

part of the township, and ultimately owned several hundred acres there, covering the south end of Beech hill and extending on both sides of the branch, including a large part of the intervale southwest of his cabin.

“One of the first things he did was to plant an orchard, and some years later, when the trees were partly grown and the Indians began to be troublesome, looking out from his cabin he saw one of the savages cutting down an apple tree. He took down his gun, and that Indian never cut any more trees.” “He used to lie in his cabin, or under a brush heap, with his gun, and watch for lurking Indians while his wife milked the cows.” (Heaton tradition.)

His log cabin was burned by the Indians when the township was abandoned, in 1747, but he was one of the first to return, and he built the low farmhouse, still standing on the east side of the street, opposite the site of his log cabin—the second from the old Mount Pleasant tavern—and lived and died there. He was at one time a lieutenant in the militia. It is a tradition in the family that that was the first framed house built in the township—doubtless now the oldest house in town—and it is still in possession of his descendants; but the large old chimney has been removed and two smaller ones substituted. His sons and other descendants afterwards built houses and lived along the same road, towards the branch; and some of the old barns still standing there were built by the elder Heaton.

Four of his sons were Revolutionary soldiers—William, Jonathan, Luther and Samuel. His children were: Seth, born 1740; Huldah, born 1742, married first, Samuel Wadsworth of Keene, and second, a Mr. Butterfield; David, born 1744; William, born 1746; Jonathan, born 1750, married Thankful Clark, of Lancaster, Mass.; Susanna, born 1752; Anna, born 1754, married Capt. John Griggs, of the Revolutionary army; Luther, born 1756; and Samuel, born 1759.

SAMUEL HEATON.

Samuel Heaton, youngest son of above, was born in 1759; married Sarah Boynton; lived on the homestead bequeathed to him by his father; was a corporal in the

company of Capt. Francis Towne of Rindge, Col. David Gilman's regiment, sent to reinforce Gen. Washington's army in December, 1776, and was in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. His children were: Samuel, born 1783; David, born 1785, married Rebecca Morse of Marlboro, lived on the homestead—a soldier in the war of 1812; Sally, born 1787; Seth, born 1790, married Betsey Nourse; Nancy, born 1792, married John Towns; Polly, born 1794. He died in 1830, aged seventy.

ADIN HOLBROOK.

Adin Holbrook was born in Wrentham, Mass., in 1752; came to Keene as early as 1776; was in Capt. Whitcomb's company, Ashley's regiment, on its march to the relief of Ticonderoga in the fall of 1776; was sergeant in Capt. Mack's company, Nichols's regiment, in the battle of Bennington, 1777; married Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer Day, of Keene; was a millwright and had a sawmill in the west part of the town; afterwards settled on the Holbrook farm, old Surry road, about 1780, and with his son, Adin, Jr., had a sawmill on the road—previously Partridge's—and built the present Holbrook house in 1806; with Capt. Joseph Dorr built and operated an oil mill on the stream a few rods below the sawmill; died 1843, aged ninety-one. His children were: Adin, Clarinda, Chloe, Enos, Cornelia, who were born between 1780 and 1792.

GEORGE INGERSOLL.

Major George Ingersoll, son of Daniel and Bethiah (Haskell) Ingersoll, of Boston, was born in 1754; enlisted in 1775 as a private in Col. Gridley's regiment of artillery, of Massachusetts; served through the Revolutionary war, receiving promotion to the rank of lieutenant; promoted to captain in the artillery and engineers in 1795; married, the same year, Martha Goldthwaite, of Boston, sister of the wives of Dr. Daniel Adams and Dea. James Lanman, of Keene; commandant at West Point, 1796 to 1801, while it was a military school, previous to the establishment of the military academy; promoted to major in the artillery service in 1803; resigned in 1804 on account of ill health; an original member of the Order of the Cincinnati.

While on a visit with his wife to her sisters in Keene, Major Ingersoll took a fancy to the place, and particularly to the house—then considered a fine one—which still stands west of the little pond at West Keene, between Black brook, which comes down from the north, and White brook, which joins it from the west. It had been built and kept as a tavern by Jesse Clark, and at that time was owned and kept by Joseph Brown. The major bought it, with the farm of eighty-three acres (for \$4,000) hoping there to recuperate his health. Mrs. Ingersoll named it "Whitebrook," and they came there to live, in May, 1805; but he died in July of the same year, and was buried with military honors in the Washington street cemetery.

GEORGE G. INGERSOLL.

Rev. George G. Ingersoll, D. D., only son of Major George and Martha (Goldthwaite) Ingersoll, was born in Boston, in 1796; studied at Groton and Exeter academies; graduated at Harvard in 1815, and from Harvard Divinity school in 1818; married, 1822, Harriet Parkhurst (a pupil in Miss Fiske's school, whom he met while on a visit to his relatives in Keene); ordained in same year, pastor of the Unitarian church in Burlington, Vt.; resigned on account of ill health in 1844; settled at East Cambridge, Mass., in 1847, but the state of his health compelled his resignation in 1849, when he took up his residence in Keene. He sometimes supplied pulpits at Northampton, Brattleboro and other places, and spent the winter of 1859-60 preaching at Charleston, S. C. "He was a polished, genial man, with charming manners and a kindly wit." (Miss Dinsmoor's memorial.) "The Sydney Smith of our pulpit." (Christian Register.) At the centennial celebration in Keene, in 1853, he read a witty poem on local matters. He died in Keene in 1863.

CAROLINE HASKELL INGERSOLL.

Miss Caroline Haskell Ingersoll, daughter of Rev. George G. and Harriet (Parkhurst) Ingersoll, was born in 1827. With a refined taste for the beautiful in nature and art, she was an accomplished musician; and was likewise

remarkable for her executive ability. Learning that a beautiful pine grove at West Keene was about to be cut down for lumber, she immediately took up the work of preserving it for a public park, and raised the funds for its purchase by subscription from the ladies of Keene, aided by a few gentlemen of Keene, and former residents who had left the town. It was named the Ladies' Wildwood park, and she presented it to the city in 1887, as a gift from herself and the other subscribers, to be forever kept for a public pleasure ground under the exclusive control of the lady donors for twenty-five years. At the end of that period the management is to be vested in a board of three, the mayor, one alderman and one lady donor or the descendant of one, who are to constitute the Ladies' Park commissioners; and she bequeathed to the city \$1,000 as a fund, the income to be used for the care of the park.

She also made several other bequests to various institutions in Keene and \$1,000 for the fountain in Central park, as a memorial of her brother, to be called the "Allan Ingersoll Fountain." She died in Keene in 1893.

MOSES JOHNSON.

Moses Johnson was an enterprising trader here from 1787, or earlier, to 1804; also had a store in Walpole, but in 1799 removed all his goods to Keene and enlarged his business here; in 1788 had a store in Federal Row; built the store since known as the Railroad store, which gave place to Gurnsey's block; afterwards joined James Mann in their large store, subsequently owned by A. & T. Hall. His large potash and pearlash works on the ridge north of what is now Castle street, near a distillery which he owned, were so profitable that at one time, even in those early days, he received a check for \$5,000 for his manufactured goods. When he came to Keene the ground where the railroad track now lies, on each side of Main street, and where the Sentinel building and the Watson house, south of the track, now stand, was a dense swamp, covered with a thick growth of alders, with only a narrow causeway across it in the middle of the present street. Mr. Johnson cleared away those alders and did

much towards filling that part of the swamp and making it solid ground. He also did a large amount of similar work near his distillery, filling in the old river bed, which ran along at the foot of the bluff near the present Tilden schoolhouse, and making it fertile land. So much did he accomplish for the benefit of the town that at the centennial celebration in 1853 a toast was given in his honor. But he was too generous and public spirited for his own good, was unfortunate in his investments, lost his property, and removed to New York state.

EDWARD JOSLIN.

Edward Joslin, son of David and Rebecca (Richardson) Joslin of Stoddard, was born in Stoddard, April 15, 1810, being the youngest of a family of fourteen children. He came to Keene in 1830 and went to live with the older Governor Dinsmoor, attending school where the Sentinel building now stands. In 1834, he associated himself with George Page and manufactured the first mortising machine made in this country (a foot-power machine) in a shop which stood on the lot now occupied by the Washington schoolhouse. In 1836 they took Thomas M. Edwards and Aaron Davis into partnership and moved to South Keene. About the same time J. A. Fay became a member of the firm. Messrs. Joslin and Fay bought out the other interests and the firm was Joslin & Fay. They brought out the first power mortising, tenoning and moulding machines ever made. About 1850 the firm erected the brick mill, 300x75 feet in size and two stories high, now occupied by the Fred P. Pierce Company. A Cincinnati branch was established about the same year, 1850, under the name of J. A. Fay & Co. The Fay company united with a rival, the Egan company, soon after 1890, the corporate name being the J. A. Fay & Egan Co. The capital stock was fixed at two million dollars, and it became the largest maker of wood-working machinery in this country, if not in the world. Mr. Joslin retained a large interest in the business.

Mr. Joslin was also interested financially in the Beaver mills, the Keene Furniture Company, the Cheshire Chair

Company, the Keene Steam Power Company, the C. B. Lancaster Shoe Company and other concerns. He was a director in the Keene National bank from 1850 to the time of his death, and was its president for thirty years. For many years he was a trustee and vice president of the Keene Five Cents Savings bank. He was also one of the committee to build the Keene water works and for many years was one of the water commissioners.

In 1847, Mr. Joslin married Sarah Hale Thayer, daughter of John Thayer of Keene. His children were Charles E. (who died in 1898), Sarah E. (who married Chester L. Kingsbury and who died in 1901), and Isabella H., who married Frank Crandall, of Yonkers, N. Y. Mr. Joslin died Nov. 21, 1901, universally esteemed and respected.

BENJAMIN KEENE.

Sir Benjamin Keene (for whom the town of Keene was named) was born in 1697, at King's Lynn, Norfolk. He was the eldest son of Charles Keene, merchant and first mayor of King's Lynn, in 1714, under King Charles II. His mother's name was Susan Rolfe. He was educated at Lynn free grammar school and at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated with the degree of LL. B., in 1718.

Through the influence of Sir Robert Walpole, a friend of the family, he was appointed agent of the South Sea Company at Madrid, and in 1724 was promoted to the British consulship at that city. In September, 1727, through the same influence, he was raised to the high post of minister plenipotentiary at Madrid. In 1729, he concluded a treaty of defensive alliance on the part of England with France and Spain. His double position of British minister and agent of the South Sea Company caused him annoyance and denunciation by political parties and by the press, but he retained his position until he had signed a convention with the Spanish minister in 1739; but as that failed to prevent the declaration of war between England and Spain, he was recalled, and returned to England. Horace Walpole described him at that time as "one of the best kind of agreeable men, quite fat and

lazy, with universal knowledge." In 1740, he represented the borough of Malden in Essex in parliament, and from 1741 to '47 he sat for that of West Looe in Cornwall. He was also a member of the board of trade and paymaster of pensions.

"In 1746 he was sent as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Portugal to bring about a peace with Spain, and in October, 1748, he quitted Lisbon to resume his old place at Madrid. He concluded, on 5 Oct., 1750, a treaty of commerce with Spain, when Henry Pelham referred to the abuse that had been showered on Keene, and claimed that 'he had acted ably, honestly, and bravely.' The Duke of Newcastle in 1754 wrote: 'I have at last got the ribbon [of the Bath] for Sir Benjamin;' and the compliment was heightened by the King of Spain performing the ceremony of investiture, whereupon the new knight took the motto of *Regibus Amicis*. In the summer of 1757 Keene was very ill, and wished to retire from his post, but on receiving Pitt's instructions to offer the restoration of Gibraltar and the evacuation of the settlements formed in the Bay of Mexico since 1748, if Spain would join Great Britain against France, he forced himself to make the offer. When leave to retire was at last conceded, and he was on the point of returning to England to enjoy a pension and a peerage, his illness proved fatal. He died at Madrid on 15 Dec., 1757. His body was brought to England and 'he was buried near his parents in the chapel of St. Nicholas, Lynn, a sarcophagus of white marble being placed over his grave. A half length portrait of him hangs in the King's Lynn town hall. He left the bulk of his fortune to his brother, Edmund Keene, D. D., bishop of Chester and afterwards of Ely.'

"Sir Robert Walpole 'had the highest opinion of Keene's abilities,' and in social life his 'indolent good humor' was very pleasing. Numerous manuscript letters by him, many in cipher, are among the Newcastle correspondence at the British Museum and in the collections described in the Historical Manuscript Commissioner's Reports. The correspondence and other documents which he left at his death passed to the son of his brother Edmund, and were submitted to Archdeacon Coxe for his historical works. Many printed letters to and from him are in the 'Chatham Correspondence,' 1,407, etc., 'Atterbury correspondence,' 5-256-8, and in the compilations of Archdeacon Coxe. From a passage in Kennicott's 'Dissertation on the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament' (page 358) it appears that Keene

interested himself in Spanish Manuscripts of the Bible."¹ (Sidney Lee's Dictionary of National Biography.)

DANIEL KINGSBURY.

Deacon Daniel Kingsbury, son of Daniel of Wrentham, Mass., a descendant of Joseph, who came from England about 1630 with his brother John and kinsman Henry, was born in 1742; came to Keene previous to 1764; married Molly; had twelve children born between 1767 and 1793, but none became permanent residents of Keene. Three of his sons, Darius, Theodore and Dr. David, went West. He was a member of the military company here in 1773, and a lieutenant in Capt. Davis Howlett's company in the campaign of 1777. He owned and lived on what has since been the town farm, three and one-half miles west of the Square, and was succeeded there by his son Joel. He was a prominent man in the community and held many important offices in town—moderator of annual town meetings seventeen years; selectman twelve years; representative to the Provincial congress in 1782; a magistrate; and a deacon of the church for forty-five years. He died in 1825, aged eighty-two.

