

HISTORICAL SKETCH, BY DR. T. B. DREW.

Sons and Daughters of Kingston: — For a long time I have had this day in anticipation. In 1856, at the suggestion of a friend, I commenced to collect whatever I could of an historical nature relating to Kingston, with a view of writing a history of the town at some future time. I knew then that 1876, besides being the centennial of our nation's birth, would also be the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birthyear of our town, and the time then intervening was deemed fully sufficient to do any work of that kind at that day planned; yet the twenty years have passed away, and it is not accomplished.

But as you have chosen me the historian for this occasion, I have, with considerable labor, endeavored to select and condense from my material an historical sketch of that part of Plymouth which is now Kingston, from the earliest colonial times down to a period within the memory of persons still living, which, with your indulgence, I will now read: —

EARLY SETTLERS AND PROPRIETORS OF LANDS.

At a very early period after the settlement at Plymouth by the Mayflower Pilgrims, A. D. 1620, and the division of lands, the colonists began to occupy their lots around the bay, so that after seventeen years only had elapsed (1637), a sufficient number to form a separate township had settled in that part of the town now Duxbury. About five years earlier a church

had been formed there, causing, of course, a withdrawal of members from the Plymouth congregation. It was with great reluctance they were allowed to go, and to some minds it seemed that such divisions or separations would be a great disadvantage to the colony. They little realized that they were the founders of a great nation, and that such divisions must necessarily take place to form new settlements in other parts of New England. Gov. Bradford lamented these separations, and after expressing his feelings upon the subject, says, "*And this, I fear, will be the ruine of New England, at least of the churches of God there, and will provock the Lord's displeasure against them.*"

Could Bradford have looked into the future, he would have seen that New England itself would soon be too small to hold the descendants of those pioneers of the Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies, and he would have beheld them still pressing on through the western wilderness, until the shores of the Pacific were reached, three thousand miles away from the old rock on which they had landed two hundred and fifty years before. But we cannot wonder that, in those early days, they deeply felt those separations, especially in the church, and it is not strange some wished for a reunion. The question of uniting the Plymouth and Duxbury churches at Jones River was seriously discussed just previous to the incorporation of the latter town; but after a committee had reported favorably towards the project of building the meeting-house and town here, the matter was dropped. At this time just referred to, houses had been built and occupied in Rocky Nook and at Jones River, and I will now notice some of the principal persons who, previous to the year 1700, were residents or proprietors of lands in that part of Plymouth now Kingston.

The first ten or twelve whom I shall mention were either

Pilgrims on the Mayflower or arrived during the next year, 1621. Isaac Allerton was a very important man among the first comers, as he was almost at the head of their business affairs, and continued so until 1630, when his transactions, which at first had been profitable to them, proved in the end to be a loss, and many were involved, causing much unkind feeling towards him. He owned a house and farm at Rocky Nook, extending probably north to the river, embracing part of the estate of the late Alexander Holmes. Mr. Allerton went from Plymouth to New Amsterdam, and finally to New Haven, where he died about 1659.

William Bradford, the illustrious governor of Plymouth Colony, had a tract of land and a house at Stony Brook as early as 1637. Antiquarians have expressed doubts whether he ever lived so far from the town proper, but the following extracts from the records will seem to leave no doubt but that he resided in this part of the town, during portions of his life at least. In 1643, when he was governor, it was voted at a town meeting that "wolfe traps be made according to the order of court in manner following: 1st. That one trap be made at Jones River *by the governor's family*, Mr. Hanbury, and Mr. Prence and Matthew Fuller and Abraham Pierce." In 1644, when Winslow was governor, *Mr. Bradford's family at Jones River* was ordered "to furnish one person for a company in time of war or danger." Thus I see no reason for doubting that the governor lived here the two years last mentioned, if at no other time.

Francis Cook, the ancestor of the Cook family in this vicinity, lived at Rocky Nook. He was one of the first "layers out of land" in 1627, and died in 1663. His son John, who also came in the Mayflower when a child, lived at Rocky Nook. Another son, Jacob, who arrived shortly after the father, had

lands near Smelt Brook. He was one of a number of soldiers who were "willing to go upon service against the Pequent."

Clement Briggs owned land at Jones River and Rocky Nook previous to 1640.

Dr. Samuel Fuller, the first physician in the colony, had a house and farm at Rocky Nook, near Smelt Brook, although at the time of his death he dwelt in the town. He was a very valuable man in the colony, and in 1629, soon after the settlement at Salem, a general sickness prevailed there, and at the request of Mr. Endicott, Gov. Bradford sent him among them, which visit was greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of that new colony. In 1633 he himself fell a victim to an alarming sickness that prevailed at Plymouth, and died much lamented. From him the Fuller family here has descended.

