

CHAPTER XI.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

1784—1800.

Under the temporary state constitution for carrying on the war, 1776 to 1784, Meshech Weare had been elected president each year, and at the annual election under the new constitution in 1784, he was chosen "President" of New Hampshire; but Keene cast sixty-two votes out of sixty-five for John Langdon.

The town "voted to Let out the Brickyard to the highest Bidder;" and to "build a Bridge over the East Branch on the Road Leading from Joseph Willsons to malborough provided that the owners of the Land Living on said Road will be at the charge of and make the Road good from the End of Beach Hill to said Branch by raising a Dam or Casway on said Road so as to make it passable in high water so as to confine the water to the channel so that the Road be not Damaged thereby." This was the bridge which the selectmen had petitioned for a lottery to build, six years before.

In a vote at this meeting to redistrict the schools, mention is made of "East Beach Hill;" "West Beach Hill" (Daniel's hill, or West mountain); of "Jesse Clark's mill brook" (Black brook, and White brook conducted into it) supplying the mill lately owned by Joseph Wilson at West Keene; "Adin Holbrook's mill brook" ("White Brook." Ebenezer Robbins succeeded Holbrook in 1795); of John Conoly as living on the Colony homestead, West Keene, and John Swan near him; and "voted also that all the families in the Northeast part of the Town living East of Ferry Brook so called (northeast of the farm since owned by James Wright) be a seperate school District."

"The treaty of peace with Great Britain having secured to the tories the privilege of returning to this country, to collect their debts and settle their affairs, Elijah Williams, Esq., came to Keene, for that purpose, in the beginning

of this year. His appearance here so exasperated the zealous whigs, that they seized him and carried him before Thomas Baker, Esq., a Justice of the Peace. What were the charges against him, or whether any charges were exhibited, has not been ascertained. The Justice, perhaps with a view to protect him from outrage, ordered him to recognize for his appearance at the Court of Sessions, to be held at Charlestown, in April, and committed him to the custody of the sheriff. With this, the populace were not satisfied, and they discovered an intention of assaulting and beating him; but he was surrounded and guarded to his lodgings by the old and the young men who happened to be present.

“The animosity of the whigs, aggravated probably by the arts of those who were indebted to him, was, however, so great, that they determined he should not thus escape their vengeance. On the day before that appointed for the sitting of the court, a party concealed themselves in the pines near Fisher Brook, intending, when he passed with the sheriff, to get him into their power. The sheriff passed without him, relying upon the promise he had made to appear at court the next day. This circumstance excited their suspicions; they came immediately into the street, seized Williams at his lodgings, and, placing him in the midst of them, repaired to a tavern in Ash Swamp. When he arrived there, two bundles of black-beech rods were produced, from which it appeared that a plan had been concerted to compel him to run the gauntlet, with the view, probably, of inducing him, by such harsh treatment, again to leave the country. But by this time, a large number of considerate citizens had assembled and arrived at the tavern. A proposition was made, that the whole subject should be referred to a committee. A committee was appointed; their report was too favorable to Williams, to suit the majority, and was rejected. Another committee was appointed, who reported that he should leave the town the next day, and leave the State the next week. This report was agreed to; but the minority, still dissatisfied, privately sent out messengers, to collect more of their friends. This being communicated to those who were disposed to protect Williams, they advised him to retire immediately. An attempt was made to prevent him from mounting a horse, which had been offered him by a friend. A conflict ensued, in which the horse was overthrown, and several persons were knocked down with clubs. He at length, however, mounted, with the assistance of his friends, and rode through the crowd, which continued to oppose him.

The next day, he repaired to Charlestown, and presented himself to the court, which, thereupon, passed the following order: 'that Elijah Williams, Esq., now in the keeping of Isaac Griswold, by virtue of a mittimus from Thomas Baker, Esq., continue in the custody of the said Isaac, until he shall have transacted the business upon which he came into this part of the country, and then be permitted to leave this State, upon his good behavior, without further molestation.' After settling his affairs, Williams repaired to Nova Scotia. Shortly after, in consequence of ill health, he returned to Deerfield, his native town, died, and was buried by the side of his ancestors."

(Annals, pages 66, 67.)

In May, 1784, the town voted to repair the meeting-house, and chose a committee for that purpose; but on the 23d of November, at a legal meeting petitioned for for that purpose, it "voted to build a New meeting house provided the Town can agree upon ways and means to Defraying the charge of Building and the form and Dimensions of said house." "Leut. Hall Dea. Kingsbury Maj^r Howlett Col. Ellis Benja Archer Capt. Stiles David Nims Jun^r Leut. (Reuben) Partridge and Tho^s Baker Esq^r" were chosen a committee to take the whole matter under consideration and report at the next meeting. The meeting then adjourned for four weeks, and at the adjournment, on the 21st of December, the committee reported: "That the Town build a New meeting House Seventy feet in Length and Fifty feet in Breadth with a Belfry and Steple at one End and a porch at the other agreeable to the plan therewith to be exhibited." "That said house stand partly on the spot where the Old Meeting house now stands extending some further north and west." "That the new house above intended be set up as early as may be in the spring of the year A. D. 1786 and finished with all convenient dispatch." "That the Town chuse a Committee of seven judicious men to bargain for and receive materials for said Building, also to procure and agree with skilful persons to undertake and accomplish the labour of erecting and completing the building of said house under the direction of the Town." "That the sum of three hundred pounds be

immediately assessed on the Inhabitants of the Town to be paid in labour and materials for the building, & that the Town be class'd into ten different classes, & that each class procure its proportion for said Building in labour, timber, boards, shingles, clapboards, and stones for underpinning: said materials to be delivered at the spot to the committee appointed to receive them, & that those persons who do not chuse thus to pay it in twelve months after said assessment pay their proportion to their respective constables in money." "That the town impower their last mentioned committee to make sale of the old meeting house to the best advantage and the pews in the new meeting house to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on the first tuesday of Feb^r next taking security of the several purchasers, one quarter part made payable in one year from the sale in glass, lime, nails, oil, paint, iron or cash; the remainder on the first day of September 1786, in money or such pay as will answer to pay the workmen; and that none be allowed to bid but such persons as belong to the Town; said pews to be sold by a Committee to be appointed by the Town for that purpose."

The town voted to accept the report "and to proceed in the manner & form and the ways & means pointed out by said committee for Building a New meeting house in said town."

"Chose & appointed Lieut Hall, Abijah Wilder, Thomas Baker Esq., Maj^r Davis Howlet, Dea. Daniel Kingsbury, Benj^a Archer and Lieut. Partridge the committee mentioned"—the building committee of seven. The same committee was also empowered to sell the old house, and the pews in the new one, as the report recommended.

The same meeting chose "Col Ellis Tho^s Baker Esq Lieut Benj^a Hall Capt Stiles and Benjamin Balch" a committee "to Look out and provide a proper Spot of Land Where the County Goal may Stand and Report to the Town as soon as may be at this meeting." After an hour's adjournment the committee's report was accepted, which was, "to purchase one acre of Land, one half in the corner of Lieut. Hall's Field and the other half in the corner

of Capt. Richardson's Field, both adjoining the Road and is at or near the place where the Pown (pound) now stands" (near the junction of the present Mechanic and Washington streets). A wooden jail was built there the following season, with its whipping-post in the yard, to which culprits condemned by the court to receive a certain number of lashes were tied, and the lashes laid on. The post was removed early in the next century.

The meeting adjourned to the first Tuesday in February, 1785, when it assembled at the meetinghouse, but immediately adjourned "to the house (tavern) of Mr. Ralston," where the pews in the house to be erected were sold at auction.

The record of the sale is given below :

"PEWS ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

	No.	£	s.		No.	£	s.
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	15.	18		Eliphalet Briggs,	48.	11	
Abijah Wilder,	20.	18	10	John P. Blake and	29.	10	10
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	17.	18		Andrew Slyfield }			
Benjamin Hall,	18.	18	10	David Nims, Jr.	8.	10	10
James Wright,	62.	17		William Woods,	11.	11	10
Thomas Baker, Jr.	19.	16	10	Benjamin Archer,	51.	10	
Nathan Blake, Jr.	61.	16	10	Benjamin Hall,	49.	10	
Abel Blake,	57.	15	10	Eli Metcalf,	12.	10	10
Isaac Billings,	46.	15	10	Benjamin Balch,	50.	10	
Josiah Richardson,	34.	16		Isaac Griswold,	44.	10	
Aaron Emes,	16.	15		Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	1.	10	10
Col. Timothy Ellis,	63.	15	10	Ebenezer Day,	55.	10	
Thomas Baker, Esq.	14.	15		Thaddeus Metcalf,	13.	10	
Benjamin Hall, Esq.	47.	14		Ephraim Wright,	42.	10	10
Aaron Willson,	24.	14		David Wilson,	22.	10	10
Israel Houghton and	25.	14		Joshua Durant,	64.	10	
Elisha Briggs, }				Eri Richardson,	23.	10	
Alpheus Nims,	9.	14		John Dickson,	43.	10	
Davis Howlet,	21.	14		Samuel Bassett,	7.	10	
Isaac Blake and	27.	14		David Foster,	53.	10	
Joseph Blake, }				Asahel Blake,	32.	10	
Royal Blake,	60.	14		Jesse Clark,	52.	10	
Thomas Field,	26.	15		Hananiah Hall and	54.	10	
Asa Dunbar, Esq.	35.	14		Samuel Osgood, }			
Alexander Ralston,	33.	14		Josiah Willard,	6.	10	
John Swan,	59.	13	10	Josiah Willard,	41.	10	
Luther Emes,	36.	13	10	John Stiles,	4.	10	10
Jotham Metcalf,	28.	13	10	Joseph Brown,	39.	10	
Daniel Kingsbury,	56.	13	10	Bartholomew Dwinell	5.	10	
Reuben Partridge,	31.	12	10	and John Stiles, }			
John Houghton,	30.	12		Daniel Wilson,	38.	10	
Cornelius Sturtevant,	45.	12		Dan Guild,	2.	10	
Elijah Dunbar,	10.	12		Simeon Clark,	37.	12	10
Abraham Wheeler, Jun.,	3.	11	10	Josiah Willard,	40.	10	

PEWS IN THE GALLERY.