NATHANIEL KINGSBURY.

Nathaniel Kingsbury, elder brother of Deacon Daniel, was born in 1739; married first, Mehitable Johnson; married second, 1769, Hannah Ware; married third, 1791, Rebecca Bigelow, of Walpole; had eleven children, born between 1766 and 1798, most of whom lived in Keene and vicinity. His descendants number upwards of eight hundred, scattered through the northern states. He was a member of the military company here in 1773, and was also in Capt. Davis Howlett's company in the campaign of 1777. He lived in the north part of the town, on what has since been known as the Ruffle farm. He died in 1803.

ABIJAH KINGSBURY.

Abijah Kingsbury, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Ware) Kingsbury, was born 1778; married, 1803, Abigail,

¹The story of Governor Wentworth's friendship for Sir Benjamin and his naming the town for him is told in the account of the granting of the charter of Keene in 1753, pages 103-4.

daughter of Deacon Abijah Wilder. They lived together fifty-three years and had eleven children, all of whom lived to the age of sixty-five years or more: William, born in 1804, married Huldah Stone; Charles, born in 1805, married Ruby Osgood; Josiah, born in 1807, married Sarah Baker; Abijah Wilder, born in 1809, married Emeline Wood; Albert, born in 1811, married Ann E. Lyman; Julia Ann, born in 1813, married Isaac Rand; Mary, born in 1815, married Jonas Parker; George, born in 1818, married Lydia W. Briggs, of Keene; Abigail Martha, born in 1820, married Enoch W. Winchester; Sarah, born in 1822, married George Rising, and lived in Kansas in the exciting and bloody times of the first settlement of that state; Elizabeth, born in 1827, married Deacon George P. Drown. Many descendants of the family are still living in town. Mr. Kingsbury was an active citizen and did a large business, for those times, in shoemaking. He died in 1860, aged eighty-two.

ZEBADIAH KEYES.

Zebadiah Keyes (formerly spelled Kise) was born in Chelmsford, Mass., in 1776; married Sybil Dunn; came to Keene and with Moses H. Hale (Hale & Kise), in 1806, bought of Luther Smith the mills and water privilege on Ashuelot river, now Faulkner & Colony's, and carried on the milling and clothiers' business there until 1814, when they sold to John Maguire. His children were: Almira, born 1803, married John Colony, of Keene; Elbridge, born 1804, married, first, Martha W. Rugg, and second, Mary W. Campbell, and was for many years a merchant in Keene, with Joshua D. Colony; Harriet, born 1807, married Nathaniel Evans, a merchant, of Keene; Susan B., born 1816, married Harvey A. Bill, editor of the Cheshire Republican.

WILLIAM LAMSON.

William Lamson, son of Joseph and Susanna (Frothingham) Lamson, was born in Charlestown, Mass., 1763; came to Keene on foot with his bundle slung on his cane over his shoulder, in May, 1787; bought of Capt. Josiah Richardson one-fourth of an acre of land—then an open

field—where Lamson block and the Keene Five Cents Savings bank now stand, and established a tannery. When he had paid for his land, put up a building for a currier's shop and bark mill, bought his stock, and had his tannery ready for business, he had just one pistareen (seventeen cents) left in his pocket. That he went out and spent for a mug of flip for himself and friends, and then went to work. When his own work was slack he would earn a little by "striking" for his near neighbor, a blacksmith. As business prospered his operations were extended and additional land was purchased until the estate comprised, besides outlying lands and mortgages, about eighty-eight thousand square feet on Main and West streets, which is still owned and occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. Griffin. In 1790, he returned to Charlestown and married Margery Russell. The young couple came as far as New Ipswich in a chaise, but from there to Keene there was no road; so, both mounting one horse, the bride on a pillion behind her husband, with all her marriage outfit tied in a bundle, they came by a bridle path through the woods to their future home. Four sons and three daughters were born to them. The eldest son, William, was for many years a leading merchant and citizen of Keene, owning and occupying the large brick block on the corner of Roxbury street and the Square, which was burned in 1865. The third son, Charles, succeeded his father in business, and was a director in the Cheshire bank, and a trustee of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings.

Mr. Lamson was a man of great business capacity, staunch integrity, sound judgment, amiable and generous in disposition, prompt to aid worthy young men starting in life, and one who commanded the respect and esteem of all. He died in 1828, aged sixty-five, leaving, among other bequests, fifteen hundred dollars to aid in the erection of the first Unitarian meetinghouse, on the corner of Main and Church streets, and fifty dollars a year for five years towards the current expenses of that church and society.

FARNUM F. LANE.

Farnum F. Lane, son of Ezekiel and Rachel (Fish)

Lane, was born in Swanzev in 1816; was brought up on his father's farm; attended academies at Hancock and New Ipswich; taught school; studied law with Thomas M. Edwards; began practice at Winchester in 1843; removed to Walpole; came to Keene in 1849; was county solicitor for ten years; representative to the legislature from Walpole in 1847-8 and from Keene in 1862-3. Although not a popular advocate, he was well read in the law, prepared his cases with great thoroughness and managed them with sound judgment, and was a lawyer in whom the courts had great confidence and an antagonist whom other lawyers dreaded to meet. He married, 1846, Harriet, daughter of John and Harriet (Locke) Butler, of Winchester, by whom he had two daughters. He died in 1887.

THOMAS H. LEVERETT.

Thomas H. Leverett, son of Thomas and Susannah (Johnson, of London, Eng.) Leverett, a lineal descendant of Maj. Gen. Sir John Leverett, governor of Massachusetts in 1673-9, was born in Windsor, Vt., in 1806; was educated in the public schools and at Capt. Partridge's military school at Norwich, Vt.; came to Keene in 1836 and was cashier of the Ashuelot bank for thirty-three years; married, first, Harriet B. Nelson, by whom he had one daughter, Sarah D., who married Reuben A. Tuttle, of Boston; married, second, Abby Barnes, a teacher in Miss Fiske's school, by whom he had one daughter, Katharine F., a resident of Keene, one son who died in infancy, and one son, Frank J., who enlisted in the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers and died in the service, at Paris, Ky., in 1863, aged nineteen.

Mr. Leverett was a genial, public spirited man, took a leading part and exercised a powerful influence in the interests of agriculture and horticulture; was the active agent in the organization of the Cheshire County Agricultural Society in 1847; and also active in the purchase and improvement, by the erection of suitable buildings, of its twenty-five acres of ground—now Wheelock park—and in the management for many years of its very successful exhibitions. He died in November, 1882.

ABIEL ABBOT LIVERMORE.

Rev. Abiel Abbot Livermore, D. D., was born in Wilton, N. H., in 1811; prepared for college at Phillips Exeter academy; graduated at Harvard in 1833, and at Harvard Divinity school in 1836; was ordained and settled over the Unitarian church in Keene at the close of the same year; married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Jacob Abbott.

His father was an intelligent farmer, prominent in his town and community. His mother was a member of the distinguished Abbot family of Wilton. He took high rank as a scholar, and was a "genuine, refined, high-minded man." Rev. Dr. Morrison, editor of the *Christian Register*, wrote of him: "The relation of the young pastor and his wife, a fitting helpmeet for such a man, to the people of their parish, and to the whole community in which they lived, has always seemed to me as happy a relation as I have ever known." While in Keene he did much for the cultivation of literary taste in the community, organized a large book club which contained all the choice periodicals of the day, and encouraged the study of the higher literary works, not only of English, but of German and other authors. He also edited a small paper, the *Social Gazette*, for the publication of the literary efforts of the young, and was always the beloved pastor and cherished friend. His lectures to young men and his prize essay on the Mexican war were published, and he edited the *Cheshire* collection of hymns.

After nearly fourteen years of very active labor in Keene his health gave way and he was compelled to resign his charge. Believing that he might continue his work in a milder climate he accepted a call to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1850, where he remained six years. After that, for seven years he was pastor of a church in Yonkers, N. Y., and in 1863 he was chosen president of the theological school at Meadville, Pa., and for twenty-seven years filled that position with remarkable ability and success. Besides the works already mentioned and many articles for various periodicals, he published a volume of sermons—*Commentaries on the New Testament*—which he began while in Keene; and for several years while at Yonkers he edited

the Christian Inquirer. His last work was that of writing the history of his native town, Wilton.

“Dr. Livermore deserves to be most gratefully remembered among us. His rounded completeness of life was matched by an equally happy poise and symmetry of character—a conjunction as admirable as it is rare. No breath of calumny ever ventured to question his integrity. His graceful and unfailing courtesy was a constant rebuke to our modern boorishness—a man made to be loved.”

He died at Wilton in 1892.

DANIEL NEWCOMB.

Hon. Daniel Newcomb, son of Jonathan, was born in Norton (Mansfield), Mass., in 1747; graduated at Harvard in 1768; studied theology and preached a few years; read law with Judge Lowell of Boston; settled in Keene in 1778; married, 1781, Sarah Stearns of Lunenburg, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Sally, born in 1782, married John G. Bond of Keene; George, born in 1783, entered Dartmouth college when nine years old and was drowned in the Ashuelot river at the age of thirteen; Daniel, born in 1785, graduated at Dartmouth, studied medicine with Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, practiced in Boston and died at Keene in 1809; Seth, born in 1786, graduated at Harvard, practiced law in Keene and died in 1811; Henry S., born in 1788, was lieutenant in the army in 1812-14, and died in 1825; Levi, born in 1790 and died in the senior class of Dartmouth in 1810; Fanny, born in 1791, married Daniel D. Hatch of Keene; Charles, born in 1792, entered Harvard and went West; Walter, born in 1794, entered Harvard, left on account of sickness, entered the United States navy and died in the West Indies of yellow fever in 1822; Patty, born in 1796, married Dr. M. Johnson and died in Cleveland, O., in 1858.

His wife, Sarah, died in 1796.

He married, second, 1800, Hannah Dawes, widow of Benj. Goldthwaite of Boston. His children by the second marriage were: Hannah Dawes, born in 1803, never married, died 1887; William Dawes, born 1804; Francis, born 1807; Harriet, born 1809, married Rev. Fred West Holland, of Cambridge, Mass.; Lucretia, born in 1812, died in 1823.

In 1781, Daniel Newcomb, Esq., was a delegate from Keene to a convention at Walpole, and another at Charlestown, in the controversy concerning the New Hampshire Grants; was appointed chief justice of the inferior court for the county of Cheshire in 1790; was delegate from Keene to the constitutional convention of New Hampshire in 1781, and again in 1791-2, and was chairman of the committee that drafted our present state constitution; was appointed judge of the superior court of New Hampshire in 1796; representative to the legislature, 1795; state senator, 1795-6, 1800-1, 1805-6.

Judge Newcomb's office, during his later years, was in the small building already described in the sketch of Gov. Dinsmoor, senior. Besides owning many houses, farms and other tracts of land—many of them obtained through mortgages—he bought the site of the first meetinghouse in Keene in 1795, and built a fine colonial house on that lot; and there he spent the remainder of his life. Being at the head of the Cheshire county bar, and wealthy, he entertained liberally, particularly at court time.¹

Judge Newcomb was an eminent and public spirited citizen and did much for the benefit of the town. He established, and for some years supported, a grammar school in Keene almost wholly at his own expense. He sent six sons to college, two of whom died before graduating, and one left on account of sickness. Nearly all his children died young. He had an impediment in his speech, not stuttering, but complete paralysis of the vocal organs when excited. He died July 14, 1818, aged seventy-two. His widow, Hannah Dawes, died in 1855, aged sixty-seven.

DAVID NIMS.

David Nims, of Huguenot descent, was the son of Ebenezer and Sarah (Hoyt) Nims, both of whom were among the captives taken from Deerfield, Mass., to Canada

¹ Before the judge's grounds were graded there was a slight depression in his yard, where water stood after a heavy rain. One evening a party of the legal profession and others dined with the judge and partook of his excellent wine. Among the number was Dr. Philip Carrigan, who published an excellent map of New Hampshire near the close of the eighteenth century. A rain had made the ground slippery and filled the depression, and as the party came out one of them slipped, lost his balance, and plunged into the pool of water. Before attempting to rise he called out, "Carrigan! Carrigan!" "What do you want?" asked the doctor. "Put down on your map of New Hampshire a thundering great mud puddle right in front of Judge Newcomb's house."

in 1704, and were married while in captivity. He was born in Deerfield, in 1716; came to Upper Ashuelot in 1736-7; was chosen "scribe" of the proprietors in July, 1737; a member of the church at its formation in 1738; one of the thirty-nine settlers who received grants of ten acres of land from the proprietors in 1740 "for hazarding their lives and estate by living here to bring forward the settling of the place." In 1742 he married Abigail, daughter of Eliezer and Abigail (Wells) Hawks of Deerfield, niece of John Hawks. He had bought, in 1739, of Daniel Haws, one of the original proprietors and first settlers of Upper Ashuelot, a part of the farm east of our present Washington street, since known as the Lucien B. Page farm,¹ adding to it later, and built his log cabin there—which was burned by the Indians when the place was abandoned in 1747. Very soon after the settlement was broken up he enlisted in Capt. Josiah Willard's company of regular troops of Massachusetts stationed at the two Ashuelots, and served in that company through the seasons of 1747, '48 and '49. He was one of the first to return to the settlement, doubtless as early as 1750 (he may have built a log cabin and brought his wife back earlier, for troops were "billeted" on families here in 1749), and soon afterwards built his house on the site of the present residence of Charles Wright, 2d, and lived and died there. (The Nims house was removed about 1884-5 to Page street, No. 39, and is one of the oldest houses in town).

