be felt by the debt burdened farmers, after the war was ended. What more fitting place to talk over their troubles than beside the great open fire place with the blazing logs, and the well filled decanters on the shelves of the bar in the corner behind. Here Capt. Shays met the people who came to consult him in regard to their grievances. Here the first mutterings of opposition in this vicinity were heard, and later developed into defiance of the state government, and armed resistance to the Courts and laws. In the open space in front of the tavern Capt. Shays drilled the men in the use of arms, and as the insurrection assumed greater proportions he was called to other parts of the state to organize the excited people.

Capt. Shays was doubtless poor in a financial sense, and possibly cramped and hampered by debts he was unable to pay, as many of his neighbors were; and he felt as keenly as they the distress caused by the lack of money and the other grievances complained of by the people. Whether he had large indebtedness is not known, but a note still in existence is evidence that he was unable to settle small indebtedness with cash.

Capt. Shays' Note

“For value received I promise to pay to William Conkey or Order the sum of Eighteen shillings six pence, to be paid by the first of January, next with interest for the same, as witness my hand,

DANIEL SHAYS.

Pelham, Sept. 1, 1786.”

The above note was overdue when he led his deluded followers from Springfield back to Pelham on the 28th of January, 1787, and was never paid. Milo Abbott of Prescott holds the note. The small sum represented by the note may have been a loan from his friend Conkey, to whom Shays had extended aid and comfort in previous years

as shown by the following letter, which is of interest, being a copy of an autograph letter of the Captain while stationed at Putnam's Heights. The letter is also of use in forming an intelligent idea of the character and capacity of the insurgent leader; who, though not well educated, had some military experience, --was popular and companionable among the people, and had some capacity for organizing and directing the movements of the excited insurgents, but it seems fair and reasonable to admit that he was not so able a leader as might have been chosen from the large number of insurgents in the state.

"Putnam's Heights June 25, 1778.

MR. CONKEY, SIR: After my kind request to you I wish to inform that I am well and in good health, hoping that these will find you & your family as well as these leave me. I have wrote to you once before but hearing you have not Rec'd my Letter from me & understand that you have been Drafted with these last men I write to you now for you to inform the selectmen of the town by showing them this letter that you have hired Jacob Toorell for to do eighteen months of service for you on consideration of your paying him ten pounds for that space of time which I saw you pay him the money.

Thinking that these few lines will be sufficient for to clear you for the present time I thought I would embrace the opportunity to write to you for your Security. Having nothing remarkable for news & hoping these will find you and yours well I must Conclude.

Your friend and servant, DANIEL SHAYS.

TO MR. WILLIAM CONKEY, Tavern Keeper in Pelham."

Capt. Daniel Shays defended his action in the rebellion in an interview with Gen. Rufus Putnam, the revolutionary soldier, seventeen days before the attack upon the Springfield Armory. General Putnam reported the interview to Governor Bowdoin:

RUTLAND, JANUARY 8, 1787

SIR: As I was coming through Pelham the other day I met Mr. Shays in the road alone, where we had a conversation, some of which was of a very particular kind. I shall state the whole, by way of dialog, as far as I can recollect; but in order to understand the meaning of some parts of it, it is necessary you should know that the week before they stopped Worcester court the last time, I spent many hours with Shays and his officers, endeavoring to dissuade them from their measures, and persuade them to return to their allegiance.

Mr. Shays—Do you know if the petition drawn up at Worcester has been sent to the governor or not?

Putnam—I am surprised to hear you inquire that of me; you certainly ought to know whether you have sent it, or not—however, since you ask the question I tell you I have been credibly informed that so late as last Friday it had not been presented.

Shays—They promised to send it immediately and it was very wrong they did not; but I don't know that it will alter the case, for I don't suppose the governor and council will take any notice of it.

Putnam—You have no reason to expect they will grant the prayer of it.

Shays—Why not?

Putnam—Because many things asked for it is out of their power to grant; and besides that since you and your party have once spurned at offered mercy, it is absurd to expect that another general pardon should be ever granted.

Shays—No! Then we must fight it out.

Putnam—That as you please, but it's impossible you should succeed, and the event will be that you must either run your country or hang, unless you are fortunate enough to bleed.

Shays—By God I'll never run my country.

Putnam—Why not? It's more honorable than to fight in a bad cause, and be the means of involving your country in a civil war; and that is a bad cause; you have always owned to me; that is, you owned to me at Holden, the week before you stopped Worcester court, that it was wrong in the people ever to take up arms as they had.

Shays—So I did, and so I say now, and I told you then and tell you now, that the sole motive with me in taking the command at Springfield, was to prevent the shedding of blood, which would absolutely have been the case, if I had not; and I am so far from considering it as a crime, that I look upon it that the government are indebted to me for what I did there.

Putnam—If that was the case, how came you to pursue the matter? Why did you not stop there?

Shays—I did not pursue the matter, it was noised about that the warrants were out after me, and I was determined not to be taken.

Putnam—This won't do. How came you to write letters to several towns in the county of Hampshire, to choose officers and furnish themselves with arms and do rounds of ammunition?

Shays—I never did; it was a cursed falsehood.

Putnam—Somebody did in your name, which it can never be presented was done without your approbation.

Shays—I never had any hand in the matter; it was done by a Committee, and doctor Hunt and somebody else, who I don't know, put my name to the copy and sent it to the Governor and the court.

Putnam—But why did you not take the benefit of the act of indemnity, as soon as it passed? But instead of that, you ordered the whole posse collected and marched as far as Shrewsbury, in order to go and stop the Court at Cambridge.

Shays—I never ordered a man to march to Shrewsbury, nor anywhere else, except when I lay at Rutland. I wrote to a few towns in the counties of Worcester and Hampshire. You are deceived; I never had half so much to do with the matter as you think for, and the people did not know of the act of indemnity before they collected.

Putnam—If they did not you did, for you told me at Holden that you knew everything that passed at Court; and that when you talked with Gen. Ward at Shrewsbury you was able to correct him t\in several things which advanced.

Shays—I could tell you—but—

Putnam—I don't wish to know any of your secrets. But why did you not go home with the Hampshire people from Holden, as you told me in the evening you would the next morning?

Shays—I can tell you, it would not have done. I have talked with Maj. Goodman. I told him what you said, and he gave it as his opinion the act would not have taken us in.

Putnam—Suppose that to be the case, yet the General Court might have extended it to you; the chance in your favor was much greater before than after you had stopped Worcester Court. Why did you not petition, before you added that crime to the score?

Shays—It would have been better; but I cannot see why stopping that Court is such a crime that if I might have been pardoned before, I should be exempted now.

Putnam—When offered mercy has been once refused, and the crime repeated, Government can never with any kind of honor and safety to the community pass it over without hanging somebody; and as you are at the head of the insurgents, and the person who directs all their movement, I cannot see you have any chance to escape.

Shays—I at their head! I am not.

Putnam—It is said you are first in command, and it is supposed they have appointed you their General.

Shays—I never had any appointment but that at Springfield, nor did I ever take command of any men but those of the county of Hampshire; no General Putnam, you are deceived, I never had half so much to do with the matter as you think for, nor did I order any men to march, except when at Rutland as I told before.

Putnam—Did you not muster the party to go to Springfield the other day?

Shays—No, nor had I any hand in the matter, except that I rode down in a sleigh.

Putnam—But I saw your name to the request presented to the justices—that you won't deny?

Shays—I know it was there, and Grover put it there without my knowledge; I wan't got into Springfield when it was done, --the matter was all over before I got there and I had no hand in it.

Putnam—But is it a truth that you did not order the men to march to Springfield the other day?

Shays—Yes—I was sent to and refused, and told them I would have nothing to do in the matter.

Putnam—But why?

Shays—I told them it was inconsistent after what we had agreed to petition, as we did at Worcester, and promised to remain quiet and not to meddle with the courts any more, till we knew whether we could get a pardon or not.

Putnam—Have you not ordered the men to march to Worcester the 23rd of this month?

Shays—No, I was sent to from Worcester county to come down with the Hampshire men; but I told them I would not go myself nor order any men to march.

Putnam—Who has done it? Hampshire men are certainly ordered to march.

Shays—Upon my refusing to act they have chose a committee, who have ordered the men to march.

Putnam—But how do you get along with these people, having been with them so long; how is it possible they will let you stay behind?

Shays—Well enough. I tell them I never will have anything more to do with stopping Courts, or anything else, but to defend myself, till I know whether a pardon can be obtained or not.

Putnam—And what if you can not get a pardon?

Shays—Why then I will collect all the force I can and fight it out; and, I swear, so would you or anybody else, rather than be hanged.

Putnam—I will ask you one question more, you may answer it or not, as you please—it is this—Had you an opportunity, would you accept of a pardon, and leave these people to themselves?

Shays—Yes—in a moment.

Putnam—Then I advise you to set off this night to Boston, and throw yourself upon the mercy and under the protection of Government.

Shays—No, that is too great a risk, unless I was first assured of a pardon.

Putnam—There is no risk in the matter, you never heard of a man who voluntarily did this, whose submission was not accepted; and if your submission is refused, I will venture to be hanged in your room.

Shays—In the first place, I don't want you hanged, and in the next place, they would not accept of you.

The only observation I shall make is that I fully believe he may be bought off, and no doubt he is able to inform Government more of the bottom of this plot than they know at present.

I have the honor t be Sir your Ex'ys most obed't and humble servant

RUFUS PUTNAM

GOV. BOWDOIN.

Capt. Shays retreated in much haste from Petersham as far as Winchester, N.H. after he was surprised February 4, 1787, by Gen. Lincoln's remarkable march through the snowstorm, and three days later he had nearly 300 men with him. These disbursed gradually, and Shays probably went through Vermont into New York state, as many of his followers did.

On the 9th of February 1787, Gov. Bowdoin issued a proclamation ordering the arrest of Daniel Shays of Pelham. Luke Day of West Springfield, Adam Wheeler of Hubbardston, and Eli Parsons of Adams; designating them as "Principals and abettors," and a reward was offered for their apprehension. The reward was renewed by the state

authorities in the hope that Capt. Shays might be delivered up by officers in whatever state he might be, but he escaped arrest and trial for more than a year and then Shays proffered a petition for pardon in February 1788, couched in the most humble terms. The legislature then in session failed to agree upon granting pardon to Shays, but a full pardon was granted in the summer of 1788. After he was pardoned he is said to have returned to Pelham, but there is no known record of his living in Pelham after the collapse of the rebellion. Nor is there any reliable evidence that he returned to his native state as a place of residence, though he may have done so. There is general agreement that he did not prosper in business wherever he was located. After living in several different places in New York state he drifted to Sparta, Livingston county, where he lived in extreme poverty. He died in 1825, when he was 78 years old. His grave is said to be marked by a flat stone in the beautiful cemetery of Conesus near Scottsburg. Something like ten or twelve years ago there was a movement to set up a large boulder inscribed with his name to mark the grave of Capt. Shays; but it may not have been accomplished. Letters of enquiry sent to the local authorities at Sparta concerning the rebel captain, his death and place of burial, were not answered, and the generally conceded statements given above must be accepted as the most authentic available.

After the rebellion was quelled the movement itself and Capt. Shays in particular was the target for ridicule of all sorts. The would-be poets of the time exercised their talents upon him and various effusions of poetical doggerel have come down to the present time. "The Confession of Capt. Shays" follows: also a more extended version which was sung by the choir of the Olivet Church, Springfield, at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the attempt of Shays upon the arsenal in January, 1787.

The Confession of Capt. Shays

In former days my name was Shays,
In Pelham I did dwell sir:
But now I'm forced to leave that place,
Because I did rebel, sir.

But in this State I lived till late;
By Satan's foul invention;
In Pluto's cause against the laws
I raised an insurrection.

In hell 'twas planned by obscure hand
All laws should fail before me,
Though in disgrace the populace
Like Persia did adore me.

On mountain's steed we did proceed,
Our federal stores to plunder;
But there we met with a back set
From Shepard's warlike thunder.

They killed four, they wounded more;
The rest they run like witches;
Roswell Merrick lost his drum,
And Curtis split his breeches.

Which proved too hard for my front guard,
For they still growing stronger,
I'm resolved to go to the shades below
And stay on earth no longer.

When I arrived at the water side,
Where Charon kept the ferry,
I called for quick passage o'er,
For I no longer tarry.

Then Damon came in Charon's boat,
And straightly gave him orders
To bring no more such rebels o'er
If they had no further orders.

For I have orders sent to me
That's very strict indeed, sir,
To bring no more such rebels o'er
For they're of Charon's breed, sr.

Then Damon ordered Shays away
To gather up his daisies;
And the service done by him is
They gave him many praises.

* * * * *

SHAYS REBELLION

My name was Shays; in former days,
In Pelham I did dwell, sir;
But now I'm forced to leave that place,
Because I did rebel, sir.

Within the state I lived, of late,
In Satan's foul invention,
In Pluto's cause, against their laws
I raised an insurrection.

'Twas planned below, by that arch foe,
All laws should fall before me;
Though in disgrace the populace
Did Persian like adore me.

On mounted steed I did proceed
The federal stores to plunder;
But there I met with a bold salute
From Shepard's war-like thunder.

He kindly sent his aid-de-camp
To warn me of my treason;
But when I did his favors scorn,
He sent his weighty reason,

Which proved too hard for my front guard,
And they still growing stronger,
I planned to go to world below
And live on earth no longer.

And when I reached the river Styx,
Where Charon kept the ferry,
I called for speedy passage o'er
And dared no longer tarry.

But Charon's boat was freighted with
Four ghosts from Springfield plain, sir;
He bade me tarry on the wharf
Till the boat returned again, sir.

But while I tarried on the wharf,
My heart kept constant drumming,
And conscious guilt made me believe
'Twas Lincoln's army coming.

Then Charon hoists his sable sails,
The lazy gales seemed ling'ring;
I leaped into the sulph'rous steam,
To cross the flood by swimming.

Then Demon came to Charon's boat
And strictly gave him orders,
To take no more such rebels o'er
Till he enlarged his borders.

"For I have orders sent to me
That's very strict indeed, sir.,
To bring no more such rebels o'er,
They're such a cursed breed, sir."

"Go tell that rebel to return,
And he shall be well-guarded,
And for the service done for me
I'll see him well rewarded."

Then Charon ordered Shays right back
To gather up this daisies,
And for the service done for him
He gave him many praises.

Then Shays was wroth, and soon replied,
"O! Charon thou art cruel!"
And challenged him to come on shore
And fight with him a duel.

Then Charon straightway ordered Shays
To leave the river's bank, sir;
For he would never fight a man
So much below his rank, sir.

Then Shays returned to Vermont state

Chagrined and much ashamed, sir;
And soon the mighty rebel host
Unto our laws were tamed, sir.

Oh, then our honored fathers sat
With a bold resolution,
And framed a plan and sent to us
Of noble constitution.

America, let us rejoice
In our new constitution.
And never more pretend to think
Of another revolution.

SETTLEMENT OF SALEM, N.Y.

BY PELHAM PEOPLE IN 1764

Less than twenty years after the incorporation of the town of Pelham the restless unsatisfied spirit developed itself as it always does among the true pioneers who push out to the edge of civilization and beyond to establish new settlements and in the spring of 1761 James Turner and Joshua Conkey, Pelham men but not among those who drew home lots in the first division of land in 1739, started out to begin another settlement in the forests of New York state in the neighborhood of Crown Point where it is probable both men had seen service, in the French and Indian war which resulted in the conquest of Canada in 1760.

These men may have discovered that the lands in that section were not so rough and stony as the tract of land on which they had settled in Hampshire county and made up their minds to improve their condition. At any rate they set out from Pelham in the spring of the year 1761 and made the journey through the wilderness, to Charlotte county, New York, since changed to Washington county and selected lands on the flats where the village of Salem is now situated. Turner and Conkey spent the summer there and returned to Pelham to spend the following winter. In the spring of 1762 they set forth again on horseback for White Creek, as the new settlement was called by those settlers from New England, while other settlers in that neighborhood, Scotch Presbyterians from Ballibay, Ireland in 1765, insisted upon calling the settlement New Perth, from Perth, Scotland. On this journey they were accompanied by Hamilton McCollister, another Pelham man, and these three were the original settlers of the town now known as Salem, and the spot where their cabin was built is now occupied by the On-da-wa House. Each

man selected a tract of land for himself. Turner taking the land west of the cabin, and McCollister went up the creek a little for his selection, while Conkey went up the creek for a mile or so and located. The summer was spent upon the lands they had selected and when winter came they returned to Pelham. The summer of 1763 was spent in making improvements on their lands and the journey back to Pelham was made late in the autumn for the winter sojourn.

In the spring of 1764 the three men, two with families, set out from Pelham to make the journey to White Creek on horseback, with all their household effects also strapped upon the backs of horses. In this way they journeyed through the forests, and forded the many streams along the route.

These people were the first actual settlers in Washington County. Other families from Pelham, Colraine, Sturbridge and perhaps other Massachusetts towns joined them in years following and the settlement was quite properly known as the "New England Colony." They were the founders of the Salem church known as "The First Incorporated Presbyterian Congregation in Salem, County of Washington, and State of New York."

The following tribute of respect, and estimate of the character of the settlers from Pelham and other Massachusetts towns we copy from an Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Salem by Rev. Edward P. Sprague, pastor, 1876.

"The settlers from Massachusetts were persons of a character to place the very highest estimate upon all religious privileges, and whose first care after providing houses for their families would certainly be to secure for them the sacred influences of the church and the preached Gospel.

Whatever they might feel compelled to forego on account of their location and circumstances, they would never consent to neglect the establishment and maintenance of the ordinances of religion. We find therefore as we might expect, that previous to their leaving New England they took measures for securing to themselves a distinct church organization. And this design they ever abandoned, even after the settlement of Dr.

Clark's Colony (from Ballibay, Ireland) furnished them with the opportunity of attending Christian worship.

They might have joined themselves with the church thus transplanted hither from Ireland, and the two colonies thus have been merged in one ecclesiastically, as well as socially, but the points of difference between themselves and the Scotch seem in the main to have presented almost insurmountable obstacles. There were at intervals certain more favorable seasons when such a union was contemplated, and even appeared ready for consummation, but it was never actually accomplished, and the New England people remained, what they had been from the first, a distinct religious congregation.”

The desire and purpose of those who had journeyed from Pelham for the early establishment of Gospel privileges in the new settlement seems to have been the same as was manifested by the settlers of Pelham, and the first sermon ever preached in White Creek or Salem was delivered in the cabin of James Turner by Rev. Dr. Clark a Scotchman from Ballibay. Three years after the settlement of Conkey, Turner and McCollister with their families, or in the year 1767, and soon after there had been further accessions of Massachusetts people, they felt that they must secure a preacher of the Gospel to settle among them, and a letter was written to Rev. David McGregorie of Londonderry, N.H., a member of the Presbytery which was organized or constituted in 1745 by Rev. John Moorehead of Boston, Rev. David McGregorie of Londonderry, N.H., Rev. Robert Abercrombie of Pelham and Messrs Alexander Conkey of Pelham and James McKeon and James Hughes, at a meeting in Londonderry on the 16th of April of that year, and called the Boston Presbytery.

The reasons for writing to Rev. Mr. McGregorie was unquestionably the fact that many of the Pelham men who had settled at White Creek were acquainted with Mr. McGregorie, having met him at Pelham before moving to the state of New York. The letter follows.

To the Reverend Mr. DAVID MCGREGORIE
Reverend and Dearly Beloved—Grace and Peace be Multiplied, &c.

This comes to you by the hand of Dea. McMullen A Gentleman Chosen and Appointed by us for the purpose viz. —Once more to Implore your presence and assistance, in our Destitute Circumstances in order to open a way for the resettlement of the Gospel among us—The reason which induce us to send for yourself Rather than for any other of our Fathers in the presbytery are our sensibility of your moiré peculiar acquaintance with our People, Backed by their unanimous Voice for you in particular, -- We hope that the knowledge you have of our State, the Love and Regard we tryst you bear for us, together with the prospect you herein have of the promotion of the Interests of our Common Lord, will by no means fail to preponderate in our Favor—and that our Sister Church will sympathise with us so far as cheerfully to part with you till you can come over to our Macedonia once more to help us, since we hope that God is in his tender providence putting an end to our Difficulties in some good measure and that this in one of the Last times we shall be necessitated to entreat your presence in an affair of like Nature. For further particulars Please enquire of Deacon McMullen. And now that God may incline your heart to assist us, Bring you safe on your Journey and make your Coming and our concerns to terminate Ultimately in his own Glory is the rayer of Reverend Sir

Your servants in Christ,
JOHN GRAY, JOHN SAVAGE, ALEXANDER TURNER, JAMES BERRY, ELDERS.

