

## CHAPTER XIV.

WAR OF 1812.

1811—1815.

At the annual meeting in 1811 the town voted its consent "that Thomas Thompson and Thomas Thompson, junior, with their Farm now lying in Swanzey may be annexed to this Town." That farm lay on the hill southeast of South Keene, since known as the "Batcheller farm."

In 1759, as already stated, Keene granted to certain persons the right to divert the waters of the East branch into the South branch for the purpose of creating a water-power at what has since been known as Swanzey Factory village. Saw and grist mills had been operated there until 1809, when Dr. Daniel Adams bought the property for the Swanzey Factory Company, then about organizing. In June, 1810, that company was incorporated, with a capital of \$40,000, for the purpose of "spinning cotton and woolen yarn or weaving the same into cloth." The incorporators were Samuel Dinsmoor, Aquilla Ramsdell, Josiah Woodward (of Roxbury), William C. Belding, John Thompson and their associates. John Elliot and Daniel D. Hatch were among the directors. In January, 1811, the corporation bought the mills and privilege and soon began making cotton yarn. The saw and grist mills and a blacksmith's shop were also operated by the company. Albe Cady was clerk, John G. Bond, treasurer, and most of the stockholders were Keene men. Power looms had not then come into use, and the yarn was taken by families—usually through merchants who held stock in the company—and woven by hand. Years afterwards Appleton & Elliot and John Elliot & Co. did a large business of that kind, and nearly all the traders in town dealt more or less in that way. Isaac Parker and his firm of Parker & Hough were largely interested. Parker had a shop at the mills for



HOUSE OF THOMAS THOMPSON. BUILT 1800.

House of Thomas Thompson. Built 1800.

making cotton and woolen machinery, in which he was also largely interested. In 1813, his shop, containing finished and unfinished machinery, and some of the other buildings were burned—the loss of about \$3,000 falling chiefly on Capt. Parker.

After this a mill was built and furnished with machinery for dressing the yarn and weaving it into cloth; and for many years Swanzey Factory cotton was sold at the stores in Keene and elsewhere and was a favorite article of its kind.<sup>1</sup>

Nathan Blake, one of the first settlers of the town, the story of whose capture by the Indians has been told, died on the 4th of August, 1811, aged ninety-nine years and five months.

The state of affairs between the United States and England was rapidly approaching war. The outrageous conduct of British naval officers in impressing American seamen, capturing and confiscating our merchant vessels and annoying and insulting Americans in various ways, had become so exasperating and humiliating that it could be borne no longer. Congress was called together in November, 1811; the regular army was increased to 35,000 men; and the president was authorized to raise volunteers, to strengthen the navy and to borrow money.

While congress was still in session, our army under Gen. Harrison, sent into the Indian territory simply to negotiate and preserve peace, was treacherously attacked by the Indians at Tippecanoe and narrowly escaped defeat; but turned the battle into a decisive victory.<sup>2</sup> It was generally believed—and proof was not wanting—that the Indians were instigated to hostilities by the British. War was soon afterwards declared in spite of a somewhat formidable opposition to that measure both in congress and among the people.

<sup>1</sup>In 1848 the mill was burned. The next year the remaining property of the corporation—the water privilege, saw and grist mills, two dwelling houses and a shop—was sold to Abel Bowers of Leominster, Mass., and the ownership of that property passed out of the hands of Keene parties. The corporation at that time consisted of John Wood, A. & T. Hall, Levi Willard, Samuel Dinsmoor, Aaron Appleton, John Elliot, Samuel Wood, Eliphalet Briggs, Samuel Cooper and Salma Hale. Mr. Bowers went into the manufacture of combs, and sold the saw and grist mills to Daniel Thompson and Elbridge G. Whitcomb of Keene.

<sup>2</sup>The Fourth U. S. Infantry, in which were several Keene and other Cheshire county men, was in Harrison's command under Lt. Col. James Miller.

In May, 1812, New Hampshire was called upon for 3,500 men. Volunteers responded promptly and the quota was soon organized. At the same time enlistments were made into the regular army.

The following obituary appeared in the Sentinel in 1812: "Died, May 5th in the U. S. service at Vincennes, Indiana Territory, Josiah Willard, son of Lockhart Willard, Esq., of this town, who for his gallant behaviour in the late action near the Prophets town, highly merited the approbation of his officers and country, aged 28." He was a son of Lockhart and Salome (Reed) Willard, born in Keene, Jan. 31, 1784. His mother was a daughter of Gen. James Reed.

Keene was well represented in the militia. Samuel Dinsmoor was quartermaster general of the state, with the rank of brigadier general, and his fine executive ability and earnest support of the administration were of great advantage in preparing the troops for the field. Wm. M. Bond, late captain of the Ashuelot Cavalry, was major of the Second battalion, Twentieth regiment, and Capt. Aaron Hall, Jr., had been succeeded in the command of the Keene Light Infantry by Capt. Horace Wells and he by Capt. Isaac Parker.