John Howland had land at Jones River about 1638. The latter part of his life he dwelt at the Nook, northerly from the house of the late Hezekiah Ripley, where the remains of his cellar are still visible. He died in 1672.

Stephen Hopkins had a grant of land in the north meadow by Jones River in 1640. He was very prominent in public affairs, and died in 1644.

Elder Thomas Cushman resided on the farm at Rocky Nook that had previously belonged to his father-in-law, Mr. Allerton. The Elder's spring is still to be seen, and is one of the few ancient landmarks that can be pointed out to the present generation. From him the Cushman family in America is descended. His wife was Mary Allerton, who came a child in the Mayflower, and was the last survivor of the first-comers, dying in 1699, aged ninety. He died in 1691, aged eighty-four.

John Winslow, a brother of Gov. Winslow, had lands at Jones River before 1657.

As before stated, these persons I have noticed were of the earlier settlers, and now I will speak of prominent names of a later generation.

Major William Bradford, son of the governor, was one of the most important men in the colony. He resided at Stony Brook, probably in the same house that had belonged to his father, and the location of it can now be distinctly seen on the rising ground between the houses of Deacon Foster and the late Francis Drew. Persons now living in the neighborhood well recollect the old orchard that stood on the premises, and one tree still remains as a landmark of the past. Major Bradford was deputy governor from 1682 to 1686, and 1689 to 1692, when the colonial government terminated. Afterwards he was chosen a counsellor of Massachusetts.

In the year 1662, when Wamsutta or Alexander, the successor of Massasoit, was suspected of designs against the English, he was with Major Winslow when the chieftain was surprised and taken prisoner. The most eventful period of his life was during the years 1675-6, just two centuries ago. He was chief commander of the forces from Plymouth at the time King Philip and his people were attacked and routed from their stronghold in the Narragansett Swamp. The details of that bloody battle cannot be entered upon here. It is enough to say that on it seemed to depend the existence or destruction of the colonies. The English realized the situation, and in the depth of winter made one of the most desperate attacks on a savage foe that we find recorded in history. They gained the victory, but not without the loss of eighty men killed and one hundred and fifty wounded. In the year 1689 he is styled by the people of Rehoboth as the "Worshipful Major Bradford." Whether he was a member of the "secret fraternity" or not will be left for the Masonic brethren to

decide. His estate comprised the whole of the present village of Stony Brook north of the brook, extending to the bounds of Duxbury, besides tracts of land in other parts of the town. All that portion first mentioned was bequeathed to his four younger sons, viz: Israel, Ephraim, David, and Hezekiah. Many interesting facts could be recounted relating to this distinguished man, whom Kingston should never forget to honor, but the limited time forbids. He died Feb. 20, 1704, and was buried by the side of his father on the ancient burial hill at Plymouth. His gravestone bears the following inscription:—