At the first town meeting under the New Hampshire charter, in May, 1753, David Nims was chosen town clerk, and he held that office for seven consecutive years, ten in all; was town treasurer six years; moderator of annual town meetings six years; selectman nine years; and for more than twenty years was otherwise prominent in town affairs.

By one of the proprietors' divisions of land he received 104 acres of land near the east line of the town, in what is now Roxbury, conveyed it to his son, David, Jr., in

¹"The meadows on Beaver brook were a part of his farm, and in the early days he used to employ Thomas Wells, who was a great hunter—the 'Farmer Wells' who furnished Hon. Salma Hale much material for his 'Annals of Keene'—to watch with his gun for Indians while he worked on his farm." (William S. Briggs.)

1763; and it is still in possession of his descendants. In the military organizations in Keene in 1773, David Nims was on the alarm list, and his five sons, David, Jr., Asahel, Eliakim, Zadock and Alpheus, were in the ranks of the regular militia company; and Asahel, Eliakim and Alpheus were in the Revolutionary army.

He died July 21, 1803, aged eighty-seven. Forty of his descendants followed him to the grave. His wife, Abigail Hawks Nims, died in 1799, aged eighty, and at that time their descendants numbered—children, ten; grandchildren, fifty; great grandchildren, twenty-one. From them “descended all of that name now living in this vicinity, and the whole number of their progeny is about two thousand.” His portrait, painted by Jeremiah Stiles¹ (see Stiles sketch), presented to the city of Keene by one of Mr. Nims’s descendants, hangs in the Thayer library building.

ASAHEL NIMS.

Asahel Nims, third son² of David Nims, was born in 1749. Upon reaching his majority he bought of Lieut. Benjamin Hall 114 acres of land in the north part of the town—now a part of Sullivan—set to work to clear it, built a house, and became engaged to be married. When the Lexington alarm reached Keene, on the 20th of April, 1775, he joined his neighbors at the meeting on the common that afternoon. Thirty men volunteered to go “to oppose the regulars.” Tradition says that one of them grew faint-hearted and skulked away, and that Asahel Nims offered to take his place. He was accepted, was made a sergeant at the organization of the company, and at the battle of Bunker Hill was instantly killed.

ELIAKIM NIMS.

Eliakim Nims, brother of Asahel, was born in 1751; lived with his father when a young man; one of the thirty patriots who marched from Keene with Capt. Wyman on the 21st of April, 1775, and was in the battle of Bunker Hill; was in Col. Isaac Wyman’s regiment in the northern army in 1776; member of the committee of safety in 1776;

¹The portrait was restored for preservation by Mr. Geo. H. Tilden.

²David, Jr., was the eldest. Asahel, the second, died in infancy.



LANMON NIMS.

married Abigail, daughter of Nathaniel Briggs of Keene; removed to the north part of the town, now a part of Sullivan (probably took his brother Asahel's farm); was given the title, and possibly held the rank in the militia, of captain; was selectman of Sullivan in 1795; died in that town, aged about ninety-five.

EBENEZER NIMS.

Ebenezer Nims, elder brother of David, was born in Canada in 1713; married, 1735, Mercy, daughter of Samuel Smead; came to Upper Ashuelot in 1736-7; was chosen collector of taxes for the proprietors in May, 1737; one of the original members of the church in 1738; one of those to receive a grant of land from the proprietors in 1740 for hazarding his life to bring forward the settlement of the town; returned with the settlers and was town treasurer in 1754 and selectman in 1757 and '58; lived in the fort; had a daughter Mary, born in 1756. He was on the alarm list in 1773; and removed to Deerfield, Mass.

LANMON NIMS.

Lanmon Nims, son of Asahel and Mary (Heaton) Nims, and grandson of David, Jr., was born in Sullivan, N. H., 1811; was carpenter, contractor, miller and wheelwright. After a few years in business at Peterboro, Swanzey, and on Ferry brook in Keene, he came to the village, and in 1850 bought the small mills then in operation on Mechanic street, enlarged them and established the sash, door and blind business, taking in Daniel Buss, and later Cyrus Woodward, as partners. The plant was again enlarged, and in 1859 Mr. Nims sold to Buss & Woodward. After four years spent at White River Junction and in the Fairbanks mills (on Ralston street) in Keene, he returned (1863) to the Mechanic street mills, and, with Samuel B. Crossfield (Nims & Crossfield) leased power and continued his former business there. In March, 1864, the boiler exploded, killed two workmen, injured five others, and wrecked the buildings. In the spring of 1867 the firm bought the property and rebuilt, but in August of the same year all was destroyed by fire. In 1868 the present

mills were built by the Keene Steam Power Company and leased to Nims, Crossfield & Co. In 1873 the firm became Nims, Whitney & Co., and still continues the same, although Mr. Nims died in 1887. He built the present city hall, under Mr. Charles E. Parker, architect, the first Methodist meetinghouse, and about fifty other buildings in town, some of them houses of the best class.

With only a common school education, but with a love of books, particularly those on history, science and mechanics, he became a remarkably well-informed man.

He was twice married and had eleven children—three sons and eight daughters.

BENJAMIN NOURSE.

Benjamin Nourse—original name Nurse—was born in Rutland, Mass., 1744; married Mercy Stevens, an English girl; was a Revolutionary soldier from Packersfield, in 1775; sold his farm in Packersfield—in the part that is now Roxbury—towards the close of the Revolutionary war, taking his pay in Continental money which proved to be almost worthless, and came to Keene; had thirteen children, Phineas, Silas, Isaac, Benjamin, Jr., Francis, and eight girls; lived with his son Phineas; made baskets, some of which are still in existence, on the same farm. He and his wife died on the same day, in 1840, at the house of their daughter, Charity, second wife of Ephraim Wright, 2d. His age was ninety-six; his wife's, ninety-three.

PHINEAS NOURSE.

Phineas Nourse, son of Benjamin and Mercy (Stevens) Nourse, was born in 1775; married Anna Thompson of Keene, sister of Aaron, Daniel and Thomas. After living about fifteen years in Littleton, N. H., he returned to Keene, and with his son Calvin, in 1823, bought of the heirs of Peleg Sprague the farm on Beech hill now known as the Luther Nourse farm. Jacob Stiles had owned the place in early days, and had sold to Abraham Wheeler, Jr., in 1771. The house and barn, both still standing, were built by Wheeler, who was afterwards colonel of militia and tavern keeper in Ash Swamp. The house was

built in 1773, and the barn was raised on the day of the battle of Bunker Hill. Wheeler sold to Sprague, who died in that house.

The house is of the usual farmer's pattern of the old style, showing heavy oak timbers below and pine ones above, a large chimney in the middle with its ample fireplace (though now partly rebuilt) provided with crane and pot-hooks, and its brick oven and ash hole. Some of the finish still remaining is of pine boards three feet in width, with doors made of a single board hung on wooden hinges and fastened with wooden latches, as in the olden time.

Like his father, Phineas Nourse had thirteen children, Calvin, Luther, George, Phineas, Jr., four other sons, and five daughters.

The history of this Nourse family is a remarkable one. They are descendants of Rebecca Towne,¹ wife of Francis Nourse, who was hanged as a witch at Salem, Mass., July 19, 1692, at the age of seventy-one. Her body was thrown among the rocks, but was rescued by her family and buried in the family lot at Danvers, Mass. Many years afterwards a monument was erected to her memory and dedicated with memorial services. Whittier wrote for that occasion the lines:

"Oh, Christian Martyr, who for truth could die
When all about thee owned the hideous lie,
The world redeemed from superstition's sway
Is breathing freer for thy sake today."

DAVID OLIPHANT.

Rev. David Oliphant was born in Waterford, N. Y., in 1791; graduated at Union college, 1809, and Andover Theological seminary in 1813; came to Keene as a candidate in November, 1814; ordained May 24, 1815; married in September, 1815, Mary, daughter of Dr. Abiel Pearson, of Andover, Mass.; dismissed from Keene in the autumn of 1817. It was said that one cause of his unpopularity and dismissal was that he took strong ground against the prevailing intemperance. His ministry here was "somewhat less than three years, and yet he made a

¹The greatest American woman artist (painter) in Paris in 1900 was Miss Elizabeth C. Nourse, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a direct descendant of this Rebecca Nourse who was hanged at Salem. (Vance Thompson, in *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, 1900.)

great and lasting impression upon the people." Ninety-one were added to the church, and he baptized 129 persons.

After leaving Keene he was soon settled over the Third church in Upper Beverly, Mass., where he was a successful minister for sixteen years. He was then dismissed, and soon settled again in Wells, Me. He died in 1872. Many pages of the old church records are in his clear, elegant handwriting.

ELIJAH PARKER.

Elijah Parker, Esq., son of Capt. Stephen and Mary (Morse) Parker of New Ipswich and Packersfield, N. H., was born in New Ipswich in 1776, but the family removed to Packersfield when Elijah was about two years old. Capt. Parker commanded his company in the Revolutionary war, and had somewhat intimate relations with Washington. Elijah gained his education by his own efforts; graduated at Dartmouth, 1806; read law with George B. Upham of Claremont, and Foster Alexander of Keene; began practice here in 1813; married, 1814, Sally, daughter of Rev. Aaron Hall. He was at one time in partnership with Joel Parker (E. & J. Parker), and later with Salma Hale. Mr. Parker did a large office business, and settled many estates, but seldom appeared as an advocate. In 1814, the year of his marriage, he bought of Luther Smith, the clock-maker, the house on the north corner of School and Court streets, which was replaced a few years ago by the present residence there, and lived there until his death, in 1858, at the age of eighty-two. His widow lived there until 1875, when she died at the age of ninety-two.

His children were: David Hall, born in 1815, married Elizabeth Britton, died in 1868; Mary Morse, born in 1817, married Hon. Joel Parker; Elijah Wellman, born in 1819, died in infancy; Henry Elijah, born in 1821, pastor of a Congregational church in Concord, N. H., chaplain of the Second New Hampshire Volunteers in 1861, professor in Dartmouth college; Horatio G., born in 1823, an eminent lawyer in Boston; Charles Edward, born in 1826, architect in Boston, designed St. James's church, the city hall and several residences in Keene. The celebrated musician, Horatio W. Parker, is the son of Charles Edward.

JOEL PARKER.

Hon. Joel Parker, LL. D., son of Abel and Edith (Jewett) Parker, was born in Jaffrey, N. H., in 1795; fitted at Groton academy, Mass.; graduated at Dartmouth, 1811; read law with his brother Edmund, at Amherst, N. H.; began practice in Keene in 1816; spent one year in Columbus, Ohio; returned to Keene and was for several years a partner with Elijah Parker, Esq.; represented Keene in the legislature in 1824, '25 and '26; was appointed judge of the superior court of judicature of New Hampshire in 1833; and chief justice of the same in 1838; and he is acknowledged to have been one of the most able and learned of all the chief justices New Hampshire has had. In a conflict of opinion between him and Chief Justice Story of Massachusetts, Judge Parker was sustained by the supreme court of the United States. In 1840 he was chairman of the commission to revise the statutes of New Hampshire. In 1847 he was appointed Royal professor in the Harvard Law school, removed to Cambridge, and held that position for twenty years. In the same year of this appointment he was also appointed professor of jurisprudence in Dartmouth college; and after his resignation from the chair at Harvard he was non-resident professor of law at Dartmouth, and left a part of his fortune to establish a law department in that institution. He received the degree of LL. D. from Dartmouth in 1837, and from Harvard in 1848. He was a member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention in 1853, and of a commission to revise the statutes of that state in 1855; and he contributed many learned and valuable papers to various publications, and to the Massachusetts Historical Society and other organizations.

In 1848, he married Mary Morse, daughter of Elijah Parker, Esq., of Keene, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. He died at Cambridge, Mass., August 17, 1875.

His father, Hon. Abel Parker of Jaffrey, for many years judge of probate for Cheshire county, was a Revolutionary soldier and paid a comrade to exchange places with him and give him the privilege of going into the fight at Bunker Hill, where he was severely wounded.



JUSTUS PERRY.

(Both tombstone and town records say that Gen. Perry died Dec. 10, 1842, aged 53. The sketch on opposite page should be corrected accordingly.)

In private life Judge Joel Parker was dignified in his deportment, yet genial and even fascinating in conversation; and his character was of the highest. He was especially fond of flowers and the cultivation of them, and he set many rare plants and shrubs in the garden of the Hall parsonage, which is now occupied by the Pond residence on West street. He also planted and cultivated an orchard of rare fruit in the west part of the town.

JUSTUS PERRY.

Gen. Justus Perry, son of Dr. Justus and Martha (Frost) Perry, was born in Marlboro, N. H., in 1788; educated in the public schools; apprenticed to David Wilkinson of Marlboro to learn the saddler's trade; bought his minority at the age of nineteen and set up in business for himself in a small store at old Marlboro Centre on the hill; came to Keene in 1812 and succeeded Sparhawk & Davis in a store on the east side of the Square, formerly John G. Bond's. He brought his mother and her young children with him and supported them. When the manufacture of flint glass on Marlboro street failed—from the influx of foreign goods after the war of 1812—he bought the property at a low price, and when the business revived made it very profitable.