Shubael Butterfield dissolved his partnership in business with John Elliot and accepted an appointment as lieutenant in the Fourth United States Infantry, James Wells, the latter, son of Thomas Wells, was appointed lieutenant in the Eleventh United States Infantry, and both opened recruiting offices at Benoni Shirliff's tavern in Keene. Apparently no rolls of those enlistments have been preserved, but 397 men of New Hampshire's quota enlisted in the Eleventh regiment, many of them from Cheshire county, and a smaller number enlisted in the Fourth. Wells was lieutenant in Capt. Joseph Griswold's company, and after the consolidation of the Eleventh and Twenty-first regiments he was first lieutenant in the company of Capt. Richard Burns. Henry S., son of Judge Daniel Newcomb, enlisted in the regular army, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. The militia was not called out, except two companies of infantry and one of artillery sent to Portsmouth,

reinforced in July by a larger detachment. None from this part of the state was sent in 1812. The pay of the United States soldier at that time was \$5.00 per month, afterwards increased to \$8.00.

A large majority of the people of Keene and of Cheshire county were opposed to the embargo policy, and to the measures of the administration incident to the war. The Federalists complained bitterly of mismanagement, of the burdensome taxes and the accumulating debts. The report of Hull's surrender and other disasters added to the depression and intensified the opposition to the course of the government.

At the annual election in March, 1813, Keene cast 253 votes for John Taylor Gilman, the Federal candidate for governor, to forty-five for William Plumer, the administration candidate. In Cheshire county the vote was 3,622 to 2,083. At the national election in November the vote was still stronger against the administration candidates, Keene casting 272 votes in opposition, to thirty-nine in favor. Cheshire county stood 4,431 to 2,761.

Previous to this change in political sentiment, in 1810, Samuel Dinsmoor had been elected to congress by the Democrats. Being well known as an honorable, high-minded man and popular generally, he was reelected in 1812, notwithstanding the strong majority of the opposition in Keene and Cheshire county.

There was much distress and irritation. All pleasure carriages were taxed from \$2.00 to \$20.00 each, according to value; salt twenty cents per bushel of fifty-six pounds; and many articles were similarly burdened. The financial depression was serious and widespread, causing disastrous failures among merchants and business men and embarrassment to the banks. Among those to suffer in that way was the Cheshire bank of Keene, which was compelled to close its doors for a short time. Estimates were published of the cost of the war in direct taxes for the year to follow, 1814. That for Keene was put down at \$9,879; Alstead, \$10,164; Chesterfield, \$11,034; Walpole, \$11,364; Westmoreland, \$11,622; showing that in valuation at that time Keene stood below the four towns named, while

Fitzwilliam, Rindge, Richmond and Winchester stood nearly as high.

The non-importation laws encouraged smuggling, and there was demoralization and incipient sedition—so much so that law-abiding people were roused to stem that tide which they feared might undermine our institutions and overthrow our government.

Among the organizations for reform was the Washington Benevolent Society for the encouragement of patriotism and benevolence, extending throughout the country, particularly through New England. The national society had been organized in New York city on the 12th of July, 1808, with branches extending to states, counties and towns. There was a very active branch in Cheshire county, and a sub-branch in nearly every town. The Keene society was formed in February, 1812, and was composed of the leading people of the town, with Albe Cady secretary until he became secretary of state in 1814. It was active and vigorous, and continued for several years. To each member upon joining was given a small volume, 3x5 inches, half an inch thick, containing a portrait of Washington, a copy of his farewell address and of the constitution of the United States. Some of those curious little volumes are still in existence. The county society celebrated the 4th of July in 1812, at Walpole, in a very elaborate manner. A large procession of members marched through the streets with banners and a band of music, preceded by seventy young ladies in white, led by Miss Hayes, preceptress of the academy, listened to an oration and then sat down to a dinner on the common, which closed with toasts and speeches. Col. Carter of Marlboro, Col. Fisk of Chesterfield, Major Bond of Keene and other military officers were the marshals. On the same day Daniel Webster delivered an oration before the society at Portsmouth. The next year there was a similar celebration of Independence Day by the society in Keene. There was an oration by Phineas Cooke and a dinner in a bower in front of the courthouse. The procession marched from Fish's tavern (formerly Pierce's) under the marshalship of Dr. Daniel Adams, assisted by Capt. Isaac Parker and others.

The influence of those societies, with their patriotic meetings and Fourth of July celebrations, aroused the loyalty and stimulated the martial spirit of the people in spite of the political opposition to the measures of the administration. That martial spirit brought about a muster here in September, 1813, of the Sixth, Twelfth, Twentieth and Twenty-eighth regiments of the Fifth brigade, numbering about 3,000 men, reviewed by Brig. Gen. Hastings. The field was the plain above Sand hill, one mile west of the Square, on which there were no buildings at that time. Besides the infantry of the line, each regiment had two companies of cavalry, two of light infantry and one of artillery—twenty companies in full uniform. In the afternoon all marched through the streets of the village and performed various evolutions, with firing. The day was fine and the warlike spectacle was enjoyed by thousands of people.