	No.	£	s.		No.	£	s.
Thomas Baker, Jr.	13.	9	10	Daniel Kingsbury,	19.	6	05
Stephen Chase,	16.	8	10	Eliphalet Briggs,	21.	6	
Benjamin Kemp,	10.	9	10	Elisha Briggs,	7.	5	10
Timothy Balch and)				Nathaniel French,	9.	5	
Ebenezer Robbins, }	17.	7	10	Millet Ellis,	22.	4	10
Elisha Briggs,	15.	7	10	Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	18.	7	
Eliakim Nims,	11.	7	10	Elisha Briggs,	25.	4	05
Daniel Newcomb, Esq.	8.	7		Abijah Wilder,	24.	9	
Elisha Briggs,	12.	6	10	Reuben Partridge,	5.	4	05
Benjamin Willis, Jr.	20.	6	15	Thomas Field,	4.	4	10
Isaac Billings,	6.	6	15	Alexander M'Daniels,	2.	4	05
Elisha Briggs,	14.	6	15	Eliphalet Briggs,	3.	4	05
Asa Ware and }				Timothy Balch,	1.	5	
Jonas Osgood, }	23.	6	10				

The pews on the floor, (63,) sold for 789 pounds; those in the gallery, (25,) for 60 pounds; the whole number for 849 pounds,—about \$3,000."

(Annals, page 69.)

That meeting was kept alive by adjournments, and on the 21st of June, it "voted to set the new meeting house on the Spot where the Committee have laid the foundation any former vote to the contrary notwithstanding." That spot was a short distance north of the site of the old meetinghouse—which had been designated by the town at the meeting in November—adjourned to December 21, as the place for the new one, "extending some further north and west."

"When erected its length was East and West, and it fronted the South, its North side being 70 feet South of its present South end. In 1828, it was moved to where it now stands, on the North side of the common, its front being changed."

(Annals, page 70.)

At the annual election, John Langdon was chosen president of the state for the first time, Keene giving him sixty out of sixty-eight votes.

In August, the governor and council appointed Thomas Baker of Keene a special justice of the court of common pleas for Cheshire county, and Luther Eames of Keene, coroner.

Dr. Jacob Pease was one of the physicians in town at this time, and his young wife, Experience, twenty-one years old, daughter of Ichabod Fisher, died on the 4th of July, after the birth of a daughter in June.

A town meeting in January, 1786, Chose Capt. Jeremiah

Stiles, Lieut. Benj. Hall, Capt. John Houghton, Col. Timothy Ellis and Maj. Davis Howlett, a committee to take an account of all the "Services Done by the Town During the Late War that the Same may be sent to the committee on claims in Said State." Many claims of the town against the state had already been adjusted, but no record relating to this final claim has been found.

At the annual meeting in 1786, upon the petition of Joshua Osgood and others living in the northeast part to be set off "from this town to be a distinct Society by themselves in conjunction with some parts of other towns," Benjamin Hall, Jeremiah Stiles and Nathan Blake, Jr., were chosen a committee to consider the petition and report at some future meeting. Notwithstanding the opposition of this and the other towns concerned, the town of Sullivan was incorporated the following year, taking 1,920 acres of land and several families from Keene.

Complying with a requirement of the legislature, the selectmen made the following return:

"Pursuant to the within resolve We the subscribers have taken an account of the Inhabitants of the Town of Keene and find their number to be eleven hundred and twenty two. 1122. May 30th A. D. 1786.

"The number of the Inhabitants on the East side of the river is 614—on the west side of the river there is 508=1122.

Danl Kingsbury } Selectmen
Jeremiah Stiles } of Keene."

May 31, 1786, the town "Voted—to purchase of Captⁿ Richardson ½ acre of land to set the new meeting house on; and that Asa Dunbar, Esq^r Baker & Lieut. Balch be a committee for that purpose to agree with Captⁿ Richardson, determine the shape & dimensions of said ½ acre & procure a deed of the same." This was in addition to the site of the old house. On the 20th of June, Capt. Richardson deeded to the "Inhabitants of Keene" * * * "one acre more or less," lying on the east side of his garden, and including that part of the present park which was north of the site of the old meetinghouse. The consideration named in the deed was seventy pounds.

On that spot, its north side about on the north line of

the present park enclosure, the new meetinghouse was built, with form and dimensions as voted by the town, Dec. 21, 1784. The architect and master-carpenter was Benjamin Archer, who had been a sergeant in Capt. Stiles' company at the battle of Bunker Hill, and had seen other service in the Revolutionary war. He lived on the "Old Walpole Road," four miles from town, where the Goodnows afterwards kept tavern, now the residence of Mr. E. A. Winchester. The frame was raised on the 28th, 29th and 30th of June, and it was a season of great interest and hilarity. According to the custom of the times, there was a large gathering of people, including many from out of town; and the town provided refreshments for the multitude, including a bountiful supply of the indispensable rum. The belfry and steeple were on the west end, the porch on the east, each with entrance doors, but the main entrance was at the middle of the south side, the "broad aisle" leading thence to the high pulpit opposite—built in the form of a huge wine glass—accessible by circular stairs on either side. Over the pulpit was the large, dome-shaped sounding board, to aid the minister's voice. A broad gallery extended across the south side and both ends, reached by stairways in the porch and belfry. On the floor of the house and around the galleries next to the walls were the pews, about seven feet square, seating eight persons, the partitions topped with a spindle-balustrade one foot high. It was the custom to stand during prayers, and the seats, placed along the sides of the pews and divided into short sections, were hung on hinges to turn up for that purpose; and at the close of the prayer, each worshipper would drop a seat, with a clatter like a scattering volley of musketry. Beneath the front of the pulpit were the "deacons' seats," and in front of those, a hanging table for communion service, to be let down when not in use. Across the area in front of the pulpit were long seats designed for elderly people, and others of defective hearing, called the "old men's seats;" but women never sat there. No provision was made for warming the house—such a thing was unheard of then; it could not be done with fireplaces, and stoves had not yet come into use—but later a makeshift

chimney was built from the attic and a single stove was set in the middle of the broad aisle. But that proving merely a suggestion of warmth, two were afterwards put in, one on each side of the pulpit, in front of the old men's seats.

North of the meetinghouse just in front of where Ball's block and the church now stand, was a long row of horse-sheds running east and west; and between those and the church edifice was a large stone horseblock for the convenience of women and children in mounting. On the south lay the broad, open common, with Main street in its quiet village aspect extending beyond, completely grass-grown with the exception of a narrow roadway in the middle, and a still narrower one on each side, with grass between the ruts.

Peter Wilder was the sexton, chosen by the town, and he was succeeded by Dea. Abijah Wilder, who for a long term of years had the care of the meetinghouse and the courthouse.

"It was a great work to build that house in the day of small things; as will be seen from quoting a few extracts from the records of the building committee. Most of those who bought pews, *in anticipation* of its being built, paid in cattle, that were sold at great discount, after being driven to Boston, Wrentham, or Providence. Besides, there were other obstacles, as will be seen by the following quotations.

"The following are the charges of one of the committee, viz:

'To a journey in Feb., 1787, to Sutton, Franklin, and Boston, to purchase oil, glass, and vane	£	s	d
	1	4	0
'To a journey down with 27 head of cattel to Wrentham, Dec. 1787; also, a journey to Providence, to buy the glass for the meeting-house; and expense of keeping said cattel,	5	3	10
'May, 1788.—To a journey to Providence after the glass; to carting glass from Providence to Wrentham; also, a journey from Providence to Boston,	0	19	1"

"And the following are quoted from the same book:

'Paid for cattel more than they sold for in cash,	16	18	5
---	----	----	---



ABIJAH FOSTER'S STORE, WEST KEENE. BUILT BEFORE 1787.

Abijah Foster's Store, West Keene. Built before 1787.

'To cash to defray the expenses of Samuel Heaton down to Wrentham after the glass for the meeting-house—wagon and two horses,	£	s	d
	1	18	4
'Paid Mr John Ward & Co., Providence, for glass,	38	5	4
'The pews sold for	941	5	0
'Raised by tax,	400	0	0
'The sum total that has been paid, <i>in cash</i> , for meeting-house matters, is	120	13	9''

(Annals, page 111.)

In attempting to relieve the financial distress of the people, the legislature had submitted to the voters a plan for issuing paper money. A town meeting was held, November 28, 1786, to consider the question, but the plan was rejected by a unanimous vote; and it failed by a large majority in the state.

Dr. Thomas Frink, who for nearly thirty years had been a prominent physician and magistrate in town, died this year.

At the annual town meeting in 1787, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles was elected representative, but at an adjourned meeting he declined to serve, and Lieut. Benjamin Hall was chosen. Asa Dunbar, town clerk and first selectman, died on the 22d of June; and a town meeting on the 10th of July chose Capt. Stiles to succeed him in both offices.

In May of this year, William Lamson established a tannery in rear of the site now occupied by Lamson block and the Five Cents Savings bank, and he and his son carried on a successful business there for many years. At that time there were only about forty families living in the vicinity of Main street. One of the principal stores of the town was in the west part, kept by Abijah Foster, on the west side of the road a few rods north of Jesse Clark's tavern,¹ west of the mill pond, where Clark also had saw and grist mills. Joseph Brown built and opened another store, nearly opposite Foster's, about that time—the little old building still standing at the turn of the road—and built the present house of Sidney C. Ellis. There was a

¹That house was the first built in this vicinity by the "square rule," and people came from far and near to see the frame.

blacksmith's shop at the branch of the roads near the mills, a pottery northeast of Brown's store; and other mechanics found employment there. Both Foster and Brown were enterprising men, and each carried on a large general business; and that locality, with the plains to the eastward, was expected by many to be the site of the future town. But the new meetinghouse had been built on the "common," as already described, and stores and shops began to spring up near it, and gradually the business of the town centered there.