These names signed to the above letter are all of them men who had only recently come from Pelham and joined the pioneers, also from Pelham, who first took up lands at White Creek in 1761. John savage, married Eleanor Hamilton of Rutland Jan. 16, 1733.

The name of John savage appears on the records of Pelham as early as 1747 when he was chosen to represent the town at the Presbytery.

He was on a committee to provide school masters April 30, 1751, was moderator of a town meeting in 1752, was on a committee to see about legalizing certain town meeting actions, 1753, was on committee to represent the town at the Superior Court at Springfield, in 1757, was on a committee whose duty it was to make answer to a petition that had been sent to the General Court in Jan. 1764.

John Savage was allowed 12 shillings for pasturing horses at the ordination of Rev. Richard Crouch Graham in 1764. John Savage and James Harkness were allotted pew No. 10 in the Old Meeting House at Pelham March 28, 1766.

From this last date the name of John savage does not again appear on the records of the town, nor is there mention of his leaving the state of Massachusetts, but there can be no doubt of his removal from Pelham in 1766. Pelham lost an able and valuable citizen and the settlement of White Creek gained one.

John Gray, another of those whose names are subscribed to the letter to Mr. McGregorie, married Martha Savage, April 17, 1755. His connection with the Savage family is reason sufficient for his being at White Creek at about the same date as John savage.

Alexander Turner was one of the original settlers of Pelham and drew home lot No. 46, and built a sawmill.

The surname Berry was not among the original settler of Pelham, but there must have been men of that name in tow not long after the first settlers took up the tract, and there never has been a time since until now when there were not families of that name in the town or its immediate vicinity.

James Turner of Pelham was married to Susannah Thomas of Worcester, April 1, 1760. Joshua Conkey and Dinah Dick, both of Pelham, were married April 13, 1762. These last are the two young men who spent the summer of 1761 on lands they had secured at White Creek, only ofe of them married at the time.

Joseph McCracken of Worcester, was married to Sarah Turner of Pelham, Feb. 12, 1760. Miss Turner was doubtless the sister of James Turner. McCracken was a prominent man at White Creek and a captain in the Revolutionary war.

Thomas Morrison, of Londonderry, N.H. was married to Martha Clark of Pelham, Feb. 11, 1762. He was an early settler at White Creek.

Hamilton McCollister, the companion of Conkey and Turner on their return to White Creek from Pelham in the spring of 1762 and who was with them in 1764 when they made the new settlement their permanent abiding place, came back to Pelham three years later, and was married to Sarah Dick, Oct. 15, 1767.

The royal grant of the land on which the New England colony settled was given August 17, 1764; it consisted of 25,000 acres, and was granted in response to a petition presented by Alexander and James Turner, and twenty-five others in January 1763. The terms were an annual quit-rent of two shillings each hundred acres, with all the mines, and all pine trees above a certain size, reserved to the crown. One-half of this tract they conveyed by deed to Oliver DeLancey and Peter Dubois of New York. Following the plan they knew as adopted at Pelham twenty-five years previous, the tract of land was divided into 304 lots, each half a mile long and containing 88 acres. Three lots drawn by DeLancey and Dubois and three belong to "the proprietors" were reserved for the support of the minister and a schoolmaster.

The colony from Ballibay, Ireland, that came in 1765, purchased Delancey's and Dubois' land under Dr. Clark the leader of the colony. The two colonies, viz. the Scotch colony from Ballibay and the New England colony lived near by each other under the most friendly relations sociaklly, but a certain society rivalry sprang up between them and prevented them from joining harmoniously in one church organization under Rev. Dr. Clark as their minister. The New England colony charged the people of the Scotch colony with a desire to secede from them. A document drawn up by Joshua Conkey, one of the three first settlers from Pelham, explaining the purposes of the new England colony, bearing as an endorsement "The petition presented to Dr. Clark and his Elders,"

dated Sept. 16, 1771, exhibits to some extent the disturbed feeling existing between the two Presbyterian bodies.

“Whereas we for sometime have had it in our hearts to build a house of Publick Worship for God & for fear of further Disputes and Contention we think proper to enter agreement in writing as we have had some Evidence of late of a separation by those who take to themselves the name of seceders by their staying from publick Worship when a member of the Philadelphia Signod priched in this place who was Regerly sent forth to prich and administer ordinances wherever he might be cold in this vacant part of Gods vineyard—therefore We the subscribers do unanimously agree to joyn in building a house of Worship of God with those who subscribe to the following articles, viz.

1. that we the Subscribers do bind our selves we shall have and give free liberty to ordain or install a minister of the Philadelphia Signod or one in connection with them in said house or at least to joyn in the ordination or instalment of any one that shall be coled by the Majority of the Inhabitance of this place that sibscribe to this.
2. that we shall not be consigned to that set of people Coled soceders. White Creek, 16 Sept. 1771.

Joshua Conkey	James Moor	Alexander Turner
Edward Savage	Hugh Moor	John Gray
Frances Lammon	John Nevens	Samuel Hyndmand
Hamilton McCollister	John Savage	Edward Long
Timothy Titus	James Turner	James Savage
Ebenezer Russell	Joseph McCracken	Reuben Turner
Daniel McCollister	Moses Martin	Launard Webb + (his mark)

The foregoing document with the signatures was not received with satisfaction by Dr. Clark and his people, and at a session of that society it was taken up and considered carefully and replied to.

There was quite a little spicy correspondence between the two societies resulting from the document written by Joshua Conkey and the result was, to make a union of the two societies impossible, and the New England colony proceeded to carry out their purpose to continue as an independent organization and to build a meeting house for their own use. Their first meeting-house was sometime building and perhaps not used much previous to 1774, and was never finished.

They began to worship in it when there was only a roof to protect them from the weather, and before the sides were boarded or a floor laid. After the Revolutionary war broke out the uncompleted meeting house was used first as a barrack by the patriot forces and then strengthened and made to serve as a fort. Logs set close together in the ground made a stockade about sixty feet from the building and extending around it, and was finished by July 26, 1777. The meeting house having been changed into a fort it was first called the Salem fort, the name was afterwards changed to Fort Williams, in honor of Gen. John Williams.

In the autumn following the erection of the stockade all the people, save perhaps a few Tories, were obliged to leave the place, leaving their homes and property because of the advance of Gen. Burgoyne and his forces upon the town. The meeting house fort was burned to the ground during the last days of August or early September.

Col. Joseph McCracken, was at one time in command of the patriot forces that occupied the meeting house for, --and the same man already referred to as the husband of Sarah Turner of Pelham. He was a brave soldier and later lost an arm at the battle of Monmouth.

At the close of the Revolutionary war the people of the New England colony were very poor, having lost heavily by reason of Burgoyne's army invading the town, and no attempt was made to erect a meeting house in place of the one burned for about ten years, and in the mean time they worshipped with the people of the other Presbyterian church or had a minister occasionally to preach to their own people.

A new meeting house was erected on the same lot on which the first one stood, and a part of Hamilton McCollister's original tract, which is held in trust by the society

for use as a church and for no other use. In 1788, Nov. 14, Savage and Conkey attorneys for the proprietors executed a deed which conveyed to the trustees of the New England congregation the three lots, numbered 91, 188, and 192 “for the sole use of supporting a regular gospel minister of the Presbyterian persuasion belonging to the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, in and over said congregation in Salem.” The second meeting house was seventy-five feet long and sixty feet wide with the pulpit and sounding board on one side of the audience room, and the pews were the usual square foot high box-like enclosures of the olden time.

The first pastor settled over this church was the Rev. John Warford of Amwell, N.J. who commenced his labors in 1788, laboring with great success until his death in 1802.

The original membership of the first incorporated Presbyterian congregation in Salem, the one founded by New England people, quit a number of whom were from Pelham, Mass., consisted of fifty-two persons. For fifty years following the membership is said not to have exceeded one hundred. In 1828 the number had increased to four hundred and twenty-six. This was the highest number ever reached, and from that time the decrease in membership began. In 1842 there was only three hundred and five members, in 1876 the number was one hundred and seventy-three, and a little over two hundred in 1896.

The little settlement begun by James Turner and Joshua Conkey in 1761 makes a much better showing today than the old town of Pelham from which they sallied forth, and plunged into the wilderness to reach and establish their new home.

The village of Salem contains about twelve hundred inhabitants and in the whole town there was about four thousand, while Pelham has only four hundred and eighty-six. The main facts of the above sketch of the settlement of Salem were gathered from the Salem Book printed in 1896, and other historical pamphlets relating to the town of Salem, N.Y.

The people who went out from Pelham through the forests to begin a new settlement at White Creek were quit peaceable men and women who respected the rights of others, and at the same time resented any and all invasions of their own rights and privileges, and would not hesitate to oppose any one whom they believed was endeavoring in any way to prevent the full enjoyment of their liberties. They made no exceptions when the King's officers came among them armed with authority from the King's representatives, if they knew the charges had no basis of fact to rest upon; any officer who came among them under such circumstances was liable to meet with a hot reception. This estimate of the temper of Scotch farmers of that time is borne out by the reception extended to Sheriff Solomon Boltwood of Amherst who made an official visit to Pelham on the twelfth of February 1762. Just what his official business may have been does not appear, but the manner in which he was received makes it quite clear that the official errand was considered an affront which justified resistance by every means at hand, the men and the women taking part in resisting him, the weapons selected being those that were most handy when the determination to resist seized them.

The resistance to the sheriff evidently occurred on the twelfth of February 1762, but the record of the trial and acquittal is dated a year later and is copied from the court records at Northampton.

“NORTHAMPTON, FEB. 18, 1763

DR. REX VS SAVAGE \$C.

John Worthington Esq. Attorney to our sovereign Lord the King in this behalf here instantly complains and give this court to understand and be informed that John savage of Pelham in the County of Hampshire Gent. Alexander Turner Yeoman, Alexander Turner Jun., James Turner, Yeoman, Robert Gilmore, Yeoman, Hamilton McCollister, Yeoman, Jane Savage, Spinster, wife of John Savage Jun., Elisabeth Savage, Spinster, Eleanor McCollister, Spinster, and Sarah Drane, Spinster, all of Pelham aforesaid, did at said Pelham on the 12trh day of February last past, with force and arms, that is to say, with Axes, Clubs, sticks, hot water and hot soap in a riotous and tumultuous manner and riotously and unlawfully meet and assemble themselves together to disturb the peace of the said Lord the King, and the said John Savage, Alexander Turner, Alexander Turner Jun., James Collister, Elisabeth Savage and Sarah Drane, being so met and assembled to together did then and there with force and arms made an assault on one under Oliver Partridge Esq. Sheriff of said County, he being then in due execution of his said office and in the peace of God and of the said Lord the King, and then and there uttered menace and threatenings of bodily hurt and death against said Solomon, and then and there, with force and arms obstructed, opposed, hindered and wholly prevented said Solomon from the due execution of his said office contrary to law, and against the peace of said Lord the King, his crown and dignity, and now comes before ye court the said Sarah being held by Recognisance for this purpose, the said James, Robert and ye other Alexander not being present, and being set to the bar and severally put to plead and answer to the premise, they the said de'fts severally plead that they were in nothing guilty of the same and thereof put themselves on ye County.

A jury being sworn according to law to try the issued between our said Lord the King, and the said Def'ts after a full hearing return their verdict therein, that is, the jury on their oath say the said Def'ts are not guilty. It is thereupon ordered that the Def'ts be dismissed and ye go without day.”

The result of the trial being a verdict of not guilty for the heinous offence charged was so complete a vindication of those whose names appear in the indictment that we are forced to the conclusion that “axes, clubs, sticks, hot water, and hot soap” were fit weapons for resistance to injustice of some sort at the hands of the sheriff of said Lord the King.

We cannot but admire the grit and vim displayed by these men and women in resistance to what this King's officer was commissioned to perform if they knew there was no valid reasons for his presence among them. It seems to have been a case of

justifiable self defence, and the jury by their verdict were evidently unanimous in that view of the case. A year later and some of these men and women started out on horseback on the long journey through the forest to begin the settlement at White Creek now Salem, Washington county, N.Y. If there could have been any question of their qualifications for pioneering and taking care of themselves in a new settlement the above episode from the court records would be amply sufficient to dispel all doubts on that score. Not all of the self-reliant and plucky men and women went out from Pelham to White Creek, there were others of the same self-reliant positive sort left in the old town.

**PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN,
NATIVES OF PELHAM**

The Southworths. –The Southworth family, a branch of which settled in Pelham during the latter part of the last century and probably after the Revolutionary war, is traced in an unbroken line from Sir Gilbert Southworth of Southworth Hall, Lancaster, England, in the fourteenth century through ten generations, in that country. The following is the line: Sir Gilbert, Sir John, Sir Thomas, Richard Southworth of Salisbury, Sir Christopher, Sir John, Sir Thomas of Warrington, Richard of London, Sir Thomas, recorder of wills, Somersetshire, to Edward who in 1598 married Alice Carpenter, daughter of Alexander Carpenter.

Mr. Edward Southworth with his two sons Thomas and Constant, fled to Holland with the Pilgrim Fathers who left England on account of the persecution of the Dissenters by the Church of England. After a few years residence in the city of Leyden, Mr. Southworth died. Alice Southworth the widow of Edward came over to this country in 1623 and married Governor William Bradford second Governor of the colony at Plymouth. Her sons Thomas and Constant followed their mother to America in 1628. Constant was born in 1614. In 1639 he married Elizabeth Coltier of Duxbury, and three sons were born to them: Edward, Nathaniel and William.

Edward, son of Nathaniel, had four sons: Constant, Edward, Samuel and Benjamin.

Edward married Lydia Packard, Dec. 16, 1750, to them were born Uriah, Perez, Desire, Edward, Abiah, Bridget Lydia and, Fear. All of these children of Edward and Lydia, except Perez, removed from Bridgewater to Pelham.

Abiah Southworth married Kesiah Boltwood of Amherst in 1794.

Wells Southworth.—Was the son of Dr. Abiah Southworth and Kesiah Boltwood Southworth, and was born in Pelham August 17, 1799. He first engaged in business at Pelham in 1823 as a merchant, continuing the business at the center of the town until 1828 when he disposed of his store and the family homestead without consulting his father, so it is said. Dr. Southworth was somewhat disturbed at first, but having such great confidence in his son's good judgment and business foresight that he acquiesced in the business change thereby necessitated, and the family removed to South Hadley Falls, where Wells opened as a merchant.

Wells Southworth removed to Chicopee Falls and continued in the mercantile line until 1839 when he removed to Mitteneague, West Springfield, where he built a mill for manufacturing fine writing papers, now owned by the Southworth Paper Co., and for many years was the president of the corporation.

In 1854 Mr. Southworth removed from West Springfield to New Haven, Conn. In the spring of the following year he organized the City of New Haven Fire Insurance Company and was president of the company for ten years. He was a stockholder and director in the Tradesman Bank of New Haven for many years from its organization. Mr. Southworth was also a large stockholder in the new York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, and engaged in other business enterprises. In early life he was a Whig in politics and later a republican was elected a member of the Massachusetts legislature for two years from Springfield, and one year represented West Springfield in the House. Mr. Southworth was living in Pelham when Amherst College was established at Amherst and was greatly interested as a young man in the enterprise, and did what he could to aid in

building south college, the first building erected. He drove a yoke of cattle from Pelham with the first load of stone delivered on College hill for the foundation of south dormitory, and they today are doing their part in supporting the walls of that wellknown and most ancient building on the college grounds.

Mr. Southworth was married three times. His first wife was Miss Rebecca C. Woodburn of Salem, Mass., she died in 1839. For his second wife he married Mrs. Frances r. Lyon, daughter of Mrs. E. T. Smith of South Hadley. In 1845 he married Miss Harriet M. Jillet of Rome, N.Y.

The other members of Dr. Southworth's family were as follows: Rufus, Mary, Edward and Martha.

Rufus was born in 1796 and died at Charleston, S.C. in 1828. Edward, born in 1894 and died in 1869. Mary, born Nov. 6, 1797, died in Pelham, 1872. Martha, born May 10, 1807, married Robert Curtis of Bridgewater.

Dr. Abiah Southworth died at South Hadley Falls, Dec. 27, 1835. His wife, Kesiah Boltwood, died in April of the same year.

Edward Southworth, son of Dr. Abiah Southworth, and brother of Wells and Rufus was born in Pelham July 3, 1804. Attended the public schools of the town until he was sixteen, was then sent to Amherst academy where he prepared for college. He entered Harvard College in 1822 and was graduated in 1826 in a class which numbered many eminent men among its members. After graduation he went to Charleston, S.C. as instructor in ancient languages, in an academy which his broth Rufus had established, and was the principal. Rufus died in 1828 at 32, and Edward succeeded him as principal of the school, but was obliged to return to the north in 1833 on account of ill health. On his

return from Charleston he was engaged in business at South Hadley Falls for several years, then removed to West Springfield and with his brother Wells established the Southworth Manufacturing Company, for making fine writing papers; was postmaster several years at West Springfield, and in 1853 was elected as representative to the Legislature and served two years. He was elected state senator in 1854 but would not take his seat which had been contested by another candidate, although the seat was accorded to him and against his opponent by vote of that honorable body.

With his cousin, John H. Southworth of Springfield and his brother Wells he organized the Hampshire paper Company of South Hadley Falls, and the Hampden Paint and Chemical Company of Springfield, Mass; was treasurer of the Southworth Manufacturing Company; director of the Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Springfield, and of the Agawam bank of the same city, and of the Massasoit paper company of Holyoke, and a trustee of the Hampden Savings Bank of Springfield.

He was a trustee of Mount Holyoke Seminary from its opening until his death in 1869 at West Springfield. Mr. Southworth was for many years a member of the First Congregational Church at West Springfield and for thirty years one of its deacons.

He was married three times and six children survived him.

Daniel Thompson, M.D., son of James and Matilda Thompson. Was born in Pelham Jan. 14, 1800, where his father and grandfather had passed most of their lives as farmers. The maiden name of his paternal grandmother was Mary Cowan, a surname that appears among the first settlers of the town, and Mary Cowan was of Scotch descent. His mother was Matilda Pierce of Middleboro, Mass. He was educated by attendance at the public schools of his native town, and at Amherst Academy. His medical education was

obtained at Northampton, supplemented by the full course of lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institution at Pittsfield during the years from 1823 to 1825.

He began the practice of his profession at Pelham in 1825 and remained there twelve years. In 1827 he married Caroline A. Hunt, daughter of Dr. David Hunt of Northampton, and in 1837 Dr. Thompson removed to Northampton. In 1839 he entered into co-partnership with Dr. Benjamin Barrett, with whom he had studied, and they were associated together for seven years when Dr. Barrett retired from active practice, and from the firm.

His next partner in business was his brother Dr. James Thomson also a native of Pelham, and the brothers were associated in business until the death of Dr. James. Dr. Daniel naturally turned to his nephew, Dr. A. W. Thompson who was then admitted to partnership for a few years, and then it was dissolved, and from time until his death May 25, 1883, he pursued his chosen profession alone.

Dr. Daniel Thompson was a skillful and successful physician who secured a competence by his profession, and was noted for generosity and liberality in the use of the means he had gathered during his long professional career.

Austin W. Thompson, M., M.D., was born in Pelham, May 12, 1834.

His father, Peleg P. Thompson, died when his son Austin was but four years old and the boy was received into the family of Dr. Daniel Thompson, then living at Pelham, and a few years later went with the Doctor's family to Northampton.

He laid the foundation of his education by attending the public schools and later was a student in the Northampton Collegiate Institute. After finishing his course at the

Institute he decided upon a thorough college course and was fitted for college by Rev. Rufus Ellis.

He graduated Harvard College in 1854, having the “salutatory” oration. After graduation he read law a few months with Judge Huntington. Tiring of the study of law he decided to turn his attention to medicine and began his studies with his uncle, Dr. Daniel Thompson, and on comp[letting them began practice, making a specialty of mental diseases, and was appointed assistant superintendent at the Northampton Lunatic Hospital, which he held for two years.

Resigning his position on account of failing health he resumed general practice, and later established the institution known as Shady Lawn, a medical home for invalids.

He was president of the Hampshire County Medical Society in 1856 and 1857, and was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Ira P. Rankin was born in Pelham, Jan. 10, 1817, in that part oftown known as “The Valley.” He was a son of Zebina Rankin. Zebina Rankin’s ancestors were from the north of Ireland, where many of the people of Scotland had lived previous to their coming to Massachusetts and to Pelham. The surname first appears upon the records written Rinkin, then Rinken, and later Rankin.

Zebina Rankin removed from Pelham to Ohio when Ira P. was about fourteen years of age. The son plead with his father to be allowed to remain in Massachusetts and his request was finally acceded to. After the removal of his father and the rest of the family to Ohio. Ira went to Enfield and entered the store of Oliver Bryant, where he was employed for several years.