The appetite for such displays had been whetted by what took place a few weeks previous. The government collected a force of 5,000 men at Burlington, Vt., under Gen. Hampton, with a view to an advance on Montreal. About the 20th of June, Col. John Darrington marched through Keene with the Fourth United States Infantry to join that force. He encamped his regiment on the north side of Fisher brook, east side of the turnpike, a little more than a mile north of the Square; and it remained there several days and attracted much attention. A tavern was kept by the "Widow Leonard" on the opposite side of the turnpike, since known as the Kate Tyler place. Two of the men died in that camp, Ebenezer Prescott and Leonard Jenkins, both from Maine, and were buried near the camp. Lieut. Butterfield, and the men enlisted by him from Keene and other towns, belonged to that regiment, but the rolls have not been preserved and it is impossible to designate them.

Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie in September, 1813, and other successes, served to stimulate the patriotism and martial spirit of the people. In February, 1814, a large number of carpenters passed through Keene on their way to Lake Champlain, to build the vessels with which McDonough won his victory on those waters.

During the summer of 1814, British war vessels lay off the New Hampshire coast, and captured and burned many coasting vessels; and the admiral declared the whole eastern coast in a state of blockade. There was great alarm at Portsmouth and other New England ports, and the excitement spread throughout the states.

In August, a British squadron sailed up Chesapeake bay and landed a force of 5,000 troops, which advanced on Washington, burned the public buildings and many of the government archives, and withdrew unmolested. That dastardly act of the British and the still more dastardly cowardice of the Maryland and Virginia militia under Gen. Winder, who permitted it, roused the people in this part of the country, brought the administration hosts of friends and caused thousands to rally to the defence of the nation.

In New Hampshire, Gov. Gilman, "yielding to the demands of the people," ordered detachments from twenty regiments of militia to march immediately to the defence of Portsmouth. Two days later he ordered the whole militia force of the state, infantry, cavalry and artillery, "to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning;" and directed seventeen companies from the regiments on the eastern border of the state to march at once to Portsmouth. The orders were obeyed with alacrity, whole companies volunteering where only detachments were called for. The Keene Light Infantry, Capt. Isaac Parker, and the Ashuelot Cavalry, Capt. Justus Perry, offered their services and stood ready to march with full ranks. Companies of volunteers from those who were exempt by law were formed in many of the towns, under experienced officers, and offered their services for the defence of the state.

At Portsmouth, the troops were organized into a brigade under Brig. Gen. John Montgomery of Haverhill, consisting of five regiments and one battalion of infantry, and one battalion of artillery. Lt. Col. Nat. Fisk of Westmoreland commanded the First regiment, in which were the companies of Capt. Nathan Glidden of Unity, and Capt. Oliver Warren (residence not given). Capt. Glidden's company was composed chiefly of Cheshire county men, and in



Capt. Warren's company were Samuel C. Thayer, sergeant, and Daniel A. Carpenter, Justus Chapin, John Foster, Edmund C. Mason, Shubael Plympton, Henry Wheeler<sup>1</sup> and Amos Wood, privates, on the roll as from Keene, and Daniel Allen<sup>2</sup> of Surry—all enlisted for three months.

Lt. Col. John Steele, of Peterboro, commanded the Second regiment, with John H. Fuller, afterwards a prominent citizen of Keene, adjutant. Capt. James M. Warner of Acworth, commanded one of the companies, composed almost wholly of Cheshire county men. Among them were Josiah Colony, Jehiel Day, Zebadiah "Keys," George Metcalf, Isaac Miller, Jr., and Asa Wares, Jr., from Keene.<sup>3</sup> About fifty men went from the Twentieth regiment at this time, the detachment assembling at Keene and starting for Portsmouth on the 17th of September, 1814. Every man was given a dinner and had his canteen filled. Some of the towns sent wagons to carry their men. On the 28th a second detachment of about forty men from the same regiment marched from Keene, and were treated with the same hospitality.

Capt. Reuben Marsh of Chesterfield, commanded a company of Cheshire and Sullivan county men; Capt. William Gregg of Antrim and Capt. Silas Call (residence not given) also had many Cheshire county men in their companies; and Capt. Josiah Bellows of Walpole, commanded one of the companies of artillery. His men were mostly from Walpole and Charlestown.

At Portsmouth, the governor took command in person. British cruisers lay off the harbor with the intention of destroying the navy yard and Portsmouth, but finding a large force, well stationed for defence, they abandoned

<sup>1</sup> Henry Wheeler was from Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Deidamia Allen, widow of this Daniel Allen, still lives in Keene (1899), in the small brick house just beyond where Col. Darrington's regiment encamped, and draws her pension from the United States government. She was born in 1800, and when she was married, at the age of seventeen—then living in Surry—she came to Keene and bought all the cotton cloth there was in town—forty yards—and paid forty-two cents a yard. Her bed ticking cost fifty cents a yard. (This from her own lips.) Allen was afterwards a captain in the militia and came to Keene to live.