Col. Isaac Wyman still kept his tavern at the lower end of Main street as in the days of the Lexington alarm, and the veteran Capt. Dorman, 77 years old, still lived where he did when the messenger came to him on that morning of the 20th of April, 1775. Some of the business still clung to that end of the "Street." Samuel Wadsworth had had a blacksmith's shop and his residence in the old fort, and other mechanics were still in that neighborhood; a schoolhouse stood next north of Capt. Dorman's, and a new building was put up opposite Col. Wyman's tavern which was occupied the next year by the printing office.

In September of this year James Davenport Griffith, son of John Griffith, an eminent school teacher of Boston, having had two years' experience in the publication of the Continental Journal of that city, came to Keene and started the New Hampshire Recorder. The printing office was in a small, one-story, wooden building which stood on the west side of Main street, near the north line of the residence lot of the late Edward C. Thayer, a little back from the street. The office was moved the next year to the new building across the street as stated above. The first number of the Recorder that has been preserved, so far as is known, is No. 1 of the second volume, dated Sept. 9, 1788, and an incomplete file from that date to Feb. 24, 1791, bound in one volume, is in the public library.

Alexander Ralston's tavern stood on the west side of Main street, in front of what is known as the Gen. Wilson house (now Mr. Isaac J. Dunn's). The jail "of hewn logs,"

which had stood just above that tavern, had been removed a few years before, across the street and farther down; and in 1785, a new one of wood had been built on Prison street, as already stated.

On Aug. 19, 1787, a remarkable tornado swept over all this part of the country. Many people were killed and many more were injured. The Recorder reported that "The destruction of houses, barns, cattle, etc., is beyond conception." The cattle were killed and injured chiefly by the falling of trees.

On the 7th of January, 1788, the town chose Rev. Aaron Hall a delegate to a convention to act upon the federal constitution for the government of the United States proposed by the national convention. The state convention met at Exeter on the 13th of February, and chose Gen. John Sullivan president. He was also president of the state at that time. The opposition to the proposed constitution was so strong that its friends did not dare risk a vote on its adoption, but carried an adjournment to gain time; and the convention met again at Concord, on the 18th of June. On the 21st, the vote of adoption passed by 57 to 47, New Hampshire being the ninth state to ratify, thus giving the required two-thirds majority of states for the final adoption of the constitution of the United States. On the 30th of June, the inhabitants of Keene celebrated that ratification. No account of the ceremonies has been preserved, but there were religious services in the meetinghouse, and Rev. Aaron Hall preached a sermon which was printed by request, for sale and distribution.

At the annual town meeting the committee previously appointed to adjust the claims of those who had served in the late war but had not been settled with in a former average of pay, made their report, recommending that those persons be paid certain sums. The town accepted the report so far as to grant them two-thirds of the respective sums recommended, and raised 106 pounds to pay this and the former average. The following are the names mentioned and the sums granted to each:

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Simeon Clark,	2	2	4	Timothy Ellis, 3d,	1	1	2
Jonathan Pond,	2	2	4	Lieutenant Wright,	2	10	2
Maj. Davis Howlet,	2	2	4	Abraham Wheeler,	0	17	2
Thomas Field,	2	2	4	Royal Blake,	4	14	0
Adin Holbrook,	2	2	4	Captain Richardson,	1	4	0
Capt. Stephen Griswold,	2	2	4	Benjamin Willis,	2	1	2
Joshua Osgood,	1	12	0	Isaac Esty,	1	8	10
Jonathan Dwinell,	1	1	2	Maj. Josiah Willard,	1	16	8
Gideon Ellis,	1	1	2	Samuel Hall,	2	2	4

In the legislature a convention of both houses chose Capt. Josiah Richardson, representative from Keene, to fill a vacancy in the state council for the year ensuing.

On the 26th of June the town "voted to Rase the sum of Two Hundred pounds Lawful Money 'for the use of Finishing the New Meetinghous;" and on the 18th of September "voted to Impower the Committee to Give and Convey the old Meeting Hous to the County of Cheshire for a Court hous for the use of said County—Provided the said County will accept of the said Hous for the use aforesaid and moove it to the North west Corner of the Meeting Hous Common in Keene and permit the Inhabiten of said Towne to hold their Towne Meetings in said Hous;" and the conveyance was made in accordance with that vote. For several years efforts had been made and articles inserted in the warrants for town meetings to have the town appropriate money for instruction in church music, but the town had persistently refused to take such action. At this meeting on the article in the warrant, "To see if the Towne can Devise any Method to encourage the art of Singing—as it is almost neglected in our Congregation"—Abijah Wilder, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles and Dea. Daniel Kingsbury were chosen a committee to "Incurige the art of Singing without any Cost to the Towne."

About this time Mr. Samuel Cooke, "improved" (erected) a building for stores south of the present Eagle Hotel. That part of Main street from the hotel to Water street was occupied by several shops and places of business, and was called "Federal Row." Mr. Cooke was in trade in connection with Capt. Samuel Wetherbee, of Col. Wyman's regiment in the war, but was soon succeeded by Moses Johnson, who had occupied a store and lived where



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL DINSMOOR, SR. BUILT BY PELEG SPRAGUE IN 1795.

Residence of Samuel Dinsmoor, Sr. Built by Peleg Sprague in 1795.

Gurnsey's block now stands. Johnson soon afterwards joined Mr. James Mann, who had built the store subsequently occupied by A. & T. Hall (or it is possible the firm of Johnson & Mann built it), where Buffum's block now stands. Johnson also had pot and pearl ash works, and a distillery on what is now Castle street, and on the ridge north of it, and a store in Walpole in connection with his business here. He did a large general business, and was public spirited and very active in advancing the interests of the town.

Daniel Newcomb, who for ten years had been the principal lawyer in town, had his office where Gurnsey's block now stands. Peleg Sprague came in 1787, and soon built and lived in what is now known as the Laton Martin house, and had his office north of it, in his yard, where the brick house now stands. At first his office was on the site of Gurnsey's block.

David Simmons, the "shoemaker from Boston," lived on the east side of Main street, toward the lower end, and removed his shop from there "to Cooke's building in Federal Row." He was father of David A. Simmons, who left the Simmons fund to the town of Keene.

Capt. Josiah Richardson was still keeping tavern in the house which he had built on Pleasant street, on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building; and Rev. Aaron Hall was living in his new house, built by the town, on the same street.

Main, Pleasant and Prison streets (Washington), Walpole road (School street), Packersfield road (Water street), and Boston road (Baker street), were nearly the same then as now, and Cross street was laid out that year, but none of the other streets had been opened, except that Roxbury street and one or two others had been used without a formal lay-out.

Aaron and Luther Eames, who were keeping the Ralston tavern in 1786, had now succeeded Dr. Ziba Hall in his tavern, on the east side of Main street, where the small engine house now stands, near the railroad; and Lemuel Chandler "opened a new Tavern, nearly opposite the meeting-house, at the sign of the Lyon and the Blue

Ball." That was called the Chandler House, and was on the site of the present Cheshire House. Chandler died the next year, and the property came into the hands of Dr. Thomas Edwards, who had married Chandler's sister, and the house, known as Edwards's tavern, was kept by him for many years. Capt. Reuben Partridge also kept a tavern on the old Surry road, near his mills—afterwards Holbrook's—on the outlet of Goose pond; and there were others along the main roads in town.

At each of these public houses spirituous liquors were sold under a license from the state; and from the confessions of "One late of the club," published in the Recorder, it is evident that there was "a set of gamblers"—a club for that purpose, in fact—in Keene, even in those days of Puritan piety. But Col. Wyman informs his friends and the public, by an advertisement in the Recorder, "that he shall not in future vend any liquors—but would be glad to serve Travellers with Boarding and Lodging, and the best of Horse-keeping;"—a pioneer temperance man.

Ephraim Cummings and Richard Stratton had clothiers' works at West Swanzey and advertised, "That their customers may be accommodated with colours of every kind (except scarlet), particularly Blue in its highest perfection." Benjamin Balch also had a fulling mill and clothier's works on the north branch of White brook near the old Westmoreland road, four miles from the village; and Capt. John Warner, then or soon after, had similar works where "Mill creek"—from the mills on West street—joins the river, near the present greenhouses of Ellis Brothers.

The Recorder of Dec. 30 says: "We are happy to inform the Friends to American Manufactures that the use of Spinning Wheels and Looms has never been so prevalent at any period since the late revolution as at the present day. Several pieces of elegant and fashionable Broadcloths have lately been manufactured in this town, the texture, colour, and duration of which are by no means inferior to European Guinea Cloths." Joseph Newell had a tailor's shop in town, and made fine garments.

Goodale & Homer had one of the stores in a long,

narrow building on the east side of Main street, below the Chandler House. They afterwards removed to the old one-story wooden store on the opposite corner (now Elliot's), built by Capt. Josiah Richardson. Ichabod Fisher still kept his small store in the little old yellow house, already mentioned; and Dr. Jonas Dix had a "Medicinal Store" on the west side of upper Main street.

On the 9th of October, 1788, the town "voted to seat the New Meeting Hous," and chose Capt. John Houghton, Capt. Jotham Metcalf, Daniel Newcomb, Esq., Col. Timothy Ellis, and Samuel Bassett a committee for that purpose.

"Voted that the Pew in the frunt Galery bee appropriated for the use of the Singers in Keene and for their use only."

On Wednesday, October 29, the new meetinghouse was "consecrated to the Divine Being" with appropriate exercises, in which Rev. Mr. Olcott of Charlestown, and Rev. Mr. Fessenden of Walpole, who had formerly preached here, assisted. The pastor delivered "a pertinent and comprehensive discourse," and the exercises closed with an anthem and a benediction.

The Recorder said: "The zeal and unanimity which the Inhabitants of this Town have discovered in the completion of an elegant structure, which perhaps is not inferior to any of the kind throughout the state, must redound to their immortal honor."

A correspondent in the same paper suggested that a bell and a pall be immediately procured by subscription; and he urged the fencing of "the burying ground at the lower end of the Main street," which was exposed to the invasion of cattle.

On the 16th of October, Mrs. Sally Hall, "the amiable consort of Rev. Aaron Hall," died. The funeral was at the meetinghouse, Rev. Mr. Fessenden officiating.