Mr. Rankin was married to Miss Caroline Bryant, a cousin of William Cullen Bryant of Northampton, in 1841. Mrs. Rankin died in 1881, leaving no children. From Enfield he went to Boston.

After residing in Boston for nearly twenty years he removed to San Francisco. This was about the year 1852, soon after the discovery of gold and the rush for that state was on.

He engaged in business there, was successful, became a member of the Chamber of Commerce and continued a member for twenty-seven years; was a prominent church man and a liberal giver of his wealth to benevolent purposes originating with the churches and otherwise.

Mr. Rankin received the appointment as collector of the port of San Francisco from President Abraham Lincoln, and performed the duties of that responsible position with ability, and great credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the merchants of San Francisco as well as to the government at Washington.

Mr. Rankin's first business venture in San Francisco was in a general commission firm on Front Street, under the name of Rankin & Co. This was so successful that after a few years he was enabled to sell out at a profit and became a partner in the Pacific Iron Works. The firm name, Goddard & Co., was changed to Rankin & Brayton after his entrance. This firm was one of the largest of its kind on the coast. It dealt in mining machinery, marine and milling goods. After many years Mr. Rankin absorbed all the interests of the firm, and at his retirement, when the Pacific Iron Works became absorbed in the Union Works he was sole owner.

The political interests of Mr. Rankin were always on the side of the Republican party. He took an active part in the formation of the party in the state. Before that he took an active interest in the People's party. He was a most pronounced Whig. In 1856 and again in 1875 he was the Republican candidate for Congress, and was defeated each time.

The positions of public trust that Mr. Rankin has filled in San Francisco are numerous. He was one of the original Trustees of the College of California, and did active work for the bill incorporating it as a University. During the iron moulders' strike Mr. Rankin was placed at the head of the Manufacturers' Association, organized against them. For twenty-seven years he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and in 1889 was its President. He was a Trustee of the Lick Trust, an President and life member of the Mercantile Library.

Mr. Rankin was actively interested in philanthropic matters, and for that reason was many years a Trustee in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice. He was Chairman of the State Board of Commissioners for selecting a site for the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and also Chairman of the Building Committee of the same institution. He was President of the Engineers and Foundrymen's Association of San Francisco, and interested in all matters pertaining to the iron business.

Mr. Rankin died October 1, 1895, highly esteemed as a business man and Christian. His funeral was attended by many of the first citizens and business men of the city of San Francisco. After the close of the exercises a stranger stepped forward and announced himself as Edward Rankin, a brother of the deceased.

None present had ever seen the man nor had anyone ever heard of Ira P. having a brother or even relatives of any degree nearer than cousins. The stranger backed his claim by offering to forward proofs of his kinship, which he did to the satisfaction of all. Edward Rankin proved by indisputable facts and records that he was a son of Zebina Rankin, born in Ohio, and that he came to California about three years after Ira came from Boston, and he had resided within fifty miles of San Francisco during all the years, since 1854. He had known of his brother by hearing of his prominence as a business man and public officer, but had not taken the pains to claim blood relationship until he learned of the death of his distinguished brother.

Edward Rankin is a carpenter by trade. An industrious, honest man.

James Dunlap, M.D., was the son of James and Mary Dunlap, born in Pelham, February 13, 1819.

The name Dunlap appears on the records of the town as early as 1743, but no one of the name was among those who drew home lots after the first survey in 1739.

The family is of Scotch descent and the Dunlap farms were located about a mile southwest of the center of the town. There appear upon the records the names of Andrew, James, and William Dunlap, besides John already alluded to. William was familiarly known as Uncle Billy, and was noted for his broad Scotch accent in conversation. Dr. Dunlap attended the district schools of his native town and became a teacher, or schoolmaster in Pelham, and possibly in other nearby towns. He was a student at Williston Seminary, in the first class at the opening of the institution, and fitted for admission to Amherst College and entered that institution in 1843, where he remained until 1845. Five years later he graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in

New York City, and at one entered upon the practice of his profession at Northampton, where he continued actively engaged for forty-five years or more, or until his death, August 3, 1896.

At the time of his death Dr. Dunlap was the oldest practicing physician in the city. He was devoted to his profession and never refused to answer a call for his services, whether it came from the rich or the poor. His office was always open for consultation to those who needed his services, and during the latter part of his life answered calls to visit the sick that much younger men in the profession had declined because of the distance, the cold or storm. He never took a vacation from his business, and was never married. He was quiet and retiring in his tastes, was rarely seen in social assemblies, and seldom took an active part in any movement of public interest, he seemed to detest anything like personal publicity and never sought to gain a reputation for himself by the common methods employed by many good men. Dr. Dunlap never sought offices of trust and responsibility, yet he was called to serve as a director in the Hampshire County National Bank at the time of its incorporation, and held the position until he resigned in 1880. He was also one of the Trustees of the Hampshire Savings Bank for many years, and at the time of his death was senior Vice-president of the institution. He served as President of the Hampshire County Medical Society for several years and was much interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the organization. He gave much time and attention to forwarding the establishment of the Dickinson Hospital, was on the staff of hospital physicians and was cared for at the hospital during the last weeks of his life. Owing to his frugal mode of life and constant attention to his profession he succeeded in accumulating a handsome property variously estimated at from \$20,000 to \$50,000 and

even higher. No portion of his property was donated to the city or to public institutions but was distributed by will to relatives.

Dr. Dunlap was taken ill about the first of July, and believing that the pure air on the hill-tops of his native town would restore him to health and strength again,, he took rooms at Hotel Pelham, and remained about a week, but as there was no improvement, he was taken back to Northampton, and was cared for at the Dickinson Hospital until his death.

In all of his long, professional life at Northampton he was trusted and respected by a wide circle of families who had need of his professional services, and outside th city, in the surrounding towns, his services were also in demand: and in some families he had been called to attend the sick for nearly half a century. During his long life his influence was given in favor of those measures that were for the best interests of the people among whom he dwelt.

The Harkness Family was one of note, and of much influence in the affairs of the town, as well as in the social relations of the section in which they lived. They were earnest, active, industrious people, thoroughly honest and capable, and of Scotch descent. They occupied large farms in the western part of the town and their lands extended to the dividing line between Amherst and Pelham.

William Harkness, the first of the name in this vicinity, was the son of William and came from Scotland to Massachusetts in 1710 when but seven years old. He married Ann Gray, July 28, 1748, a daughter of the Grays who settled in Pelham and possibly this was the reason of his being drawn to Pelham after the settlement of the town.

The children of William Harkness were John, William, David, James, Daniel, Jonathan, and Nancy. The children of these six sons and one daughter numbered fifty, forty-four of them bearing the surname Harkness. Nancy Harkness married Dea. Nathaniel Sampson who lived on the farm occupied for many years by Rev. John Jones in the west part of the town. Of the fifty children of the six sons and one daughter of William Harkness, twenty-six were daughters, and twenty-four were sons. John Harkness had eight children; William, seven; David, three; James, nine; Daniel, nine; Jonathan, eight; and Nancy, six. The descendants had nearly all removed from Pelham before 1850.

The descendants of these Pelham-born people are scattered in almost every state of the Union. Huron county, Ohio, Fulton and Peoria counties, Illinois, hold many of the descendants of James Harkness. Descendants of John are more widely scattered: some in California, some in Utah, others in Covington, Tioga county, Pa., still others in Elmira, N.Y. Of the descendants of Nancy, some went to Vermont, others are scattered in various parts of the country. Descendants of Daniel are in Peoria county, Illinois, and in Ohio. Descendants of William are found in Huron county, Ohio, and in Auburn, N.Y. Daniel's descendants are in Peoria county, Illinois. While those of David and Jonathan are not as definitely located. The following sketches of members of the Harkness family are of the descendants of John, and sons of John jr., born in Pelham.

A son of William is living in Biloxi, La., and has a large family. His name is John Harkness and he removed to the South before the war of the Rebellion. There are a few of the name in Amherst, also descendants of William, but there is not one of the name in

the town whence they sprang, in short—“They are scattered far and wide, o’er Mount and Stream and Sea.”

Harvey Willson Harkness, M.D. was born May 25, 1821, in the farm house still standing on the south side of the county road, a little west of the site of the Orient House—the farm at that time and for some years previous, being a part of a large tract of land owned by the Harknesses. He attended the public schools of the town during the years usually devoted to getting a common school education in the country towns at that time, supplementing it by several terms at Williston Seminary. He then entered upon the study of medicine in the office of Drs. Barrett and Thompson, at Northampton.

Leaving Northampton he went to the Berkshire Medical College, at Pittsfield where he graduated in 1847. Dr. Harkness then went west and located in St. Joseph,, Missouri.

When the news of the discovery of gold in California caused the breaking out of the gold fever and the consequent exodus for the newly discovered gold fields, in 1849, Dr. Harkness with others set out across the untravelled plains west of the Missouri with ox-teams and after a long weary journey, the party arrived in California in September of that year.

He located at Sacramento and commenced the practice of his profession among those of the eager gold-diggers who fell sick. The town increased in population very fast, owing to the influx of eastern men in search of gold, and soon the need for schools forced the people to organize them and Dr. Harkness became a leader in the movement which resulted in establishing a permanent system of schools in the City of Sacramento, and he was elected the first school superintendent.

The citizens of Sacramento appreciated his services in organizing and superintendence at the tie, and a few years since, after erecting a fine school building, named it the Harkness School in recognition of his services for the schools in the early days, and that the memory of his services might be kept fresh for years to come.

Dr. Harkness was present by invitation at the formal opening of the pacific railroad, May 10, 1869, when the lines were connected that made passage across the continent by rail possible, and in behalf of the State of California, presented the golden spike used on that occasion making the final connection of the rails of the two roads—one having been build from California east, and the other over the mountains and across the plains toward the west.

Retiring from active practice of his profession in June, 1869, he visited Europe and the East, and was present as an invited guest at the opening of the Suez Canal, on the 17th of November of the same year.

Having retired from the practice of medicine Dr. Harkness devoted his time and attention to scientific investigation and removed to San Francisco. Since his removal to San Francisco he has been an active member of the California Academy of sciences for the past fifteen years, having served eight years as its President.

In 1886, and while Dr. Harkness was President of the Academy of Sciences, the society erected a magnificent building for the better accommodation of its scientific departments, library and museum, at an expense of \$450,000.

Dr. Harkness has spent much time in foreign travel for pleasure and scientific investigation, visiting Europe on four different occasions, and spending two winters in Northern Africa.

He was elected a life member of the British Association in 1877, and is honorary member of several European scientific societies.

At present, though 76 years of age, the Doctor is serving as one of the Regents of Stanford University, and is actively engaged in microscopical research in various lines, giving special attention to the Mypogaci of the Pacific coast.

In 1895 Dr. Harkness declined further service as President of the Academy of sciences and was succeeded by Prof. David Starr Jordan.

Martin Kingman Harkness, a brother of Dr. H.W. Harkness, was born in Pelham in 1831, at the farmhouse on the highway leading from the county road at West Pelham to Belchertown, known for many years as the Sylvester Jewett place, and at present occupied by Charles P. Jewett.

Mr. Harkness attended the public schools of the town and at 17 years of age accompanied his brother on the ox-team journey across the plains to California in 1849. He has been engaged in mining most of the time somewhere in the mining regions of the Pacific slope, and for the past twenty years has been a resident of Salt Lake City, engaged as superintendent for a Pittsburg mining company.

Henry Harkness, youngest brother of Dr. H.W. Harkness, was born at the Sylvester Jewett farm, near the western line of Pelham, in 1833. He spent in boyhood on the home farm until the death of his oldest brother Sumner, and in 1852 set out for California by way of the Isthmus of Panama to join his brothers already there. He engaged in mining most of the time until his death at Auburn, Cal. In March, 1895.

Sumner J. Harkness, son of Sumner Harkness and a nephew of Dr. H.W. Harkness, was born at the Jewett farm in Pelham, and joined his uncles on the western

shore of the continent about the year 1873. He is a resident of Scofield, Utah. Has served as Judge of Probate and is engaged I mining and stock raising.

William Pomeroy Daniels was born in Pelham, May 11, 1815. His parents, Joseph and Lucy Daniels, moved to Pelham from Worcester, Mass., where they lived on a farm located at the site of the present Union station. Their Pelham residence was in a little house near the Orient house on the south side of the road leading to the Methodist Church. The subject of our sketch had almost no school privileges, a few terms at the district school being the limit of his opportunity. Before he was fifteen years of age he was “put out to work.” A boy of that age today would count it a hardship to be obliged to start for his work by four o’clock in the morning, with lunch and dinner in his hand to be eaten frozen, with snow deep and no companion to share the hours and then to chop wood in the wilderness until dark. Such was the experience of this boy. He often told of it in later days but with no consciousness of hardship beyond the loneliness of the work. He served an apprenticeship as carpenter and for a considerable time was connected with the factories of Barre, Mass., as carpenter and repairer. It was the custom in those days for the native born girls to be factory help and the best girls left farm and country villages for this purposed. Here in Barre, he became acquainted with Miss H. Ann Stark of Hanover, N.H., who became his wife June 4, 1837. They began their home life on a farm in Lyme, N.H., where they resided, Mr. Daniels dividing his time between the farm and his trade as carpenter, until 1853, when the family consisting of four sons and one daughter, removed to Worcester, Mass. Here he became a builder and contractor, and later a lumber merchant owning one of the prosperous lumber yards of the growing city. He never sought or held public office, but was known as an honorable business man,

interested in the welfare of the city. Of a puritan type of thought, he loved his Bible, the Lord's Day and his Church. During the later years of his life, he was a large and constant contributor to Christian institutions. His mind early turned with abhorrence to the iniquities of slavery and he was an abolitionist long before the war appeared as arbiter of righteousness. He gave to his country in the war of the Rebellion the costly offering of two sons, both victims of the battle field. Then he gave to the freedmen of the south his hearty sympathy in their efforts for Christian education. He was a Republican in politics in those days when great moral questions were maintained by its platform. Many far away schools, churches and Christian workers shared his unostentatious charities. He delighted to give loving helpful sympathy to those whom the less thoughtful might overlook. Of a quiet, undemonstrative temperament, of Quaker origin, his life was one of deeds more than words. In the summer of 1873 during a season of ill health he felt a great desire to spend a little time with his cousin Thomas Buffum of Pelham. Here within one mile of his birthplace, which he had left more than forty years before as a lad, he died on the nineteenth of September, 1873, aged fifty-eight years and five months. His daughter became the wife of Hon. Frank T. Blackmer, a prominent lawyer in Worcester. One of his sons holds an influential position in the same city as the general superintendent of the Washburn, Moen Manufacturing Company. The other son is an alumnus of Amherst college and a well known minister of the Congregational denomination, having been recently elected to the responsible position of corresponding secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with residence in Boston.

Ithamar Conkey was the seventh son of John Conkey and Margaret Abercrombie, and was born May 7, 1788, there were besides, three daughters. His

father was a leading man in the town, and his mother was a daughter of Rev. Robert Abercrombie, the first settled minister at Pelham. He studied law with Noah Dickinson Mattoon at Amherst and opened a law office in his native town in 1814. He was elected town clerk of Pelham in 1816 and for the two following years. In 1818, N.D. Mattoon having removed to the west, Mr. Conkey succeeded to the business of the office at Amherst and removed to Amherst, was chosen special commissioner for Hampshire county in 1828, and was elected county commissioner for Hampshire county in 1830; was appointed Judge of Probate for the county by Lieut. Governor Armstrong, acting as governor, in 1834 and held the office continually until 1858; was a member of the Constitutional convention for the revision of the Constitution in 1853. Judge Conkey married Elizabeth Clapp Kellogg, daughter of Deacon John Kellogg of North Amherst, Jan. 26, 1820. Miss Kellogg lived in the family of Gen. Ebenezer Mattoon from the age of seven until marriage, her mother, Roxana Mattoon, was a sister of the General. Judge Conkey had four children, but all died when quite young except Ithamar F. Conkey, who studied law and became the leading lawyer of Amherst until his death Aug. 8, 1875, aged 52. Judge Conkey was a leading member of the Second Congregational Church and his residence and law office were in that part of town known as East Amherst. He delivered the address at the Centennial celebration of the incorporation of the town of Pelham, Jan. 16, 1843. After his services for twenty-eight years as Judge of Probate, he retired from active interest in legal business and directed work upon his farm until his death, October 30, 1862. He was the last of the family of seven sons and three daughters, children of John and Margaret Conkey of Pelham, whose names follow:

Israel	born	April, 1774	–died	May, 1814.
Daniel	“	Sept., 1775—“		July, 1855.

Joshua	“	Feb., 1777—“	April, 1790.
John	“	Dec., 1778—“	May, 1853.
Isaac	“	Dec., 1780—“	----, 1822.
Sarah	“	May, 1782—“	June, 1855
Eleazer	“	Feb., 1784—“	Feb., 1808.
Anna	“	April, 1786—“	Sept., 1835.
Ithamar	“	May, 1788—“	Oct., 1862
Mehitable	“	Feb., 1791—“	----- -----.

Adam Johnson was a son of Adam Johnson, one of the original settlers of the town who drew home lots Nos. 34 and 52, and built his house on No. 34, which is the farm now occupied by S.F. Arnold Esq., whose house can be seen upon the Pelham slope, looking straight east from Amherst College. It was on this farm that Adam Johnson the subject of this sketch was born about 1753, and he continued to live on the home lot, No. 34, until 1800, when he disposed of his farm to Samuel Arnold for \$3000. He was somewhat incapacitated for the heavy farm work by lameness, which was probably the cause of his retiring from the labors of the farm. Mr. Johnson removed to the Valley and afterwards lived on the John Gray farm, now occupied by Levi Moulton. It is believed that he had other money or property than that received for his farm, and having no family and but few near relatives, save perhaps a sister and one brother; when more than 70 years old and in declining health the matter of the disposition of his property became a question for consideration. Amherst College had just been incorporated and had erected but one building, (South College) and was in sore need of a chapel. The era of rich men and liberal donors to the struggling college had not arrived, and some of the trustees and friends of the college presented the great need of a chapel to Mr. Johnson for his consideration; and either at first, or later, the proposition to have the proposed new chapel known as “Johnson chapel,” in case he should decide to bequeath his property to the trustees for use in erecting the much needed building, was added, as an inducement or

appeal which they hoped would be effectual in influencing Mr. Johnson to make his will as they desired to have him. The trustees were successful. Samuel F. Dickinson, Esq., of Amherst, who had made frequent calls upon Mr. Johnson to present the needs of the college, was called upon to write the will which bequeathed the accumulations of a lifetime to the trustees of Amherst College. There was but a few thousand dollars but it was probably the largest bequest the college had received up to that time.

The total inventory under the will was \$6,559.12. Of this sum \$4,000 was donated for the use of "The Collegiate Charity Institution in Amherst." The will was executed on the 6th of February, 1823, but the final decision that the will should stand was not made by the court until 1826, owing to the strong and persistent attempt to have the will set aside, which was made by Thomas Johnson, the testator's brother, on the ground that undue influence had been brought to bear upon the testator, who, as Thomas claimed, was in a weakened and unfit condition of mind to dispose of his property. In 1827, Thomas Johnson, who was a poor man living in Greenfield, having been cut off by his brother Adam with a paltry legacy of \$12, issued pamphlet of twenty-four pages, entitled "The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Johnson of Greenfield, County of Franklin, in favour of the Trustees of Amherst College."

In this last will Thomas bequeathed the trustees a good generous piece of his mind concerning covetous tactics he believed had been employed in getting possession of his brother Adam's property. The pamphlet abounds in Scripture quotations which he believed applicable to the Amherst trustees, a few paragraphs of which may be interesting here.

"And although imperfection cannot keep the law perfectly, yet if we are volunteers in coveting and taking our neighbors' property, contrary to the law of God,

then the transgressor must be condemned by the law: which brings me to consider what was the cause of dispute between the heirs of Adam Johnson, late of Pelham, deceased, and the trustees of Amherst College; to which I answer, the dispute was because Amherst trustees were making merchandise of the poor, the widow and the fatherless, all of which is in direct opposition to God's law, which brings down the judgments of God in this world, and eternal damnation, which the word of God makes manifest, as you may see. 2Peter ii-3; And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you, whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. Secondly, Luke 20, 47: Which devour widows houses, and for a show make long prayers; the same shall receive greater damnation. Yea Matthew and Mark give the same account respecting damnation to hypocrites and devourers of widows houses. See Matt. XXIII, 14; Mark XII, 40. With respect to covetousness, inspiration saith: --There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth and the needy from among men."

The closing paragraph follows:

"Nevertheless, as Amherst trustees never rested until they got the principal part of my brothers property into their possession; and as I am an old man, and therefore must be near the close of life, and my earthly property all consumed, yet would attempt to *will and bequeath*, as a memorandum this composition of Scripture truth, for the benefit of Amherst TRUSTEES, with all interested in the college, with which I close this essay, in the words of the Apostle Paul, namely, Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the *Truth*? --THOMAS JOHNSON."