<sup>3</sup> The above are all the names of men from Keene found in the adjutant general's reports, but David Heaton, Barzillai Wheeler, and several other Keene men are reported by their descendants and others to have been soldiers in that war. Wheeler enlisted at Keene in 1812, under Lieut. Butterfield, was made a sergeant and orderly for Gen. Macomb, and served through the war.

their plan and left this part of the coast.<sup>1</sup> In November, 1814, the troops were discharged, without pay, and most of them had to beg their way home; but the Cheshire county men were paid in December, at Sumner's tavern in Keene.

The men from Keene in the regular army were engaged in some of the most important service. At the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane the Eleventh regiment greatly distinguished itself, and Daniel Billings of Keene was killed in the attack on Fort Erie. Lieut. James Wells of that regiment had been promoted to captain. Zenas Lebourveau, of Keene, of the same regiment, had died at Burlington, Vt., the year before. Charles Tolman, of Keene, had enlisted as a private, was promoted to ensign and afterwards to lieutenant in the Sixth regiment, commanded by Col. James Miller. That regiment also greatly distinguished itself in the battles above named; and both that regiment and the Fourth, in which were Lieut. Butterfield and his men, and William Vose, afterwards of Keene, were in the fight at Plattsburg.

Those victories closed the war in the North. A treaty of peace was signed at Ghent in December, 1814, but Gen. Jackson had the opportunity to win the battle of New Orleans before the news reached this country. The account of that battle, fought on the 8th of January, 1815, did not reach Keene until the 10th of February.

The war had been an expensive one for the country at that time, and the burden of taxes and debt was exceedingly heavy on the people and caused bitter complaint. New Hampshire's proportion of the debt was \$3,226,445; that of Keene, \$26,908; Alstead, \$29,392; Walpole, \$36,491; Westmoreland, \$28,305; Chesterfield, \$26,618. Revenue taxes were collected on all iron and leather and the manufactures of the same; on paper, beer, tobacco, candles and almost every article in use; and to enforce the collection property was often seized and sold by the sheriff.

In consequence of those hardships the opposition to

<sup>1</sup>After the war a British officer told Col. Walbach of our army that they had made every arrangement to destroy the navy yard and the town; that he went up the Piscataway disguised as a fisherman and found so many troops, so well posted, that upon his report the British commander abandoned the project of attacking.

the course of the administration was strong and violent. President Madison was denounced as an imbecile, and the *Sentinel* and other Federalist papers called upon him to resign. At the annual meeting in 1815 Keene cast 273 votes for Gilman, the opposition candidate for governor, to fifty-three for William Plumer, the administration candidate.

During the period covered by this chapter, Keene made a steady growth in population, business and wealth, notwithstanding the adverse effects of the war. In 1811 Capt. Wm. Wyman built the present hospital building—then the finest house in town—for his own residence, but died before it was completed. His brick store was sold the next year to Capt. Isaac Parker; and the firm of Parker & Hough moved into it in the spring of 1813. They were succeeded in the brick store on the west side by Phineas Fiske & Co., who came here from Chesterfield in 1814.

In December, 1812, the town of Roxbury was incorporated, formed of territory taken from the towns of Keene, Packersfield and Marlboro, notwithstanding the earnest protests which were sent to the legislature by the inhabitants of those towns. An area of 1,472 acres of land and fifteen or more families were taken from Keene, and the North branch was made the line between the two towns for a considerable part of the distance.

In the fall of 1812, Justus Perry came from Marlboro and the next spring took "the large Store Building opposite the meetinghouse"—on the east side of the Square, previously occupied by Sparhawk & Davis, successors to John G. Bond—and carried on a successful business there for many years. In 1814, Aaron Appleton came from Dublin to Keene and with John Elliot formed the firm of Appleton & Elliot. They bought, of Capt. Josiah Richardson, the present Elliot corner—about twenty-three square rods, "with the store thereon standing," then occupied by Daniel D. Hatch & Co. The consideration was \$2,000. They immediately took possession and established a business which was carried on very successfully for a long term of years. In 1815 the old, one-story wooden structure<sup>1</sup> was

<sup>1</sup>Idea. Adolphus Wright moved the old store to Court street, where Don H. Woodward, Esq., now lives (1900), added another story, and it was occupied by him and others as a dwelling until 1891, when Mr. Woodward built his present house. It was then bought by Mr. John B. Heald and moved to Woodburn street, No. 37, and is occupied as a dwelling (1899).

removed, and the firm built the present brick building, then two stories high. The entrance to the printing office and bookstore, which moved into the chambers the year after it was built, was by stairs rising from the northeast corner on the north side of the building. In 1813, John Wood and Capt. Aaron Hall took in Timothy Hall, from Connecticut, a distant relative of Capt. Aaron, forming the noted firm of A. & T. Hall, on the site of Buffum's block, which continued for nearly fifty years. John Wood's name did not appear, but he was "the financial and substantial member of the concern." Their chief business was that of druggists and apothecaries, but they also kept a general assortment of goods.