He married first, Mary H. Edwards of Boston. The children by that marriage were: Horatio Justus; Mary Olivia, married Edward Parkman Tuckerman, a noted musician. He married second, Hannah Wood, of Concord, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Ellen Elizabeth, married Dr. Edward Pearson, of Salem, Mass.; Martha Ann—author and poetess—married Rev. Charles Lowe, of Exeter, N. H.; Henry, who died young.

He was successful in business; popular among the people; commanded the Ashuelot Cavalry, and rose to the rank of major general of the militia; built the fine house which stands on what is known as the Coolidge lot, just north of city hall; collected a valuable library; and was a leading and influential man in all good works. He died in 1840, aged fifty-two.



HORATIO J. PERRY.

HORATIO J. PERRY.

Horatio J. Perry, son of Justus and Mary (Edwards) Perry, was born in Keene in 1824; graduated at Harvard in 1844; studied law with Wm. P. Wheeler, in Keene, and completed his course at the Harvard Law school. While the Mexican war was in progress he joined the United States forces at Vera Cruz and was appointed volunteer aid on the staff of Gen. Shields, with the rank of captain. He was called home by the death of his sister, Mrs. Tuckerman; travelled in Europe and spent a winter in the West Indies on account of his health. His ability, and his knowledge of the Spanish language, brought him the appointment of secretary of legation at the court of Spain from President Taylor, in 1849; and he held that position for twenty years, through several changes of administration—under Ministers Barringer of North Carolina, Pierre Soulé of Louisiana, Carl Schurz and Gustav Koener—sometimes acting as *chargé d'affaires*; and from 1861 to 1865, he was acting minister.

In 1852, he married Carolina Corenado, "poet-laureate of Spain," a lady much admired for her genius and social qualities, and his home was a notable resort for statesmen and men of letters and position in Madrid. He and his wife "were on the most cordial terms with the queen mother, Christiana," and they occupied a country residence which had belonged to her, which he fitted up with choice pictures and works of art. "His hospitality to Americans was unbounded."

In 1854, in the absence of Mr. Soulé, he managed the settlement of the Black Warrior affair in a way to break up the scheme of Southern politicians to bring on a war with Spain and thus secure the island of Cuba for the extension of slavery. During our Civil war he was nearly all the time in charge of the legation, and by his adroit and statesmanlike diplomacy he induced the Spanish government—which was inclined to take the side of the South—to issue a proclamation of neutrality, compelling the Rebel cruiser, *Sumpter*, to withdraw from the harbor of Cadiz. For that skillful diplomacy he twice received from Mr. Seward expressions of the entire confidence of

President Lincoln, for his "loyalty, ability and diligence," and the "greatest satisfaction" with his delicate and successful management of the whole affair. Only political intrigue at this time prevented his appointment as minister, undoubtedly the most fitting appointment that could have been made. He died in Lisbon in 1891.

SILAS PERRY.

Silas Perry, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Leominster, Mass., in 1763; was one of the guard that escorted André to the gallows. In December, following, his term expired and he returned on foot through the snow to his home in Leominster, Mass.; married Catherine Hale; came to Keene in 1800, or earlier, and settled on the farm on the old Walpole road, four miles from town, still owned by his grandson, Joseph G.; died in 1852, aged 89.

JOSEPH PERRY.

Joseph Perry, son of Silas and Catherine (Hale) Perry, was born in 1788; graduated at Dartmouth in 1811; preceptor of academy connected with that college until 1816; teacher of mathematics in New York city until 1832; appointed to a clerkship in Washington, afterwards to a principal clerkship in the postoffice department until 1841; retired to his farm in Keene; appointed by Gov. Dinsmoor the first school commissioner for Cheshire county, in 1850-1; died in 1865.

JOHN PRENTISS.

Hon. John Prentiss was born in Reading, Mass., in 1778; learned the printer's trade; came to Keene in March, 1799, and established the *New Hampshire Sentinel*. To do that he bought the old type and hand press of a job printing office here in town, paid five dollars down, and started his paper with seventy subscribers at one dollar and fifty cents per annum. That paper has been published every week since that time, and is now a very valuable piece of property; and the grandson of the founder, William H. Prentiss, is now city editor and one of the owners of the paper. At type setting and all office work Mr. Prentiss was remarkably expert, and he did a large job printing

and publishing business for those times, sometimes printing and selling a hundred thousand copies of Adams's arithmetic in a year, and still larger numbers of spelling and other school books, besides standard historical works, such as Hale's History of the United States, and many others; and they were bound by George Tilden and others here in Keene.

When Mr. Prentiss first came to Keene he boarded at the old Wyman tavern, then kept by William Ward Blake, who had married Col. Wyman's daughter, Roxana. He married, in 1802, Diantha Aldrich, of Westmoreland, and they had eight children: Diantha, born in 1803, married Rev. Charles Robinson, of Groton, Mass.; Corinna, born in 1805, married Judge Hopkinson, of Lowell, Mass.; John W., born in 1806, married Eleanor May, was at one time principal owner of the Sentinel, and died in 1863; George A., born in 1809, a commodore in the United States navy, died in 1868; two daughters who died in childhood; Edmund, born in 1820 and died in 1846; Pamela, born in 1821, married Hon. Henry F. French, of Concord, Mass.

For more than fifty years Mr. Prentiss wielded a powerful influence in the town and county. He was often radical in his views, but no one doubted his honesty. He was an earnest advocate of temperance and prohibition, foremost in religious discussions and controversies, and in movements for the advancement of education. He was one of the active and aggressive spirits in the secession and organization of the Keene Congregational Society (Unitarian), and an earnest supporter of its earlier ministers. He held the offices of town clerk, town treasurer, representative, state senator and other responsible positions; and for sixty-seven years was a prominent Mason.

In 1808 he established a homestead on the New Hampshire turnpike—on the site of the present residence of Major O. G. Dort, Court street—and built a business block in 1825 on the west side of the Square, now owned by the heirs of E. G. Whitcomb. In 1750 he was a delegate to the peace convention at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and travelled extensively in Great Britain and on the continent, writing letters which were published in the Sentinel. He died in 1873, aged ninety-five.

ALEXANDER RALSTON.

Alexander Ralston was born in Falkirk, Scotland, in 1755; married Janet Balloch, of the same place. Her family was one of rank and they opposed the match, but she escaped with her lover, and they were married "by the Rev. Mr. Etiherson, of Falkirk, Dec. 10, 1767." (Falkirk records.) She was then eighteen years old. They came to this country in 1773, and to Keene in 1775. He owned and kept—probably built—the Ralston tavern, elsewhere described, and he also owned several farms and much other real estate in and about the village, had a distillery on Packersfield road, and for several years was the largest taxpayer in town. Ralston street was named for him.

Their children were: Mary, born in 1768, in Falkirk, Scotland, married Elijah Dunbar, of Keene; Elizabeth, born in 1770, in Falkirk, married Sylvester Tiffany; Janette, born in 1773, in Charlestown, Mass., married Ithamar Chase; Hannah, born in 1775, in Keene, married Jonathan Chase, of Cornish, N. H.; Alexander, born in 1778, in Keene (in trade with Wm. M. Bond and went to Claremont); Ann, born in 1781, in Keene, and died young; James B., born in 1783, in Keene; Nancy, born in 1785, in Keene, married Wm. M. Bond,¹ of Keene; Sally, born in 1788, in Keene, married James H. Bradford, of Keene; and William.

Mrs. Ralston was a very talented woman, and her daughters were noted for their beauty and brilliancy. "Mrs. Ralston told my father, Abijah Metcalf, that when she came from Scotland she brought her stocking full of gold." (Dea. William Metcalf.) After the death of her husband, in 1819, she lived for many years in one of her own houses, on Main street, where the "Appleton house" now stands, but was at Cornish, with her daughter, Mrs. Jonathan Chase, when she died in 1833.

JAMES REED.

Gen. James Reed was born in Woburn, Mass., in 1724, of English ancestry; married Abigail Hinds of New Salem,

¹ See sketch of Wm. M. Bond for divorce and remarriage.

Mass.; lived in Brookfield; removed to Lunenburg, to the part that is now Fitchburg, and kept tavern where the city hall now stands; was for several years a captain in the last French and Indian war, in the campaign against Ticonderoga under Gen. Abercrombie in 1758, and under Gen. Amherst in 1759; rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel; was one of the first settlers of Fitzwilliam, about 1765; raised a company in that town upon the Lexington alarm, April 19, 1775, and marched to Medford; was made colonel of the Third New Hampshire regiment; commanded his regiment at the battle of Bunker Hill, and had the credit of being the last field officer to leave the field; marched with the army to New York after the siege of Boston; was entrusted by Washington with funds to pay the northern army and carried three boxes of specie—\$300,000—to Gen. Schuyler, at Albany; joined Arnold's army on its retreat from Canada, and in Arnold's absence held a talk with the chiefs of the Indian tribes, received their pledge of friendship and transmitted it to congress. In that campaign he contracted the disease so prevalent in that army, small pox, which caused the loss of his sight. On the 9th of August, upon the recommendation of Gen. Washington, congress appointed him a brigadier general and the next day sent him his commission with the following letter:

“Philadelphia, August 10, 1776.

“Sir: The Congress having yesterday been pleased to promote you to the rank of brigadier-general in the army of the American states I do myself the pleasure to enclose your commission and wish you happy.

I am, Sir,

Your most ob.^t and very humble serv^t.

John Hancock, President.

To Brigadier General James Reed.”

But his impaired health and blindness compelled him to resign his commission. He retired to Fitzwilliam at the close of that year, and was granted a pension in accordance with his rank—half pay, amounting to \$750 per year. In 1779 the legislature granted him (at a small rental) the confiscated house and twenty-five acres of land of Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, on the west side of Main street,

and he came to Keene that year¹ or the next and lived here until 1793, when he returned to Fitzwilliam. Mrs. Reed died in Keene, and the slate headstone from her grave in the old south burying ground is still preserved in the new cemetery,² bearing the inscription: "In memory of Mrs. Abigail, wife of Genl. James Reed, Who departed this Life August 27th, 1791, In the 68 year of her Age."

In April, 1783, the Society of the Cincinnati was formed, and General Reed of Keene was one of the charter members of the New Hampshire branch. He had nine children, and three of his sons, James, Sylvanus and Hinds, served in the Revolutionary army. His daughter, Saloma, married Lockhart Willard, of Keene. He was a man of the highest honor and integrity, and in the patriot army, from Washington down, his name was mentioned in terms of commendation and eulogy. About the year 1800 he removed to his former home in Fitchburg, Mass., near the present city hall, and died there, Feb. 13, 1807, aged eighty-three, and was buried with military honors. His monument stands in the old burying ground in Fitchburg, and his portrait hangs in the state house at Concord.

JOSIAH RICHARDSON.

Capt. Josiah Richardson, son of James and Sarah (Fowle) Richardson, was born in Leominster, Mass., in 1742; married first, Rebecca Beaman, of Leominster; came to Keene in 1770, or earlier, and kept a tavern and store on Poverty Lane, about where the St. James parish house now stands. He bought all the land on the west side of upper Main street from the south line of the present railroad, extending west as far as the present Horatio Colony estate, and north to the old Sun tavern on the Walpole road, and to the present Mechanic street on Prison street, including the greater part of Central square. In 1773 the town granted him the right to "remove" the road running west from Main street, called Poverty Lane, to Pleasant street (now West), thus opening the east end of that street from the meetinghouse, which then stood

¹State Papers, vol. 11, pages 672-4; and Revolutionary Rolls, vol. 3, page 433.

²Since Gen. Griffin's death the stone has been removed to the Washington street cemetery.—EDS.

where the soldiers' monument now does, on its present line. He then built his new tavern where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands. He also built a store, afterwards occupied by his son-in-law, Joseph Dorr, and others, on what is now Elliot's corner; and gave the lot for Rev. Aaron Hall's house, west of his own, and that for the Centre or Church street schoolhouse. He is described in deeds drawn in 1771-2-3 and later as merchant, trader, and innholder. In 1814 he sold the corner lot mentioned above to Appleton & Elliot.

He was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and in 1777 he was lieutenant in Capt. Mack's company, Col. Nichols's regiment at the battle of Bennington. Toward the close of the fight, after our troops had carried the works and the enemy was pretty thoroughly demoralized, Lieut. Richardson came upon three Hessians. Being a powerful, resolute man, he commanded them, in an imperious voice, to surrender. Accustomed to obey the command of an officer, they complied at once; and he disarmed them and sent them to the rear as prisoners. In 1780, he was captain of one of the militia companies of Keene that marched to repel the Royalton raid, and was afterwards promoted to major. He was five years selectman, two years town treasurer, six years representative, and was chosen, by a convention of the legislature, from the house to the state council in 1788. He was the first postmaster in Keene, appointed by the state of New Hampshire in March, 1791, before the United States assumed the carrying of the mails.

Capt. Richardson's wife, Rebecca, died in 1779, leaving one daughter, Abigail, who married Joseph Dorr, a merchant of Keene. He married, second, Mrs. Abigail (Bellows) Hunt, daughter of Col. Benjamin Bellows, of Walpole—"a woman of rare moral and intellectual endowments." By her he had one son, Josiah, who was killed in infancy by falling from his mother's arms while on her way to Walpole on horseback.

He died in 1820, aged seventy-eight.¹

¹In those early days one of the routes by which Englishmen reached Montreal was via Boston, and thence by stage through Keene and Burlington, spending the night in Keene. Tradition, well authenticated, tells us that the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria (or according to some reports, Prince Edward, then governor of Canada), once made that trip, when a young man,

ERI RICHARDSON.