In the West burying ground, at the head of Mr. Johnson's grave, is a plain white marble slab with the following inscription: "Adam Johnson, Esq. Died August 1823, aged 70 years. Erected by the trustees of Amherst College in testimony of their gratitude for the Johnson Chapel."

James N. Smith only son of James Smith and Betsey Otis Smith was born in Pelham, March 25, 1826. He came of Revolutionary stock and was a lineal descendant in the maternal line of James Otis, well known as one of the most powerful and persistent opponents of the acts of the British Parliament for taxing the American colonies.

The early life of young Smith was spent at Pelham where he laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of the town. Later he attended the celebrated Leicester Academy at Leicester, Mass., from which he was graduated and while quite a

young man went West. Before going west he engaged in railroad building by contract and it was while engaged in building a railroad at Lock Haven, Pa, that he was first married, but his first experience in railroad building was in superintending railroad work at Willimantic, Conn. He was engaged in railroad building at Oskalousa, Ia, when the war of the Rebellion broke out. He joined the 7th Iowa regiment as a line officer and hurried to the front, and subsequently commanded a cavalry regiment. After the war Colonel Smith became actively engaged in railroad building again in New York, Pennsylvania, the New England and Western states, under the firm name of Smith & Ripley. When Commodore Vanderbilt and the men associated with him determined upon the gigantic scheme for sinking the tracks of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad from the Grand Central station toward Harlem the contract was awarded to Dillon, Clyde, & Co., Mr. Clyde being the active manager of the work, but when work was only about half done Mr. Clyde died and Colonel Smith assumed full management of the great and difficult contract which he completed. Other large contracts on which Colonel Smith was engaged were: The extension of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western road, a large section of the Northern Pacific railway, the Enterprise, Atlantic Coast & Indian River railroad in Florida, besides many branch lines in various parts of the country. Colonel Smith assisted in the formation of the Brooklyn, Flatbush & Coney Island railroad company and built the road as sole contractor, and served for sometime as President of the company. Among his business associates were many of the leading capitalists of the time in New York, including Hon. William H. Barnum, chairman of the Democratic National committee and Sidney Dillon, President of the Union Pacific railway, who was his brother-in-law. Colonel Smith contracted for the double tracking of

the Morris & Essex railroad from Madison to Morristown, and from Dover, N.J. to Easton, Pa. He was senior partner of the firm that built the Weehawken tunnel for the West Shore road. Few men were more conspicuous or instrumental in developing the railway system of the country, and none more conscientious or efficient in the execution of the great contracts committed to him. He was a man of prodigious energy and of great executive ability, and noted for his uncompromising fidelity to his professional obligations.

Politically, Colonel Smith was a stalwart republican. As a warm friend and admirer of General Grant and Roscoe Conkling,, he always clung to that wing of the party. He contributed liberally always for the legitimate campaign needs of the party, and took an active part in the leadership among republicans of the twentieth ward and frequently represented the party at local and state conventions. He was a candidate for the republican congressional nomination in the third New York district in 1884, and again in 1886, being defeated the first time by Darwin R. James, and later by S. V. White, but he did not allow defeat to cool the ardor of his party faith and interest. During the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Beecher at Plymouth church, Colonel Smith was a prominent member of the church and a warm friend of the people.

His city residence was 265 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. His summer home was a fine farm well stoked with the best Holstein and Alderney cattle, a few miles out of Litchfield, Conn., and it was to his farm that he retired when his health failed him and he had failed to receive permanent benefit from a visit to Europe and treatment at Carlsbad.

Colonel Smith died at Litchfield July 31, 1888. He was married three times.

Nathaniel Gray was the son of John Gray and Betsey Rankin Gray, and was born at Pelham July 20, 1808. He attended the public schools of the town and learned the trade of stone cutter as did many other young men of the town, and worked at it for some years before his marriage. He was married at Brattleboro, Vt., Dec. 29, 1832, to Miss Emiline A. Hubbard, daughter of Giles Hubbard of Sunderland. In 1833 Mr. Gray and wife removed to the city of New York, where he continued working at his trade for six years, and then became a local missionary in the employ of the City Trust Society at a salary of \$700 a year. He was a member of the West Presbyterian church of that city and was elected ruling elder in 1840. He was engaged in the missionary work for twelve years, and in 1850 removed to San Francisco, via the Isthmus of Panama, the journey taking the time from February 12 until June 12 on account of delays and sickness.

In 1852 Mr. Gray was elected coroner for the county of San Francisco, and in 1863 was elected a member of the California legislature on the independent republican ticket.

Much of his time was devoted to the interest of various charitable institutions of the city and state and he served in them as follows; president of Old Peoples Home, president of San Francisco Benevolent Theological Seminary, director of California Prison Commission, and trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. Gray was successful in business and built a fine residence at 7548 Tenth Street, Oakland, where the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Gray was celebrated on Dec. 29, 1882, in the presence of two hundred invited guests, among them was his brother William D. Gray and wife, and Mrs. Harriet Steuben. The latter was a witness of the marriage at Brattleboro fifty years before, and Mr. W. D. Gray was a witness of the marriage of

William W. Oliver and Miss Lorian Gray, the latter was a sister of Nathaniel and William, at Pelham, Oct. 4, 1826, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver also being present and celebrated the fifty-six anniversary of their marriage.

The children of John Gray, father of Nathaniel and Lorian included also the following; Mary Gray, Ira Gray, Sarah H. Gray, (afterwards Sarah H. Thompson,) William D. Gray, Hinckley R. Gray, and Horace Gray. All of these left Pelham early in life except Horace and Mrs. Sarah H. Thompson, and the descendants of those who went out from their native town are scattered in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, and California.

The children of Nathaniel Gray are as follows; Giles H. Gray, a prominent lawyer of San Francisco, Henry M. Gray, Edwin P. Gray, George D. Gray and Emma A. Gray, now Mrs. Cyrus S. Wright of Oakland. The birthplace of Nathaniel Gray was the farm in that part of the town known as "The Valley" on which is situated the quarry from which so many building stones are quarried, and known for the last twenty years or more as the Joseph G. Ward place. John Gray the father of Nathaniel lived there and was known as "Cooper" John Gray to distinguish him from another John Gray, son of Dea. Ebenezer Gray, who lived on the farm near by now owned by Levi Moulton, who was known as "Tanner" John Gray. "Cooper" John was a farmer and made good barrels, "Tanner" John was a practical tanner and worked at the business in connection with the work of the farm. Both were useful men in the community, "Cooper" John Gray and "Tanner" John Gray were from different races of Grays and were not related to each other by blood.

Nathaniel Gray's business in San Francisco was that of undertaker; beginning July 1, 1850, and continuing until his death April 24, 1889, and during that time he

attended to thirty thousand five hundred and forty-nine burials. He was liberal in his gifts to educational and other benevolent institutions. He gave \$5000 to the San Francisco Theological Seminary towards the endowment of a professorship, and other property now valued at \$30,000; and to educate the young women of the state he gave Mills Seminary, in Alameda county, \$10,000, and also a sum sufficient to establish a scholarship so that at least one young woman could obtain free tuition; he also gave a site for the hospital for children and training school for nurses, but the many smaller gifts would aggregate a much larger sum. He was always laboring for the relief of the needy and the distressed. The board of trustees of the Old Peoples Home of San Francisco, of which Mr. Gray was president, in the resolutions at the time of his death, gave expressions to the following: "An able factor in every Charitable cause in which he took part. He possessed a robust constitution, and the mind of a pioneer of the city of his residence, he possessed business qualifications which made him the peer of business men of his day, both in world accomplishments and success. At the same time he possessed a religious fervor, and eminently pious character, and a most benevolent and charitable disposition to the poor, the aged, the sick, and the oppressed, which commanded from him respect alike in business circles and in Christian brotherhood." There were Grays among the original settlers of Pelham, and there have been families of that name in town until recent years, but at present not a person of that name resides in town. In 1799 there were fourteen voters bearing that surname, as follows: Jacob Gray, Mathew Gray, Ebenezer Gray, John Gray, Jonathan Gray, Elliot Gray, Adam C. Gray, Justin Gray, Daniel Gray, John Gray, Thomas Gray, Patrick Gray, Moses Gray 2d, and Joel Gray.

Israel H. Taylor, M.D., was born in Pelham in 1811. He was a son of John Taylor and Martha Thompson Taylor. The family consisting of five sons and two daughters, besides the subject of this sketch there were Alfred, John Stewart and James. The daughters were Lucy, afterwards Mrs. Lucy Houston, and Martha, afterwards Mrs. Colton of Springfield.

Israel laid the foundation of his education in the common schools of the town; began the study of medicine with Dr. Daniels Thompson of Northampton, who was at that time associated with Dr. Barrett. He supplemented his study with Drs. Thompson and Barrett by attendance at the Pittsfield Medical school, and later by attendance upon medical lectures in New York city. He commenced the practice of medicine in Pelham in 1833.

In 1842 he married Miss Lavinia C. Crossett of Prescott, and brought his wife to Pelham. Dr. Taylor continued in the practice of his profession in Pelham until 1848 when he removed to Amherst and soon increased his business very much, at the same time continued to answer calls from the many friends he had left in his native town. He continued in active service for forty years after his removal to Amherst, making a total of fifty-five years of active service as a physician. He was for several years the leading physician in the town, and very highly respected among a large number of the citizens of the town in whose families he had ministered in the many years of his residence among them. His kindly cheerful manner, while making professional calls, endeared him to many families who looked upon him as a kind friend as well as family physician. For two years or more before his death he did little in the line of his profession, and he died Oct. 15, 1890.

Rev. Aldin Grout was a son of Joel and Aseneth Grout; he was born at Pelham, Mass. Sept. 2, 1803; graduated at Amherst College 1831, and Andover Seminary, 1834; married Miss Hannah Davis, Nov. 18, 1834 (who died in 1836; ordained at Holden, Mass., 1834. He sailed from Boston Dec. 3, 1834 on the bark Burlington with five other missionaries and their wives, sent out by the American Board to establish a mission in South Africa, or rather two missions, but both among the Zulus. One was to be in the interior, and other on the coast, to be called the Maritime Mission. Rev. David Lindley, Rev. H. I. Venable and Dr. Alexander E. Wilson, with their wives were to form the interior mission, while Rev. Aldin Grout, Rev. George Champion and Dr. Newton Adams, with their wives, were designated to natal, for the Maritime Mission. Landing together at Cape Town, Feb. 5, 1835, the first company went to the country of Umzilikaze (Moselekatse) who was the father of Lobengula, the Matabele king. But this mission secured no foothold among the Matabele. The other party, consisting of Messrs. Grout, Champion and Adams, reached Port Natal (Durban) Dec. 20, 1835, and after visiting the Zulu chief Dingaan received permission to remain as missionaries among his people. Two years later the mission was broken up and Messrs. Grout and Champion came to the United States in 1838. But with undaunted courage Mr. Grout returned to Natal in 1840, remaining for thirty years in the Zulu Mission, till in 1870, at the age of sixty-seven, he retired from the work. Of the twelve persons who thus commenced work among the Zulus only one is now living, Mrs. Venable, residing in Kansas, at the age of eight-one. Of the men, the last to be called from earth was Rev. Aldin Grout, who died at Springfield, Mass., Feb. 12, 1894 having resided there since he returned to the United States in 1879.

In the beautiful cemetery at Springfield, Mass., there may now be seen a plain marble shaft, with an appropriate inscription, over the grave of Rev. Aldin Grout. A most interesting fact connected with this monument is that it was erected by the gifts of Zulus in South Africa with whom Mr. Grout lived and labored for thirty-six years. It is a custom among the Zulus, when a friend leaves them not to return, to present him with what is called "grave money," to be used in procuring a suitable burial. When Mr. and Mrs. Grout returned from Natal in 1879 such a gift was made him by the Zulus of Umvoti. This sum was sufficient to meet the funeral expenses of Mr. Grout and also to erect this comely monument at Springfield.

The family of Joel and Aseneth Grout consisted of nine children;

Martin born May 30, 1792; settled in Grout's Corner, now Millers Falls.
Rufus born March 13, 1794; married Clariss Hall. Aseneth born _____
_____; married Malinda Randall. Orra born Sept. 2, 1803; married 1st,
Miss Hannah Davis; 2nd, Miss Charlotte Bailey. Austin born Nov. 26, 1805;
married Harriett Peck. Annis born March 5, 1813; married Samuel Robbins

Albert Brown Robinson, M.D., is the son of Abial Robinson and Mary Ann Packard Robinson and was born in Pelham, Mass., April 12, 1835. At the age of twelve years his parents moved to Ware and he entered the high school there, but pursued his academic studies at Monson, Mass., and was graduated at the University of Buffalo, N.Y., medical department, in the year 1857. He practiced in Amherst, Mass., a few months and then settled in Holden, Mass., where he married in 1859 the daughter of the late Cyrus Chenery of New York. Her great-grandfather was Dr. Isaac Chenery, who was a surgeon in the Revolutionary war, and whose great-grandfather was Major Logan of revolutionary fame. In August, 1862, he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 10th Regiment Mass. Volunteers (Col. Briggs) and in May following he was

commissioned full surgeon of the same regiment. After the expiration of the three years' term of the regiment's enlistment, June 1864, he, with the regiment, was mustered out of the United States service after being in every vattle of the army of the Potomac, from Gen. McClellan on the Peninsula to Gen. Grant at Petersburg, Va. The next month he was commissioned surgeon of the 42nd Regiment to serve 100 days at the defences of Washington, D.C., and was mustered out the following November. In April 1865 he settled in Boston where he has been in the active practice of his profession since. In the autumn of 1865, he was appointed professor of surgery in the New England Female Medical College of Boston. In 1858 he was an admitted member of the Mass. Medical Society and in 1865 a member of the Norfolk District Medical society. In 1866 a comrade and surgeon of Post 26, Grand Army of the Republic. In 1867, was made a mason of Washington Lodge F. & A. M. During his residence in Boston he has been medical examiner for various insurance companies and beneficiary associations and is at present a member of many literary and secret societies.

William Smith Otis, the inventor of the steam shovel, or the American steam excavator (as styled in the patent), was the son of Isaac Otis and Tryphina Smith Otis, and was born in Pelham, Mass., September 20, 1813. He came of good old Revolutionary stock; both of his grandfathers having been soldiers in our Revolutionary army; his maternal grandfather having resided and died in Pelham.

At the time of his invention he was residing in Philadelphia, Pa., engaged in railroad construction, and he patented it about 1836. The first machines were built by Eastwick & Harrison (the firm that under the style of Harrison, Wynans & Eastwick, went to Russia, where they constructed all of the locomotives and rolling stock for the St.

Petersburg and Moscow R.R., a road over four hundred miles long, and where they accumulated large fortunes). The Russian government bought two of the excavators (built by E. & H. in Philadelphia), which were used in the construction of this road.

The first steam excavator was used by Mr. Otis on a contract on the B. & O. R.R. somewhere in Maryland, and the second near Springfield, Mass., on the Boston & Albany R.R. in 1837, --'38, --'39. A machine was sent with an agent to England about this time, but the English contractors refused to use it, thought sdince the expiration of the patent thy have constructed and used large number, about twenty having been employed on the excavations of the Liverpool & Manchester canal. One was sold to the Peruvian government, which they used on one of their Guano islands, in excavating and loading into cars the fertilizer deposited by the birds. The French and Germans have also built and used many of them, in fact, they are used world over where ever any heavy excavations are to be made.

Mr. Otis was the first person to hang a shovel on a revolving crane, ad was the progenitor of a large class of dredges used in excavating hard material.

At the time of his invention, engines and boilers were large and clumsy, entirely unsuited for the excavator, and Mr. Otis designed an engine and boiler of the style in use at this day; the only improvement made since his death in steam excavators has been in enlarging and strengthening them. The most of our prominent railroads own one or more of then, using them in their gravel pits, and they are employed to do some of the Lake Superior iron mines in digging the ore.

William S. Otis, while engaged in constructing a portion of the Boston &* Providence R.R., near Canton, Mass., married on June 23, 1835, Miss Elizabeth Everett, daughter of Leonard Everett, a merchant of that place. They had two daughters at an early age; the oldest Helen E., married John D Dunbar of Canton, Mass., April 4, 1855. They are both deceased, leaving several sons, one of whom is an employee of the Pennsylvania R.R. at Altoona, Pa., and the others are doing well. Mr. Otis died in Westfield, Mass., November 13, 1839, aged 26 years, one month, and 23 days.

Isaac Otis was the fourth of that name, and the seventh generation in descent from the first settler who came from England in 1635.

William Smith Otis was the oldest of eleven children. His mother being the daughter of Capt. Oliver Smith of Pelham, but she was born in Walpole.

John Otis, the first of that name in this country, settled near Otis Hill in Hingham, Mass., and was the son of Richard Otis of County Somerset, England. Johnn Otis, first, had a son John second, who had four sons, viz: John, Stephen, Joseph and Job. From John many noted men have descended, among them James Otis the "patriot of the Revolution," and Harrison Gray Otis, first mayor of Boston, and a United States Senator.

Capt. Isaac Abercrombie, youngest son of Rev. Robert Abercrombie, was born in Pelham, Mass., Sept. 30, 1759. When a lad, he went to Brookline and lived with Mr. William Hyslop, a wealthy Englishman and friend of Rev. Robert. In his early manhood he returned to Pelham. He married Martha McCulloch, daughter of Robert and Sarah (Cowan) McCulloch, June 26, 1790. They lived in the old parsonage for many years, and at the parsonage their nine children were born. He was a man of fine presence, erect and

stately in figure. He filled many offices of honor and trust in the town and county before his removal from town. He represented the town in the General Court in 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1809, and 1819; was on the board of selectmen often and was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for Hampshire and Hampden counties, and a captain in the militia. He removed from his native town to New Salem first, and then to Greenfield and Deerfield where he died Dec. 4, 1847.

Isaac Abercrombie was a much respected and influential citizen, and noted for his strength of mind. His service in the Revolution was while living at Brookline, consequently his name does not appear among the list from Pelham. David, Samuel, John, and James, sons of Rev. Robert, also served in the Revolutionary war. David, the eldest son, was in the battles of Bunker Hill, Stillwater, Saratoga, and Ticonderoga; was taken prisoner by the British, sent to England and never returned. It is claimed that few, if any, able bodied men remained in Pelham during the war—the old men, and the women doing what work was done on the farms.

Otis Abercrombie, M.D., son of Capt. Isaac Abercrombie, was born in Pelham, June 25, 1802. He married Dorothy Lovina, daughter of Major Daniel and Mary (Sawyer) Putnam of Lunenburg, Mass., June 16, 1835. He was graduated at Williams College in 1823 and began the study of medicine at the Medical School in Richmond, Va., and finished his studies at New Haven, Conn., receiving his degree in 1827. Later in that year he was licensed to practice medicine by the Mass. Medical Society and located in Ashburnham, Mass. He returned to Fitchburg in 1829 and was associated with Dr. Jonas A. Marshall. After nine years of successful practice in Fitchburg, failing health obliged him to retire from active practice and he removed to Lunenburg. At the last

named town he was postmaster for several years, served on the board of selectmen and took active interest in public affairs. Dr. Abercrombie died at Lunenburg, Jan. 24, 1851.

Ira Abercrombie, son of Isaac, was born in Pelham, Jan. 28, 1805. He was educated in the schools of the town and at New Salem Academy; taught school when a young man, went to Houlton, Me., as a clerk in a store; returned to Massachusetts and engaged in trade at Deerfield (Cheapside) with his brother Isaac. They were also engaged in boating on the Connecticut River. Mr. Abercrombie became prominent intown, served as selectman in Deerfield for six years and often moderator of the town meetings; represented the town in the General Court in 1850 and 1861; served as trustee of the Smith Charities; was state director of the Troy & Boston R.R.; was one of the incorporators of the Franklin County bank, then a director. In 1863, was chosen president, a position which he held until his death July 14, 1879. He was also trustee of the Greenfield Savings bank. Ira and Isaac were never married, a sister being their housekeeper for many years.

Asiel Abercrombie, son of Isaac, was born in Pelham, Oct. 21, 1807. He was educated in the schools of the town and at New Salem Academy; worked on the farm in Pelham; removed to New Salem where he was a merchant; removed to Deerfield (Cheapside) where he was engaged in the hotel business until the railroads were opened. He then turned his attention to farming. Mr. Abercrombie was not in public office very much. He was a director in the Franklin County National bank at Greenfield, also a trustee of the Greenfield Savings bank, and a trustee of the Deerfield Academy until his death, March 10, 1874. He married Elizabeth B. Fuller of Deerfield.