Here lyes the Body

OF THE

HONOURABLE MAJOR WILLIAM BRADFORD,

WHO

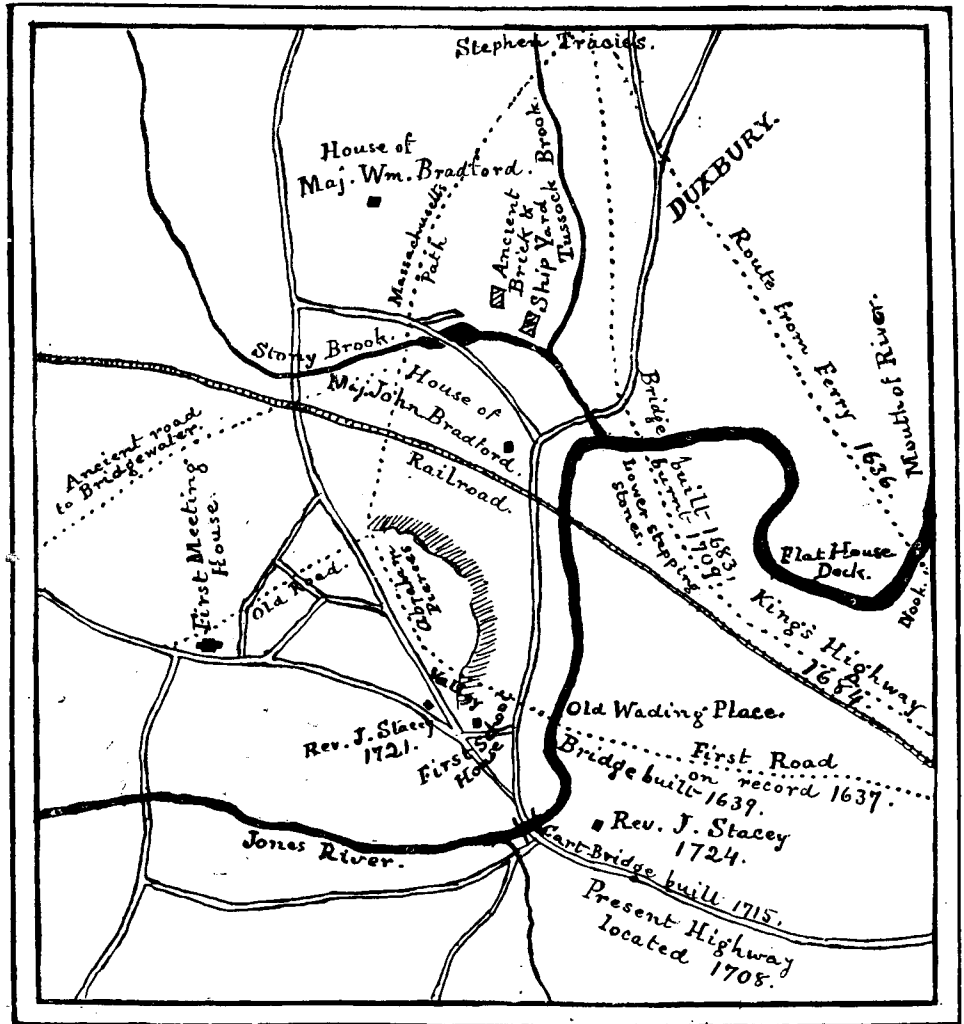
EXPIRED FEBRUARY Ye 20th, 1703-4.

AGED 79 YEARS.

He lived long but still was doing good
And in his country's service lost much blood.
After a life well spent he's now at rest,
His very name and memory is blest.

Joseph Bradford, the youngest son of the governor, lived half a mile from the mouth of Jones River at a place called Flat House Dock. He died in 1715. Major John Bradford, the eldest son of Major William, lived in the house still in existence near the railroad at the Landing. This house was partially burned by the Indians during Philip's War. The circumstances connected with this event may be interesting to the younger people. The story is this: Major Bradford had removed to the guard-house (which may have been the ancient Cobb house, as there is a tradition that it was formerly a garrison or fort), and was returning in company with others to take some goods away when he discovered his house to be on fire, and saw an

VICINITY OF JONES RIVER,



with the
Three Routes from Plymouth to Stephen Tracie's
 in the 17th Century and some of the localities
 noticed in the Historical Sketch.

From O. C. Records May 10, 1637. "It is agreed that the heighways both for horse and cart shall be as followeth. From the town of Plymouth to Jones River as it was cleared, provided it be holpen at Mr. Allerton's by going through the old cove yard at the river, the place being commonly called the Old Wading Place and so through a valley up the hill and then to turn straight to Abraham Pierce's ground and through his ground as it is now marked and so the old path to Massachusetts leaving Mr. Bradford's house upon the west, and from Mr. Bradford's house to Steephen Tracey's ground as the way now lyeth, being already trenched a foote way from the lower stepping stones to Steephen Tracie's the heighway lying through Steephen Tracie's feild now enclosed. Also we allow a way from Francis Billington's ground through the nooke as it now lyeth to the ferry and from the ferry to Steephen Tracie's house and so through the meadow to the bridg."

Indian on the brow of Abram's Hill, waving his blanket and shouting to his comrades that the white men were coming. They fled into a dense swamp by the frog-pond at the base of the hill, and were pursued by the major, who fired at them, killing one as he supposed by seeing him fall, but on reaching the spot was surprised at not finding the body. As it happened, the Indian was only severely wounded, and was able immediately to crawl behind a log of fallen wood, and thus escaped notice. After the war was over the affair was explained to Bradford by the Indian, and the marks of the wound in his side were shown. Major Bradford held many offices, being a deputy and representative to the General Court on several occasions. He was the principal founder of the new town, and a promoter of its interests by gifts of land for public purposes.