The first town meeting to vote for electors of president and vice president of the United States, and for three members of congress, under the new federal constitution, was held at the old meetinghouse on the 15th of December.

There had been opposition to the constitution and some would not act under it, but all the votes cast in

Keene, thirty in number, were for the electors who voted for George Washington and John Adams. Samuel Livermore, Benjamin West and Nicholas Gilman had thirty-five votes each for members of congress.

At the annual election, March 3, 1789, Gen. John Sullivan was chosen president of the state, Keene casting fifty-four votes for him to twenty-six for John Pickering.

Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, Capt. Jotham Metcalf, Major Davis Howlett, Lieut. Benjamin Balch and Eri Richardson were chosen a committee "to see what school houses are wanting (in the several districts) and how much money is wanting to build school Houses."

"Voted to Fence the Several Buring places in this Towne and Chose a committee of Four for that purpos and chose Major Willard Michel Metcalf Levi Partridg and Capt. John Houghton who are hereby Directed to Call on their Neighbors to Turn out and Do said work without any Cost or charge to the Towne."

"Voted that the Select Men Provid a Pall or grave Cloath at the Expençe of the Towne." The pall was purchased in 1792—the first one used.

At an adjourned meeting, on the 31st of March, the committee appointed at a previous meeting to examine the accounts of the building committee, reported that two hundred pounds was the sum needed to finish the meeting-house; and the town voted that sum, to be assessed immediately. It also authorized the building committee to sell the pews in the new house not already disposed of at public vendue to the highest bidder.

"Voted to purchas a Peace of Land of Capt. Richardson to set horssheds on—ten feet wide and to Extend from the Northeast corner of the Common to whare the old meeting hous Now Stands and to pay for the same out of the Towne Treasury." All the inhabitants of the town were granted the privilege of building horsesheds on that land under the direction of a committee. Court street had not then been opened, and the old meetinghouse stood where that street now enters the square.

One of the articles in the warrant was: "to See if the Towne will Hire a School Master for a year provided the payment Can be made easy." The town voted not to

hire. But Israel Houghton was teaching a private school here at that time; and a "Mr. Willard," (doubtless Lockhart, son of Major Josiah, who was then 26 years of age) taught a school for both sexes in "Free Masons' Hall." He and his pupils gave public exhibitions which were highly commended. To the second one, held in August, were sold "Tickets of admission, half a pistareen each." (A pistareen passed for seventeen cents.)

In May, "Jonathan Houghton from Boston" opened a store on the east side of Main street below the Chandler House. He was succeeded the next spring by John Patten, who advertised for "Fifteen or Twenty Tons of Flax, to be paid for in goods,"—to counteract a similar advertisement for the same amount by Daniel Ashley of Winchester. Patten also offered "Cash for Salts, and Goods for Ashes, or clean Cotton or Linen Rags," and added, "Pearl Ash Manufactured on the shortest Notice given."

The Recorder copied from Boston papers an account of a pair of oxen brought to that market which "exceeded all, for fatness and weight, ever known in the thirteen states." The live weight of the pair was 3,586 pounds. Three years later a Concord paper published a paragraph headed "Great Oxen," stating that a pair had been brought down from Plymouth which weighed 2,616 pounds and sold for \$180. Many persons still living remember a pair that Elijah Blake of Keene raised and sent to market by his son, Justin S. Blake, in 1866, which weighed 5,302 pounds, and sold for \$600.

On Oct. 6, 1789, there was a muster at Keene of part of Gen. Chase's brigade—the Sixth regiment, Col. Whitcomb of Swanzey; the Twenty-Second, Col. Aldrich of Westmoreland; the company of cavalry, Capt. Isaac Wyman of Keene (son of Col. Isaac); and the company of artillery, Capt. Butterfield. Luther Eames of Keene was brigade major. The whole formed in Main street and "marched into the training field," where they were reviewed by Maj. Gen. Bellows of Walpole, and Brig. Gen. Chase. The cavalry and artillery were in new and brilliant uniforms, and all made a fine appearance. Refreshments for the troops were provided by the general officers.

The Balches had been succeeded as post riders by Ozias Silsby of Acworth, the route remaining substantially the same as that established in 1781. Uzziel Hurd of Lempster also carried the mail and the papers from the printing office in Keene to the towns in Cheshire county not on the mail line, "once a fortnight, bad weather excepted"—riding as far north as Plainfield, and doing an express business.

The appropriations of the town for the support of schools had been steadily increasing until, at the annual meeting in 1790, the sum raised was 100 pounds in addition to that required by law—which was five times the sum required of the town as its proportion of the state tax, amounting this year to nearly fifty pounds. The town also voted "to make up what is wanting to pay for finishing the Meeting hous agreeably to the report of the committe."

In early times, salmon and shad were plentiful in the Connecticut river, and they even ran up the Ashuelot and its larger branches. "By the law of nature and nations" the people of this valley should have continued in possession of those delicious varieties of food, but with the settlement of the country, came dams across the streams, and the fish were prevented from making their annual visits to these waters. For several years previous to 1789, petitions had been presented from the selectmen of Winchester and other inhabitants of the county, for sluices to be opened through the dams to allow the passage of the fish, and the legislature passed an act requiring such sluices to be made. The annual town meeting in Keene in 1790 "chose Capt. Richardson Lockhart Willard and Eli Metcalf a Committe to Inspect the Several Milldams across Ashawolet River, agreeably to a law of this State." That statute remained in force until 1794.

A town meeting on the 10th of June "voted to Build a workhous at Som futter Perod and voted to hire a workHous for the present and chose a committee to do the same viz Isaac Griswold Davis Howlett and Josiah Richardson and chose Josiah Richardson to oversee s^d workHous and Tak proper cair of" the poor.

June 17, the governor and council appointed "Daniel Newcomb Esq. of Keene first Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Cheshire."

A census of the state was taken this year, that of Keene being:

Males above 16.....	316
Males under 16.....	318
Females.....	671
Other free persons.....	5
Slaves.....	2

Amount.....1,314

[1312]

At this time Charlestown had 1,093 inhabitants; Claremont, 1,435; Jaffrey, 1,235; Swanzey, 1,157; Winchester, 1,209; Walpole, 1,245; Richmond, 1,380; Chesterfield, 1,905; and Westmoreland, 2,018.

Keene had two negro slaves, and in the state there were 158. In 1781 and 1782, the following advertisements were published in the New Hampshire Gazette:

"A likely, capable Negro Girl, 14 years of age, to be sold, or exchanged for a Negro Boy. Enquire of the Printer."

"To be sold very cheap for want of employment—A likely, healthy Negro Girl about 15 years of age, understands all kinds of housework—will suit town or country. Enquire of the Printer."

Early in 1791 the printing office of the New Hampshire Recorder was removed from the building opposite Col. Wyman's tavern to one just below the Chandler House; and the publisher announced that "the great declension of Advertisements, and the difficulty of obtaining pay" for the paper would compel him to discontinue its publication at the close of that quarter, but that printing would be carried on as usual. But he afterwards published a few numbers of the Cheshire Advertiser.

The first bookbinder in town, so far as appears, was Thomas Smith Webb, the celebrated Freemason, who had a shop in Federal Row in 1790-96.

In January, 1791, Capt. Jeremiah Stiles was appointed a justice of the peace for Cheshire county.

The annual town meeting: "Voted that their be Liberty

to set up a Hay markett in Som Conveinant place betwene the meeting Hous and the lane called Warshbourns lane¹ where it will best Commode the propriators and the publick." The haymarket was established in the broad open street below the present City Hotel, with the Ralston tavern and a row of small shops on the west side, and "Federal Row" on the east.

On the 18th of March, in accordance with an act of the legislature establishing postoffices and post routes in New Hampshire, the president and council of the state appointed Major Josiah Richardson postmaster at Keene, and the office was at his tavern on Pleasant street—the first regularly established postoffice in town. The postmaster's compensation was "two pence to be advanced on the postage of private letters, packets &c." The same year the post routes were so changed that a mail ran once a fortnight from Concord through Weare, New Boston, Amherst, Wilton, Peterboro, Dublin and Marlboro to Keene, and thence through Westmoreland, Walpole, Alstead, Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Newport, Lempster, Washington, Hillsboro, Henniker and Hopkinton to Concord. Thomas Smith of Surry was postrider on that route. The compensation of the rider was twelve pounds per annum and the perquisites on private packages. The postage was sixpence on each private letter for every forty miles, and fourpence for any number of miles less than forty.

In August, Hon. Daniel Newcomb was chosen a delegate to the convention which met at Concord on the 7th of September to revise the state constitution. That convention chose Hon. Samuel Livermore president, adjourned from time to time, discussed the seventy-two amendments proposed, and sent out those adopted by the convention for acceptance or rejection by the people. At two successive meetings Keene voted strongly in favor of the amendments as finally adopted. The title of the executive was changed from president to governor. At the closing session, in September, 1792, Judge Newcomb of Keene was made chairman of the committee that reported the result

¹ Washburn's lane appears to have been the same as Packersfield road.

of the labors of the convention in our present state constitution.

The annual town meeting in 1792 increased Rev. Mr. Hall's salary to 100 pounds¹ instead of eighty pounds, as it had been previously. Eighty pounds were raised for a "Bell for the new Meeting House," and Peleg Sprague was chosen a committee to purchase the same. "For encouraging the Purchase of a Bell, Judge Newcomb declared in Town Meeting, that he would pay (exclusive of his own Proportion) the Proportion of Ten men whom the Selectmen Should Judge to be least able to pay.—Squire Sprague, declared to the same Purport for Four." At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Sprague's bill for the cost of the bell and for hanging it, 95l. 2s. 8d. 2q., was allowed. Two years later the town voted to purchase a larger bell, to weigh one thousand pounds, and chose Daniel Newcomb agent for that purpose.

On the 31st of March, the veteran soldier, magistrate and eminent citizen, Col. Isaac Wyman, died, aged sixty-eight, and was buried in the old yard at the south end of Main street.