Isaac Abercrombie, son of Isaac, was born in Pelham, July 20, 1793. His education was obtained at the common schools, and at New Salem Academy. He taught school in the neighboring towns in winter. For one term in Ludlow his pay was a “Straight rifle” which he treasured all his life, and bequeathed it to a nephew by will. His father was interested in a tract of land conveyed by Robert Brooks, governor of Virginia, in Lewis and Randolph counties, by patent dated Richmond, Nov.7, 1796.

The grantees met at South Hadley, June 3, 1810, and “drew by lot” their several portions. Isaac was sent to Virginia in 1814, with others, to locate the shares of land. The trip was made on horseback, he having been furnished with a certificate of good moral character by Daniel Stebbins, Notary Public of Northampton. Two trips to Virginia were made on business connected with these lands.

Mr. Abercrombie was a deputy sheriff in Hampshire county for several years before removing to Greenfield, Mass., where he held the position of deputy sheriff and jailer under Epaphras Hoyt, Sheriff in 1828. He was also interested, with others, in running a line of mails stages between Boston, Troy and Albany. Selling out his interest in the stage route he engaged in trade with his brother Ira, at Deerfield (Cheapside)/ The firm did an extensive wholesale and retail business, extending over a large portion of the county and into Vermont. They ran a line of boats on the Connecticut river, between Cheapside and Hartford, loading with country produce on the down trip, and general merchandise on the return. The opening of the Connecticut River R.R. in 1846 destroyed their trade and boating business. He then turned his attention to the care of his property and to farming. He held offices in the town of Deerfield, was director in the Greenfield

bank, and trustee of the Smith Charities. In business circles he was known as a man of strict integrity. He died at Deerfield, Sept. 10, 1872.

Thomas Buffam was born in Pelham in August, 1846, the son of Thomas Buffam. He spent his boyhood there and obtained a common school education. When he was eighteen years old he went to Easthampton and began work under Edmund H. Sawyer in the Nashawannuck mills. He began at the bottom and worked up, learning the entire business. In a few years he was placed in charge of the finishing department and this position he held for 26 years. He possessed a large amount of executive ability, and he was a man who was not satisfied with allowing things to drift, but rather took delight in driving things. He was one of that class of men who achieve results when they set out on a given line. Mr. Buffam was of jovial nature, and loved congenial companionship and sociability. He went about much, and was known in every town up and down the valley. He was a shrewd business man, and was always a steady worker. He was generous and kind-hearted, and the people who worked under him in Easthampton were his friends. This was shown by the presents that were given him and the kind words that were spoken by the employees at the time he severed his connection with the company. He possessed a power for observation, and with his travels accumulated a vast amount of knowledge, especially of men and human nature. His hobby was a good driving horse, and "Handsome Tom," as he was familiarly known about the county, was never known to drive a slow horse. He resigned his position at the Nashawannuck mills in 1895, and since then he had been connected with Dibble & Warner in the same business. He was with this firm at the time he was taken with his last sickness. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Mary E., daughter of Martin Graves of Northampton. They were

married in 1870. His second wife was Miss Sarah Chase of Easthampton. Mr. Buffam was removed to Northampton in the autumn of 1896 where he died on the 18th of February, 1897.

James M. Cowan, born in Pelham, August 5, 1827, was the son of John Cowan and Susan Hildreth. He attended the public schools in Pelham, and afterward learned the machinist's trade. He went to Chicopee Falls in 1852, where he ran a grist mill for two years. He returned to Pelham at the end of that time and began the manufacture of bobbins and spools for cotton and woolen factories. The firm name was James M. Cowan & Co., his partner being L. M. Hills of Amherst, at that time the president of the First National Bank in that town. The business was a profitable one, especially during the war, and the firm built up a large business. He sold his interest in the mill in 1867 to his partner and removed to Springfield, where he entered the employ of the Boston & Albany railroad a foreman of the car shops. He gave up this position and went in business for himself about 1875, being engaged in the retail meat and coal trade. He afterward gave up the meat business and had been engaged in handling coal until the time of his illness. His yards are along the Boston & Albany railroad tracks. He formerly occupied the entire ground on Lyman street where the station now stands. He had a branch yard on the new England road opened in 1893, where he received his Lehigh coal. Mr. Cowan was successful in business, confining his energies to the one line. It was while living in his native town that the war of the Rebellion broke out, and as a member of the board of selectmen, he was able to render the town valuable service in filling the quota of men called for from time to time during the war. He also rendered much assistance in support of the Congregational church at the center of the town, and it was

largly through the efforts of Mr. Cowan that the bell, now hanging in the steeple of the church, was secured and placed in position.

Mr. Cowan was a member of the North church, Springfield but sometimes attended the Park church, near his home. He was much interested in church and missionary enterprises and until recent years had been an active worker in the railroad Young Men's Christian Association. His first wife was Miss Almariah Bartlett of Enfield, Mass., and he was married to her in May, 1851; she died Aug. 5, 1862. His second wife, who was Miss Ellen Mitchell of Palmer, survives him with two children, Miss Mary E. Cowan, and J. Edward Cowan, who was associated in business with his father. Mr. Cowan died Feb. 14, 1897.

The Cowan family was a well-known and much respected one in the town from its first settlement. George and Ephraim Cowan were among those who drew Home lots in 1739. George drew lot 21 and Ephraim lot 42, the latter being about a mile east of the Methodist church. The name of Cowan appears on the town records for many years, and probably until Mr. James M. Cowan removed from town in 1867. George Cowan the first settler was from Concord, in the county of Middlesex, while Ephraim was from Worcester where most of the settlers of the town came from. Whether these two men were brothers cannot be determined by the records, but they may have been. In 1757 there was a Samuel Cowan, also a James Cowan; they were both married that year. Sept. 8, 1781, James Cowan was married to Mary Dunbar of Winchendon. On a list of voters for the year 1799 the names James and George Cowan appear.

Dr. Morten Monroe Eaton was the son of Monroe Eaton and Clarissa Boyden, and was born in Pelham, April 21, 1839. He attended the schools of the town, supplemented by several terms in the schools of Amherst and removed to Illinois in 1855 being at that time sixteen years old. In Chicago he studied medicine with Prof. Daniel Brainard, formerly president of the Rush Medical College. Dr. Eaton graduated from this college in 1861. He was then resident physician of the city hospital for two years. He then removed to Peoria where he was made surgeon of that post in the war of the Rebellion. During the Rebellion, he made five trips through the South for the Sanitary Commission, under the direction of Gov. Yates of Illinois, distributing sanitary stores and assisting the wounded and needy to get home or to suitable hospitals.

Dr. Eaton was a prolific writer for medical journals, and also wrote and published books. His most noted book was a volume of over 800 pages, profusely illustrated, and had, and is still having an extensive sale. Dr. Eaton was president of the City Homeopathic Medical Society of Cincinnati. He was vice-president of the State Society of Illinois; also a member of the American Institute of Homeopathy, and an honorary member of several other state and other societies, including the International Congress of Paris, France. In 1881 he attended the World's Homeopathic convention in London.

Dr. Eaton removed to Cincinnati in 1877 and to Walnut Hills in May, 1886. He practiced medicine as partner with Prof. S. R. Beckwith. He was a hard student and was successful both as practitioner and as a business man, saving a pretty large fortune. Dr. Eaton was twice married. His first wife was Miss Eliza J. Payne of Galesburg, Ill., with whom he lived seventeen years. His second wife was Miss Sutherland of Peoria, Ill. Dr. Eaton died Oct. 21, 1889, leaving beside his wife, two daughters and a son, who is also a

physician, his mother and a step brother, Shelby M. Cullom, who was at one time governor of Illinois. In religion Dr. Eaton was a Congregationalist and attended the walnut Hills Congregational church. He was also a member of the N.C. Harmony lodge of Masons.

Dr. Francis Lupier Eaton was the son of Monroe Eaton and Clarissa Boyden, and was born in Pelham, March 5, 1843. He attended the schools of his native town in boyhood until his parents moved to the West, where his education was completed and he selected medicine as a profession. After completing his course of study, he began practice at St. Louis, Mo., but later Dr. Eaton settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and for twenty years or more was a most zealous and active worker in the interests of his chosen profession, having been corresponding secretary for some years of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, then trustee, and later president of the college. He served with honor during the war of the Rebellion and was an honored member of the Geo. H. Thomas Post G. A. R. of that city. He died in Cincinnati, Jan. 24, 1887, when but 44 years of age.

Lebbeus Gaskell, Esq., was the son of William Gaskell and Phebe Cook, and was born in Pelham in 1809. He attended the schools of the town until he left home to learn the wagon-making trade at Woonsocket, R. I. After becoming master of the practical part of the business, young Gaskell decided to go into the business for himself and having saved \$300 used it as capital, it being all that he had. His venture proved a success after a while and the money made, was saved and as his savings increased he loaned money to the manufacturers about Woonsocket at good rates of interest. He also engaged in the real estate business and was successful in that also. He became director in

one of the banks at Woonsocket and later was chosen president of the institution and served in that capacity for several years. Mr. Gaskell died at Woonsocket, R. I., in 1875. He was twice married, and had two daughters, one of them inheriting nearly all of the large fortune her father accumulated, and married Dr. Bailey, a noted fancy farmer and lecturer upon agricultural topics.

The Gaskell family came to Pelham from Cumberland, R. I. Other members of William Gaskell's family were: Orinda, Silas, Lyman, James M., Lucy D., Joanna, Chester, and Philena, ten in all. Chester and Philena, the only living members of this large family, now reside in Amherst.

Dr. W. Ward Cooke, was born in Pelham on the 18th day of May 1851. He was the sixth son of Nathaniel and Bethiah Ward Cooke and grandson of Eseck Cooke, the Quaker farmer of early times. He received his early education in the old Valley district school, and later became a pupil of Minor Gold, a noted teacher of Pelham. Being naturally ingenious and possessed of mechanical ideas, he early acquired a knowledge of the joiner's trade, at which he worked in this and adjoining towns and later in Providence, R. I. Afterwards, he went to South Carolina where he was engaged in the Sea Island cotton trade. It was while there he met and formed the acquaintance and friendship of an eminent physician and surgeon and through his influence, he determined upon a professional career, whereupon he took up a course of reading and study and after two years, returned to his native state and entered the office of Dr. Horace C. Smith of Athol, Mass., as a dental student. Subsequently he matriculated at the Philadelphia Dental College in Philadelphia, Pa., and completing his course of study there, he returned to Athol, where he began the practice of dentistry on his own account. On June 16, 1875,

he was married to Miss Etta L. Lewis, daughter of Enoch T. Lewis, an old and prominent resident of the town. In 1882, he removed to Cambridge, Mass., where there were broader fields in which to labor, and where he achieved most marvelous success, having contributed much toward the advancement and progress of the dental profession. Dr. Cooke is a prominent man in the dental profession in the city of Cambridge.

Johnson J. Thompson, son of Asa and Ruth Thompson, was born in Pelham Oct. 14, 1832. He attended the public schools of the town, studied medicine with Drs. Smith and Taylor of Amherst for several years; attended medical lectures in Albany and Brooklyn, N.Y.; located at Davenport, Iowa. He married a niece of Judge Conkling of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a cousin of Hon. Roscoe Conkling. He practiced medicine with much success for thirty years or more, and died at Davenport, March 24, 1894. His wife dying the same night, within less than an hour of his death. He was a contributor to leading medical journals, and was honored by election to offices of trust and responsibility in the city of davenport, and was largely instrumental in founding an orphan asylum in the city. Four children, two son and two daughters survive.

There are other successful business men who were natives of Pelham besides those given more extended notice. Among these are: Edwin and Oliver Bryant; L. V. B. Cook of West Springfield; Lucius W. Cook, Williamsport, Pa.; Marcus D. Cook, Denver, Colo.; Dwight M. Cook, Chicopee Falls, sons of Olney Cook; W. H. H. Ward, Amherst; Henry C. hamiltonm, Springfield; Augustine H. Rankin, Blackstone; M. F. Robinson, and L. F. Jenks, Springfield; Charles P. Aldrich, Greenfield; R. J. D. Westcott, Ware, for many years cashier of First National Bank, Amherst; Wm. S. Westcott, merchant, Amherst; William a. Bailey, contractor, Northampton; Zimri Thurber, shoe manufacturer,

Brockton; Set B. Hall, capitalist, Lowell; Charles O. and Lemuel W. Hall, Lowell, sons of John R. Hall; Warren C. Wedge, Chicopee; Marcus C. Grout, Providence, R. I.; John T. Fales, Newport, R. I.; Leander L. Bartlett, Montague City; Eugene P. Bartlett, Pelham; Sanford M. Robinson, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Oliver C. Smith, Rock Springs, Wy.; Homer Eaton, Northampton; Frank Kingman, Enfield; Osmyn Houston, Springfield; S. W. Rankin, Springfield; G. P. Smith, Jersey Shore, Pa.; Alfred Taylor, Kansas City, Mo.; Otis S. Lyman, Lagrange, Ill.; George and Albert Davis, clothing dealers, Prescott, Ont.; Edwin Chapman, contractor, Needham; Levi D. Hall, Lowell.

John Savage was one of the most remarkable men among the settlers of Pelham. He was not one of the original settlers of the town but came to Pelham with his wife in 1745 or 1747 and was one of the town's ablest and most trusted citizens for about twenty years, serving the town in almost every position of trust and responsibility while he dwelt within its borders. He was chosen to represent the town before the presbytery in 1747; committee to provide schoolmasters in 1781; moderator at town meetings, and selectman in 1752; on committee to legalize acts of town meetings before the General Court, and also one of the selectmen in 1753; on committee to represent the town at the superior court in Springfield in 1757; chosen agent to represent the town before the court of General Sessions in 1762; was on a committee to represent the town and make answer to a petition that had been presented to the General Court in 1764. The above are a few of the important positions of service to which he was called as shown by the record. Hardly a year but John savage was in active service in some capacity from the time when his name first appears until he removed from the town in 1767 to Salem, Washington county, N.Y.

A lineal descendant has kindly furnished the following interesting sketch of the life of John Savage. "The Ancestors of Captain John savage were French, being Huguenots they were driven from France by the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685. They settled in or near Londonderry in the north of Ireland. The father of John savage married a Scotch lady, Miss Eleanor Hamilton; he died leaving three sons, who came to America with their mother and step-father in 1717, and settled in Rutland, Mass. John savage was ten years old at that time and followed the seas as a sailor during the early part of his life. He gradually accumulated property and became sole owner of the vessel which he commanded. In a storm the vessel was wrecked off Cape Breton, his men and cargo being all lost, and he barely escaped with his life. After this experience he abandoned the sea, and in 1722 married a daughter of his stepfather also a Miss Hamilton, and settled upon a farm in Pelham, Mass.

In 1758 he was selected as captain of one of the Massachusetts companies in the old French War, and served under General Bradstreet in his expedition against Fort Frontenac, and under General Abercrombie in his disastrous assault upon Fort Ticonderoga. Captain Savage was lame at the time of the latter engagement, but notwithstanding this he placed himself at the head of his men and led them into the fight.

After residing twenty-two years in Pelham, Captain Savage moved to Salem, Washington county, N.Y. in 1767, where he died Jan. 27, 1792, aged eighty-five years, and now rests in Evergreen Cemetery, at Salem.

The following is the quaint and curious inscription upon his tombstone.

"Near this stone are deposited the remains of Captain John Savage, whose useful life (which heaven protected to an unusual length) was distinguished by the dangerous

hardships and deliverances he experienced in a long series of adventures both by land and sea.

In recounting these to his latest moments, he gratefully acknowledged the wisdom, goodness, and power of Divine Providence; that he was attentive to the duties of religion; that he undauntedly advocated for the faith which he firmly believed; that amidst the temptations peculiarly incident to the stations of a seaman and soldier, he preserved and unsullied an exemplary character, diligently discharging the several duties of life was his distinction.

Mr. Savage was born in the Kingdom of Ireland about the year 1707, in his youth he emigrated to America and settled in the Province of Massachusetts. In the year 1767, he with his family removed from Pelham to this town, (Salem) then an uncultivated wilderness.

January 27, 1792, aged eighty-five year; his pilgrimage being ended in the certain hope of a blessed immortality. He rested in Jesus.”

The descendants of John Savage have been distinguished for ability and learning. Edward Savage, son of John, was born in Rutland, Mass., and removed to Salem, N.Y. with his father when the latter left Pelham in 1767, being then 21 years of age. He married Mary McNaughton and was the first sheriff in Washington County, N.Y., after the Revolutionary war; he was also surrogate; and a member of the state legislature for twenty-one years, and was three times elected a member of the council of appointment. He was in the battle of Plattsburg in 1814, and died in 1833, aged 87. His son John Savage was born in Salem in 1779, educated at Salem Academy and Union College; studied law and opened a law office in Salem in 1803; served two terms in Congress in 1814 and 1816; in the latter year he married Ruth Wheeler of Lanesboro, Mass; resided in Albany from 1821 to 1837, when he removed to Utica. He was chief justice of the Supreme Court of the state of New York from 1822 to 1836. He died at Utica, October 19, 1863, aged 84.

The opinions of Judge Savage on legal questions while chief justice are quoted in law reports of the various states, and are cited in the current volumes, having stood the test of nearly a century.

John Stinson and descendants. John Stinson or Stevenson was one of the original settlers of the town of Pelham and drew Home Lot No. 48, situated on the middle range road nearly a mile west of the center of the town, and is the farm now owned by c. H. Hanson. His father's name was John who came to this country with other Scotch-Irish immigrants in 1718, and died at Rutland in 1743, leaving a will of which John Savage was the sole executor.

John Stinson, the subject of this sketch, was known as a man of responsibility upon whom the early settlers could rely, and consequently he was chosen treasurer of the town at the first town meeting after the act of incorporation on the 19th of April, 1743. He was moderator of the town meeting held in June of the same year and filed many other responsible offices in the town during the year until 1774. He, with his son Oisac Stevenson, were soldiers in the colonial wars, and John went with the New England expedition to Lake George in 1758.

Isaac Stevenson married Thankful Savage, daughter of Capt. John Savage of Rutland, Oct. 23, 1764. Capt. Savage was afterwards a prominent citizen of Pelham until 1767. Isaac removed to Enfield about the year 1789 and bought a pew in the church there when first built, paying £8 therefor.

Margaret Stevenson, daughter of John, became the wife of Rev. Robert Abercrombie, the first settled minister of Pelham, Jan. 7, 1743 and was the mother of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters.

Samuel, son of John Stinson or Stevenson married Martha Sloan of Pelham and was a voter in Pelham in 1799.

Mary Stevenson, daughter of Isaac and Thankful, married Alden Lathrop, first town treasurer of Enfield, Mass., and a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden. Their son Sylvanus Lathrop, was born in Enfield and was a noted builder in early life, having erected the steeple of the church at Enfield before he was twenty-one years of age, and became a noted civil engineer and contractor. His first extensive contract was on the Erie canal, and later executed a contract on a canal at Akron, Ohio. He built the third rolling mill at Pittsburgh, Pa., and engaged in the iron business. The first aqueduct over the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh was built by Sylvanus Lathrop in 1829, and he was the first to plan a bridge over the Mississippi river at St. Louis.

CONCERNING THE WOMEN OF PELHAM

The names of very few women appear upon the town records from 1738 to 1825 inclusive. They did not vote even in church affairs. They did not teach school and were hardly allowed to attend school in the early years. They were taught to sew, to spin, to knit and to weave; these plain useful accomplishments were thought to comprise all that it was necessary for women to possess. That the wives of the Scotchmen of Pelham exerted great influence, as they always do, is unquestionably true, but they made their influence tell at home rather than as directors of the sewing society, as managers of the woman's board of missions, or as members of women's clubs.

We know that they must have taken a lively interest in all that pertained to the well being of the town and the church, and must have taken sides in the troubles which existed for much of the time during the pastorate of the first minister, but they are not on record. They had borne their share of the burdens of the war for King George, and were pinched and oppressed by the heavy taxes imposed to carry on the war. While their husbands were away with the army, they were left at home on the farms with the old men and boys, doing the best they could to keep their children fed and clothed. Yet not a written word of their struggles and their self-denying actions is left on record for our perusal now, when we would be pleased to learn about it.

That the women of Pelham held radical opinions concerning that clerical impostor and rogue, Stephen Burroughs, does not admit of a doubt, and that they used their tongues in denouncing the wily youth quite as freely and effectively as did their husbands, sons, and brothers cannot be questioned for a moment; but no criticism of

their's has come down to us. They felt the pressure of debts and sympathized with their husbands when the burdens pressed heavily and creditors seemed intent upon evicting them from their homes almost in their determination to force payment of claims; they criticized the laws and lawyers, and inveighed against the courts as volubly as their husbands during the stilling times of the Shays rebellion; but we can only guess the strong expressions they used, for the records are a blank on he subject. Probably the first name of a wmona on the records of the town is that of Eloner Gray in 1760. It appears in the record of a town meeting, Nov. 14, 1760, --“first voted that there is Six Pound thirteen Shilling &four pence allowed for the Support of Eloner Gray for the Present year.”