Caleb Cook, who will be remembered in connection with the death of King Philip, lived at Rocky Nook. He was a soldier and was placed with an Indian by Col. Church to watch, and if possible, kill Philip. When the chance came, Cook snapped his gun, but it missed fire. He then bade the Indian fire, and the mighty chieftain was instantly killed. The Indian gave up his gun to Cook, and it was kept in the family for several generations. Part of it is now in Pilgrim Hall as a relic.

Edward Gray, the most prosperous merchant in the colony at the time of his death in 1681, lived in Rocky Nook on the same estate where some of his descendants still dwell.

William Paddy and Thomas Willet, merchants, bought a house at Jones River in 1648 belonging to Edmond Freeman, of Sandwich. Mr. Willet traded with the Dutch at New York, and became so accustomed to them, their language, etc., that after the surrender of the place to the English, he rendered the Commissioners of Appeals great service, and became so popular

that he was elected the first English mayor of New York. He died in Swansea in 1674.

Thomas Prence, the governor of Plymouth Colony seventeen years, at one time owned the farm that first belonged to Mr. Allerton and afterwards to Elder Cushman.

Charles Chauncy, the minister of Plymouth and Scituate, and finally President of Harvard College, had a grant of ten acres of land at the North Meadow by the river in 1640.

The names of Armstrong, Bartlett, Brown, Combe, Crowe, Curtis, Cole, Doane, Lee, Wright, Winter, and others appear upon the records as land owners in this vicinity. Thus an attempt has been made to notice all the principal persons who took up lands or resided in this part of the colony, and it is pleasing to know that so many of the distinguished founders once inhabited the soil of Kingston, and that the events connected with their lives can thus be perpetuated in the memory of their posterity, and others who may from time to time occupy those same lands once trodden by the Pilgrims. May future generations forever cherish the names of those "ancient worthies" who first planted the seeds of civilization on these Western shores and bequeathed to us so many blessings!

HIGHWAYS.

For an unknown period previous to the settlement of the colonies by the English the country had been inhabited by tribes of Indians, who had their paths or trails connecting different points and the more distant regions one with another. Those paths in many cases were doubtless used by our forefathers in passing from place to place, and finally became established roads. In the early records the "path to the Massachusetts" or the "Massachusetts path" (which connected this part of the colony with that in the vicinity of Boston) is often mentioned.

It probably crossed Jones River near the almshouse, and then up Abram's Hill, through the valley just north of the house of the late Wiswall S. Stetson, and thence in a northeasterly direction towards the present estate of Samuel Loring, Esq., of Duxbury. The first bridge over Jones River was built in 1639, near the place just mentioned, and in a few years afterwards another one was built farther down the river near the fish wharf. As early as 1636 there was a ferry established nearly at the mouth of the river, and Joseph Rogers was allowed a penny for the transportation of each person. In 1684 the King's highway was laid out, and after passing from Plymouth through Rocky Nook, crossed the river at the lower bridge. In 1707 the town voted "that it is a great burden and charge to maintain two bridges over Jones River when one might answer, and that application be made to the County Court and the Court of Barnstable that a bridge might be built higher up the river." The next year, 1708, the highway was changed to its present location, and the first cart-bridge was built there in 1715 at a cost of £80. About the time this new road was opened, the old lower bridge was burned, as was supposed by an incendiary. While the officers of the law were endeavoring to detect the person, a wag reported to them that he saw a man going to the bridge with a live coal in his hand, but on being pressed for further information, at last told them it was only a certain gentleman walking hand in hand with a young lady whose name was Cole. The other old bridge near by the new road was ordered by the court to be taken down, as it was dangerous for travel.

In the early times there was a road from Stony Brook, running towards Bridgewater across the corner of Evergreen Cemetery, following nearly the footpath that still exists. There was also a highway across the old burying-ground, from where

the Town Hall is now located, to a point near the house of Mr. Lewis Ripley, thus separating the old church from the graveyard. Any one can now notice that the old gravestones, say previous to 1760, are to be found at the northwest part of the old ground. The road from the church to the Patuxet House was not laid out until 1759.

JONES RIVER PARISH, INCORPORATION OF KINGSTON, ETC.