In addition to the five principal and very substantial firms named above, there was the usual complement of smaller shops—jewelers, hatters, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths and others, all of which did a thriving business in manufacturing by hand and selling their wares. Jesse Corbett was for a long term of years the principal jeweler in Keene, and a noted captain of the Keene Light Infantry. He followed Luther Smith, who still made clocks, in the store next south of A. & T. Hall, sold military goods; gold and silver lace, plumes, tassels, etc., and tickets in the "Harvard College Lottery." The Keene Bookstore also sold tickets in the "Union Canal Lottery," a scheme to save Boston from deterioration after the war "and make it advance like New York," by utilizing the inland waters of New England by canals running to that city.

In 1812, A. & A. Wilder (Abijah, Jr., and his brother Azel) were in the cabinet and wheelwright business and making chairs, looms, cheese-presses, etc., "at their shop two hundred rods north of the meetinghouse in Keene, on the Turnpike."<sup>1</sup> In 1815 they dissolved, Abijah, Jr., continuing the cabinet and sleigh-making business at the old stand, and Azel going with the wheelhead and wheelwright business to his "Factory one hundred rods west of the meeting house, near Faulkner & Colony's mills." Thomas F. Ames resumed the saddlery business at the old stand of

<sup>1</sup> Believed to be the building now known as the Old Sun Tavern.

Willard & Ames. John Towns, who built the brick house next south of the Eagle Hotel and several others in town, and Aaron Davis, who afterward built shops and an iron foundry at South Keene, were blacksmiths together, their shop standing just north of the bank. When James Wells, the hatter, went into the army, he was succeeded by Isaac Wells and Silas Walworth, and they by Thomas Shapley, who for many years carried on a successful wholesale and retail business in the manufacture of "hats and ladies fur bonnets, next door North of the Bank."

Gilbert Mellen had left the old Ralston tavern about 1809 and bought the house next north of the Wyman tavern on Main street and kept public house there for two years. He then exchanged places with William Pierce and took the former Edwards tavern. He was succeeded there for a short time by Nathan Fish, then by Salem Sumner, who came from Brattleboro and kept the house until 1820. Pierce kept the house he had of Mellen a short time, but soon died, at the age of forty-three. That house was afterwards burned. Col. Abraham Wheeler died in 1814, and Josiah Sawyer, of Swanzey, who had married his daughter, succeeded him in what is still known as the Sawyer tavern, two miles west of the Square. In 1815, Ithamar Chase, father of Salmon P. Chase, who had married Jeanette, daughter of Alexander Ralston, and was administrator of the Ralston estate, came here from Cornish with his family and took the tavern and kept it till he died, in 1817. Daniel Day still kept his public house on the Cheshire turnpike; Henry Goodnow one on the third New Hampshire turnpike, on the former Benjamin Archer place; Stephen Chase one on the same turnpike, where his descendants still live; and the Widow Leonard one at the junction of the two turnpikes, as already stated.

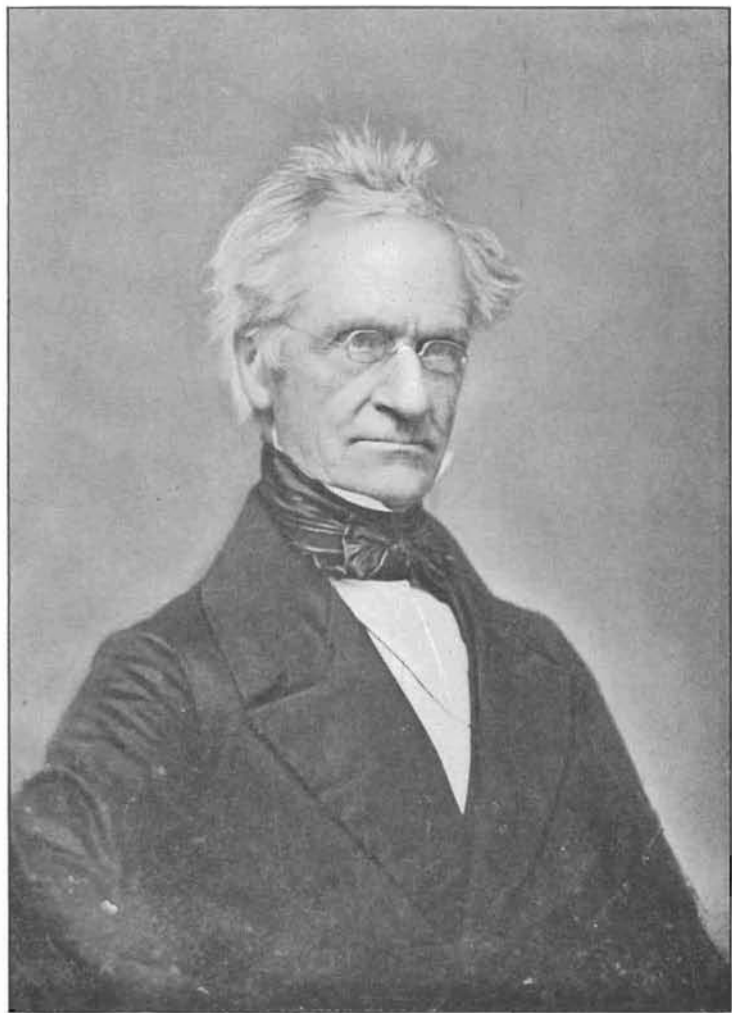
During this period a post route was established from Concord through Weare, Deering, Hancock and Packersfield to Keene and return, which continued till after 1830.