In March, Mrs. Ruth Kidder reopened a school she had taught the previous year in the basement of "Watson's shop," which stood on the west side of Main street where the Cheshire bank and buildings south of it now stand. The entrance was on the south side. The subscribers to this school "promise Mrs. Ruth Kidder the sum of five shillings [$83\frac{1}{3}$ cents] a week for her services and five shillings for her board, and to furnish the necessary wood." With the exception of two or three small buildings along the line of the street, the view to the southwest from that schoolroom door was unobstructed across open, green meadows to "Daniel's Hill" beyond.

A Mrs. Mary Dunbar (the widow of Asa Dunbar) was keeping tavern on Main street where the white house between the railroad tracks now stands. Mrs. Dunbar was the grandmother of Henry D. Thoreau, the famous naturalist.

¹In addition to this, a "bee" was made each year to cut and haul his year's supply of wood—about forty cords—from the minister lot, two miles north of the village.

Major William Todd kept the "Ralston Tavern," and later he was the postmaster in Keene. (Josiah P. Cooke in *Annals of Keene*, page 104, gives the name John Todd. But it is probable that Mr. Cooke wrote from memory and mistook the name John for William. The name John Todd does not appear in any of the records of Keene, while Major William Todd was in town from 1790 to 1803, and perhaps longer.)

August 27, 1792, the town "Voted to sett off Doct.^r Blake's Corner of the Town as a seperate School District, consisting of the following families—viz. John Conoly, Timothy Conoly, Doct.^r Obadiah Blake, Royal Blake, Abijah Metcalf, Frederick Metcalf, Joseph Brown, Isaac Wyman, Thomas Dwinell, Josiah Ellis, Elijah Baker, & Ebenezer Baker." The Blake, Conoly (Colony), and Wyman farms still remain in possession of the descendants of those families. The Baker place is owned by Prof. Bracq, and the Dwinell place, off the road, west, by Edwin V. Aldrich.

The same meeting voted to raise four hundred pounds for building and repairing schoolhouses, and "that the several burying yards be fenced by the first Day of June next by the several districts at their Expense, and in case of failure, that the Selectmen fence them at the Expense of said Districts." Five burial districts were laid out, as appears later in this chapter.

An article in the warrant for a town meeting held Sept. 24, "To permit Doct.^r Dan.^l Adams or Doct.^r Thaddeus Maccarty or Doct.^r Thomas Edwards, or any two of them to erect an Hospital in some convenient part of said Town to inoculate for the small Pox," passed in the negative.

At another meeting in November, the selectmen were authorized to employ some person to "ring the Bell in this Town as often as they shall think proper," and pay a reasonable sum for that service.

All nails were made by hand, and in consequence of the scarcity of them, the legislature had offered a bounty for their manufacture. In 1787-8, Ezra Harvey made or caused to be made at his shop in Keene, according to a certificate of the selectmen, 200,000 four-penny wrought



DANIEL ADAMS.

nails, and received the bounty thereon. Under the same conditions he and Elijah Baker continued the business for several years. In 1790, Baker made 400,000 ten-penny and Harvey 200,000 four-penny wrought nails. In 1791, Harvey made 400,000 four-penny and Baker 100,000 ten-penny wrought nails. In 1792, Baker made 300,000 ten-penny and Harvey 400,000 four-penny wrought nails.

"The only vehicle or carriage, at this time, known to be kept and used in Keene for pleasure traveling, was owned and kept by Thomas Wells, known in his day as 'Farmer Wells,' though he was by trade a hatter. This vehicle was what was then called a 'chair,' was without a top, accommodated two persons, and was frequently let for the use of persons going short distances, and who desired an easier mode of locomotion than a hard trotting horse.

"It was at a much later period that Judge Newcomb introduced the first chaise, and at a still later, that the Rev. Aaron Hall followed the same fashion. No stage at this time had ever passed through the streets, nor were the roads generally such as could be passed in wheel carriages; and the usual and only mode of travel was on horseback." (Annals, page 104.)

Through the efforts of Judge Newcomb, and largely at his expense, a "grammar school" had been set up previous to 1793; but the exact time is not known. The schoolhouse in which it was taught stood on the site of the brick one, just below the residence of Mrs. E. C. Thayer, which was removed a few years ago, when the Elliot schoolhouse was built. A schoolhouse stood on that spot for about one hundred years. The first teacher was Peter John Ware, and "He left a lasting impression of severity on the memories, if not on the backs, of his pupils." During this year (1793) William Thurston was in charge of the school. He had graduated from Dartmouth college in 1792, and afterwards settled as a lawyer in Boston. The tuition was 12½ cents a week, with a small additional sum for those who learned to write. "Mr. Thurston was succeeded by Master Farrar, a man of very agreeable, mild manners." (Annals, page 106.)

In April, Henry Blake & Co. began the publication of the Columbian Informer, or Cheshire Journal. But one copy of that paper appears to have been preserved,

although its publication continued until August, 1795, when, Henry Blake having died, it was sold to Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., & Co.

The highest taxpayers in town in 1793, in the order of the sums paid—the first list that has been preserved—were Alexander Ralston, Thomas Baker, Abel Blake, Moses Johnson, Daniel Newcomb, James Wright, Josiah Richardson, Simeon Clark, David Willson, David Nims, Jr.

In February, 1794, a subscription was started to purchase the first town clock—to be made by Luther Smith at his shop in Federal Row. He agreed to make and warrant it and keep it in repair for ten years for thirty-six pounds. The town accepted and placed it in the tower of the meetinghouse, and it did good service for many years.

At the annual town meeting, Abel Blake, Dea. Abijah Wilder and Joseph Brown were chosen "Fire Wards;" James Morse "Culler of Staves" and Benjamin Hall "Essay master of pot and pearl ashes,"—the first mention of those offices in the town records. The office of clerk of the market was renewed and James Morse was chosen. The article, "To see if the Town will grant Money to teach Singing," was passed over.

For many years after the Revolution, Walpole was a rival of Keene for the position of leading town in the county, as were also Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Richmond and Charlestown; and in both population and valuation the three first named exceeded Keene at this time. Sometime in 1793, Isaiah Thomas and David Carlisle, Jr., established a weekly paper at Walpole, calling it "The New Hampshire and Vermont Journal, or Farmer's Museum." Incomplete files of the paper, from No. 58, vol. 2, dated May 16, 1794, to the time of its discontinuance in October, 1799, have been preserved, and have been of value in the preparation of this work. Its columns are filled chiefly with important state papers; diplomatic letters and documents, foreign and domestic; letters of Washington and other distinguished men; and the acts of congress and the legislature. Noticeable among the few advertisements, is the frequency with which husbands in the surrounding towns forbid the public to trust or "harbour" the wives

who had left their "bed and board." Five such advertisements appear in one number of that small paper, indicating much domestic infelicity even in those days. Sometimes there were spicy replies from the absconding wives, who could "talk back," and who probably had the sympathy of the public. Many advertisements of runaway apprentices appear, and rewards of one cent, two cents and six cents—seldom larger—were offered for their apprehension and return.

It was during 1794 that a copartnership was formed between Abijah Wilder and Luther Eames of Keene, for the purpose of building aqueducts. The next February, "Luther Eames and his associates were incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts into a society for bringing fresh water into the town of Boston." Further writings were executed in May between Abijah Wilder, Luther Eames and Jonathan Church, for building the Jamaica Pond aqueduct; and thus Boston is indebted to Keene enterprise "for the first introduction of pure water into the town."

In the early part of 1795, or possibly in the last of 1794, Asa Bullard was appointed postmaster at Keene—the first under the United States government. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary war and was styled "Capt. Bullard" when he first came to Keene; and he afterwards rose to the rank of major in the militia.¹ He kept a "Coffee House" on what is now the south corner of Dunbar and Main streets, in what was afterwards known as the "plastered house"—plastered on the outside—and had the office there. It stood on the same foundations as the present house of Mr. Isaac N. Spencer, with a garden extending south to the Packersfield road. It was afterwards the residence of Elijah Dunbar, Esq., for whom the street was named. That was a convenient location for the postoffice then, being in the Haymarket, and at the south end of Federal Row. The mails now came direct from Boston once a week and went through

¹ "He afterwards removed to Walpole and kept tavern there; and it was at his house that for some time the club of scholars and wits, who made themselves and the Farmers' Museum famous throughout the country, by their lucubrations, and consisted of Joseph Dennie, afterwards editor of the *Port Folio*, at Philadelphia; Royal Tyler, afterwards Chief Justice of Vermont; Samuel Hunt and Roger Vose, both afterwards members of Congress; Samuel West, and others, held their periodical symposiums." (Annals, page 79.)

to "Charlestown, No. 4." They were carried by Jotham Johnson of Leominster, Mass., who advertised to carry passengers in winter "in a convenient covered sleigh." He left Boston Wednesday morning, reached Leominster that night; came to Keene Thursday and spent the night at Capt. Bullard's Coffee House; arrived at No. 4 at 2 p. m., Friday, and returned to Walpole that night. Passing through Keene Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, Marlboro (the old town on the hill) at 11, he reached Boston at 7 o'clock Monday morning.¹ The roads as they were then would hardly be deemed passable now, and the mails were carried on horseback except when there was plenty of snow. The veteran John Balch, who began in 1781, was still carrying mails, newspapers and packages on some of the routes.

The canal and locks at Bellows Falls, for the passage of the freight boats then in use on the river, were in process of building this year. The boats were propelled up the stream with poles.

Samuel Hunt, afterwards a member of congress, was practising law in Keene at this time. His office was on the east side of Main street, below the Chandler House. He came from Alstead, remained five years, and removed to Charlestown, his native place.

Asa Bullard, Jr., taught the grammar school in 1795. He had graduated at Dartmouth in 1793, and was "afterwards a highly respectable teacher and physician in Boston." He was succeeded here by Thomas Heald, a Dartmouth graduate of 1794, who settled as a lawyer in Concord, Mass.

May 19, Capt. Ephraim Dorman, the veteran soldier and leader in the town in the early days, died, aged eighty-four, and was buried in the old south yard.