At the beginning of the last century, or soon after the year 1700, the inhabitants in the region of Jones River had so increased that they numbered more than forty families, and they began to feel the necessity of a withdrawal from the old town, but there was no action in the matter until March, 1717, when a request was made to the town for a separation. This was refused, and shortly after a petition signed by forty-one persons was directed to "His Excellency, Samuel Shute, Esq., Captain General and Governor-in-Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, etc. The Council and Representatives in General Court assembled," in which they set forth the difficulties they labored under by living so far from the meeting-house, many residing at a distance of six or seven miles, and the most of them above four miles, etc., etc. After a full hearing upon the question, the General Court passed an Act in November, 1717, setting off the north part of Plymouth with a small portion of Plympton and Pembroke, as a precinct or parish. As the Act provided that they should suitably maintain a minister, the people of the new parish soon began to make preparations to build the meeting-house, and a call was given to Mr. Thomas Paine to be their minister, but he was not settled, and nothing more is recorded concerning the ministry until we find that "Mr. Joseph Stacie began to preach July 26, 1720." On the 5th of January, 1721, Major

John Bradford deeded a lot of land to the minister, on which was soon erected the parsonage house. Mr. Stacey sold this house to Thomas Croade in 1724, and afterwards lived in the house that formerly stood near the large elm-tree on the grounds of Joseph A. Holmes, and which was not taken down until about 1843.

Only a little more than seven years had elapsed after the incorporation of Jones River parish when a serious trouble arose concerning the schools. As early as 1696 it was voted by the town that the school-master for the fourth quarter should "*remove no farther southward in said towne for settlement to keepe scool than John Gray's.*" In 1714 £20 was allowed to the north end of the town "*to build a scool house somewhare neere Jacob Cook's,*" and the same year Major John Bradford gave a lot of land for it to be built upon near the corner, just westerly from the house of the late Capt. James Sever. A school-house which stood on the same land is well remembered by many persons, as it was not removed until 1826, just fifty years ago. At a very excited meeting Feb. 15, 1725, it was voted to have but one school in the town. As the inhabitants in the north parish had enjoyed for several years a separate school, this action of the town greatly exasperated them, and to compromise the matter somewhat, it was voted at the next meeting to allow them what they were annually rated or taxed for the school, and no more, towards maintaining one among themselves. The result of this meeting seemed to determine the future action of the people of Jones River parish, for the same month they voted at a precinct meeting "*to petition y Great and General Court to become a township.*" During that year the matter was urged and opposed by the different parties, as a majority of the people of the town of Plymouth were strongly against the separation; but on the third day of

June, 1726, the bounds of the intended new town were decided upon, and on the 16th day O. S., corresponding to the 27th N. S., the following Act passed :—

ANNO REGNI REGIS GEORGH DUODECIMO.

AN ACT

Passed by the Great and General Court or Assembly of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay for Dividing the Town of Plymouth, and erecting a New Town there by the name of Kingston.

Whereas the town of Plymouth within the county of Plymouth is of great extent for length and lyes commodiously for Two Townships and the North Precinct thereof being of late sufficiently filled with Inhabitants who labour under great Difficulties on several accounts and have there upon addressed this Court that they may be set off a distinct and separate Township; Be it therefore Enacted by the Lieut. Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same; That all the Lands lying within the said North Precinct in Plymouth aforesaid, particularly described and bounded by an Order of this Court passed at their present Session, be and hereby are set off and constituted a separate Township by the name of Kingston; And that the Inhabitants of said Township be vested with the Powers, Privileges and Immunities that the Inhabitants of any Town of this Province, by Law are or ought to be vested with. Provided, and be it further enacted; That nothing in this act contained, shall be construed, deemed, judged or intended to hinder or prejudice the right and interest of all or any persons whatsoever in any of the Common and Undivided Lands within the Towns of Plymouth and Kingston aforesaid, but the same shall remain as heretofore. Provided also, and be it further Enacted, That the Inhabitants of the said Town of Kingston shall be liable and subject (notwithstanding their being set off and constituted a Township aforesaid) to pay their proportion of all Province, County and Town rates for this present year in the Towns to which they respectively belonged, and shall be accordingly assessed in such Towns in the same manner as they would have been if this Act had never been made; Anything before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed in Council and signed,

J. WILLARD, *Sec'y.*

Passed in the House of Representatives and signed,

WM. DUDLEY, *Spk'r.*

Consented to,

WM. DUMMER.

It is said that Lieut.-Gov. Dummer suggested the name of the new town on the 28th of May, that being the birthday of His Majesty King George the First, then the reigning sovereign of England.

By order of the General Court Major Bradford issued on the 13th of August the first warrant for a town meeting, to be held on the 29th of the same month, and at that meeting the following officers were chosen; Major John Bradford, Moderator; Joseph Mitchell, Clerk; Benj. Eaton, Thomas Croad, and Jacob Mitchell, Selectmen and Assessors; Ensign Wrestling Brewster, Treasurer; Joseph Mitchell, Constable; Seth Chipman, Tithing Man; John Gray and Samuel Foster, Hog Reeves; Robert Cook and Jacob Cook Jr., Fence Viewers; Samuel Ring, Surveyor.