Eri Richardson, son of Dr. Amos, who was of the fourth generation from Samuel, who came from Kent, England, in 1630 with his two brothers, Ezekiel and Thomas, in the same ship with Governor Winthrop, was born in Billerica, Mass., in 1741; married Sarah, daughter of John Durant; came to Keene about 1780; lived on the last farm in Keene on the old road over West mountain towards Swanzey; had twelve children, all born in Keene between 1764 and 1789. His eldest son, Amos, from his size and strength called "the giant," settled on the first farm in Swanzey next south of his father.

BARZILLAI RICHARDSON.

Barzillai Richardson, son of Amos, called the giant, was born in 1792; married Lydia Foster of Swanzey; settled on the Dickinson farm on West mountain (now Scripture's) and lived there thirty years; had ten children—six sons and four daughters—born between 1815 and 1833. All the sons and all the husbands of the daughters became railroad men early in life and served an average of thirty years each, or an aggregate of 300 years for the family. They aided in building the Worcester railroad in 1833, the Boston & Albany in 1835, the Cheshire and many others. Amos, the eldest, had charge of laying all the first track of the Cheshire railroad, and was afterwards roadmaster. Joel F., the second son, bought his minority of his father at nineteen, was twelve years on the Boston & Albany, went to Indiana, originated and built the very successful belt road around the city of Indianapolis; and was for nine years superintendent of the Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette railroad. He was thirty-nine years in railroad service. Eri, the fourth son, after twenty-six years in railroad service, invested largely in Sioux City, and became a banker and a wealthy man. One of the sons-in-law, Geo.

and lodged at Capt. Richardson's tavern. The story goes on to say that before supper he gave Mrs. Richardson (the second wife, Abigail), some of the tea which he carried with him and asked her to brew it for him for both supper and breakfast; that she took the tea to her kitchen, laid it carefully aside as a keepsake, and brewed of her own for him; and that he did not discover the trick. Mrs. Richardson had the reputation of once saving the life of Salmon P. Chase, when, in his boyhood, he was attacked with malignant typhus fever, by her unremitting care and skillful nursing.

W. Perry, was the engineer who ran the first passenger train into Keene, in 1848, and was afterwards master mechanic. Another son-in-law, Niles Aldrich, was engineer and conductor on the Cheshire road for thirty-five years.

HENRY ROWE SCHOOLCRAFT.

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, LL. D., ornithologist, United States Indian agent, and author, was born at Watervleit, N. Y., in 1793; graduated at Union college in 1811; learned the art of glass making.

His grandfather came from England, surveyed land, taught school, and changed the family name from Calcroft to Schoolcraft. His father, Lawrence Schoolcraft, was superintendent of a glass factory near Albany, N. Y.—had been a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a colonel in the war of 1812—came to Keene about 1814 as an expert to superintend the manufacture of glass, and remained several years. Henry came to Keene with his father, and the next year Daniel Watson, Timothy Twitchell and young Schoolcraft seceded from the company on Prison street, united as partners, built a factory, and made flint glass bottles and decanters on Marlboro street, and had a store on Main street near the present Eagle Hotel. Afterwards Watson—and still later Twitchell—withdrew, Nathaniel Sprague joined, and the firm became Schoolcraft & Sprague.

In 1817 Schoolcraft published the first part of his treatise on vitreology; and his knowledge of mining led him to leave Keene during that year to examine the mines of Ohio, Missouri, and other western states. In his travels he gathered much information concerning the Indians, and in 1822 he was appointed Indian agent, with a view to gaining such information for the use of the government. He established himself at Sault St. Marie, and married Jane Johnson—granddaughter of the noted Ojibway chief, Waboojeeg—who had been educated in Europe. In 1832 he led a government expedition up the Mississippi river and discovered its source in Itaska lake. In 1836 he negotiated a treaty with the Indian tribes on the upper lakes by which 16,000,000 acres of land were ceded to the United

States. Afterwards he was acting superintendent of Indian affairs and chief disbursing agent for the northern department; and through his influence many laws were passed for the protection and benefit of the Indians. He made a study of the Indian languages, and his published work on that subject was translated into French and other languages, and brought him a gold medal from the French Institute. Longfellow acknowledges that it was from Schoolcraft that he got his legends for his poem of Hiawatha and other works. He visited Europe and after his return, in 1847, congress authorized him to collate and edit all his information concerning the Indians. It was published by Lippincott in six large quarto volumes, extensively and handsomely illustrated by Capt. Seth Eastman, of the United States army—also a New Hampshire man—with a portrait of Schoolcraft. The government appropriated \$30,000 per volume for the work. It was—and has ever since been—the standard work and the one upon which the government relied in all its affairs with the Indians. He was the author of thirty-one volumes in all, besides a mass of very valuable manuscript, preserved in the library of congress. The University of Geneva gave him the degree of LL. D. in 1846; and he was a member of a large number of ethnological, historical and other societies, in this country and in Europe.

In 1847, five years after the death of his first wife, he married Mary Howard, of Beaufort, S. C., an authoress, who assisted him in his later work, when he had lost the use of his hands by paralysis and was confined to his chair.

He died in Washington, Dec. 10, 1864, aged seventy-one. "His Indian Legends are charmingly written; and in his death a shining light in American literature has been extinguished." (Obituary in Washington paper.)

PELEG SPRAGUE.

Hon. Peleg Sprague, son of Noah and Mercy (Dexter) Sprague, was born in Rochester, Mass., in 1756; began life as a clerk in a store in Littleton, Mass.; was a bright student and entered Harvard college, but finished his course

at Dartmouth, in 1783; read law with Benjamin West, of Charlestown, N. H.; married Rosalinda Taylor of that town, granddaughter of Rev. Ezra Carpenter; represented Acworth, N. H., in the tentative legislature of Vermont in 1781; admitted to the bar in 1785; practiced in Winchendon and Fitchburg, Mass.; came to Keene in 1787; was selectman in 1789-90-91; soon took high rank in his profession; was county solicitor in 1794; representative to the legislature in 1797; was elected to congress in the same year; reëlected, 1799; resigned on account of ill health; died April 20, 1800, aged forty-three, and was buried with Masonic honors. He built the house on Main street, now Mrs. Laton Martin's (1900) and lived there. He also owned the Luther Nourse farm on Beech hill, and died in that house. His children were: Nathaniel, born in 1790; Elizabeth, born in 1792; David, born in 1794, who died young.

NATHANIEL SPRAGUE.

Rev. Nathaniel Sprague, D. D., son of Peleg, was born in 1790; graduated at Dartmouth; was superintendent of glass works in Keene, succeeding Schoolcraft; afterwards partner with Schoolcraft in the manufacture of glass bottles, decanters and similar ware on Marlboro street; captain of Keene Light Infantry in 1816; taught school in Keene, 1820; was ordained in the Episcopal ministry; had a parish at Royalton, Vt., afterwards at Drewsville, N. H., and still later at Claremont; received the honorary degree of D. D.; never married; died at Claremont in 1853. A memorial of him was placed in a window of St. James' church in Keene by his sister, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH SPRAGUE.

Miss Elizabeth Sprague, daughter of Peleg, was born in 1792; never married; was a woman of remarkable gifts and a brilliant conversationalist; for several years teacher of music and languages in Miss Fiske's school—for two years Miss Fiske's partner—and the piano she used was the first brought to Keene and still exists, well preserved, in the family of her cousin, Mr. George Carpenter of Swanzy, where she died in 1880.

JEREMIAH STILES.

Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, son of Jacob and Mary Stiles, was born in Lunenburg, Mass., Feb. 23, 1744; came to Keene while young; married, 1768, Mary, daughter of Eleazar Sanger of Keene; was lieutenant of the company that marched from Keene, April 21, 1775; was raised to captain upon the promotion of Capt. Wyman; commanded the company at the battle of Bunker Hill; was transferred with his company from Stark's regiment to that of Col. Paul D. Sargent of Massachusetts, and served his eight months' term of enlistment; discharged with his company at the close of that year. He was afterwards a member of the town committee of safety, a magistrate, a member of the state constitutional convention of 1778, nine years selectman, five years town clerk, nine years representative to the legislature, and held many other important offices. He was also a land surveyor, and a prominent Mason, and "he painted the portrait of David Nims, first town clerk of Keene." (William S. Briggs, his great-grandson.) (It is more probable, however, that it was his son who painted the portrait, as Jeremiah Stiles, Jr., was a portrait painter by vocation. He was thirty-two years old when David Nims died, and the portrait shows that the subject was of very great age). Capt. Stiles owned a farm and had his dwelling house on the north corner of Cross and Prison streets, and his office as magistrate was in the old wooden building that stood on what is now Elliot's corner. His children were: Elizabeth, married Eliphalet Briggs; Jeremiah, Joseph, John W., and Mary, born between 1769 and 1781. He died in 1800, aged fifty-six, and was buried with Masonic honors. His funeral—a public one at the meetinghouse—was largely attended and very impressive.

CORNELIUS STURTEVANT.

Cornelius Sturtevant, fifth in descent from Samuel, one of three brothers who came from Holland about 1640, was born in Plympton, Mass., in 1734; married Sarah Bosworth of Plympton; had six sons and one daughter, all born in Plympton between 1767 and 1777; came to Keene in 1779, and settled on a farm on the hills east of

the Ashuelot river, near the north line of the town; died in 1826, aged ninety-one. He was remarkable for the beauty of his handwriting—"said to be a little plainer than common print." His descendants to the seventh generation are still living in Keene.

His eldest son, Luke, married Abial, daughter of Nathaniel Kingsbury, and was killed in 1811, by the fall of a tree which he was cutting on the homestead.

CORNELIUS STURTEVANT, JR.

Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., son of Cornelius and Sarah (Bosworth) Sturtevant, was born in 1771; taught school; learned the printer's trade of Henry Blake & Co.; bought their printing establishment, published the *Rising Sun*, and sold to John Prentiss in 1799; married, 1794, Sarah, daughter of Ichabod Fisher of Keene; had eight children, born between 1795 and 1806, and the only cradle Mrs. Sturtevant had for her babies was a slab of hemlock bark.

In 1813, Mr. Sturtevant enlisted in the Seventeenth United States Infantry, served through the war, remained in the service and died at Piketon, Ohio, in 1821, aged fifty. Mrs. Sturtevant died in Keene, in 1853, aged eighty-three.

CHARLES STURTEVANT.

Charles Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in 1806; married Eliza Cummings, of Marlboro, N. H.; was register of deeds for Cheshire county for twelve years; died in Keene in 1867.

GEORGE W. STURTEVANT.

George W. Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in 1799; married, 1823, Frances W., daughter of Jehiel Kilburn, of Keene. They lived together fifty-three years, had six children, and he survived his wife but three weeks, both dying in 1875. For fifty years he was the civil engineer of the town and of a large part of the county, and the number of maps and plans of real estate that he left is very large. He also held many offices of trust.

EDWARD EVERETT STURTEVANT.

Edward Everett Sturtevant, son of Cornelius, Jr., was born in Keene in 1826; was the first man in New Hampshire to enlist for the Civil war; and he opened the first recruiting office in the state, at Concord, in April, 1861. He went to the front as captain of Company I, First New Hampshire Volunteers, for three months; and again as captain of Company A, Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers for three years or the war; was promoted to major; was in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac in 1862—at times commanded his regiment by seniority;—was acting lieutenant colonel at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 13, 1862, where he was killed, and was buried in an unknown grave. He was a gallant soldier and an excellent commander of troops.

JOHN W. STURTEVANT.

Gen. John Warner Sturtevant, son of Luther and Isabella L. Sturtevant, was born in Keene, June 15, 1840. He was a descendant of Cornelius Sturtevant, the pioneer. From 1858 to 1862 he was a clerk in the bookstore of G. & G. H. Tilden. In 1862, he enlisted in the Union army (Company G, Fourteenth New Hampshire) and served through the war, rising to the rank of captain. He was for a time in the adjutant and provost marshal's office at Washington, and afterwards aide-de-camp on the staff of Brigadier General B. S. Roberts at Carrollton, La., and provost marshal of the district of Carrollton. In the battle of Opequan he was wounded in the arm and thigh.

At the close of the war he went to Beaufort, S. C., where he engaged in the cultivation of cotton and had charge of a general store until 1867, when he returned to Keene. In the same year he bought out George Tilden and became a partner in the store of G. H. Tilden & Co.

He was a member of John Sedgwick post, G. A. R., and of the Massachusetts commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

In 1869 he was elected town clerk and held the office until the town became a city in 1874. He was a member of the board of education of Union district for nine years,

and moderator and clerk of the district for several years. In 1876, 1877 and 1885 he represented ward 3 in the legislature. In 1888 he was a member of a special commission to ascertain the value of the state's interest in the Concord and Boston & Maine railroads under the reserved charter rights.

When the Keene Light Guard battalion was formed in 1878, Capt. Sturtevant became captain of Company H and later was lieutenant colonel of the Second regiment of the New Hampshire National Guard. In 1879 he was made inspector general on the staff of Gov. Head.

In 1871 he married Clara, daughter of Charles Chase of Keene, by whom he had two sons, Charles C. and Clifford L.

He died Dec. 12, 1892.

THOMAS RUSSELL SULLIVAN.

Rev. Thomas Russell Sullivan, son of John Langdon Sullivan of Boston, and grandson of James Sullivan, who was governor of Massachusetts in 1808 and a younger brother of Gen. John Sullivan of the Revolutionary army, was born in Boston in 1799; graduated at Harvard in 1817; was ordained and settled over the Keene Congregational Society in 1825; married, 1826, Charlotte Caldwell, daughter of Francis Blake, of Worcester, Mass. His mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Russell, the celebrated merchant of Boston, for whom she named her son. For several years while in Keene he edited the *Liberal Preacher*, a Unitarian publication printed in Keene. He resigned his pastorate in Keene in 1835, and afterwards opened a school in Boston for fitting lads for college.