A town meeting on the 25th of May voted to increase the salary of Rev. Mr. Hall to 130 pounds—fifty pounds more than was agreed upon when he was settled. One hundred and fifty pounds in addition to the amount required

¹In 1794, congress passed an act establishing mail routes in New Hampshire. One of those routes ran from Portsmouth through Exeter, Chester, Amherst, Keene and Walpole to Charlestown. Another ran direct from Boston to Keene. The rates of postage were, "For every single letter conveyed by land not exceeding thirty miles six cents; over thirty, not exceeding sixty miles, eight cents; over sixty, not exceeding one hundred miles, ten cents;" and so on—the rate for those carried over 450 miles being twenty-five cents. For double or triple letters, double or triple postage was required.

by law were raised for schools, and "Eighty pounds to purchase and fence Burying grounds in the several districts."

At this time the town was divided into five districts for burial purposes. The first included the village and all the inhabitants between the river and the "North Branch," from Swanzey line as far north on the west side as "Fisher Brook," and to Sullivan line on the east side. Down to this time the burying ground of this district had been the original one at the south end of Main street, but in the spring of this year the one on Prison street was opened for burial. The first interment there was that of John (Holland?) Johnson,¹ the seven years old son of Moses Johnson, who died April 22. His grave is a short distance southeast of the entrance. Gravestones in that yard giving an earlier date than 1795 are those for bodies removed from some other yard.

The second district was the southwest quarter of the town, extending as far north as the present Chesterfield road, and including the small village at old West Keene and three or four farms northwest of it. The burying ground was the old one on the knoll near Ash Swamp brook, on the farm now owned by Mr. H. O. Spaulding, where the Daughters of the American Revolution have recently placed a monument.

The third district was the northwest quarter of the town, and the burying ground was near the Westmoreland road and "near Col. Ellis's," three and a half miles from town. Later the second and third districts united, in part, in the grounds near the old Sawyer tavern, given by Col. Abraham Wheeler, who then owned and kept the tavern.

The fourth district was the north part of the town, with the burying ground in the crotch of the roads beyond the Chase farm.

The fifth district included all east of the North branch, and the burying ground was near Nathan Nye's, in what is now Roxbury.

The boundary lines of the twelve school districts were also run this year, 1795, by the selectmen, and the descriptions recorded; and those districts remained

¹Josiah P. Cooke, in *Annals of Keene*, page 102, says, "John Holland," but the inscription on the gravestone is simply "John Johnson."

substantially the same for many years. From those descriptions we learn that "Esq. Baker" still had his tannery near Beaver brook on the "Boston Road;" that Fisher brook was the little stream that crosses Court street, a little more than a mile from the Square; that Eri Richardson lived near the southwest corner of the town; that Thomas Dwinell, Addington Daniels, Ammi Brown, James Lincoln, Luther Bragg, Aaron Gray, Noah Leonard and Jesse Hall, besides others previously mentioned, lived in the northwest part of the town; Cornelius Sturtevant and Captains Isaac and Stephen Griswold, near the north line, east of the river; Benjamin Archer, near the town line on the old Walpole road; James Crossfield, in the north part of what is now Roxbury; Capt. David Willson, on the southeast side of Beech hill, probably on the Chapman farm; and many other facts of interest.

The sum raised for schools this year, 1795, was 200 pounds; but an article in the warrant for a meeting in November, to see if the town would support a grammar school, was dismissed. The next year, 1796, "Monsieur Bellerieve, a Frenchman, took charge of the (private) grammar school, for the purpose of giving instruction solely in French. His career was a short one." (Annals, page 107.)

The selectmen of Keene had sold to Daniel Newcomb, Esq., in 1784, a small part of the old meetinghouse lot and common at the south end of Main street. On the 30th of November, 1795, they sold him the remainder of that lot, and he afterwards built on it a fine colonial house for his homestead, which gave place to the present structure, now the residence of Mr. E. F. Lane.

In August, Cornelius Sturtevant, Jr., & Co. began the publication of a weekly paper called the "Rising Sun." But few copies of that paper are now in existence. The "Co." was Abijah Wilder and Elias Sturtevant.

Sept. 28, 1795, the town chose Capt. Jeremiah Stiles representative in place of Daniel Newcomb, who had been elected in March, but had also been elected state senator, and resigned as representative.

"Chose Jeremiah Stiles Josiah Richardson & Dan^l Kingsbury Esq^r to give a deed in behalf of the Town of

Keene to the County of Cheshire of Land on the Common in Keene to extend eight Rods east of Cap^t Richardsons east Garden fence, from the Road on the South side of the Common to the North side of the Common, for the purpose of erecting a new Court house thereon to be for the use of the County so long as said Court house shall stand thereon and be used as such and no longer and the Town to have the same privileges on said land & in the new Court house to be erected as they now have in the old Court house and on said land."

Mr. Alexander Ralston, the wealthiest man in town, was making an effort to have the new courthouse built near his tavern—in the Haymarket. At the next annual meeting, in 1796, the town "Voted as the opinion of the Inhabitants of Keene that it would be most convenient for the Town of Keene, and for the County of Cheshire, to have a Court house built where the Old one now stands on the Common in Keene; and to instruct their Representative to use his Influence in the Convention of said County to grant two hundred pounds for building the same, agreeable to the contract * * * * notwithstanding any proposals of M.^r Ralston since, or if he would build one for nothing where he proposes."

The new courthouse was built during that season, very nearly on the site of the old one (the old meetinghouse), and was used as a town hall for many years. At the same time the south end of the road from Surry and Walpole was changed so as to run near the west side of it, entering Pleasant (West) street where the postoffice building now stands—along "the east side of Capt. Richardson's garden fence," and forming the present Court street, except at its south end. Previous to that it had come down nearly on the line of the present School street; and, prior to 1773, curved thence to the east, passing below the present Episcopal church, and entering Main street by "Poverty Lane," about where Lamson block now stands.

On the 7th of November, 1796, in accordance with the request of a previous county convention, the town "voted that the Court house in Keene when finished become the sole property of the County of Cheshire without reserve." Keene had voted to give the land, and prominent citizens had contributed generous sums of money towards the

erection of the building. At the December term, "The Court of Common Pleas give liberty to the Town of Keene to use the Court house for Town Meetings when there is no Court sitting there (said Town doing no injury thereto and keeping the same clean) upon their giving a deed thereof to the County. Attest

Tho's Sparhawk, Clerk."

During the year 1796, Dea. Abijah Wilder utilized his skill in laying aqueducts by bringing water in logs from a spring¹ at the north end of the village to supply his own and other families. Afterwards the same aqueduct was used to supply water to some shops and manufactories; and others were laid in town about the same time and did good service for many years.

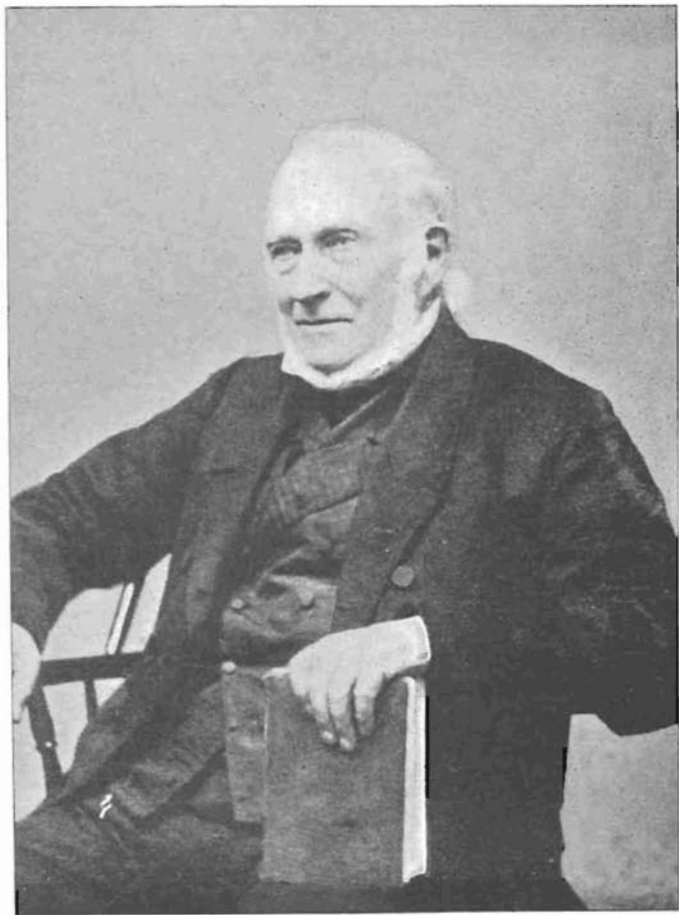
On the 10th of June the community was shocked by the sudden death of George Newcomb, eldest son of Judge Newcomb. He was a remarkably bright and promising lad, thirteen years old, and an undergraduate of Dartmouth college. He was at home on a vacation, went to the river to bathe with the boys of the grammar school, and was drowned.

A remarkably bright son of Capt. Alpheus Nims, George, in his sixth year, died also about the same time. "He was possessed of an extraordinary memory, so that he could retain, almost verbatim, discourses of considerable length." (Annals, page 80.)

In business, Allen & Dorr (Joseph Dorr, son-in-law of Capt. Josiah Richardson) had succeeded Goodale & Homer in the store on the corner, and they were sharp competitors of Moses Johnson (or "Johnson & Mann") their next door neighbors. The advertisements of the rival firms were sharp and spicy, and their customers reaped the benefit of low prices.

Down to this time, 1797, every property holder had been compelled to pay taxes for the support of the church established in the town. But the new state constitution provided that, "no person of any one particular denomination shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the teacher or teachers of another persuasion, sect or

¹The Annals say from Beaver brook, but it has since been ascertained that it was from a spring.



JOHN PRENTISS.

denomination." Controversy and litigation at once sprang up from those who dissented, or pretended to dissent, from the doctrines taught in the established church in their town concerning the payment of the minister tax. In Keene, Rev. Aaron Hall was a Congregationalist, and taught the doctrines of Calvin. Dr. Ziba Hall claimed to be a Universalist. The selectmen collected the usual tax for the support of the minister. Dr. Hall brought suit to recover the tax he had paid. The town appropriated twenty dollars to defend the suit. The controversy was sharp and exciting, but heavily balanced against the doctor. Much testimony was taken. The jury gave their verdict for the defendants, in accordance with the religious feeling of the time, and on the ground that the laws did not recognize any such denomination as Universalists. Soon afterwards, the legislature recognized the Universalists and other denominations by legal enactment, and compulsory support of churches ceased.