ANNALS OF THE TOWN.

Having passed the period of the incorporation of Kingston, I must necessarily pass rapidly over the next fifty years, simply noting a few facts or events. In 1730 the name of Giles Rickard, the school-master, first appears upon the records, though he had probably been employed previously. In 1740 Capt. Gershom Bradford was sent as the first representative to the General Court. Previous to this, the town had sent excuses for not sending. Rev. Joseph Stacey died Aug. 25, 1741, after a ministry of twenty-one years. Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty was the next settled minister, being ordained in November, 1742. In 1743 a reward of ten pounds was offered to any one who should kill a wolf within the limits of the town, and the following year it is recorded that a wolf was killed. In 1745, during Rev. George Whitefield's career in this vicinity a trouble arose with the minister, Mr. Maccarty. The town voted "not to allow itinerant preachers to preach in the meet-

ing house," and "that hooks and staples be put to the casements that nobody may get in at unseasonable hours to do damage in y^e meeting house, etc., etc." Mr. Maccarty was displeased and asked for his dismissal, which was readily granted in November, 1745. It is said that both minister and people afterwards regretted the action taken at that time.

The third minister was Rev. William Rand, who was settled in 1746. He had previously been settled at Sunderland, and his opinion in regard to Mr. Whitefield was just the opposite of Mr. Maccarty's.

Joseph Mitchell, who had held the office of clerk since the incorporation of the town with the exception of two years, died 1754. It was voted in 1756, "that the town stores of powder, balls, &c., be lodged in the garret of the meeting-house." Until 1764 the meeting-house had no steeple, and that year one was built and the first bell of the town was placed in it. This year died Nicholas Sever, Esq., aged eighty-four years. He was the first of the once prominent family of that name in Kingston, and now but one of his descendants resides in the town. He graduated at Harvard College, 1701, was ordained minister at Dover, N. H., 1711, and dismissed 1715. After being a tutor in Harvard College, he settled in Kingston about 1728, and was, for a number years, a judge of one of the Plymouth County Courts. After the disturbances at Boston, caused by the Stamp Act of 1766, a meeting was called to see if the town would vote for compensation to the sufferers by the riotous proceedings, and a majority was against it.

Deacon Wrestling Brewster, the first town treasurer, who continued in that office until 1751, died Jan. 1, 1767, in his seventy-third year. He was of the third generation in descent from the Elder, and was born in Duxbury, removing to Kingston previous to 1720, as about that time he built the house

belonging to the estate of the late Elisha Brewster. Oct. 14, 1771, it was voted "to allow Benj. Cook the sum of eight shillings for a coffin and liquor at the funeral of James Howland." Although this person was one of the town's poor, yet, according to the custom of those days, all proper respect was shown him.

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY.

On the 12th of January, 1773, a meeting was called to consider a pamphlet published by order of the town of Boston, in which many infringements of the rights of the inhabitants were pointed out, etc. On the 4th of February, the town addressed the following answer to the Committee of Correspondence, of Boston:—

Gentlemen:—The town having duly considered the same, are clearly of the opinion that they are fully entitled to all those rights as by you stated, and that any attempt to deprive us of them is an infringement of our just rights. It gives us the greatest concern to see that, notwithstanding the immense advantages accruing to Great Britain from her trade with the colonies, advantages vastly exceeding the expenses incurred for their protection, that the Parliament of Great Britain should adopt a system with regard to the colonies which effectually divests them of their rights as Englishmen and subjects, and reduces them to a condition little better than that of slaves,—a system which, if adhered to, will, we fear eventually terminate in their own ruin. But notwithstanding such has been the unremitted, unvaried plan of administration towards the colonies for years past, we cannot but hope a due regard for their own safety and real interest will at length induce them to redress the grievances we so justly complain of. We shall always be ready to co-operate with our brethren in any legal and constitutional measures tending thereto. Slavery is ever preceded by sleep: May the colonists be ever watchful over their just rights, and may their liberties be fixed on such a basis as that they may be transmitted inviolate to the latest posterity.