He was a refined, scholarly man, courtly and dignified. At the centennial celebration in Keene in 1853, Rev. Dr. Barstow spoke of him as "the distinguished Thomas Russell Sullivan." He had six sons and two daughters. He died in Boston in 1862.

CLEMENT SUMNER.

Rev. Clement Sumner came from Cheshire, Ct.; graduated at Yale in 1758; was ordained at Keene, June 11, 1761. Before coming to Keene he had married Elizabeth,

daughter of Capt. Samuel Gilbert of Hebron, Ct., the principal proprietor of the township of Gilsum, N. H., though never a resident there. Their children were: Elizabeth and Anna (twins) born in Hebron, Feb. 22, 1760; Clarissa, born in Keene in 1762; Lucina, born in Keene in 1764; a son born in Keene in 1765, died an infant; Clement Augustus, born in Keene in 1767; Samuel Gilbert, born in Keene in 1769; William, born in Keene in 1771.

He remained pastor here for eleven years, and eighty-four members were added to the church during that time. The misconduct of his children, as was said, having caused some dissatisfaction, he was dismissed at his own request in 1772; but he spent his life in Keene, an excellent citizen, and a man of liberal views, for those times. He preached for a time at Thetford, Vt., and occasionally at other places, but was never settled again. In August, 1763, he was chosen proprietors' clerk of Gilsum—put down as "Mr. Sumner of Keen."

He died in Keene in 1795, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and was buried in the old south yard. His widow died many years later, at West Swanzey. His sons settled in Keene and had children whose births are recorded in the town books.

JOHN SYMONDS.

John Symonds, was born in Hancock, N. H., in 1816; learned the tanner's trade; was engaged in that business at Marlow and East Sullivan; came to Keene in 1872, and established a large tannery one and one-fourth miles west of the Square, built a fine residence and other dwellings near it, and, with A. M. Bigelow & Co. of Boston, carried on an extensive and successful business. He married Caroline E. Robbins, of Nelson, N. H., but had no children. He died in 1885.

He bequeathed one-half of his estate—after the decease of his widow, who was to have the income of it during her life—to the city of Keene, "To build a public Library building and purchase land therefor, and to provide books and reading matter, and to take care of the same. And this fund may be used in connection with any city appropriations for the same purpose; and to pay for and

establish on said building, or some other in the city, a set of Chime Bells." When it was turned over to the city the bequest was valued at about \$30,000; but a part of it was in property which depreciated; a part was turned into cash and deposited in the Five Cents Savings bank, a portion of which was lost; and within a few years there was a serious reduction in the available funds of the bequest.

GEORGE TILDEN.

George Tilden, son of Dea. Joseph Tilden of Marshfield, Mass., was born in Marshfield, April 21, 1802; came to Keene in 1817, and learned the bookbinder's trade of A. & H. Walker; began business for himself in 1825 in the basement of a building where the Cheshire National bank now stands, succeeding the Walkers and Thayers; removed to Gerould's block in 1835; published the North American Spelling Book, and other books; was chosen secretary and treasurer of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings in 1833, which office he held until 1880; was president of the institution for two years; took his son, G. H. Tilden, into partnership in 1853, who still carries on the business; continued in business until 1867, when he sold his interest, and in 1871 removed with the savings bank to the new bank block, on the corner of Roxbury street; was one of the founders of the Unitarian Society in Keene, and for sixty years was active in the church and Sunday school; took the circulating library of the Walkers and Thayers in 1824 and continued it for a long term; for more than forty years was a member of the school committee and board of education; and was town clerk five years and county treasurer three years.

In 1825, he married Harriet Wyman, daughter of Dr. Joseph Wheeler of Keene. They had one son and three daughters. He died Nov. 3, 1888.

JOHN TOWNS.

Capt. John Towns, son of Nehemiah—a descendant of William Towne, father of Rebecca (Towne) Nourse, who was hanged as a witch, at Salem, in 1692—was born in 1786; married Nancy, daughter of Samuel and granddaughter of Seth Heaton, one of the first three settlers of

Upper Ashuelot; was blacksmith, contractor and builder; had a shop with Aaron Davis just north of the present railroad station, afterwards on Marlboro street; built and lived in the brick house still standing next south of the Eagle Hotel; built a brick store where the Sentinel building now stands, the brick house on Marlboro street since owned by Madison Fairbanks, and later by Charles Wilson, and many other buildings; did a large business and was at one time one of the largest taxpayers in town. He had eight children, born between 1816 and 1835. His second daughter married Ralph J. Holt, of Keene. He died in 1858, aged seventy-two.

AMOS TWITCHELL.

Dr. Amos Twitchell, eminent surgeon and physician, was born in Dublin, N. H., in 1781, the seventh of nine children, "puny at his birth and fragile during infancy." His father, Capt. Samuel Twitchell, a farmer and miller, was one of the early settlers of Dublin, prominent in town affairs; a Revolutionary soldier, rising to the command of a company in Col. Enoch Hale's regiment in the Rhode Island campaign of 1778; afterwards a magistrate. His mother was a lineal descendant of the distinguished Rev. John Wilson, whom Cotton Mather described as "the father of the infant colonies of New England." In early youth Amos developed a fondness for books and study, and through his mother's influence was sent to the academy at New Ipswich. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1802, teaching school winters to enable him to pursue his course. He took high rank in college and immediately began the study of medicine and surgery under the eminent Dr. Nathan Smith, the projector and head of the medical school at Dartmouth and afterwards professor of surgery at Yale. Twitchell was an apt pupil, particularly fond of the study of anatomy and surgery, and soon became the assistant of Dr. Smith in his college work, and was the professor's chief dependence in procuring subjects for dissection, in which his energy and courage were brought into full play.

In 1808 he entered into practice with his brother-in-

law, Dr. David Carter of Marlboro, taking the surgical part of the practice. Sir Astley Cooper, of London, has the credit of first taking up the carotid artery, but Dr. Twitchell had performed that delicate and dangerous operation in 1807—nearly a year before Sir Astley's case—and saved his patient, performing the act by his own skill and knowledge, with only the help of a woman to tie the thread, without precedent or example from any learned authority. That operation, with other skillful and inventive achievements, gave him a wide reputation and placed him in the front rank of surgeons. In 1810, he removed to Keene, where he quickly rose to the head of his profession, and continued his practice for forty years, greatly beloved and respected. He was offered professorships in several colleges; was for several years president of the New Hampshire Medical Society; was first president of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane; and held many other important positions and received many honorary degrees. In 1815, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Josiah Goodhue, of Hanover, who became "a model of a physician's wife;" but they had no children. He was genial and cordial, quick at repartee, and was one of the great wits and brilliant social leaders of the town. He died in 1850.¹

TIMOTHY TWITCHELL.

Capt. Timothy Twitchell, brother of Dr. Amos, was born in Dublin in 1783; went to sea in early youth; rose to the command of a merchant ship and made a successful voyage around the world; came to Keene; married, 1814, Susan, daughter of Daniel Watson, and joined Aaron Appleton, John Elliot, Daniel Watson and others in the manufacture of glass on Prison street; afterwards, with Watson and Henry R. Schoolcraft, started the manufacture of flint glass bottles and decanters on Marlboro street; removed to Petersburg, Va., where he remained six years, and thence to Pensacola, Fla., where for thirty years he was engaged in the mercantile and lumber business. In 1851 he returned to Keene, and died in 1867, aged

¹ His portrait, which hangs in city hall, and which Capt. Elbridge Clarke was foremost in procuring, was painted from an old daguerreotype by Wallace of Boston, and presented to the city by fifty subscribers, headed by J. F. & F. H. Whitcomb.

eighty-four. His widow died in 1871, aged seventy-eight. Their children were: Henry, born in Keene in 1815; Mary, born in Petersburg, Va., in 1818; George Brooks, born in Petersburg, Va., in 1820.

GEORGE B. TWITCHELL.

Dr. George B. Twitchell, son of Timothy and Susan (Watson) Twitchell, was born in Petersburg, Va., in 1820; studied medicine with Dr. Amos Twitchell of Keene, and at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania; began practice in Keene in 1843 and continued until his death in 1897. He at once took a leading position in his profession and held it during his long career, doing most of the surgery in southwestern New Hampshire.

In 1862, he volunteered for the war and went to the front as surgeon of the Thirteenth New Hampshire Volunteers; was promoted in the spring of 1863 to surgeon of United States Volunteers, with the rank of major, serving under Gen. Grant at Vicksburg, but resigned after about one year's service on account of ill health.

He was president of the board of trustees of the New Hampshire insane asylum for many years, and a men's building recently added to that institution was named for him; and he was the most active agent in establishing and putting in working order the city hospital in Keene, after the gift of the buildings and grounds had been made by Mr. Elliot. It was he who initiated and carried through the city councils the project of adopting Col. Waring's system of sewerage for the city—doubtless the best known system to meet the conditions existing in Keene—and he was active in all enterprises for the benefit of the people, and the welfare of the community. The estimation in which he was held was illustrated by the gift, after he was seventy-five years old, of a gold-lined silver loving cup by about three hundred donors, mostly citizens of Keene. Dartmouth conferred on him the honorary degree of A. M.

Dr. Twitchell married, 1849, Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Gideon F. and Nancy P. Thayer, of Boston, by whom he had four daughters and two sons. Both the sons are physicians.

SAMUEL WADSWORTH.

Samuel Wadsworth came from Middletown, Ct., about 1760; married, 1762, Huldah, daughter of Seth Heaton, one of the first settlers of Upper Ashuelot. In 1770 he bought the original house lot No. 12—the old fort property—where Mr. Lemuel Hayward now lives, and two years later bought lots 10 and 11, north of it. He was a blacksmith and lived in one of the houses that were built inside the fort in connection with its walls, and had his shop within or near the fort. The stone foundations of his forge may still be found, just north of Mr. Hayward's house. He rose to the rank of major in the militia, but was one of the few tories in Keene at the time of the Revolution, though not one of the more obnoxious ones. After residing in the fort for some years he removed to Beech hill, where he died in 1782, aged forty-two.

He had nine children, four sons and five daughters, but only one son, the youngest, lived to manhood. His name was Samuel, born after his father's death, in 1783; married Betsey Lawrence, sister of Asa, of Roxbury, and John, of Keene; removed to Roxbury, near the outlet of Woodward's pond; was thrown from his horse and killed in February, 1835.

ABRAHAM WHEELER.

Col. Abraham Wheeler, son of Abraham and Hannah Wheeler of Keene, was born in 1743; married Mary; had seven children, born in Keene between 1769 and 1779; member of the militia company here in 1773, and his father was at the same time on the alarm list; was a private in Col. Ashley's regiment that marched to the relief of Ticonderoga in 1776; a private in the company of Capt. Davis Howlett of Keene, Ashley's regiment, that marched from Keene to oppose Burgoyne in June, 1777; afterwards a colonel in the militia. He owned the farm on Beech hill known as the Luther Nourse place and built that house (see sketch of Phineas Nourse) in 1773, and the barn in 1775—raised on the 17th of June. He removed from there to Ash Swamp and kept the tavern, and probably built the house, now known as the old Sawyer

tavern, two miles from the Square, where he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Josiah Sawyer. He died in 1814, aged seventy-one. His mother, Mrs. Hannah Wheeler, lived to the age of one hundred and three, and died Dec. 3, 1824.

WILLIAM P. WHEELER.

William P. Wheeler, LL. D., son of Col. Nathaniel and Huldah (Whipple) Wheeler, was born in Croydon, N. H., in 1812; learned the harness making trade, but had a taste for the law and gained an education by his own efforts; attended the academies at Plainfield and Newport; read law with Phineas Handerson at Keene, and attended lectures at Harvard Law school; began practice in Keene in 1842; was county solicitor in 1845 and held that office ten years; took Francis A. Faulkner as junior partner, and the distinguished law firm of Wheeler & Faulkner was formed in the spring of 1850 and continued through Mr. Wheeler's lifetime. The two men were admirably adapted to each other as partners in the firm. Mr. Wheeler was one of the ablest advocates in the state, while Mr. Faulkner was one of the most skillful and efficient of attorneys in the preparation of cases and legal papers; and they were engaged in nearly every case of importance in the county, and in many outside of the county. Mr. Wheeler was also remarkably skillful and adroit in the examination of witnesses.

"If you should ask me who was the best jury advocate of all the lawyers I have ever heard at the New Hampshire bar, I should want time to consider. * * * * But if you ask me who was the best cross-examiner I have ever heard, I can answer that question at once. It was a man who was never unfair, never rough—a man who treated the witness with the same courtesy that he would exhibit towards a guest in his own house, and who nevertheless sifted the testimony thoroughly, and in such a way that the jury did not sympathize with the witness. That model cross-examiner was the former leader of the Cheshire bar, the late William P. Wheeler." (Judge Jeremiah Smith.)

Mr. Wheeler was a man of sound judgment, excellent business capacity, genial in disposition and unassuming in manners—a man in whom every one felt that he had a



SUMNER WHEELER.

friend—and though not in public office filled many positions of trust and responsibility. In 1851 he was offered a position on the bench of the court of common pleas, and later on that of the supreme court of New Hampshire, but he declined in both cases. He was nominated for congress in 1855 and 1857, but his party was in the minority and he could not be elected. He was one of the trustees of the New Hampshire Agricultural college, and valuable donations were made to it through his influence. He was a leader in the organization of St. James' (Episcopal) church, contributed largely for its support and was one of its wardens at the time of his decease. He was also president of the Cheshire Provident Institution for Savings. Dartmouth college conferred upon him the degree of A. M. in 1852, and that of LL. D. in 1872. In 1849 he married Sarah D. Moulton, of Randolph, Vt., and they had one daughter and one son.