Eloner Gray was poor, possibly a widow and alone in the world. Her's is the first name of a woman assisted by the town. Later, came others whose names appear regularly for years, or until death relieved them of their poverty an distress. At a meeting Jan. 20, 1764, “It was Likewise Voted that Elizabeth Clark is allowed four Shilling for Tendance at Ordination time.” The services of Elizabeth Clark that brought her four shillings reward by vote of the town was at the ordination of Rev. Richard Crouch Graham. She was probably one of those helpful women that know just what needs to be done onall occasions, whetherit be a wedding, a funeral or an ordination, and it was well that the town appreciated her services, and still better to show their appreciation by an appropriation of money from the town treasury as partial payment—it could not have been but partial payment, bor services rendered by such a woman as we conceive Elizabeth Clark to have been was worth much more than four shillings for “tendance” at

such an interesting occasion as an ordination. In the warrant of another town meeting is the following:

“To see what Method the town will take to help Rebeckah Selfradge for Maintaining and taking care of her mother Elisabeth Selfrage.”

This name is more frequently written Selfridge, and there were several men of that name who held responsible positions as officers of the town; so that both Rebeckah and her mother were unquestionably worthy people, and it is fair to infer from the language of the town warrant, that Rebeckah had striven heroically to take good care of her mother and maintain her without calling upon the town, and that her efforts had been noticed by some people, who had, without any suggestion from the Selfridges, taken this method of calling the attention of the people of the town to the unselfish and plucky struggle of Rebeckah. Edward Selfridge died 1761 and his widow Elizabeth lived until 1799 or 1800 when she died aged 95 years, Rebeckah caring for her all of the nearly forty years of her widowhood.

At a town meeting, April 1, 1793, the town “Voted Rebeckah Conkey £1—10s for Boarding and Nursing Lydia Miller and child eighteen days.” There is no explanation of the circumstances under which Rebeckah Conkey rendered the service for which the town voted the above sum from the town treasury, but it being an unusual form for service rendered the town poor,, we assume that it was a special case of suffering, and there was need of special service, which Rebeckah Conkey rendered.

From these few isolated cases in which the names of the women of Pelham appear on the public records of a century or more ago, we are bound to assume that in the limited sphere to which the habits and customs of the times in which they lived restricted them, and under which they lived ad moved and had their being, they exercised all the womanly

qualities as opportunity offered, and were not troubled very much by reason of being kept in the background. They cared for the sick; they helped the unfortunate; they sympathized with the distressed. No young woman's marriage outfit was complete without the little linen wheel. The whirl and hum of these little linen wheels in their humble homes was as melodious and more harmonious than the sounds that come from many a modern home piano under the merciless thrumming of the girls of today, who are no more successful in producing harmonious sounds than they would be in trying to spin flax on the little wheel.

Then came a time when the little wheel for spinning flax was laid aside because the cultivation of flax was suspended. And as factory made goods came into use, the larger and more noisy wheel for spinning wool, that had been carded into rolls either by hand or at the carding machine, was stored in the attic and was at rest. Early in this century the braiding and plaiting of split straw braid was taken up by the women. About the middle of June a rye field was selected where the growth was thick and vigorous, which was usually on new land from which the wood had been cut the year previous, and the green rank growth of rye was cut and tied in small bundles. These bundles were placed in hot water for a short time and then spread upon the ground, and in a few days was bleached nearly white. This straw was cut into lengths at the joints, submitted to the fumes of burning brimstone and the white supple straw was split in narrow splints and the women plaited them into braids of various kinds which was gathered by dealers and sold for making ladies bonnets, it being paid for by the yard. Many women occupied the spare time from domestic duties in plaiting this domestic braid. About the year 1827 the palm-leaf hat business was started. Palm-leaf cut from the trees in Cuba was imported,

bleached, and split by men, and distributed among the women of Pelham and other towns to be braided into hats. The women and girls and boys of the town were employed for many years at this work, and many thousands of hats were turned out yearly. Then came the weaving of palm-leaf into webs for making Shaker Hoods. This weaving by the women was commenced first about 1840, and was continued at intervals until after the War of the Rebellion when it was suspended, because women and girls preferred hats to the close unwieldy Shaker Hood, and it went out of use because fashion decreed it. Very few women brain palm-leaf hats at present, as the rebellion in Cuba prevents the importation of palm-leaf.

The women of Pelham, wives and daughters of the first settlers, were none of them brought up in the lap of luxury; there were none of the farmer settlers who were rich, or able to live without work, consequently all worked,--both men and women, and the latter have been noted for their industrious habits during all the years since the town was settled.

There are a few pages of the record books on which the names of women are found but they are not the pages on which the records of the many annual and special business town meetings are spread, but it is on the few pages, where the publication of marriage intentions—marriages and the deaths are found. Omitting the record of deaths, the record of publications and marriages furnish almost the only source from which the names of women who lived in town can be obtained. No attempt will be made to give the marriages from the settlement of the town down to the present time, but from the earliest records, --the marriages from 1746 to 1822 are given so far as they are obtainable from the early record books, and the “publications” from 1760 to 181, or such of them as do

not show a record of marriage of the parties whose marriage intentions appears.

Publication was good evidence that marriage should and did follow; breach of promise of marriage was not common 125 years ago.

MOUNT LINCOLN

Mount Lincoln is about a mile and a half from the old meeting house, or town hall, in a southwesterly direction. When covered with forest it was known as Pine Hill. The height is given by the state survey as 1220 feet above tide water. It is not remarkably high when compared with Greylock, the highest point in the state, which is 3500 feet above the sea, or with Wachusett which lifts its head 2500 feet above tide. But the wide extent of the view from Mt. Lincoln is quite remarkable. The route to the mountain from Amherst is by the old county highway and from the west line of Pelham a part of the way it is the same as the sixth chartered turnpike built in Massachusetts which began at the east line of Amherst and extended to Worcester, the company being chartered June 22, 1799. The ascent really begins as soon as the limits of Pelham are reached, and one on a trip to the mountain must be content to take time and drive slowly. When the summit is reached one finds himself in position to sweep the entire circle of the horizon with unobstructed vision as there is no higher land near by to prevent.

To the west and seemingly close at hand Amherst, with its colleges, its straw factories, its churches, residences and farm houses, is in full view; Hadley's two spires, Hatfield with one, Northampton, Easthampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington and other hill towns of Western Hampshire beyond the Connecticut river valley and farther away hills of eastern Berkshire can be seen. At the left Mount Holyoke and Tom crowned with mountain houses, and south of them the towns of Granby and South Hadley and the cities of Holyoke and Springfield; while still farther south, across

the state of Connecticut, we believe East and West Rock may be seen under best conditions of atmosphere.

Toward the northwest Whately, Conway, Sunderland, South Deerfield, and farther on the wild country of Franklin county; while the mass of blue far beyond is the rounded top of Greylock, and the Green mountain range of southern Vermont. Sugar Loaf, with its red sandstone cliff seems but a hillock, and farther to the right are the rounded masses of Mt. Toby, while beyond them are distant mountains in Southern Vermont.

To the north the steeples of the two churches at Shutesbury are seen above the high land in the north part of Pelham, and beyond the church at Pelham center. New Salem is in full view. In the same direction Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire looms up, and farther to the east, Wachusett in this state is visible. Portions of Enfield, Prescott, Hardwick and New Braintree appear more directly east, while far away, Rutland and other western Worcester towns can be located when the afternoon sun shines clearly upon them. To the south portions of Belchertown and Granby are not far away, but owing to the height of "Great Hill" in the northern part of the former own the center of the town cannot be seen; the ranges of hills and mountains beyond are located in eastern Hampden farther away. Close at hand the eye rests upon forest or young growth of trees with now and then a farm-house; probably more of the tract now known as Pelham and purchased of John Stoddard of Northampton can be seen here than from any other point.

It was from Mt. Lincoln that beacon fires flashed forth during the Revolutionary war when it was necessary to give alarm to the sturdy yeoman in this section of the state;

and during the geodetic survey of the state the surveyors established a station from which triangulations could be made with other stations of similar character miles away.

Looking toward the west from the summit of Mt. Lincoln the nearest farm buildings are those of Uncle Reuben Allen and Charlotte Johnson Allen, his wife. Here, far up the slope of the mountain, and perhaps three-fourths of a mile from the nearest neighbor, Mr. Allen cultivates the acres of his farm, raises potatoes and corn, gathers hay enough to keep his horse and two cows, and every Saturday in sunshine or storm drives down from his high perch to Amherst with butter and eggs to his customers, and carries back groceries and other necessaries for the coming week in his home and on the farm. Sunday he rests, and on Monday resumes his labors again on the farm; the days go by one by one until another Saturday comes and the customary trip to market is undertaken in the same thrifty business-like way as the previous week. The weeks of summer pass with a repetition of the simple round of duty and labor little varied from week to week, and when the winter comes and the chilling winds pile the snow into drifts, the days are passed in hauling wood from the nearby forest, cutting it for the fires, the care of his horse, his cows, and his hens, until the market day comes with its imperative duty.

OLD BURIAL PLACES

A SKETCH OF EACH OF THE ELEVEN BURIAL PLACES OF PELHAM

THE OLD BURIAL GROUND AT THE CENTER

When the sturdy Scotch Presbyterian settlers took possession of the tract of land now known as Pelham in 1739, it was surveyed and plotted by William Young, surveyor, and ten acres was set apart on the West Hill for used as “common, training field and burial ground.” The old burial ground in the rear of the ancient town hall, which the settlers began to build for use as a church almost as soon as they settled, was the first established burial place in the town and is within the ten acres set apart as stated above.

Perhaps an acre and a half of ground is included by the heavy stone fence. Here the early settlers were laid to rest when they died, and the ancient moss-covered stones, stand as sentinels above them. Enough of the inscriptions can be read to show that Scotch names predominated where none are heard now. Such names as McMillan, Patterson, Peebles, Gilmore, Thurston, Dunlap, Houston, Cowan and Johnston are frequently found on these rough stones.

The first settled minister, Rev. Robert Abercrombie, was buried here though no stone marks his grave; and 'tis said that the old church now used as a town hall was moved back into the burial ground, covering some of the graves, and that of the first minister among the rest. Recently, however, this has been disproved and the location of Mr. Abercrombie's grave has been established, it is thought, and a large boulder with a suitable inscription is to be placed at the head of his grave, behind the town hall and near the west wall of the enclosure. Not all accept this as the true location, however.

Rev. Richard Crouch Graham, second pastor of the Pelham Presbyterian church, died at the age of 32, and a large stone marks his grave showing that he died in 1771. One of the oldest fairly legible inscriptions is on a stone above the grave of Margaret Hood who died in 1758.

Perhaps the oldest record of burial by an inscribed stone is that of "Margaret, Wife of Alexander Conkey, who died Nov. 13, 1756 in ye 75th year of her age." There are many graves which show only as low mounds with no stones at the head or foot, and others with only rough stones without inscriptions and sunk to a level with the mounts they were intended to mark. Of the inscribed stones very few are of marble, but black slate slabs are common. A coarse dark gray stone was much used and was probably quarried, split out and inscribed by the people here. These gray stones are covered with moss and the inscriptions are so much obliterated as to make it almost impossible to decide whose remains lie beneath them. The winters have heaved them, some lean one way, other the opposite way, few stand erect, and some have fallen and cover the mounds; others are broken and stand against the wall of the enclosure where some kindly hand has placed them.

No burials have been made in this ancient burial ground for many years; and many lying here it can be said none bearing their names are now living in town. The grass that grows among the grave-stones is mowed every summer and carried away, so that the chance visitor can walk among the graves of the first settlers and recall their sturdy virtues, but not much money is expended to beautify and adorn the place. In the early summer the white daisy blooms in profusion among the time worn slabs and upon the graves.

THE WEST BURYING GROUND

A mile or so west by the main or middle range road is another ancient burial place. It was laid out as early as 1760, and is located upon a hillock which commands a magnificent view down the valley westward, with Amherst, the Holyoke range and the Connecticut river valley in the distance. As it is reached by an untravelled by-way leading off from the main road, no one passing through the town on a carriage drive ever passes this old burial place. It is somewhat larger in area than the one just described at the center of the town and is used occasionally for burials now.

Here we find many well remembered names of families that were large and prosperous during the first half of this century. William and Isaac Abercrombie with their families are here, the former buried in 1811 and the latter in 1837. Descendants of another family of original settlers are found here, the Grays. John Gray, ruling elder, died in 1782, aged 82, his wife in 1799 at 92. Nathaniel Gray, in 1777 at 32, Dea. Ebenezer Gray, probably the good deacon to whom Stephen Burroughs offered his services as "Supplier," and showed his letter of recommendation from the Palmer pastor in 1784, was laid to rest in 1834 when 90 years old; James Gray died in 1802, Amos Gray in 1823 and another John Gray in 1852. Stone posts with connecting chains enclose the graves of the Grays.

The Rankins were once numerous in town, there are none now. John Rankin was buried in 1786, John Rankin, Esq., in 1829, Lieut. Rankin in 1830, another John Rankin in 1860. Another common name was Harkness, but it is heard no more in town save as the lettered stones speak. Lieut. Harkness was buried in 1779, aged 57. David Harkness

died Mar. 19, 1816, when 59 years of age. Capt. Thomas Dick, one of the original settlers and an officer in the army or militia, was buried here in 1771, aged 70. Robert McCulloch's head-stone tells of his death in 1800 at 80.

Four solid stone posts and an iron fence rusty with age enclosing a lot just large enough for one grave, also encloses a stone which informs the visitors that Nancy Park, 26, wife of Stuart Park, with infant child, were buried in the same grave in 1803. There are graves of Macomers, Westcotts, Robinsons, Eatons, Kingmans, and other well known names. Adam Johnson, a liberal donor to Amherst College was buried here in 1823, and a white marble slab bears the following inscription: "Erected by the trustees of Amherst College in testimony of their gratitude for the Johnson Chapel." Not a very generous or adequate testimonial of gratitude on the part of the trustees for benefits received, nor what was promised to Johnson, if correct history of the matter is true.

THE QUAKER BURYING GROUND

At one time during the early part of this century there was a small body of Quakers or Friends in town, led by Uncle Eseek Cook, whose kindly *thee* and *thou* the writer remembers, and their "meeting house" was about a half mile east of the West Pelham Methodist church. Here the little band used to gather on Sunday and await in silence for the spirit to move. Out on the plain west of the meeting house, which is now used as a barn, the "Friends" were buried as one after another they finished their earthly course. The space set apart was not large nor was it ever enclosed by fence or wall. Thirty or forty perhaps were buried here but no marble headstones inform the visitor who they were or when they shuffled the mortal coil. Some of the graves show like low

swelling mounds of grassy turf with ordinary stones gathered from the field at the head and feet. Many tenants have occupied the small farm but the plow has never invaded the little burial place upon the plain. No name-inscribed stones are seen, no dates, nothing to indicate who the dead are who lie here, whose remains lie beneath one of the slightly raised mounds covered with green sward of June. Once 'tis said an inscribed stone was set up on this spot to mark the grave of Dr. Dulley Potter, a young medical student who was a son of Dr. Olney Potter, whose parents were Quakers. This act of sacrilege was not looked upon with favor by the Quaker brethren and it is said the stone was twice removed after being erected, as a gentle hint that it was not wanted. As the stone was contributed by fellow students at the medical school, and Dr. Olney Potter wished to have it stand above his son's grave, he was obliged to disinter the remains and bury them elsewhere.

THE ARNOLD BURYING GROUND

Thirty or forty rods north of the little Quaker burial place, on a sandy hill slope is the burial place opened by the father of S. F. Arnold. The pines are thick on the north and west sides, and a wall of stone incloses the whole. Here rests the families of Arnolds, Stephen and Leonard Ballou, Pliny Hannum, the Cundals, Lovetts, Braileys, Croziers, Jillsons, etc. Here we find the grave of Dr. Gulley Potter, referred to above, and find that he died June 20, 1821, aged 26. Beneath the inscription is the following terse declaration of fact, "Life, how short, Eternity, how long!" The most costly stone here is that erected in memory of Col. Chas. C. C. Mower, who died of cholera in New York in 1849.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY BURIAL PLACE

High up on the west slope of Mt. Lincoln and within half a mile of the summit George Johnson, a protestant Irishman from Dundalk, Ireland, settled in the year 1837. Here he lived and brought up his family of girls. One married John Gardner and a child by this marriage sickened and died of what was thought to be smallpox. Consequently burial was refused in the public burial places and Mr. Johnson buried his grandchild upon a plot of land near his home. A few square rods of land is walled in and fifteen or twenty burials of his family and relatives have been made within the little enclosure. George Johnson the ancestor of the family was buried in 1853 and among the graves are those of two soldier sons-in-law, Lieut. George Johnson of the 25th Mass. And Patrick Bailey of the 27th Mass. And each Memorial Day flays are planted above them which float in the wind until worn out by the blastsd that career about Mt. Lincoln.

THE SMITH PRIVATE BURIAL GROUND.

In 1843 or thereabouts James Smith, Daniel Holbrook and Arba Randall set apart a small tract of land upon the farm of the last named and it has been used since for the burial of the members of these families and their friends and neighbors until there are quite a cluster of graves. The yard is pleasantly situated a little to the right of the county road leading to Enfield and a mile and a half from the Methodist church. More has been expended here in beautifying the spot and erecting costly monuments than in any private burial place in town. A nearby blank wall surmounted by an iron rail surrounds the grounds and a weeping willow waves near the tomb at the northeast corner. James Smith and his wife, Betsey Otis Smith, together with their daughtersd and daughters' husbands

or some of them are buried here. There are Randalls and Browns and Chapmans and Lymans and Smiths, all more or less related to the original founders of the grounds. Robert Brown a soldier of the Revolutionary war is buried here; he died in 1849 at the age of 84, and his son, Martin V. B. Brown, who recently died in Hadley, was the youngest son of a revolutionary soldier in this state if not in the whole country, he being but 55 years of age. James Smith and Betsey Otis Smith his wife, the father and mother of Sidney Dillon's wife, the great railroad builder and millionaire, president of the Union Pacific railroad, recently deceased at New York, are resting here near their old home farm on the hilltop beyond.

BURIAL GROUND NEAR GEORGE KNIGHT'S

A mile or more along the same country road towards Packardville is another burial ground close by the roadside and not far from the reservoir at the head of Springfield's water supply. It is well-cared for except now and then a plot that shows the lack of loving friends. Three tall spruce trees stand near together within the enclosure, otherwise there are few trees or other attractive features. Here we find the names of Browns, Wards, Pratts and Westons and in the southeast corner of the grounds we found the grave of Rev. William K. Vaille, for some years pastor of the Union church at Packardville and the congregational church at Pelham center. The most unique inscription of all is found upon a white marble slab not far from the road side fence, which reads as follows:

Warren Gibbs
Died by arsenic poison
March 23, 1860, Aged 36 years
5 months and 23 days.

Think my friends when this you see
How my wife hath dealt by me
She in some oysters did prepare
Some poison for my lot and share
Then of the same I did partake
And nature wielded to its fate
Before she my wife became
Mary Felton was her name
Erected by his brother
Wm Gibbs.

No punctuation marks seem to have been used in the above charge of crime where it was possible to get along without, and the marble worker doubtless followed copy.

PACKARDVILLE BURYING GROUND

Close by the Union church, where the ground begins to slope to the north is a small number of graves, ten or a dozen in all; quite a number of the stones bearing the name of hanks, and there is a monument to the memory of the wife of Levi W. Gold. That so few are buried here, is accounted for by the fact that a larger and older burial ground is not far away just over the town line in Enfield which has been used, and is still by both towns.

THE VALLEY CEMETERY

is very pleasantly located in what is known as the Valley district of West Pelham, it is on a sandy hillock above the highway and is one of the later an better cared for of alal the burial places visited. It was opened for burials in 1848 and the first person buried here was a Mrs. Wylie, a sister of Asahel Gates, whose farm is not far away. Among the well cared for lots are those of John B. Ward, a citizen of Amherst, Joseph G. Ward, Asahel

Gates, Levi B. Hall and Rufus Grout. Thomas Buffam and many of his family are lying here. Horace Gray, a former resident of the town, now of Northampton, and a descendant of the Grays that lie in the West burying ground, above described, has a fine monument erected here. Here we read the names and ages of three wives of a well known man now living, who died at 20, 22, and 26 years of age. A monument bears the date of birth and death of four wives of a man who lived happily with his fifth wife; the dates of their deaths are as follows: 1855, 1871, 1882, and 1889. The space set apart is nearly all plotted and the lots taken, but more equally high and dry land surrounds it, and is available when needed.