Sept. 26, 1774, a meeting of the towns of Plymouth County, by their committees or delegates, was held at the tavern of Widow Loring, in Plympton, and John Thomas, Esq., Capt. John Gray, and William Drew were the Kingston delegates. Subsequently, these same gentlemen, with Hon. William Sever,

Deacon Ebenezer Washburn, Mr. Benjamin Cook, Mr. Peleg Wadsworth, Jedediah Holmes, and Capt. Joseph Bartlett were chosen the Committee of Correspondence. The minute company was probably formed in 1774, as in the early part of 1775 the town voted "to purchase thirty-three stand of good fire-arms, with all accoutrements suitable to equip thirty-three soldiers." This company was commanded by Capt. Peleg Wadsworth; Seth Drew was lieutenant, and Joseph Sampson, ensign. As soon as the news of the Lexington battle reached the Old Colony, the Kingston company marched with Col. Cotton's regiment to attack Balfour's regiment of British troops, which was stationed at Marshfield. After arriving there, a conference of officers was held, and Capt. Wadsworth, being dissatisfied with the delay, marched his company to within a short distance of the enemy; but his numbers were too small to venture an attack, and before any action took place, Balfour conveyed his troops through the Cut River, and when on board the sloops, which were anchored off Brant Rock, sailed for Boston. Thus the Kingston minute company has its place in history.

Of the officers in the Revolutionary army, the most prominent ones who went from Kingston were Gen. Peleg Wadsworth (a native of Duxbury, but for several years a resident of Kingston), Gen. Jno. Thomas, and Major Seth Drew. Gen. Wadsworth distinguished himself by many acts during the war, and finally lived and died in Maine in 1829. Of the eminent services of Gen. Thomas I need not speak, as they are so well known to all who are acquainted with the early history of the army at Roxbury and Dorchester Heights, and as such honorable mention has been made of them by the orator on this occasion. Major Drew was in the army throughout the whole war, being at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered, also at Trenton,

Monmouth, and in the vicinity of West Point during that memorable campaign. He was one of the court-martial appointed to try Joshua Hett Smith, accused of being an accomplice of Major André.

Simeon Sampson, the distinguished naval commander, was a native of Kingston. He was appointed by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts the first naval captain in the service, and commanded the brig "Independence," and afterwards the "Mars," both vessels being built at the Kingston Landing. While in the first-named vessel in 1776 he captured five prizes, but was himself soon after taken by Capt. Dawson, after a bloody conflict. March 24, 1777, Samuel Foster, Charles Foster, and Wrestling Brewster were considered internal enemies of the government. The Messrs. Foster were tried by a court in the meeting-house, and both were sent on board a guard-ship in Boston Harbor, where they remained ten months. At this time several persons left town, as they were attached to the royal cause, and it was made very uncomfortable for any one suspected of being a Tory, as he was in constant danger of a coat of tar and feathers by the vigilance committee, to say nothing of the numerous indignities they at times received. At one time, while the British soldiers were stationed in Marshfield, a man by the name of Dunbar carried an ox, which had been slaughtered by a Tory of that town, to Plymouth for the purpose of selling it. As soon as the facts were discovered the vigilance committee took the case in hand. Dunbar was put inside of the carcass with the tripe tied around his neck, and in that condition was sent to the committee at Kingston. On arriving at the liberty pole here, the contents of the cart were tipped out, and after a sort of demonstration was made, the cart was reloaded and sent to the authorities of Duxbury, where Dunbar was subjected to the same treatment he had previously

received in this town. He was then taken to the bounds of Marshfield and there left, his escort not caring to risk a contact with the troops stationed there.

Another incident of those times of a different nature will be mentioned in this connection. A certain sea captain, whose sympathies were decidedly with the Royalists, had absented himself from public worship for a long time on account of the revolutionary proclivities of Parson Rand. But it came to his ears that on a certain Sunday the minister would read a proclamation from the king. This so delighted him that he resolved to attend divine service on that day, and Mr. Rand did read the king's proclamation; but to the great consternation of the Tory, the minister turned over the document, on the back of which he had written his sermon, containing many severe allusions to King George and his advisers in Parliament, and it proved to be a sermon more decided in its political nature than Mr. Rand had ever before preached. He listened to it until he became very angry, then left the house in an excited manner, slamming the pew-door after him and shuffling his feet on the floor as he passed down the aisle. To irritate him a little more, just as he was passing out of the house a member of the congregation cried out to him, "*Shet the door arter ye, Captain!*" much to the amusement of the audience.