He died in 1876.

SUMNER WHEELER.

Sumner Wheeler, son of Capt. David and Martha Frost (Perry) Wheeler, was born in Marlboro, N. H., in 1807; came to Keene at the age of fourteen; received a business training under his elder half brother, Justus Perry, became his partner and finally succeeded him in business. He bought the house on Main street previously used by Miss Fiske for her school (now Mrs. E. C. Thayer's); married, 1832, Catherine Vose of Boston; had three daughters and one son.

Mr. Wheeler was a man of the highest character and the strictest integrity, with a genial and kindly disposition. "His face was a benediction on the street." One of Keene's most brilliant daughters wrote of him: "If I were asked who had the largest and most all-sympathizing heart in all our Keene world I should say, Sumner Wheeler."

One day some gentlemen who had met in one of the banks were discussing affairs about town, and one of them made the trite remark that there was not a thoroughly honest man in Keene. Another offered to bet ten dollars that he could show them an honest man. "Leave out

Sumner Wheeler and I will take your bet," said the first speaker. "But Sumner Wheeler is the man I was betting on," was the reply.

He died in 1861, aged fifty-four.

ABIJAH WILDER.

Dea. Abijah Wilder, son of Andrew, a farmer of Lancaster, Mass., was born in 1752; came to Keene about 1774; "a mechanic of great celebrity in his day;" had a cabinet shop on the Walpole road, probably the present "old Sun tavern," and his dwelling, towards the last of his life was nearly opposite, a little below. In 1799 he secured a patent for the invention of bending sleigh runners by steaming the wood; and carried on a large business in the manufacture of sleighs and carriages.

He married, in 1774, Sarah, daughter of Gideon Ellis, of Keene. The children by that marriage were: Abigail, born in 1775, married Abijah Kingsbury; Sarah, born in 1780, married James Wells of Keene, lieutenant in the Eleventh United States Infantry in the war of 1812.

He married, second, in November, 1780, Martha Blake, of Wrentham, Mass. The children by that marriage were: Patty (Martha), born in 1781, never married, was superintendent of the Sabbath school for forty-three years; Abijah, born 1784.

He married, third, in 1785, Beulah Johnson. His children by that marriage were: Hepzibah, born in 1787, married Joseph Wheeler; Azel, born in 1788.

He married, fourth, in 1789, Tamar Wilder.

He was a deacon of the church for forty-eight years, leader of the choir for fifty years, and was an active, energetic citizen, prominent in town affairs and in all good enterprises. Dr. Barstow used to speak of him as "good Deacon Wilder."

He died in 1835, aged 83.

ABIJAH WILDER, JR.

Abijah Wilder, Jr., son of Dea. Abijah and Martha (Blake) Wilder, was born in 1784; married Rhoda Sanger, of Keene; had nine children born between 1816 and

1836. His daughter, Rhoda Jane, married Dr. Edward Pettengill, of Saxton's River, Vt.; his youngest daughter, Harriet P., married Elisha F. Lane, of Keene.

Like his father, he was an excellent mechanic and continued the business in his father's shop for several years, then built a large shop where the "Museum" building now stands, and carried on the cabinet and chair making business for many years. He also built the brick house, corner of Summer and Court streets, and the wooden one next north of the Baptist church—where he lived during the last years of his life and died in 1864, aged eighty.

"When he was fifteen years old the news came of the death of Washington. He climbed to the belfry and tolled the bell all through that cold winter night. A small brass lamp was bought by the family and kept burning all that night, then laid aside as a sacred relic and never used afterwards." (Family tradition.)

He was sexton of the town for many years and rang the bell at noon and at nine o'clock in the evening. He was one of the principal owners of the Phoenix Hotel, and being strong temperance men they attempted to run it as a temperance house, but it failed. (See sketch of A. & A. Wilder.)

AZEL WILDER.

Azel Wilder, son of Dea. Abijah and Beulah (Johnson) Wilder, was born in 1788; married Elvira, daughter of Capt. John Warner, of Keene; had ten children born between 1814 and 1832. His eldest daughter, Elvira, married Edward Poole, of Keene, jeweller; his second daughter, Hepsey, married Geo. H. Richards, of Keene; his third daughter, Maria, married William Wyman of Keene. Charles J. married Elmira Nims, of Keene, a lieutenant in the Civil war, killed before Richmond in 1864.

He also excelled as a mechanic, and invented and obtained a patent for a double geared wheelhead for spinning wool. For some years he was with his half brother, Abijah, in the shop of their father, but, later, Azel established himself in a turning shop a little west of Faulkner & Colony's sawmill, and made wheelheads and spinning wheels for both flax and wool for a long term of

years. He built the brick house on West street now the residence of Mr. George H. Richardson, and died in 1860, aged seventy-two.

Mrs. Wilder was remarkable for her capability as a housekeeper and hostess, her genial hospitality, and her graceful efficiency in the management of public functions. One of her friends said of her after her decease that she would never be happy in Heaven unless she could get up an entertainment to buy David a new harp, or Elijah a new mantle. She was affectionately called "Aunt Azel Wilder."

A. & A. WILDER.

A. & A. Wilder—Abijah and Azel, half brothers—after dissolving their first connection, in their father's shop, in 1814, united under the above firm name, carried on a large business in real estate, and did much for the benefit of the town. In 1821 they bought of Capt. Joseph Dorr and his wife, heirs of the estate of Capt. Josiah Richardson, the tract of land lying north of the common, extending from the third New Hampshire turnpike (Court street) to Prison street, except a few lots near the corner of the common and as far north as the north side of Mechanic street. In 1828, to enlarge and improve the common and form our present Central square, they bought and removed the old horsesheds, gave the land (deeded for a nominal sum) for a new site for the meetinghouse, which stood on the common, and moved the edifice to its present position at their own expense. The same year they built "Wilders' building," now Ball's block. Many years afterwards, by a division of property, that building came into the hands of Azel alone. He sold it to Henry Pond, who added fourteen feet to the west end. The same firm also owned the tract of land—bought of the same Richardson estate—where Winter, Summer and Middle streets now are, through which those streets were laid out in 1832, and Centre street later. Out of that tract they gave the land for the Keene academy¹ in 1836, now occupied by the

¹The deed was made by Abijah, and stands in his name, but by an exchange of property, and a conveyance to Abijah, Azel shared equally in the gift. (Mrs. Pettingill and other descendants of both families.)

Keene High school. Few have been so public spirited and done so much for the benefit of Keene as these three Wilders, Dea. Abijah and his two sons, Abijah and Azel.

PETER WILDER.

Peter Wilder, younger brother of Dea. Abijah, came to Keene in 1781; married Tamar Rice; had eleven children, born between 1781 and 1799. Like his elder brother he excelled as a mechanic, was a cabinet and chair maker and a wheelwright, and many of the fine old pieces of cabinet work and chairs now preserved as relics of the olden time were made by him at his shop in Federal Row. He died in 1814, aged eighty.

ABEL WILDER.

Abel Wilder, son of Samuel and Betsey (Joslin) Wilder, of Berlin, Mass., came to Keene towards the last of the eighteenth century; married Polly Mead; owned and occupied the fine house at the northeast corner of the common, already described, which he sold to Albe Cady in 1808; made spinning wheels and had cabinet and wheelwright shop in the rear of the stores on the east side of the common—for a time with Luther Holbrook—afterwards on what is now the north corner of Mechanic and Washington streets, and for many years kept the old wooden jail, which stood next on the south. In 1827, he built the house since known as the Handerson house (now F. K. Burnham's on Washington street), and later the brick one north of it, recently known as the Woodward house, and the brick one on the corner of Taylor street. His genial, optimistic nature gave him the distinction of being the "happiest man in town." He died in 1862, aged ninety-one. His son, Augustus T. Wilder, was for many years selectman and keeper of the old stone jail on Washington street.

JOSIAH WILLARD.

Col. Josiah Willard, son of Col. Josiah, the principal grantee of the township of Earlington or Arlington (Winchester) in 1733, surveyor of land in Upper Ashuelot in 1736 and later, and commissary and commander at Fort

Dummer in the old French and Indian war, 1744-1750, was born in Lunenburg, Mass., 1716; married Hannah Hubbard of Groton; major of militia in 1746, in command of a small body of troops at No. 4 (Charlestown); accepted a captain's commission in the forces raised for defence and commanded a company at Upper and Lower Ashuelot in 1747-9; was promoted to lieutenant colonel and succeeded his father in command of Fort Dummer in 1750; was the active agent in procuring from the legislature of New Hampshire a charter for the town of Winchester in 1753; was lieutenant colonel of the regiment of Col. Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, N. H., in active service in the Crown Point expedition under Gen. Johnson in 1755; took up his residence in Winchester and represented that town in the legislature in 1768 to 1773; colonel commanding the Sixth regiment of New Hampshire militia in 1775, but, showing tory proclivities, his regiment was divided and he was left without a command. He had twelve children, two of whom graduated from Harvard college.

He died in Winchester in 1786.

JOSIAH WILLARD.

Major Josiah Willard, son of Col. and Hannah (Hubbard) Willard, was born in 1737; married, first, Thankful Taylor; second, Mary; third, Susanna, daughter of Col. Isaac Wyman. He was a sergeant under his father at Fort Dummer in 1753-4; afterwards took up his residence in Keene; by occupation was a saddler; was selectman in 1764-5-6-7, and was Keene's first representative to the legislature in 1768-70. Upon the organization of counties in 1771 he was appointed recorder of deeds for Cheshire county and held that office until 1776. He had risen to the rank of major in his father's regiment of militia, but was accused of toryism and when that regiment was divided he also was left without a position. His name stands at the head of the list of those in Keene who refused to sign the Association Test in 1776; but he was politic, and not a very obnoxious tory. He died in 1801, and was buried beside his three wives in the old burying ground at the lower end of Main street, one of the last

interments there. He had eight children, Lockhart, Grate (or Grata), Cynthia, Rebecca, Hannah, Josiah (died young), Josiah and Henry, born between 1763 and 1779.

LOCKHART WILLARD.

Lockhart Willard, son of (Major) Josiah and Thankful (Taylor) Willard, was born in Keene in 1763; married, 1783, Salome, daughter of Gen. James Reed of Keene; built the house now Mr. James Marsh's, on the south corner of Main and Marlboro streets. He was a prominent man in town; did much legal business as a magistrate; was eight years moderator of annual town meetings; thirteen years selectman; seven years representative to the legislature; and five years state senator. He had eight children born between 1784 and 1802. His eldest son was named Josiah, his second, Lockhart. He died in 1818, aged fifty-five.

JAMES WILSON.

Hon. James Wilson, of Scotch-Irish descent, was the son of Robert and Mary (Hodge) Wilson, and grandson of William, the first of the Wilsons to settle in Peterboro, N. H., who came from County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1737, when Robert was a lad; and little Mary Hodge came with her parents in the same ship. Robert joined the patriots in the Revolution—was a major under Stark at Bennington and Saratoga—and previous to that was with Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham and near him when he fell.

James was born in Peterboro in 1766; prepared for college at Phillips academy, Andover; graduated at Harvard in 1789 (John Quincy Adams said, "the best wrestler in his class"); read law with Judge Lincoln of Worcester; settled his father's estate in 1792; succeeded Hon. Jeremiah Smith in the practice of law in Peterboro; married Elizabeth Steele, by whom he had one son, James; represented Peterboro in the legislature several terms between 1803 and 1815; representative to congress in 1809-1811; married, second, Elizabeth Little, by whom he had two daughters—Elizabeth, married Guy Hunter, Sarah, married Francis L. Lee—and one son, Robert.

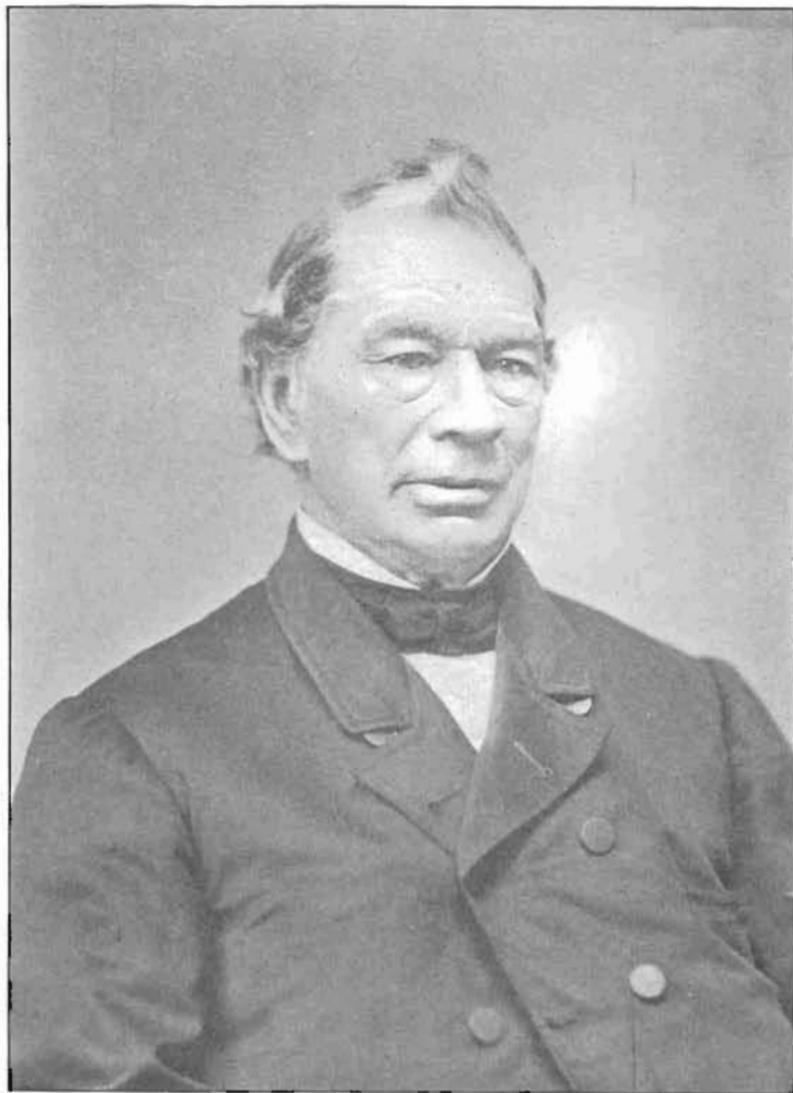
In 1815, he removed to Keene and bought the mansion

on Main street, then unfinished, now the city hospital, where he dispensed a graceful hospitality, and many delightful social functions were enjoyed at his house. He was an able lawyer, had a large practice in both Cheshire and Hillsboro counties, and as an advocate had few superiors in the state. Both Harvard and Dartmouth conferred upon him the degree of A. M. He died in 1839, respected and esteemed by all.