In 1814, four-horse coaches were put on which ran from Boston by the Concord and New Ipswich route to Keene, Rutland and Burlington, and return. They arrived in Keene from both directions Monday, Wednesday and

Friday evenings and left next morning, running through between Keene and Boston in one day. The arrival and departure of those stages, and others at the same time, were the great events of the day, and brought many people to the stage house. In 1815, an extra coach was added that ran from Keene to Boston every Monday, returning on Saturday, for the benefit of those who wished to spend several days in the city.

Previous to his election to congress, Samuel Dinsmoor had taken as partner Booz Atherton, a young lawyer from Westmoreland, and when Mr. Dinsmoor went to Washington, Atherton took his place as postmaster and held the office until 1813, when Joseph Buffum was appointed and Atherton returned to Westmoreland. In 1813, William Gordon had a law office over A. & T. Hall's store. In 1814, Levi Chamberlain came here, a young lawyer, and had an office where the south wing of the Cheshire House now stands. He and Foster Alexander formed the law firm of Alexander & Chamberlain. Chamberlain afterwards spent several years in practice at Fitzwilliam. In February, 1812, a long, narrow building on the west side of Main street, where the Kingsbury building and Lamson block now stand, owned jointly by Abijah Kingsbury and William Lamson; senior, and occupied by Mr. Kingsbury, with a large shoemaking business, Samuel Wood, baker, and other shops, was destroyed by fire. Each owner rebuilt separately; and Mr. Kingsbury continued his business on the second floor of his building. For more than seventy years he and his sons, Charles and George, and his son-in-law, George Rising, carried on business on that spot, and the property is still owned (1901) by his descendants. William Lawrence took the lower floor of Kingsbury's building with the morocco-dressing business, employing many hands and advertising for 20,000 pounds of sumac and 10,000 sheepskins.

In July, 1813, a remarkable freshet occurred. The streams in this vicinity were swollen to a height never before known, and dams, mills and bridges were carried away. In August of the same year, a destructive hail-storm passed through Cheshire county, with the centre a



LEVI CHAMBERLAIN.

little north of Keene. Great damage was done to the growing crops and much glass was broken. "Hailstones an inch and a quarter in diameter fell here in Keene, and the next morning the ground was covered with them three inches deep." (New Hampshire Sentinel.)

For many years, the office of the clerk of the courts had been kept at Walpole, but in 1813, by order of the court it was removed to Keene; and Salma Hale, Esq., the clerk, took up his residence here.

In the spring of 1813, Miss C. Aldrich opened a private school "in the Bank Hall," and taught several terms—sometimes in other buildings.

On the 1st of May, 1814, Miss Catherine Fiske opened her celebrated school in the brick house built by John G. Bond—now the residence of Mrs. E. C. Thayer—which Miss Fiske afterwards bought. To aid in giving assurance of the high character of the school Mrs. Daniel Newcomb was associated with her at first, but the next year a Miss Reed joined her, followed two years later by Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Hon. Peleg Sprague, and other teachers were employed. Music and French were Miss Sprague's<sup>1</sup> especial branches. It was primarily a young ladies' boarding school, and was called a "Female Seminary," but pupils of both sexes were admitted from families in town, and it numbered sometimes as high as eighty to one hundred. The school was well equipped and nearly all branches of learning were taught, "including drawing and painting in their various branches, and plain and ornamental needle work." Miss Fiske advertised that: "Strict attention will be paid to the improvement of young ladies and to their manners and their morals." "A Mantua-maker and Milliner will be provided for those who wish to employ them." Miss Fiske was a remarkably efficient and successful teacher, and her school, which continued for about thirty years, was one of the most celebrated in the country. Pupils came to her from nearly every state in the Union. After the first few years, and until her death, the school was managed solely by Miss Fiske.

<sup>1</sup> The piano used was the first brought to Keene and is still in the family of her cousin, George Carpenter of Swanzey. Another of the pianos used in that school is still in the family of the late Mr. George Tilden, whose wife had been a pupil there.



Early in 1814, from causes already stated and after the subject had been agitated for several years, a corporation was formed for the manufacture of glass in Keene, called the New Hampshire Glass Factory. The principal stockholders were John Elliot, Daniel Bradford, Daniel Watson, John Hatch, Nathaniel Sprague and other citizens of Keene; and Aaron Appleton and Capt. Timothy Twitchell came from Dublin about that time and became very active in the business. A building 90x60 feet, with 20-foot posts and 40-foot rafters, was erected where the county jail now stands, and houses were built for the workmen. Col. Lawrence Schoolcraft, a veteran of the Revolution, who had commanded a regiment in the war just then closing, and had been manager of glass works at Albany, N. Y., was appointed superintendent. Cylinder window glass was the principal product at first, the sizes being chiefly 6x8, 7x9 and 8x10, though the latter size was too large for popular use at that time. The business was profitable at first, and furnished a market for large quantities of wood, ashes and other farm products, and gave employment of various kinds to a large number of men. The company also carried on a large potash business, the building standing at the top of the rise on Washington street, east of the factory, long known as "Potash hill," when it was longer and steeper than at present.