THE WEST PELHAM BURYING GROUND

is located on the county road not far from the Orient grounds, so called, and was laid out about the year 1830, William Harkness being the first person interred in it. Here lie ten or twelve of the same name, once so common. The fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters of Dr. H. W. Harkness of San Francisco are among them. There are other well-known names of men prominent in town affairs fifty years ago, among the fifty to seventy-five persons who are buried in this quiet resting place.

In these burial places of the town there are resting many more people than are living in the town now, and many more than were ever living in it at any period since the town was settled. Other causes besides death have been instrumental in removing people from the old town until by the last census there are but 486 inhabitants, where more than double that number dwelt in more prosperous days. The young and active have been going out from the old farm houses where they were born to seek success in the far away

cities or at business centers not so remote, until the abandoned farms and the cellars of deserted homes are quite common. Of the living who went forth to battle with the world for success, there is a note-worthy record. Of those who lived here until their life work was finished and whose remains were deposited in one or another of these hillside burial places we may truthfully say:

“In these villages on the hill,
Never is sound of smithy or mill:
The houses are thatched with grass and flowers
Never a clock to toll the hours;
The marble doors are always shut,
You cannot enter hall or hut;
All the villagers lie asleep;
Never again to sow or reap;
Never in dreams to moan or sigh,
But silent and idle and cold they lie.”

THE CEMETERY ON THE PRESCOTT SIDE OF EAST HOLLOW

Having described ten separate burial places in the present town of Pelham it is necessary to include at least one that was in Pelham before Prescott was set off as a town and where many of the people on the records of town and church, are now resting after life's fitful fever. This cemetery was probably opened as a burial place some time previous to 1780 and is situated on a sandy bluff perhaps 150 feet above and overlooking the west branch of Swift river, whose waters are spread over the low ground by the dam near the bridge until it has the appearance of a small lake or inland pond, making a pretty view looking westward from the northwestern portion of the enclosure. To the east, the great ridge on which Prescott center is located, looms up, seemingly covered by a thick forest growth. Toward the northeast and less than half a mile away is the site of the old Conkey tavern. Near the northwestern corner of the cemetery, William Conkey, the first

landlord of the tavern lies at rest. He died Nov. 5, 1788, aged 70, and his wife, Rebeckah Hamilton, is not far away; she died in 1811, aged 84. William Conkey, the second landlord of the tavern, died Jan. 8, 1841, in his 90th year. The moral lesson engraved upon his stone is as follows:

“’Tis but a few whose days amount
To three score years and ten;
And all beyond that short account,
Is sorrow toil and pain.”

The second William was known to everybody during life as “Uncle Billy.” Mrs. Mary Maklem Conkey, wife of the second William, died in 1784, at 76. John Conkey, Esq., died April 15, 1824, aged 77. His wife, Margaret Abercrombie, died Feb. 1, 1800, aged 53. David Conkey died 1828, aged 80, and his wife, Patty in 1840, aged 74. Another David Conkey died in 1861, aged 85. The wife of the latter died in 1819, aged 73. There are many other Conkeys, both old and young, resting here and among them Ansel and Robert, sons of Uncle Billy.

James Peebles finished his work Mar. 6, 1787 at 48. Another stone informs us by its sculptured story that “Mrs. Rachel Hyde successively the wife of James Peebles and Dea. Samuel Hyde died June 25, 1795.” Capt. Isaac Gray, the revolutionary soldier, died in September, 1786 in his 57th year. Dea. Daniel Gray, a leading James Abercrombie died in 1836 at 82 years of age. Margery, his wife, died in 1832, aged 75. James Abercrombie, Jr., died in 1859, aged 69. David Abercrombie died in 1851, aged 55. The McMullens—Millens—Mellens, are here; twenty or more graves with this well known surname, but spelled in different ways according to usage at the time they lived. Dr. Nehemiah Hinds, the active physician and man of affairs, lies here; he died July 11, 1825, aged 79. On the stone at the head of his grave is the following inscription:

“This friend lamented is not dead
But gone the path we all must tread:
He, only to that distant shore
Where all must go, has gone before.”

Anna, relict of Dr. Hinds, died in 1835, aged 81. Nehemiah Hinds, Jr. Lazetta, a daughter, and John Hinds, the latter dying at 47, in 1826, are also lying here. Barna Brigham, Esq., son-in-law of Dr. Hinds, is also near by. He died in 1834, aged 49 years.

The plot containing the remains of the Chapins is surrounded by an iron fence of elaborate pattern. Within this enclosure lie the descendants of Luthur Chapin, a prominent citizen in his time. His son Alanson had several wives and on the stone marking the grave of Almira Harrington, first wife of Alanson, is the following inscription:

Died Jan. 16, 1824, aged 24 years.
“Affliction, sore long time I bore,
Physicians were in vain;
Till God was pleased to give me ease,
And free me from my pain.”

There are also Cowans, and Smiths and Berry's beside other well known families, who lived and labored actively in the years that are gone, for the best interests of the church and the town, who having finished their labors have been brought here for their long rest. This cemetery is in use now by people in Pelham as well as Prescott. It has been well cared for generally and has an iron fence along the roadside front. The oldest stones are moss grown and worn by storms, and the finger of time has nearly obliterated many names and dates.

TAVERNS AND LANDLORDS

THE TAVERN OF THOMAS DICK.

Thomas Dick was the first taverner and landlord, and he opened by license in 1749. He continued in the business until 1770 or thereabouts. Further notice of Landlord Dick and his tavern will be found later.

THE OLD CONKEY TAVERN

No man driving along the dusty highway leading past the site of the old Conkey tavern in the lonely valley of the west branch of Swift river, would ever suspect that in the old tavern, sitting beside the wide open fire-places, the hardy yeomanry of this section gathered to mutter of grievances, and later to sally forth in armed rebellion against the constituted authorities and government of Massachusetts, but so it was.

It was the ideal spot to gather together the discontented and debt burdened country people from far and near, to rehearse their grievances with each other, and to devise ways and means for relief. There were no telegraph lines, no telephones; no reporters lurking about to hear what was said, and learn of their plans, for there were no morning papers that could be reached in which to publish exciting accounts of rebellious gatherings in the old Conkey tavern, and probably no mail that came oftener than once a fortnight. However loudly they threatened there was no danger of their doings being spread before the public the next morning. They were as safe and secure from interruption as it was possible to be anywhere within the state. The East hill was high and steep, and across the west branch of the Swift river rose the companion ridge known as Pelham

West hill. Look in whatever direction one chooses as he stands on the site of this old tavern today, not a building or habitation can be seen, and so it must have been in 1786-7 when these excited and determined men plotted rebellion, and from the old tavern sallied forth under arms to encounter disaster and defeat.

The tavern was built by William Conkey in 1758. The upright part was two stories in height but low studded and contained but two rooms on the ground floor, and the same number above on the second story. The rooms were all roughly sheathed, no plastering anywhere. The tavern faced the south and the east room was the dining room and the west room was the all important bar-room; between the two rose the great stone chimney, ten feet or more at the base. There were large open fireplaces in the dining and bar rooms. Across the north side of the upright part a lean-to was built for the long ample kitchen with a pantry at each end. In the middle of the south side of the kitchen was the great fireplace where the long back log was rolled to its position to receive the assaults of blazing brands and thrust underneath, and piled upon the forestick and backlog. At the right of the great fireplace was a door that led from the kitchen to the bar-room, where the bar with its array of bottles and decanters was set up across the southwest corner. On the left of the great kitchen fire-place was the door leading to the dining room. On the wide stone lintel over the great fire-place in the kitchen was this inscription, "William Conkey, June ye 31 A.D., 1776." Another stone lintel inscribed "William Conkey," but having no date, was over the fire-place in the bar-room.

The date was cut in the stone to mark the year that changes and improvements were made at the tavern. Silas S. Shores of Pelham has these lintels in use as thresholds in the basement of his house. The front door opened into a narrow hall from which a

narrow stairway wound up to the two chambers already mentioned; turning to the left on entering the front door led to the bar-room, and a turn to the right into the dining-room.

On the southeast corner of the main building swung the tavern sign, consisting of a board perhaps two feet in length by one and one-half feet in width; on one side was painted mounted horseman and on the reverse side was a horse held by a groom. This sign is in possession of Milo Abbott of Prescott, who also has the old clock that ticked off the time at the tavern. The furniture of the tavern was of the plainest kind, made for use rather than for show.

In the open space in front of the tavern Captain Shays drilled the men, who gathered at the headquarters, in the manual of arms. The wide casing on the big beam in the ceiling of the bar-room showed many a circular indentation answering in form to the muzzles of the muskets which the thirsty insurgents carried, and which they thrust against the smooth board overhead while impatiently waiting for their turn in front of the bar.

The cellar of the tavern was important because it was there that Landlord Conkey stored his large stock of liquors, as well as a good supply of cider. It was of good depth and the walls instead of being built perpendicular, inclined outward from the bottom. It was in this cool receptacle that the barrels of West India rum and casks of wine and brandy, orange and clove, were stored, and drawn from to replenish the bar. The cellar also furnished storage for a goodly supply of salt pork and beef as well as an ample supply of potatoes and garden vegetables. East of the house was the well with the long well-sweep from which was hung the pole and bucket for drawing the cool water. West of the house were located the barns and other out buildings usually needed upon a farm,

and further west towards the West Branch were the acres of mowing and cultivated lands belonging to Landlord Conkey's farm from which he filled his barns.

Landlord Conkey kept a good supply of assorted liquors in his cellar sufficient to draw the griefs of discouraged farmers and no doubt the men organizing the rebellion improved the opportunity when argument and discussion became dull and unsatisfying.

William Conkey, the original builder and landlord of the tavern was succeeded by his son William, who continued business at the old stand after his father died. Both father and son were prominent in town affairs for many years. The latter was known to everybody during the latter part of his life as "Uncle Billy" Conkey and he lived until 1841, and died in his 90th year. East and West Hills remain substantially as they were in 1786-87 and the great hollow lies between. The snow covers all in winter as it did at the time of the insurrection, though not as deeply as then, but is white and cold just the same. The men, armed and excited, who were marching over the hills and through the Hollow and gathered at the old tavern, --have all gone; all marched over into the silences eternal. The old tavern has disappeared, but we can, in a measure, bring back to mind the exciting scenes enacted within and about the old hostelry long years ago. The people who now live upon these two hills and in the great Hollow are at peace. And if not rich, are not so burdened and distressed by debt as those who gathered about the old tavern more than a century ago.

DR. HINDS' TAVERN.

Dr. Nehemiah Hinds was a noted landlord as well as physician and business man. His tavern was on the East hill and was first licensed in 1783. He continued as taverner until 1802.

Landlords Benoni Shurtleiff, Christopher Pattern, John Bruce, Harris hatch, and John Cole appear quite often on the town records, as town meetings were adjourned to the tavern of these landlords, and about in the order named. It should not be understood that these taverns were all in existence t the same time, but it may have been the same tavern stand with successive landlords. The tavern must have been near the old meeting house in order that an adjournment of fifteen minutes to the tavern could be made and business resumed in so short a time, and tavern must have been on the West Hill.

KINGMAN'S TAVERN

Martin Kingman was in the field as a popular landlord on the West Hill as easrly as 1820. The location of his tavern was on the site of the residence of Town Clerk J. W. Keith,perhaps the same building. Kingman was in the business until 1838 almost continuously. Calvin D. Eaton was the next landlord of this hostelry beginning in 1842, and the last license as innkeeper issued to him was for the year 1848. Mr. Eaton was a powerful landlord and the tavern was a noted place for gatherings of young peoplewho danced the time away until the small hours to the music of "Old" Fenton's fiddle.

COOK'S TAVERN

Ziba Cook's tavern was about half a mile south of the Methodist church on the road to Enfield. It was opened as a tavern in 1829, and the last license was issued in

1835. It was a popular resort during the few years it was opened to the public. At that time the large carriage factory of Knowles & Thayer at East Amherst was in full blast, employing perhaps 125 young men, and delegations of these workmen were often guests at Cook's tavern until late at night, and went home towards daybreak in a jolly mood which attested the good cheer dispensed at the tavern on the hillside.

RANDALL'S TAVERN

In 1837 another tavern was opened on the county road beyond Cook's tavern on the way to Enfield, and on the highest point of land before descending toward Enfield. Benjamin Randall was landlord and the daily line of stages from Northampton to Worcester or West Brookfield halted there morning and evening. The old tavern remains much the same as it appeared 50 years ago when the county road was used for passenger travel and for mails.

THE ORIENT HOUSE

William Newell, shoemaker, a native of the town, who had become quite a mineralogist by making a study in odd hours when business was dull, and who owned the tract afterwards known as the Orient Springs property, thought he detected mineral qualities in the water of springs that gushed forth in a ravine near Amethyst Brook, and analysis showed the presence of iron, sulphur and other mineral substances in solution. This was in 1853 and the water became quite celebrated locally, and many visitors came to drink the water, and some invalids came and boarded in the neighborhood to avail themselves of the benefit of continued use of the waters of the springs. The increasing

popularity of the waters led Mr. Newell to build a small house in the ravine on the north side of the brook for the better accommodation of transient visitors. A bowling alley and other attractions were added and in 1858 two brothers named Ballou from Rhode Island, purchased an interest and erected a three story building suing the smaller building already spoken of for an ell or wing to the larger structure. This was in 1858, but before the building was furnished it was destroyed by incendiary fire. The popularity of the waters continuing to increase, notwithstanding the misfortune attending the efforts to accommodate people who wished better accommodations, and in th spring of 1861, Dr. Sornborger of Northampton purchased twenty-five acres or more of land and commenced the erection of a summer hotel, 100 feet long and three stories high. The breaking out of the Rebellion that spring had a depressing effect upon such new undertakings, but it was rushed to completion and opened for business that season.

This building did not occupy the site of those burned, but was on an elevated plateau near the county highway, having a magnificent outlook toward the west and southwest, the foundation of the building being higher than the tower on Jonson Hall, one of the more prominent of the Amherst College buildings at Amherst. Dr. Sornborger was not successful as a manager of the property and it passed into other hands. One proprietor succeeded another with varying success, but with no satisfactory financial results. The last proprietor was Dr. Herman Heed, a well-educated physician, and pleasant gentleman who was in possession when the building accidentally took fire and was burned to the ground Feb. 23, 1881.

HOTEL PELHAM

In 1889 Theodore F. Cook began to remodel and enlarge the Lyman Jenks' house at Pelham center to fit it for a hotel, and in 1890, having completed the improvements, the house was opened to the public under the above name. The house is roomy and well kept and every season there are some who come up to the ancient hilltop to enjoy the pure air and sunshine, and to rest from the cares of business, as guests at Landlord Cook's Hotel Pelham.

OLD ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC.

STRAY CATTLE, ETC.

Early after the incorporation of the town the custom of recording the description of stray animals that had been “taken in damage” and otherwise began, and we find in the back part of the first book of records a long list of descriptions of stray animals from which some interesting selections are herewith submitted. The earliest entry is as follows:

“Oct ye 16 1747 Entered by Abraham Gibs ofg Quabin—A yearling Hefer white With Black Legs & black head & Neck--& a yearling Hefer Colord black with brown Ears & a Brown List on ye Back and some White on ye Belley--& a yearling Hefer Colored Ride With a Short tail with some White under her Blley.

March ye 7, 1748 Entered by Rob't King of Pelham—a black stear coming in two, with apice Cutt of ye Near Ear, letter W ye top of ye Near Horn.

Oct ye 19, 1748 Entered by John Hunter of Plehma two Hefers coming in three and a steer coming in three one of ye is Colored ride & ye othyer two befers is Ride with white Belley & Some White on ye tail ye steer is Colored Black with white spots tese befers his a Swallow tail Cutt of ye Right Ear.

Nov ye 5, 1757 Entered by David Cowden of Pelham a steer a yearling Past Colored a Peal Ride Cropt in ye Near Ear & a Slit in ye off Ear with White on His Belly and White on His Rump & white on his tale.

June 12, 1758 Entered by Robert Hamilton of Pelham—a darkish Bay Meere Supposed to be Eight past With S pon ye Near hind thigh. Both Hind feet with & a long Scratch of white Down Hir forehead a Neatrel troter. Also entered by Said Hamilton a Horse Colt Collerid a Dark With some White Hears on ye Middle of His forehead Neatral troter, Sorrel with a large Bleas in ye forehead Neatrel paser.

Taken up by me the subscriber one yoak of oxen supposed to be four years old Last Spring one of them is a dark Brown with a white Spot on his left thigh as big as half a dollar. Sum Little whight under his Belly the other a Brite Rid with sum little white under his Belly the owner may have them again by applying to me the Subscriber and proving property and paying Charges.
Pelham, July 10, 1799.”

NAHUM WEDGE

“ADVERTISEMENT

Broke into the inclosure of the Subscriber one two year old Stear about the twenty third of June last having no Artificial mark. Dark frown line Back with white and some other spots of white about his face and legs th3 owner is Desired to property Pay Charges and take him away.

David Harkness.

Pelham, July 25, 1798”

“Oct ye 19 1764 Taken up in Damige Present by Isaac Gray of Pelham a Black Roand Meer Colt Supposed to be three years old with White on Hir Hind feet & Some White on Hir forehead & a small Bell Hung with a Small strap.—Paser.

May the 15, 1771 Taken up in Damige present by John Clark of Pelham a Brown & White Cow Supposed to be about Six years old with a white face & a White Strike along Hir Back with a Pice Cut off Hir off Ear Gives No Milk.

August the 19, 1771 Taken in Damige Present by John McHertney of Pelhama Two White Meers one Supposed to be about ten years old, the other about nine; one a little gray a Bout the head. One Branded on the Near Buttock with the figer Eight—they bot trote & Pace—one of said Meers his abel on.

Taken up by the subscriber on the sixth instant light Dun Bell Abought Nine Months old the owner is desired to prove property pay charges and take him away.

JOHN HARKNESS.

Pelham, Nov. 8., 1789”

Broke into the inclasure of me the Subscriber one year old heffer on the 16th day of July 1805 a pale Rid with no Artificial Marks on hir the owner is Desired to prove property Pay Charges and take hir away.

JOHN FELTON.

Pelham July 21st 1805.”

“MARKS FOR CREATURES.”

“Mr. Seth Edisons Mark is a swallow Tail Cut off the Near Ear and a slit in the off Ear.”

“May 9, 1794 Mr. Jonathon Grays Mark for Sheep is a crop off the Near Ear.”

“May 9, 1794 Mr. Eliot Grays Mark for Sheep is a swallow Tail out of Both ears.

“Dec. 29, 1796 The Reverend Mathias Cazier puts on his hogs and Sheep a hole in each ear and a half penny cut out the lower side of the ear.”

“June 31, 1802 Mr. Levi Crawfords mark for sheep is a crop off the Near Ear.”

“June 3, 1802 Thomas Conkeys mark for sheep is ac rop off the off ear and a slit in the Near Ear.”

“Aug. 9, 1809 Nathan Jilsons Mark for Sheep is half Penny on the upper side of the Left Ear and a half penny on the Wright Ear the under side.

“May 31, 1813 Riley Jilsons Mark for Sheep is a slit in the right ear.”

“Nathan Jilson Jun* Mark for Sheep is a half penny on the upper side of the right Ear.”

Of course there were others.

POSTING OF WARRANTS FOR TOWN MEETINGS AND
MANNER OF MAKING RETURN ON WARRANTS.

Sometimes the warrants were given to two constables and they notified the voters personally. Then the returns were made by each officer separately, one constable endorsing upon the warrant as follows:

“By varture of the within warrant I have warned ye Inhabitants of Pelham from the Cross Road East, Qualified to vote in town affairs to Assemble & meet at time & place within mentioned.”

The other officer would make the same return except that he would affirm that he had warned the “Inhabitons” west of the cross road; which was the road running north and south and crossing the Middle Range road at the center of the town. Later the two constables would affirm that they had together warned the inhabitants east and west of the cross road. In 1770, meeting were called by notification posted up by a constable, (place of posting not stated). In 1771 James Hunter, constable, made return that he had notified the qualified voters to meet at time and place “By posting up a Notification on the tree at the Meeting House.” Nathaniel Gray, constable in 1772 made a return stating that he hadd “Posted a copy of said warrant on the tree Some Rods Southwest from the Meeting house.” Another constable posted a copy of his warrant upon “The Chestnut tree near the Meeting house.” In 1782 Constable Andrew Abercrombie and Abraham Livermore made the following return: “The Directions of the within Warrant heath been Duly observed to t he Within Described Persons Residing East & West of the Cross Road.” John Conkey, constable, notified and warned the freeholders and others in 1785 by “setting up an advertisement on the Meeting House east of the South door.” The same constable made the return on another warrant the same year in these words, “By

virtue of the within warrant I have observed the Directions of the Same.” Andrew Abercrombie made return of his official act in posting a warrant for a meeting, Nov. 26, 1787 as follows:

“By Vartue of the within Warrant I have Set up Advertisements on the old and New Meeting houses (referring to the West and East parish meeting houses) Mentioning the Within articles and Giving Notices Said time and place.”