JAMES WILSON, JR.

Gen. James Wilson, son of James and Elizabeth (Steele) Wilson, was born in Peterboro in 1797; at the age of ten began his course successively at the academies at New Ipswich, Atkinson, and Phillips at Exeter. Impelled by his military spirit, he desired to enlist for the war then in progress, but failing to obtain the consent of his father, he worked for a time in the old north factory at Peterboro, but returned to his studies and entered Middlebury college in 1816, graduating with honors in 1820. He read law with his father at Keene and succeeded to his business, practicing much beyond the limits of the county; was appointed captain of the Keene Light Infantry in 1821; rose to the rank of colonel; resigned and reentered the ranks as a private and rose to the rank of major general of militia. He was six feet and four inches in height, agile and athletic, had an unusual taste for military science and exercises, and was a born leader of men and a remarkably able and popular commander. There is no doubt that he did more to improve the condition of the militia of New Hampshire at that time than any other man in the state.

He represented Keene in the legislature during fourteen terms—the last two in 1871 and 1872, when he was seventy-four and seventy-five years old—and was speaker of the house in 1828. In 1835 and again in 1837, he was nominated for congress, and in 1838 and '39 he was the Whig candidate for governor, but the strength of the opposition party prevented his election in each case, as it had done after one term as speaker of the house. His great popularity would have secured his election as governor, however, but that his name was James Wilson, Jr., while some of the votes cast were for James Wilson.



JAMES WILSON, JR.

He was a natural orator, well read in history and political science. His sonorous voice, magnetic presence, and extraordinary command of language gave him a power over his audiences such as few have ever been able to wield. At a great dinner given to Daniel Webster in Faneuil hall, Boston, in 1838, where S. S. Prentiss of Mississippi, Robert C. Winthrop of Massachusetts and other distinguished orators spoke, the New York Commercial Advertiser pronounced Wilson's speech "one of the very best of the occasion." In the great political campaign of 1840, his services as a public speaker were called for from almost all parts of the country. He not only spoke in many places in New England—at Portland, Boston, Providence and many others—and in New York city, but he journeyed through New York state and into Pennsylvania, speaking at Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland and all the large places; and he was regarded as the most effective speaker in the United States in that campaign. At Erie, Penn., it was estimated that 25,000 Whigs and 6,000 Loco Focos, as the Democrats were then called, had assembled. "A fleet of splendid steamers went up from Buffalo, where he had spoken the day before. The meeting was on the open bank overlooking the lake." Two stands were erected on opposite sides of the field, one for the Whigs, the other for the Loco Focos. "Wilson's fame as an unequalled orator had spread over the whole country," and before the president could formally open the meeting, "Wilson! Wilson! Wilson, from the Granite State!" was uproariously called for, and "he was greeted with deafening and prolonged applause." "Tens of thousands listened with breathless silence," often bursting into tumultuous applause. A strong speaker occupied the opposite stand, but Wilson's powerful voice rang out over the field and the crowd there soon began to diminish and almost completely dwindled away, while that at the Whig stand constantly increased until nearly the whole 30,000 were hanging upon Wilson's thrilling sentences. "The speaking continued till evening, when Gen. Wilson retired on board a steamer to sail for Buffalo, but the boat was detained. In the evening 8,000 people assembled and called for Wilson. The general was found in

his berth; but calling for his boots, he again mounted the stand," and gratified their desire to hear him. There is no question that his influence in carrying New England, New York and Pennsylvania for the Whigs was unparalleled.

After President Harrison's death Gen. Wilson was appointed surveyor general of the territories of Iowa and Wisconsin and had his office at Dubuque, but a change in the administration caused his removal in 1845. He was elected to congress in 1847 and reelected in 1849, but resigned in 1850 and was appointed United States land commissioner to settle Spanish claims in California. He remained on the Pacific coast eleven years, settling those Spanish claims of extensive areas of land and practicing law, with large interests in mining. He returned East in April, 1861, just at the breaking out of the Civil war, and his personal friend, Abraham Lincoln, offered him a brigadier general's commission, which he very much desired to accept, but declined on account of his age and infirmities.

Gen. Wilson was a man of generous nature, large-hearted and broad-minded, with feelings as tender and delicate as a woman's. Often in his speeches he would be so touched with emotion that the tears would stream down his cheeks. Everybody loved and admired him.

At the bar "Wilson was ready, dashing, eloquent, seizing the strong points in his case and handling them in the most adroit and taking manner." (Bell's Bench and Bar of New Hampshire.) He almost invariably won his case before a jury. "On one circuit of the courts which Wilson and Joel Parker made together Wilson won every case. On their long ride home Parker was very taciturn and seemed much depressed. Wilson asked him why he was so reticent. 'Jim,' said Parker, 'I'm going home to sell my law books and go to work at something else. Its of no use for me to practice law. I have the law and the evidence all on my side, yet you win all the cases.' 'Nonsense,' said Wilson, 'go on with your law, you know ten times as much law as I do, but you fire over the heads of the jury and waste all your ammunition. Shoot lower and go on with your law.'" (Mrs. Fiske, from her father's own lips).

He married Mary Lord Richardson, of Montpelier, Vt., who died in 1848. His children were: Mary Elizabeth, born (in the old Ralston tavern) in 1826; married John Sherwood, a lawyer of New York; was Mrs. John Sherwood the distinguished authoress, and the prolific and brilliant writer over the initials "M. E. W. S." James Edward and William Robert, who both died young. Annie, born in 1832, married Francis S. Fiske of Keene, who was one of the first to volunteer at the breaking out of the Civil war—the first to make his offer of service in writing to Gov. Goodwin—lieutenant of Second New Hampshire Volunteers and brevet brigadier general of United States Volunteers, now United States commissioner for the district of Massachusetts. Charlotte Jean, born in 1835, married Frank L. Taintor, a banker of New York; she died in 1901. James Henry, born in 1837, graduated at Harvard, 1860; died in 1892. Daniel Webster, died at the age of five years.

Gen. Wilson died in May, 1881, and was buried with military and Masonic honors.

JOHN WOOD.

Hon. John Wood, son of Judge Ephraim Wood, of Concord, Mass., was born in 1778; came to Keene in 1799; joined Daniel Watson and James Mann in business; afterwards, for nearly forty years, "the financial and substantial member" of the firm of A. & T. Hall; last clerk of the proprietors of Keene; state senator, 1819–1823; one of the most active and enterprising men of Keene; never married. He died in 1856, aged seventy-eight.

JAMES WRIGHT.

"Lieut." James Wright, son of Nathaniel and Martha Wright, of Lancaster, Mass., was born in 1751; settled in Keene in 1769, on the present Geo. K. Wright farm; married Elizabeth Rugg, of Massachusetts, and, second, Mrs. Jemima P. Blake. His children were: James, born in 1776, married, 1803, Lucy Nims, lived in Keene, died 1851; Betsy, born in 1779, married Amos Towne, of Littleton, N. H.; Martha, born in 1784, married a Mr. Wilder; Polly, born in 1788, never married; Ephraim, born in 1792 and married Sally Allen.

Lieut. Wright was a wealthy farmer, owned a large tract of land, and his descendants, to the fifth generation, still live on the same farm. He died in 1811, aged sixty-one.

EPHRAIM WRIGHT.

Ephraim Wright, son of Lieut. James, was born in 1776; married Sally Allen of Surry; lived on the homestead—the original house was burnt in 1817 and the present one was built the same year. His children were: George K., born in 1817, married Nancy E. Leonard; Henry, Elizabeth J., Lucius, Bradley E., Joseph, Luther K. and Charles (born 1835).

ISAAC WYMAN.

Col. Isaac Wyman, son of Joshua and Mary (Pollard) Wyman, of Woburn, Mass., was born in Woburn, Jan. 18, 1724; married, 1747, Sarah Wells; enlisted in December, 1747, as a private in the company of Capt. Elisha Hawley of Northampton, for service on the frontier; in 1748 was clerk in the company of Capt. Ephraim Williams, Jr., at Fort Massachusetts, and remained in that company until 1752, rising to the rank of sergeant; in 1753-4, sergeant in Capt. Elisha Chapin's company at the same fort; in 1755, lieutenant in Capt. Ephraim Williams's company; on Capt. Williams's¹ promotion to major, Lieut. Wyman was made captain and succeeded to the command of the company and of the fort; in 1756 made a clear and succinct report to the governor and council of the decayed condition of the fort; in 1757, had a company of seventy-four men at Fort Massachusetts and repaired the fort; in 1758-60, was clearing roads, building bridges and hauling stores from Stockbridge, and was paid for travel from Deerfield to the fort, and from the fort to Boston and return, and other items, as appears by receipts signed by him; in 1760, was still in command at Fort Massachusetts, Stockbridge, West Hoosick and other places.

He came to Keene in 1761 or very early in 1762 (his little daughter Mary died here in May, and his daughter

¹ The founder of Williams college.

Sybil was born here in September, 1762), and bought house-lots and lands which, with his previous purchases, made him the owner of nearly three thousand acres in the town. He built, in that year (1762), what was then, doubtless, the finest house in town—still known as the “old Wyman tavern,” 339 Main street, and kept it as a public house for nearly thirty years. It was widely known as “y^e excellent inn of Capt. Wyman in Keene.” As stated elsewhere, the first meeting of the trustees of Dartmouth college was held in the northeast room of that house, Oct. 22, 1770. (See pages 155-6.) It was the noted hostlery of this section in 1775, when, on the 20th of April, a horse-man brought the tidings of the slaughter of Americans at Lexington on the 19th; and Capt. Wyman marched for the scene of action at the head of his company at sunrise on the 21st. He was chosen lieutenant colonel of Stark’s regiment; was in the battle of Bunker Hill; was promoted to colonel of a regiment in the northern army, June 20, 1776, commanded it through the campaign and was discharged with his regiment in December of that year.

He held many important town offices; was a delegate to the convention in January, 1775, for the choice of delegates to the Continental congress; was representative to the general assembly in February of the same year; was one of the principal magistrates of the county and one of the three appointed in 1778 to administer the oath of office to the judges of the court in Cheshire county. He died March 31, 1792; his widow, Sarah, died in 1807, aged seventy-five. His children before coming to Keene were: Isaac, born in 1755, married Lucretia Hammond; Sarah, married Dr. Calvin Frink, of Swanzey; Susanna, married Maj. Josiah Willard (third wife); Mary, died in May, 1762; William, died in November, 1765. His children after coming to Keene were: Sybil, born Sept. 3, 1762, died 1765; Mary (2d), born in 1764; Elijah, born in 1766, married 1791, Keziah, daughter of Dea. Henry Ellis; Joshua, born in 1769, married, 1790, Hannah Willard of Keene; Roxanna, born in 1771, married William Ward Blake, who succeeded Col. Wyman in the old tavern; William, born in February, 1775.

ISAAC WYMAN.

Capt. Isaac Wyman, son of Col. Isaac and Sarah (Wells) Wyman, was born in 1755; married, 1777, Lucretia Hammond, of Swanzey, and second, in 1812, Louisa Bishop; lived on the farm and built the house, about 1800, in west part, still owned by his descendants; a Revolutionary soldier; captain in the militia; died in 1835. He had eleven children born between 1778 and 1802, all by his first wife. His youngest son, Charles, remained on the homestead.

JOSHUA WYMAN.

Joshua Wyman, fourth son of Col. Isaac, was born in 1769; married Hannah, daughter of Maj. Josiah Willard, 1790; was a merchant, the first to occupy the brick store where the Sentinel building now stands; was captain of Keene Light Infantry; died in 1796.

WILLIAM WYMAN.

William Wyman, fifth son of Col. Isaac, was born Feb. 20, 1775; was a sea captain; married Mary Fowle, daughter of Maj. Josiah Capen, of Watertown, Mass. He returned to Keene in 1804-5 with a fortune; went into trade with Daniel Chapman; built the brick store now the south end of Eagle Hotel, the present city hospital for a residence—then the finest in town—and several other buildings; owned much real estate in Keene; died in 1811, leaving two daughters in care of Daniel Bradford, executor of his estate.