The successive clerks of the corporation<sup>1</sup> for the first several years were Timothy Twitchell, John Elliot, John Prentiss and Nathaniel Sprague; the treasurers were Timothy Twitchell, John Elliot and Nathaniel Sprague; the agents were Col. Schoolcraft, John Hatch, Nathaniel Sprague and Charles Carter. In 1815, Watson, Twitchell and Henry R. Schoolcraft, son of the superintendent, withdrew from the corporation and started the manufacture of flint glass tumblers, decanters, etc., on Marlboro street. The next year Watson withdrew and Twitchell and Schoolcraft continued the business and opened "a store and warehouse at the Red House (the old tavern of Dr. Ziba Hall, and of Aaron and Luther Eames) one door north of

<sup>1</sup>The name of the corporation was changed some years afterwards to New Hampshire Glass Co., and later to Keene Window Glass Co. Their advertisements sometimes called for 20,000 bushels of ashes.

Shirtliff's tavern." The firm was afterwards Schoolcraft & Sprague. In 1817, their business passed into the hands of Justus Perry, who put up a large stone building on Marlboro street and did an extensive business in the manufacture and sale of bottles and other kinds of flint glass ware.

But the treaty of peace removed the embargo and admitted foreign goods almost free of duty, causing a sad depression of nearly all manufacturing in the country. The property and business of the New Hampshire Glass Company passed into the hands of Appleton & Elliot and years afterwards they and their successors, John Elliot & Co., made it exceedingly profitable.

The demoralization of public sentiment, produced by conflicting opinions concerning the war, corruption in politics, and other deleterious influences, was so great that the good people of Keene and Cheshire county, and of New England generally, were alarmed for the safety of religion and morals; and action was taken very extensively to counteract those influences. In November, 1814, a convention of delegates from most of the towns of the county was held at the courthouse, Noah Cooke, president, and Rev. Gad Newell of Nelson, clerk, to take such action as should arouse the people to greater moral, religious and political integrity. Resolutions were passed recommending the formation of societies in the towns for the promotion of a more strict and general observance of the Sabbath; greater efficiency in the enforcement of the laws; that the towns choose men of the highest character and standing for tythingmen; and resolved that the war was a chastisement of God upon a sinful and rebellious people—particularly for their profanation of the sanctity of the Sabbath. In December, 1814, a convention of delegates from twenty-four towns in the county was held at Walpole, Oliver West, president, and Phineas Handerson, secretary, which passed resolutions in opposition to the war and chose Hon. Benjamin West of Charlestown delegate to the convention to be held at Hartford,<sup>1</sup> to take

<sup>1</sup>The celebrated Hartford convention, held later in the same month. West said he would go, because the Southern people threatened to hang every delegate who appeared there, and he was old and would not deprive the state of a more useful citizen.

further action of the same tenor. Similar action was taken throughout the greater part of New England. In accordance with the recommendation of the Keene convention a county society was formed called the General Monadnock Society for the Promotion of Morals. Noah Cooke was president, Col. Joseph Frost of Marlboro, vice president, and Rev. Seth Payson of Rindge, secretary. The tythingmen of Keene published the following:—

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC!

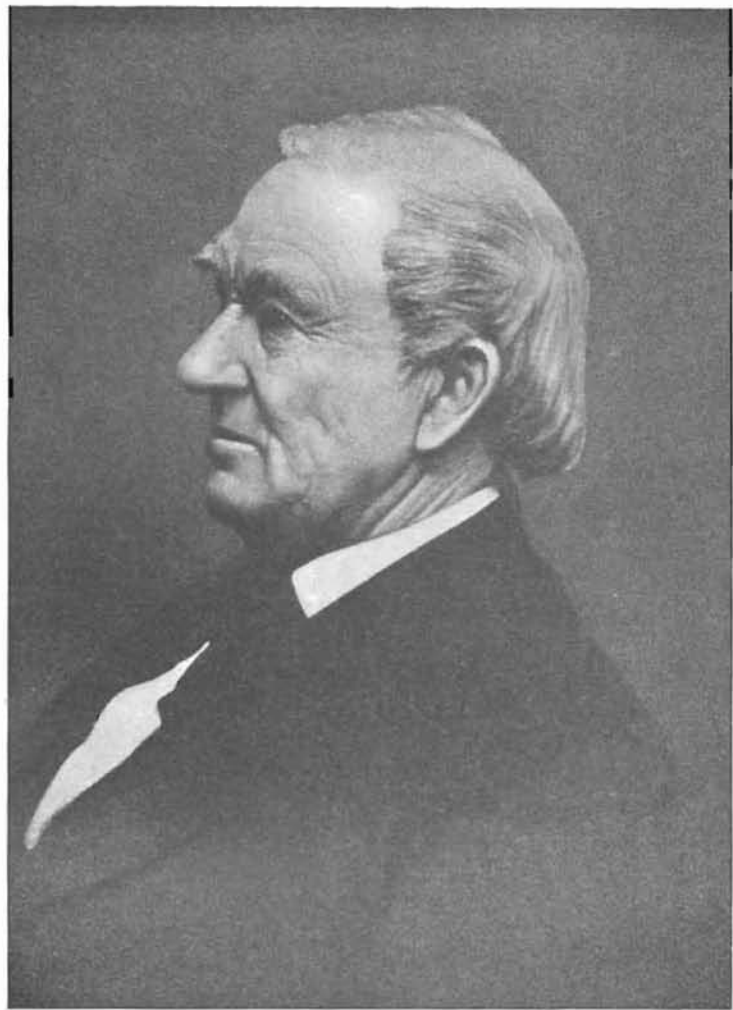
“We the TYTHINGMEN of Keene, according to our oath, will inform of and prosecute all offenders against the LAWS for the better observance of the SABBATH within our knowledge; and also do request all JUSTICES of the PEACE and SELECTMEN, who are under the same oath, to give their aid and assistance in so laudable an undertaking.