At a meeting in 1778, William Drew and Nicholas Davis, Jr., were chosen "to purchase articles of clothing, etc., to be sent to the suffering soldiers in the army." On the 14th of March, 1779, the Rev. William Rand, after a faithful ministry of thirty-three years, died suddenly of apoplexy, aged seventy-nine years. In July of the same year Wm. Drew, Esq., was chosen a delegate to attend the convention at Cambridge for framing a new State Constitution. May 22, 1780, the town voted "to concur with the church in giving Mr. Willis a call to

the work of the Gospel ministry in this town," his salary to be £80, to be paid partly in Indian corn, rye, pork, beef, etc., at specified prices. A settlement of about £133 was also granted him. He was ordained Oct. 18 of the same year, and continued in the ministry forty-eight years, until he resigned in 1828. He lived until March 6, 1847, when he died in the ninety-first year of his age. The first election of State officers under the new Massachusetts Constitution took place Sept. 4, 1780, and the Kingston vote for governor was, for Hon. John Hancock, 13, for Hon. James Bowdoin, 12. About this time the paper currency had become so greatly depreciated that no confidence could be placed in its value, for in December \$75 per bushel was allowed the soldiers for the corn that was due them, and in May, 1781, it was voted "to allow Mr. John Fuller's account for £22 10s. old currency, *one hard dollar*. The ancient burial ground, that was given to the town for a burying place by Major John Bradford in 1721, remained without an enclosure for sixty-six years, when in 1787 a wall was built to protect it. There the remains of most of the founders of the town, with their descendants, in some cases to the number of seven or eight generations, repose, and there, also, rest three of the four earlier ministers (Messrs. Stacey, Rand, and Willis), whose pastorates, with the exception of Mr. Maccarty's three years, extended over a space of about one hundred and eight years. The earliest inscription there bears the date of Feb. 14, 1718, and down to the year 1860 nine hundred and thirty-five names were inscribed on the gravestones in that old burial place. As many graves have no monument or stone to mark them, the whole number buried there can only be imagined. Down to the year 1840 this continued to be the only public burying place, but about that time the old ground was enlarged on the northerly side, and since 1854 the beautiful

Evergreen Cemetery has been connected with this latter portion, so that the ancient resting-place of our fathers, with that of the present generation, are still in one enclosure. The Hon. William Sever, Esq., was chosen a delegate to the State Convention for ratifying the United States Constitution, which was held in January, 1788.

The most remarkable case of longevity in this vicinity was that of Ebenezer Cobb. On the first day of April, 1794, he completed his hundredth year and continued to live until December, 1801, when in his one hundred and eighth year. Being born in 1694, he lived in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. As he was five years old before Mary Allerton, the last of the Pilgrims, died, it makes him the link that connects the Mayflower Pilgrims with the present time, for aged people are now living who recollect of seeing this centenarian; and it is a peculiar pleasure that we have two of that number on the platform here to-day, the venerable Rev. Job Washburn, of Rockport, Me., now in his ninetieth year, who is visiting his native town probably for the last time, on this interesting occasion, and the Hon. Joseph R. Chandler, a distinguished son of Kingston, now a resident of Philadelphia.

The first meeting-house, that had stood for eighty years, was demolished in 1798, and a new one was built that year, which is well remembered by many of us, as it was not taken down until May, 1851, after standing fifty-three years. The present church edifice of the First Congregational Society occupies the same site as the two which preceded it, and some of the timber from the very first building was used in the construction of the last.

I did intend before finishing this sketch to notice many things which must be passed over. A mere reference to the

schools of seventy years ago will doubtless cause many of the aged people of this community to think of their youthful days, when they were instructed by Mr. Martin Parris as he went from one section of the town to the other, and thus in his circuit was teacher of the whole.

A very important business carried on in town in the ancient times and down to within a few years was that of ship building. Vessels were built on Jones River or Stony Brook before 1714. The Stetsons and Drews were builders at a very early date, and the latter family can count back at least six generations who were engaged in the same business.

During the first sixty years of the present century Joseph Holmes built seventy-five or more vessels, while in the same period many others were launched from the yards of the Drews, Bartletts, and Delanos.

CONCLUSION.

Two hundred and fifty-five years have passed since the first settlement of New England at Plymouth, and I have endeavored in this imperfect sketch to notice the interesting facts and speak of the most important events that transpired in the vicinity of Jones River for one hundred and seventy-five years of that period. As Kingston has shown so good a record in the years gone by, may we, her children, assembled here to-day, forever honor the old town from whence we sprung, and keep alive the memories of the worthy deeds of our ancestors, so that our children and their descendants may never forget the starting-point of their race, in this good Old Colony town.