The denominations of money in use had now so far changed from the English to the Federal system, that at the annual town meeting this year, 1797, the sums raised were stated in dollars and cents instead of pounds, shillings and pence. The sum of \$500 was voted for Mr. Hall's salary, \$500 for schools, \$500 for repair of highways and bridges, and \$800 for town charges. But the next year, 1798, the appropriations were \$666.67 for schools, \$666.67 for highways and bridges, and \$433.33 for Mr. Hall's salary; which shows a clinging to the old English system, and a serious retrograde movement in granting Mr. Hall's salary. Five years later, however, it was raised to \$500, and was kept at that sum for many years.

In August, 1798, Peleg Sprague, Esq., of Keene, was elected to congress, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Jeremiah Smith. Mr. Sprague took his seat on the 4th of March following.

"The first dancing school in Keene was taught during this winter (1798-9) by Master Burbank of Brookfield, in the hall of the public house then kept by Dr. Thomas Edwards, where the Cheshire House now stands."

(Annals, page 108.)

In the early part of 1799, John Prentiss, then 21 years

old, came to Keene and began the publication of the New Hampshire Sentinel, at the "Old Printing Office," which had been the office of the Rising Sun and previous weekly papers—already described as the first office of the Recorder. "A bill of sale and transfer is drafted by N. Cooke, of the printing apparatus and effects—formerly owned by C. Sturtevant Jr. & Co.—from Abijah Wilder to John Prentiss. For these writings Abijah Wilder is debited in the books of account of N. Cooke as follows, viz: 'March 27, 1799. Abijah Wilder, Dr.—To drawing writings between him and Prentiss, 15 cents.'"—an illustration of the modesty of professional charges in those days.

The first number of the Sentinel was issued on Saturday, the 23d of March. Its motto was: "My Country's Good—a faithful Watch I stand."

The name was well chosen, for Keene was still one of the frontier points of civilization. Mr. Prentiss began with seventy subscribers at \$1.50 a year—taken in wood, butter, cheese, grain, and almost any article used in a family—and he also kept a few standard books, blank books and a small stock of stationery for sale. In October, the office was removed to a new building just south of Dr. Edwards's tavern.

The previous winter had been one of remarkable severity. A paragraph in the Sentinel, dated March 30, says: "The oldest man scarcely recollects such a winter as the past. Since the middle of November the ground has been covered with snow. The mail sleigh from Boston to Walpole has passed through this town eighteen weeks in succession. * * * * We have had four months and ten days dead winter." The severity was equally great in Europe. The Sentinel of May 11, said: "The snow now, in many parts of this town, is two to three feet deep." "Somehow or other our earth appears to have gotten an unlucky jog to the Northward. The spring is extremely backward."

The 4th of July was celebrated this year with much patriotic spirit. At sunrise the bell were rung, and in default of cannon, volleys of musketry were fired. Two companies of militia under Captains Alpheus Nims and Isaac Griswold, paraded on the common, and at 11 o'clock

“escorted a large and respectable procession through the streets to the meeting-house,” where religious services were held, with patriotic music, and an oration was delivered by Noah Cooke, Esq. At 3 o'clock, there was a dinner at which thirteen regular toasts were drunk; and in addition, one volunteer toast to “Peleg Sprague, Esq., our worthy Representative in Congress.”

“July 20.—Died, Mrs. Abigail Nims, of this town, consort of Mr. David Nims, aged 80. Her descendants were 81—children 10, grand-children 50, great-grand-children 21. Mrs. Nims accompanied the first settlers in this town.”

(Annals, page 85.)

In August, 1799, Keene was one of the recruiting stations in New Hampshire for raising volunteers for the threatened war with France. Capt. J. Dunham, of the regular army, opened an office here, heading his advertisement with:

“ATTENTION!!!

TO ARMS

COLUMBIA!”

But the troops were not called out.

Washington died on the 14th of December. When the news reached Keene, in the evening, some days later, Abijah Wilder, Jr., then a boy of fifteen, went into the belfry of the meetinghouse and tolled the bell all night. The next day at noon the United States flag was hoisted, draped in mourning, and the bell was again tolled until 2 o'clock.

A town meeting was held on the 27th of January, 1800, “to carry into effect the measures recommended by Congress, and by the Proclamation of the President of the United States for the observance of the 22d day of February next—publicly to testify their Grief for the death of General George Washington.”

“Voted and chose Daniel Newcomb Esq.^r David Forbes Esquire, Doctor Ziba Hall, Lock.^t Willard Esq.^r Cap.^t Abel Blake, M.^r Ebenezer Robbins, and Noah Cooke Esq.^r a Committee to make arrangements.” “Voted and chose Doctor Daniel Adams and Major John Pray Blake Marshalls for that day.”

The order of exercises announced by the committee requested the inhabitants to assemble “at the house of Major Todd [who still kept the Ralston tavern], at ten o'clock in the forenoon, in habiliments of mourning, the

males with crape or black ribbon on the left arm below the elbow, the females with a black sash."

The programme was carried out as planned. The interior of the meetinghouse was draped with mourning, a flag in mourning was displayed at half staff, and the bell was muffled, and tolled during the march of the procession, and after the exercises until sunset. The procession, in which the town and other officials, the Masons and the citizens generally, joined, was escorted by the Keene Light Infantry in uniform, Capt. Alpheus Nims; the company of militia, Capt. Isaac Griswold; each with arms reversed; and the company of cavalry, Lieut. Clark; with muffled drums, from Major Todd's tavern to the meetinghouse, where appropriate religious services were held. An oration was pronounced by Samuel West, Esq., and "The choir of singers did ample justice to the solemn and affecting airs." "The ceremonies of the day were conducted with the greatest decency and propriety."

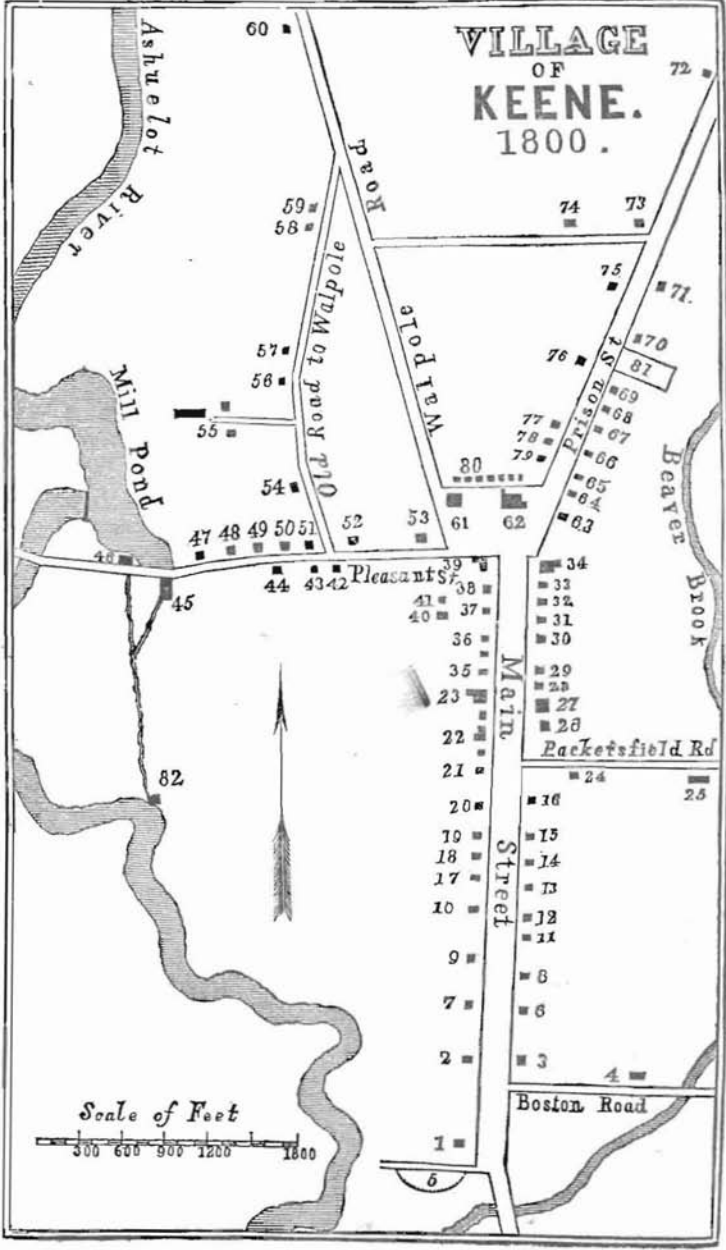
One article in the warrant for the annual town meeting in 1800 was: "To take the Sense of the qualified Voters on the Subject of using Instruments of Music in aid of vocal Music in the Meeting house on Sabbath days." It was dismissed.

In August, the town voted to raise \$1,333.33 to build and repair schoolhouses.

Several prominent citizens died during the year—Hon. Peleg Sprague, in April, aged 43; Gideon Ellis, one of the early settlers, in August, aged 86; and Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, in December, aged 56.

At the close of the 18th century, Keene was a well settled township of 1,645 inhabitants, chiefly thrifty farmers and their large families, and "Keene Street" was an attractive village of about one hundred houses, shops, etc., including a fine new meetinghouse, of which the citizens had a right to be proud. President Dwight, of Yale college, an experienced traveller, described Keene as one of the pleasantest inland towns he had seen. Central Square had been laid out partly in its present form, though not extending so far north, with the meetinghouse near the north side, fronting south, the horsesheds behind it, and the "common" extending down to the present railroad tracks.

VILLAGE OF KEENE. 1800.



The accompanying map of the village as it was at that time, with the page of explanations, is copied from the Annals of Keene, pages 88 and 89.