“Abijah Wilder, Samuel Bassett, Abel Blake.”

The tythingmen of other towns took similar action and those of Rindge, Jaffrey, New Ipswich, Ashby, Ashburnham and Winchendon met at Rindge and issued an address to the people calling upon them to “preserve the religion, morals and laws of the country.”

The next annual meeting of Keene chose Abijah Wilder, Samuel Bassett, Abel Blake, Elijah Carter, Ebenezer Clark, John Prentiss and Elijah Parker, tythingmen. They and the selectmen held meetings and joined in notifying the public that they had “taken their oaths to execute the laws (for the observance of the Sabbath and morals generally) and were prepared to do so.” The notice was signed by all the tythingmen and by Lockhart Willard and Isaac Parker, selectmen of Keene. (The whole number of tythingmen chosen at that annual meeting was fifteen, but only the above took the oath of office.) That office continued until 1830. After that year no tythingmen were chosen.

“In 1814 the Rev. Aaron Hall died on the 12th of August, in the 64th year of his age and the 37th of his ministry. He was much beloved by his people, who manifested their attachment, by increasing his salary, at successive periods, from eighty pounds, (\$266.66), to \$500; by assistance in various ways, and by constant acts of kindness. The town, a short time before his death, on



JOSIAH COLONY.

consultation with him, voted to settle a colleague, and invited Lemuel Capen, afterwards settled at Stirling and South Boston, to preach as a candidate; and at the first town meeting held after his decease, they voted to pay to the widow his salary to the first of March, the anniversary of his settlement.

“The intercourse between pastor and people had always been familiar and cordial. The drawing of his wood, from the minister’s wood lot, afforded an annual occasion of bringing them together, at which all were happy, and none more so than the pastor. On the day set apart for that purpose, a sufficient number of the parishioners assembled at the wood lot, and late in the afternoon, twenty or thirty sleds, in long procession, arrived, heavily laden, at his door, and then, the great pile being built up, baked beans in huge pots, and good cider in quart mugs, were placed before the company, and partaken of with becoming hilarity.”

(Annals, page 97.)

The amount of wood brought to the minister’s door each year by those “bees” was usually upward of forty cords.

“About the time of the Annual Thanksgiving,” Rev. David Oliphant came to preach as a candidate for the position of pastor. He was a graduate of Union college and of the theological seminary at Andover. In February, both the church and the town voted to give Mr. Oliphant a call, at a salary of \$700, with a yearly vacation of “three or four Sabbaths;” and he was ordained on the 24th of May, 1815, although a large number of the society remonstrated against his settlement. Rev. Messrs. Dickinson of Walpole, Hall of New Ipswich, Pratt of Westmoreland, Ainsworth of Jaffrey, Burge of West Brattleboro and Edwards of Andover, Mass., assisted at the ordination.

In the spring of 1815, Francis Faulkner and Josiah Colony bought the mills and privilege on Ashuelot river, and began the very successful business which is still continued by their descendants under the corporate name of Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing Company. They purchased the property of John McGuire, who had bought it of Hale & Kise in 1814.

Albe Cady, having been appointed secretary of state and chairman of the committee to build the state house,

resigned his offices of town clerk, selectman and representative, and removed to Concord. In August, the town elected Elijah Parker town clerk, but both the other offices were left vacant.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition to the war in this part of the country, the military spirit had been roused, and the militia was in excellent condition. In October, the Twentieth regiment mustered near Judge Newcomb's residence and made a fine appearance. At the close a lively sham battle was fought. Wm. M. Bond was major of one of the battalions, Isaac Parker was still captain of the Keene Light Infantry and Justus Perry of the Ashuelot Cavalry.

Abijah Metcalf died this year, aged eighty.