The same constable made this return on warrant for meeting Feb. 15, 1788:

“By Vartue of the within Warrant I have Warned Some and Endeavored that the Rest should have Notice.”

Benoni Shurtleiff madfe a concise return while he was in office, of which the following is a specimen:

“Hampshire ss. By this warrant I have Endeavoured to warn the West parish as the Law Directs.”

His brother officer’s style was equally direct and pointed:

“Hampshire ss. By Vartue of the within warrant I have Warned Second Parish as the Law Directs.
Pelham, June 4, 1790.”

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Constable

James Thompson was a popular constable and spread upon the back of the warrants a handsomely turned notice of is official action. A specimen of his style follows:

“By vartue of a Warrant committed to me from the selectmen of Pelham I have Warned and given Notice to the freeholders and other Inhabitance of s^d Town by satting up a Notification on Each Parish Meeting House to meet at time and place within Mentioned. May 4th, 1789.

JAMES THOMSPON, Constable.

STORIES—PLEASANT, AND OTHERWISE.

DR REX VS HYDE

Not long after the settlement of Pelham a very worthy family bearing the surname Hyde settled in the Hollow. Among the children was one named Samuel. He was probably full of fun and up to allsorts of mischief as a boy and young man, playing his tricks without thought of the consequences, and was shrewd enough to escape detention for the most part, but there came a time when he was so unfortunate as to get caught. John Worthington, Esq., attorney for ye Lord ye King was appealed to and Samuel was brought up with a round turn, placed under arrest and brought into court at Northampton to answer for his misconduct. The charges against him are explained by the court records which follows:

“Dr. Rex vs Hyde 1765. John Worthington Esq attorney for ye Lord ye King in this behalf comes here and gives this Court to understand and be informed that Samuel Hyde of Pelham in ye county of Hampshire yeoman in the night next following the third Day of May Instant did with force and arms privately and secretly and in the night time set up and erect a large Log against one of ye Doors of ye Dwelling house of William Ferguson of said Pelham yeoman and did also set up and erect a aforesaid a large Hogg Trough against another of ye Doors of said House all with intent to obstruct and hinder ye passage through ye Doors of aforesaid and also that s^d Hyde on ye same Night did with force and arms and Secretly as aforesaid take six shirts ye Goods and chattels of ye Said William Conkey from a fence near his house aforesaid where they were then hanging and ye same shirts ye said Hyde did then and there in ye Manner aforesaid throw on ye Ground or rowl in the Dirt so that said Shirts were thereby much Damnified. Also that said Hyde did then and there in like manner break and destroy fourteen Goose Eggs the proper goods and chattels of said William then being in said William’s barn and also then and there with like force and Secrecy throw own twenty rods of fence partly surrounding one Close of William Conkey of said Pelham yeoman, and did then and there take off from ye hinges with force and arms and secretly as aforesaid one barn door from ye barn of William Conkey of said Pelham yeoman, and ye same Door up under water in a pond there and heaped stones on ye same to keep it Sunken and Secreted under ye water, all which is against Law and Contrary to ye peace of ye said Lord ye King his Crown and dignity. The said attorney of ye Lord ye King appears and ye said Samuel

being held comes here and being set to ye Bar and put to plead says he will not Contend with ye King. It is therefore considered by the Court now here that ye said Samuel for his said offence shall pay a fine of two shillings to ye King &c and Costs of prosecution taxed at two Pounds five shillings and four pence two farthings—Standing Committed &c.”

There is no evidence that Samuel Hyde was ever complained of afterwards for any such malicious mischief, and there is evidence that he became a much respected citizen and deacon of the Scotch Presbyterian church; was often chosen moderator of town meetings, and was an able town officer. He lived, during the latter part of his life, in the southwest corner of the town of Pelham on the farm now occupied by Hiram Ballou. The highway leading from his house north to the Harkness or Jewett farm was laid out Sept. 13, 1792 and “was built by the town for the accommodation and at the request of Dea. Samuel Hyde;” which gives evidence of the influence he had in town affairs, being sufficient to cause the selectmen to lay out a highway in place of a cart path, for the good deacon’s use.

Dea. Samuel Hyde has been lying at rest for more than eighty-eight years and the inscription on the stone that marks his grave in the west Burying Ground informs the visitor that he departed this life in the year 1810 at the age of 67.. The Hyde family has no representatives in Pelham at present, but there are descendants of Samuel Hyde in Amherst who retain all the good qualities of their ancestry.

REV. ROBERT ABERCROMBIE AND THE CHURCH COMMITTEE.

Among the stories that have come down from the time of the pastorate of Mr. Abercrombie over the Scotch Presbyterian church at Pelham, is one which could hardly happen now at the close of the Nineteenth Century, but something might have happened

away back in the middle of the Eighteenth century that has been used as a frame work which in the years since has been padded up until it is an enjoyable story that in substantially its present form has been repeated for many years. The Scotch people of Pelham were not total abstainers from spirituous liquors; --total abstinence was unknown; -there were no societies or individuals advocating total abstinence or even the temperate use of intoxicants. While these men were not restrained by temperance reformers they did not often indulge to excess; they were men of strong wills, and their religious faith and training acted as an additional restraint in the social use of strong drink so prevalent among all classes at that time. If the pastor called upon members of his church it was considered of the utmost importance to set before him something to drink, and as good as the house afforded; and when a member of the church or parish called on the minister he did not fail in the social requirements of the time, and flip or toddy was set before his callers promptly, and both partook of the steaming drinks without thought of wrong doing or of the possibility of harm coming to themselves, or of a bad example being set for others. Weddings without wine or other enjoyable social beverage were the exception. The raising of a bridge over the West Branch, of a house, or the frame of a barn without flip or toddy was thought impossible. The first meeting house was raised, but not without a cost of “£11—05s—00 paid to John Crawford for Rum to the Meeting house raising.”

While the social events of the times required the presentation of liquors, and all men drank more or less, excessive drinking was not common and the men who became habitual drunkards were but a small percentage of the whole. It was under such circumstances and conditions of the social life of the town and country that the occurrence we are to relate took place and we wish them kept in mind while reading the

oft repeated story of Rev. Robert Abercrombie and the church committee. Mr. Abercrombie had many warm friends among the people of his church and parish as well as some not so friendly, and it is fair to presume that some of his church, not any more friendly than they ought to be, started the charge that the pastor was indulging in strong drink much more than the social customs of the times required or allowed; and the charge became so oft repeated that the church as a body was obliged to notice it in justice to themselves, and a church meeting was duly called to consider the grave charge that was in circulation against the pastor. After due deliberation and discussion it was deemed best to choose a committee of three members of the church to wait upon the pastor and in a Christian spirit and temper advise him of the grave charge that had been brought to the attention of the church and in the same kindly spirit to remonstrate with him upon the gravity of the charge, and if by any possibility there had been any basis for the alleged over indulgence they were instructed to point out the necessity for the exercise of becoming restraint upon himself in future, so that no repetition of the alleged offense might occur. After having attended to the duty to which they were chosen they were to report at the next regular church meeting. Mr. Abercrombie, though not present at the meeting at which the committee were chosen, was advised of the action taken, and was also advised of the evening on which the committee proposed to discharge the duty laid upon them by calling upon the pastor in their official capacity.

Pastor Abercrombie went home and told his wife he was expecting visitors on such a night, and on their arrival he directed her to follow the usual practice on such occasions; i.e., to mix the flip or toddy, which his visitors would expect to have served; the first time with a small quantity of spirit and a goodly quantity of water. After a

reasonable time she was to mix another round of flip, with less water and more sprit than was used the first time, and if the visit was extended considerably a third round of flip was to be prepared using little if any water, but composed almost entirely of rum,

The committee arrived on their mission as Pastor Abercrombie had been informed, and as the custom of the time demanded, the flip was brought in and the committee did not feel it wrong to accept the proffered beverage. The committee and the pastor passed the time in pleasant conversation for sometime, --the committee not finding it quite so easy a matter to broach the business which they had been entrusted with as they expected; but finally mustered up courage to make known their business after the second round of flip, with more rum and less water than the first, had lossened their tongues.

Pastor Abercrombie much to their surprise did not take offence, but on the contrary expressed sorrow that he should have given cause for such action by the church; --if there had been real cause for the charge he expressed himself as thankful for the kindly and Christian spirit manifested by the committee in the discharge of the duty laid upon them, and hoped that the report of the committee to the church would be made in the same spirit of Christian charity and kindliness.

The committee having discharged their whole official duty laid aside the dignity and reserve as well as all thought of having come with a serious charge against their pastor, and proceeded to enjoy the occasion as an exceedingly pleasant social call.

It was quite late in the evening when the last round of flip, composed wholly of rum and a generous quantity of it, was brought in, and the committee drank freely thereof.

It was not long before the enjoyment of the occasion has do completely overcome the committee that they were unable to go to their homes, and were lying prone upon the floor.

Daylight was showing beyond the line of Pelham East hill when two of them began pulling themselves together to make a start for home, and the drenched nature of the third member of the committee "lay in swinish sleep" until the next forenoon, and some affirm until the afternoon of the day following their official call upon the Parson, before he had sufficient command of himself to set out for his home.

Unlike many other committees who make up reports to lay before the body that gave authority to investigate and report at some future occasion, this committee did not allow the public to learn of what happened at the Parson's on that eventful night, nor what their report was to be at the next regular meeting of the church. For obvious reasons the committee maintained a most determined silence while they awaited the arrival of the time for the stated church meeting.

The days went by one by one until the much dreaded occasion came at which the report of their official visit must be made. The day for the meeting came at last. After some informal matters of business had been disposed of, the committee who were chosen to wait upon Pastor Abercrombie to remonstrate with him for over indulgence on social occasions were called upon for a report.

The spokesman arose to discharge a very unpleasant duty, not so much on account of Pastor Abercrombie as on that of the committee. The report was very brief, and expressed in language which did not lead to discussion or inquiry, as follows:

"The committee chosen at the last church meeting to call upon our pastor, have attended to their duty and desire to report, --*That he gave us Christian satisfaction.*"

REV. DR. PARSONS OF AMHERST, AND THE PEOPLE OF PELHAM

The Pelham people were much interested in establishing a college at Amherst, and considerable building material was contributed for the first college building by Pelham people, and Adam Johnson left \$4,000 to erect Johnson Hall.

After the college was once established there was for many years a systematic and persistent recourse to begging for the institution. Ministers journeyed from church to church to present the needs of Amherst college. A collection followed such sermons in all cases, and much money was obtained in that way. Not only did these solicitors go out to some distance, but they did not forget to present the needs of Amherst college to the churches of ear by towns. Pelham did not escape from these importunate calls for funds from regular authorized collectors, nor was all the funds raised by regular solicitors. It was considered a proper thing for any minister to ask for a collection for Amherst college wherever he might be called upon to preach.

One Sunday Rev. Dr. Parsons preached at Pelham, and at the close of his sermon asked for a collection for Amherst college. The boxes were duly passed around the old meeting house, but came back as empty as they started on the tour of the pews.

The Doctor returned to Amherst and on Monday called upon Aunt Rene Cowles, one of his friends, and during his call told Aunt Rene of his experience in Pelham the day previous. "Just think of it," said he, "I went to Pelham to preach yesterday, and at the close of the afternoon sermon I asked for a collection for Amherst college, and if you can believe it not one cent did the collectors get." "Is it possible?" exclaimed Aunt Rene. "Yes," said the Doctor, "didn't get a cent, but you can't guess what hymn I gave out to be sung after I learned that not a cent had been contributed." "Of course not," said Aunt

Rene, "but what was it?" "Well," said the Doctor, "I gave out the one of Doctor Watts' beginning: 'Oh! What a wretched land is this, that gives us no supplies.'" "Did they sing it?" inquired Aunt Rene. "Yes they did and with a will" replied Dr. Parsons.

Doubtless the people of Pelham, with other towns, and been called upon for contributions for the college until it had become monotonous, and withheld money for that reason, and it would not be surprising if they caught on the grim humor of Parsons Parsons in the selection of the closing hymn and sang with a will in appreciation of the Doctor's dry thrust at them for not contributing money for Amherst college at his suggestion.

FARMER HARKNESS AND THE TRAVELLER

John and William Harkness, brothers, were owners of large farms situated along the county road leading from Amherst through Pelham. Their lands extended from the west line of Pelham three-quarter of a mile or more east and a part of the way on both sides of the highway, and included the lands on the north side of the road where the Orient House stood. The houses they lived in are still standing. John lived in the house now occupied by Joseph R. Powell, and William in the house owned by Mrs. Annette Morgan. They were successful farmers and their pastures extended to the west line of the town, and the stone bridge on the town way south of J. R. Anderson's was built for a cattle pass through which and under the highway their cattle might reach the pastures further west. East of the house John lived in and on the same side of the way are gravelly knolls that were often plowed and sowed to winter rye in the fall for harvesting next season.

Once when John Harkness was plowing these knolls and had halted his cattle to rest near the highway, a gentleman driving a pair of horses attached to a nice carriage, containing himself and family was slowly climbing the hills toward Pelham center, and seeing the farmer resting his team of cattle near by, stopped his fine turnout and bidding the farmer good morning, received the usual salutation in return, "I wish to ask you one question," said the gentleman. "What is it?" returned the plowman. "What will such land as you are plowing bear, is what I desire to know." Just then the farmer gave the word for the cattle to go forward and as he resumed the plow handles replied, "It will bear manure, sir."

Quite satisfied of the truthfulness of the farmer's answer the gentleman resumed his journey up the hills towards Pelham.

CRIMES

Not many crimes of a serious nature have been committed in Pelham since its incorporation. In 1859 Prince Dwelly lost his life at the hands of some drunken companions at the house of Seth Davis on the Second Range Road. Charles Wiley of Amherst, a companion of Davis at the time, was arrested plead guilty to manslaughter and was given eighteen months in the House of Correction at Northampton. Davis was arrested for assault upon Dwelly, plead guilty and was given five months in the House of Correction, after testifying for the state against Wiley.

On the 11th of April 1881, a dance was held at a building near the center of town, sometimes used as a cider mill. At this dances Charles A. Briggs, 21, and Charles Stetson, 23, were present. There had been trouble between the two before this meeting,

caused by jealousy, and both went outside the building. Stetson, being near the edge of the highway, when after a few words Briggs drew a revolver and fired three shots at Stetson which struck him in the head, killing him almost instantly. Briggs was arrested and tried for the crime and sentenced to state prison for life, but was pardoned after about ten years. Stetson and Briggs were not natives of Pelham but were living in or near the town temporarily.

On the 26th of December, 1882, there was a great crime committed at the house of Horatio marsh in the south part of the town on the farm known as the Ellison Dodge place, by marion Montgomery. Who shot his four years old son in the forehead killing im instantly; the shot was in response to the child's request, --"Kiss me papa." The boy was standing on a hand-sled in the kitchen, one that his father had brought as a Christmas present. After killing the boy, Montgomery stepped into the sitting-room and pointed his pistol at the head of his daughter six or seven years of age, but it missed fire and the child ran. Firing again Montgomery shot the girl in the cheek, the ball passing out on the side of the neck without making a serious wound. Montgomery's wife was the daughter of Mr. Marsh and was not living with her husband. He had come to spend Christmas, and the day of the murder, when about to leave asked his wife if she would live with him again; to this she replied in the negative. He then asked if he could have the children, and received the same answer. Then the killing occurred. Mr. Marsh heard the firing and rushing into the house grappleld with the murderer, threw him on the floor, face downward, and held him until cords were brought with which Montgomery was bound and taken to the jail at Northampton. He was tried and sent to prison for life, but received

a pardon after a few years. Montgomery was not a resident of Pelham, and his family had resided in town but a short time.

SKETCH OF HENRY PELHAM

(1697-1754.)

FROM MEMOIRS OF HENRY PELHAM, BY WILLIAM COXE, VOL. II, 301-304.

“Towards him, even political rivalry seems scarcely to have engendered either prejudice or animosity; and in the estimate of the principles, by which he was guided, the ends which he pursued, and the means which he employed, both his opponents and friends, with little exception, cordially agree.

His knowledge was rather useful than extensive; his understanding more solid than brilliant. His abilities did not burst forth with that splendor which has distinguished the opening career of many statesmen, but were gradually developed by experience and practice, and seemed to grow equal to the occasions, by which they were called into action. He was slow and cautious in deciding, yet firm and persevering, when his resolution was once formed; though he knew the proper time and occasion, to bend to popular prejudice, or public opinion. Instead of declining under the weight of years, his energies continued to increase; and, at no period did he better assume the spirit and authority of a great minister, than in that which immediately preceded his dissolution.

His temper was naturally equable and conciliatory; and his disposition candid and unassuming. He was cautious in raising expectations, but faithful in the performance of his promises. These qualities, instead of being deteriorated by the exercise of power, distinguished to the latest period, the minister as well as the man; and to them he owed more friends, and a stronger attachment, than the most profound and refined art could have acquired. Even his opponenets felt the value of such merits; and however disposed

to question the propriety of his measures, they seldom failed to render justice to his sincerity, disinterestedness, and integrity. Indeed, a better proof cannot be given, of the suavity of his manners, and the impression produced by his manliness and candor, than the treatment he experienced in his intercourse with the sovereign. Notwithstanding the irritability of temper, and the pertinacity of opinion, which marked the character of George II, his Majesty invariably behaved towards Mr. Pelham with kindness and attention; always listened to his advice with complacency; and, in numerous cases, yielded to his representations, though frequently exposed to his favorite plans of continental policy. When he was informed of his death, he testified his regret by the exclamation, 'Now I shall have no more peace!'

In manner, Mr. Pelham united dignity with ease. Though naturally grave, yet no one was more free from affected reserve or repulsive austerity; and, in his social hours, no one could more gracefully unbend, and mingle in the playfulness of conversation.

In his public character, he was uniformly moderate and disinterested; and, it is mentioned to his honor, by almost the only author who has treated him with obloquy, that he lived without abusing his power, and died poor. In a word, Mr. Pelham may be ranked among the few ministers who enjoyed at once the esteem of the sovereign, the confidence of the parliament, the respect of opposition, and the love of the people.

Without the natural gifts of a great orator, he always spoke with good sense and effect; and his speeches, though rarely marked with bursts of eloquence, or decorated with rhetorical graces, were remarkable for judgment and perspicuity. Though occasionally too colloquial and redundant, they were delivered with such candor and simplicity, as to convince his hearers that they directly conveyed the real sentiments of

his heart; and were rendered still more effective, by the general conviction which prevailed of his honesty, economy, and patriotism.

By his well known attachment to true liberty, and the respect he ever preserved for the principles of the constitution, he dispelled all suspicions of the slightest intention to extend the royal prerogative beyond its due bounds, or in the least degree to encroach upon the rights of the people. He may indeed be classified among those sound patriots, whom Mr. Burke distinguishes by the name of the Old Whigs, who were equally free from faction on the one hand, and servility on the other.

In the development of his financial arrangements, he is said to have proved himself a worthy pupil of Sir Robert Walpole; and, in many instances, is admitted to have been scarcely inferior to his able master. As a minister, however, he was certainly deficient in a knowledge of the general system of European policy. Indeed, he seems to have limited his cares and ambitions to his own peculiar province, the finances and domestic economy of the country; and when he did venture to interfere with the management of foreign affairs, it was rather from necessity than inclination. From this principle, he felt all the sensibility of a financier, with regard to the state of public credit; and gave cause for the complaints of his colleagues, that he sometimes manifested too much despondency and alarm in the House of Commons. Sometimes, also, like Sir Robert Walpole, he was carried by his love of peace to too great an extent of concession. As the head of the financial department, he was a frugal steward of the public money; and having experienced the difficulties and embarrassments attending protracted and unsuccessful hostilities, he was led to consider even a doubtful peace as preferable to the

most successful war; and to think no sacrifice too great for the preservation of national tranquility.

To the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, of the country, he was vigilantly attentive; and not only rose superior to the narrow principles of preceding times, but suggested or promoted a greater number of useful and practical regulations, than any other individual, in a similar period of time, since the Revolution.

The great feature of his administration, is the reduction of the interest on the national debt, and the consolidation of the public funds. This important operation was not only accomplished with peculiar prudence, but with equal justice towards the public and the fundholder; and no better proof can be adduced of its merits and effects, than the ready acquiescence with which it was attended, and the general satisfaction since expressed in its favor.

In his private life, Mr. Pelham was equally moral and regular. He had, as Lord Chesterfield observes, many domestic virtues, and no vices. He was a tender husband an indulgent father, and a kind master; and though peculiarly liberal in his religious opinions, he was a zealous member of the church of England.