"The plan of the Village, on the opposite page, has been prepared with much labor and care. It was protracted by George W. Sturtevant, Esq. from surveys made by him and others; and the position of the buildings and the owners' names have been ascertained, by frequent consultations with many persons whose recollections go back to that period.

"The figures on the plan refer to the table below.

"REFERENCES.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.—Judge Newcomb. | 42.—Draper's Bake House. |
| 2.—Maj. Willard. | 43.—James Morse. |
| 3.—Dorman house. | 44.—Noah Cooke. |
| 4.—Thomas Baker. | 45.—Saw Mill. |
| 5.—Old Cemetery. | 46.—Grist Mill. |
| 6.—School House. | 47.—Nathan Blake. |
| 7.—Blake's Tavern. | 48.—James Wyman. |
| 8.—Dr Adams.—Post Office. | 49.—John Warner. |
| 9.—Lockhart Willard. | 50.—Dr Charles Blake. |
| 10.—School House. | 51.—William Lamson. |
| 11.—Washburn house. | 52.—Rev. Aaron Hall. |
| 12.—David Simmons. | 53.—Josiah Richardson. |
| 13.—Thomas Field's house and shop. | 54.—Abijah Wilder. |
| 14.—Eli Metcalf. | 55.—Moses Johnson's pot and pearl-ash works. |
| 15.—Thomas Shapley. | 56.—Israel Houghton. |
| 16.—Widow Goodnow. | 57.—Nehemiah Towns. |
| 17.—Thomas Wells. | 58.—Elias Rugg. |
| 18.—Old Printing Office. | 59.—Samuel Bassett. |
| 19.—Samuel Dinsmoor. | 60.—Asahel Blake. |
| 20.—Abel Blake. | 61.—Court House. |
| 21.—Alexander Ralston. | 62.—Meeting House. |
| 22.—Low shops. | 63.—Allen & Bond's store. |
| 23.—Ralston's tavern. | 64.—David Forbes's office. |
| 24.—Bemis, watch maker. | 65.—Blacksmith's shop. |
| 25.—Ralston's distillery. | 66.—Dwelling house and shop. |
| 26.—Dunbar house. | 67.—Dr M'Carty. |
| 27.—Masonic Hall. | 68.—Dr M'Carty's small house. |
| 28.—Peter Wilder's house and shop. | 69.—Spinney house and shop. |
| 29.—Luther Smith's shop. | 70.—Samuel Daniels. |
| 30.—Dr Ziba Hall. | 71.—Alpheus Nims. |
| 31.—Moses Johnson's house. | 72.—Eliphalet Briggs. |
| 32.—Coopers' shops. | 73.—Jeremiah Stiles. |
| 33.—Dinsmoor's office.—Store.—Printing Office. | 74.—Joseph Stiles. |
| 34.—Dr Edwards's tavern. | 75.—Grout house. |
| 35.—Peleg Sprague's house and office | 76.—Jail. |
| 36.—Daniel Watson. | 77.—Abel Wilder. |
| 37.—Watson's shop. | 78.—School House. |
| 38.—Johnson's store. | 79.—Nathaniel Briggs. |
| 39.—Joseph Dorr's store. | 80.—Horse sheds. |
| 40.—Lamson's Tannery. | 81.—Cemetery. |
| 41.—Dwelling house in rear of Johnson's store. | 82.—Warner's Fulling Mill." |

For further explanation: Allen & Bond (Amasa Allen, from the firm of Allen & Dorr, and John G. Bond) had opened the first store on the east side of the Square. David Forbes had a law office next door north, and north of him, where city hall now stands, was a blacksmith's shop, owned by Joseph Dorr and carried on by Towns & Wright, who made axes and other tools for the merchants to sell.

Dr. Thomas Edwards kept the former Chandler House, where the Cheshire House now stands. It was at his tavern, in April, 1799, that the first veterinarian of which we have any record, one Cyrus Palmer, a black man, advertised that he would attend sick and disabled horses for a few weeks. South of that were the Sentinel office, law offices, stores and shops. Dr. Ziba Hall, who had kept tavern in 1779, on the east side of Main street, had removed to Lebanon in 1780, and had been succeeded in the tavern by Aaron and Luther Eames, apparently had returned and was again keeping the tavern at this time. Then came Federal Row, where Luther Smith made clocks and Peter Wilder made rakes, scythe-snaths, chairs and wheels. Smith afterwards built the main, or north, part of the present Eagle Hotel, where his shop stood. Many of the tall, old fashioned clocks still in use—some of them kept as heirlooms—were made by Luther Smith. The old two-story wooden Masonic Hall, with Major Wm. Todd's store on the ground floor, stood next south of where the "Adams Kingsbury" brick house now stands. Thomas Wells was keeping tavern in the old Bullard Coffee House (Dunbar house) and Alexander Ralston had a distillery down the Packersfield road. Below, Thomas Fields had a blacksmith's shop, and the "Washburne House" appears to have been in the old fort.

Down to this time, the lower part of Main street had been the "court end" of the town. Dr. Daniel Adams had built the house now 324 Main street, had been appointed postmaster in 1799, and kept the office there. Thomas Baker, Esq., was living in the house that he had built—still standing—on the sand knoll on the "Boston Road;" Judge Newcomb had built and was living in a fine colonial



RESIDENCE OF DR. DANIEL ADAMS. BUILT ABOUT 1795.

Residence of Dr. Daniel Adams. Built about 1795.

house on the site of the first meetinghouse; and William Ward Blake had married Roxana, daughter of Col. Isaac Wyman, and kept the old Wyman tavern.

Capt. Abel Blake was living on the Blake homestead, where the first Nathan began and where he was captured by the Indians. Samuel Dinsmoor had not yet taken up his residence on the place south of the Blakes, as the map represents. That was owned at that time by Major William Todd. (Samuel Dinsmoor, Jr., bought that place in 1849.)

The saddler's shop of the Willards, Josiah, senior and junior, was in Federal Row, also called the Haymarket—a stirring part of the town for business. Joseph Dorr had succeeded Allen & Dorr, on the corner of Pleasant street, and Major Josiah Richardson still kept his famous inn where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands, his barns and outbuildings extending north and west, and his large garden on the east coming out to the site of the present postoffice building.

On the same street was the residence and bakery of John Draper, whose wife was one of the heroines of the siege of Boston, succeeding Ichabod Fisher in the little old yellow house already mentioned. In the parsonage, nearly opposite, the "Social Library" was kept—almost exactly on the site of the present public library—and Rev. Aaron Hall was its librarian. It held its annual meetings in the courthouse, and was incorporated in 1801, with all the leading men in town as members. Noah Cooke, Esq., was clerk of the corporation.

At the water privilege on the river there was a saw-mill, and also a gristmill with two runs of stones, one for wheat, with bolters for making flour. They had been owned and run by Nathan and Abel Blake, but were sold, in 1799, to Luther Smith, the clock maker. Dea. Abijah Wilder, the cabinet maker, lived on the old Walpole road, and was at this time making "screw cheese presses." He was something of an inventor, and had recently obtained a patent for bending sleigh runners by steaming the wood, considered a wonderful invention at that time. Capt. Alpheus Nims owned the mills on Beaver brook and lived on what had been his father's farm, on Prison street, since

known as the Page farm. The old house, built by David Nims, stood until a few years ago, where Charles Wright, 2d, now lives. It was removed to Page street—now No. 39—the large old chimney in the middle giving place to smaller ones. Dr. Maccarty, on Prison street, kept an apothecary's shop, and was the first in town to advertise and sell patent medicines.

One of the finest residences in town stood at the north-east corner of the common, where Clarke's block now stands—a two-story house, facing south, with a flower and vegetable garden in front. It was owned at that time by Major Josiah Richardson, and occupied by Abel Wilder. Wilder afterwards owned it and sold to Albe Cady, in 1808. After that, it was known as the Cady house and stood until 1880, when it was burned with other buildings on that corner.

The two stores at old West Keene were doing a thriving business, and David Kingsbury had drugs and medicines in a part of the one kept by Abijah Foster. Jesse Clark was still keeping his tavern and running his saw and grist mills, and advertising all kinds of grain for sale. Ebenezer Robbins had a sawmill on White brook—succeeding Adin Holbrook—on the road that ran (and still runs) south from beyond that west village to and over West mountain. The power was an undershot wheel, propelled simply by the force of the current, with considerable fall. For nearly forty years, Amos Partridge, and his successor, Lieut. Reuben Partridge, had had a sawmill on the old Surry road, on the stream from Goose pond; and Elisha Briggs was making cider mills and other machinery at his mills on the North branch, since known as the "peg factory."

The clothier's mills at West Swanzey still did a large part of the clothier business for Keene; but Silas Dickinson had followed the Balches in the fulling mills near the Westmoreland road, and he was succeeded by his son William.

Mechanics of all kinds had shops in the village and at West Keene, and their business was brisk, for manufacturing by machinery had scarcely yet begun, and all tools and implements had to be made by hand.

In addition to the licensed taverns already mentioned, Lieut. Stephen Chase was keeping one on the Surry road, where his descendants still live; Major Joseph Willson had one west of the bridge, at South Keene; Jehosaphat Grout kept one on Prison street; Abijah Foster and Joseph Brown held licenses as taverners at West Keene, with Royal Blake and Timothy Colony near them; Major Josiah Willard and Lieut. Benjamin Hall did the same here in the village; and there were others in town. Nearly every merchant and trader, and several others, were licensed retailers of intoxicating drinks; and it was still the custom to allow horses, cattle and hogs to run at large in the streets, and the public pound and the yokes of the hog-reeves were in frequent requisition.

Jotham Johnson, the mail carrier, had put a four-horse stage on the route from Boston to Keene for one summer, but the roads were bad, it failed to pay expenses, and he took it off.

The amount of taxes raised by the town was:

School-house tax.....	\$1,296 94
All others.....	1,664 73

Total.....	<u>\$2,961 67</u>
------------	-------------------

The ten highest taxpayers, in their order, were Moses Johnson, Daniel Newcomb, Thomas Baker, James Wright, Ephraim Wright, Abel Blake, Joseph Dorr, Thomas Edwards, Noah Cooke and Samuel Heaton.