

CHAPTER V
MIDDLE MONADNOCK, SETTLEMENT, AND THE
SCOTCH-IRISH

1749—1773

A hundred years of town making in New England preceded the granting of Middle Monadnock township. The process and the pattern tended toward standardization. A hundred years of town meeting had taught a people with a genius for self-government practicable forms of procedure, many of which have survived the changes of another one hundred and fifty years. For practical purposes the large plantations first granted were subdivided into parishes or townships, which, experience dictated, should not exceed six miles square, or its equivalent of thirty-six square miles, in which the remotest out-dwellers could compass the distance to mill or to meeting in a single day.

It was said of the early New Englanders that they could no more do without a meeting-house and minister than a blacksmith could do without forge and fire. The people ruled even to the minutest details of community life, but there had to be those delegated to execute the people's will, hence selectmen, tythingmen, constables, hog reeves, field drivers, corders of wood, and fence viewers. But towns were not ready-made. There had to be houses and roads, and people enough on land enough to support a minister. The requisite number was about sixty families. Three hundred acres was reckoned sufficient for the support of a family and its burden of community expense.

To apportion the land and provide the township with the people and the means of government called for investment and the profit motive. There had to be promoters. The Masonian Proprietors had learned all this. They had townships for sale, and Middle Monadnock, which they caused to be laid out in the early part of 1749, was their thirty-first granted township. It was one of a group of three townships of triplet birth and like pattern bearing the designation derived from Mount Monadnock. Beginning on the Massachusetts province line, they were named in order Monadnocks Number One, Two, and Three, or South, Middle, and North Monadnock. It is with the middle township that we are hereafter concerned. In dealing with this section of their domain, Colonel Blanchard, agent of the Masonian Proprietors, was invested with dictatorial powers.

It was his job to lay out townships, to find customers and make sales. There was at this time a growing population in the coast towns crowding back toward the interior. The war clouds that so long had darkened the horizon had receded. Accordingly, a demand for more room ensued and with it a mania for speculation in wild land throughout New England. Among his neighbors and acquaintances in Dunstable and surrounding towns and in Lunenburg in Massachusetts, Blanchard found a company of men ready to join him in taking over the business of promoting his new township of Middle Monadnock upon the conditions offered. The Masonian townships were usually granted for little or no monetary consideration to secondary syndicates called proprietors, or the "proprietary," and in form and management were patterned after the parental organization from which they derived their powers and title.

On June 16, 1749, Joseph Blanchard, as agent for the proprietors, conveyed to Deacon Jonathan Hubbard of Lunenburg, and thirty-nine associates, "all right, possession and property" of the Masonian Proprietors in the new township named Middle Monadnock, except eighteen shares reserved to themselves and "Acquited of all duty and charge Untill improved by the owner" or his assigns. In this reservation rested the entire profit of the original proprietors. The grantees had placed themselves under bonds to make an operative town out of thirty-five square miles of wilderness, and in every way to bring forward the settlement of their grant, so that they and their grantors might profit by the enhanced value of their reserved real estate with the progress of settlement. But the new proprietors had no more notion of performing the rough work of pioneering than had their genteel predecessors, and not one of them ever became a resident of Middle Monadnock. They, too, were promoters and speculators, and the names of many of them are found in similar associations for the settlement of other towns.

The first meeting of the proprietors of all three townships named, was held at the house of Captain Joseph French in Dunstable, January 15, 1749/50, and important business was transacted. After the preliminary business of organization, in which Colonel Blanchard was chosen moderator, and his son, Joseph Blanchard, Jr., was chosen clerk, two more captains, Samuel Gould and Peter Powers, were appointed "to go and Bound out three Townships Beginning at the province Line upon the west line of New Ipswich and to extend North as far as one Mile North of Peterborough North line if Need be to make Each town five Miles in Wedth and to extend seven Miles

Westward, this Comee to have 30/ old tenor pr Day for this service to be paid by the Grantees of the three Towns which [they] Bound out." A more particular description of Middle Monadnock is recorded: "Bounded as followeth, beginning at the southwest corner of Peterborough Slip, so-called, from thence Running North Eighty degs West seven Miles to a Hemlock Tree marked, from thence Running North by the Needle five miles to a Hemlock Tree marked, from thence Running South Eighty degs East seven miles to a Beach Tree marked in the West Line of Peterborough, from thence South by the Needle to the first Bound Mentioned." It was further "Voted that this township be let out by the Great to be Layd out." Captain Peter Powers undertook this labor and his bid was accepted by the "Society," the work to be completely done, and lots prepared for drawing by the last day of May, 1750. Captain Powers was allowed "£550 old tenor for doing sd Work," to be paid for by an assessment of £20 on each proprietor's right.

The survey of lots under Captain Powers' contract was made by Robert Fletcher, Jr., of Dunstable, a famous township surveyor who seems to have taken his pay in proprietor's rights in this and many other towns. At the same meeting Colonel Blanchard, who never allowed his services to be overlooked, was voted six pounds on each right for procuring the grant, which appears to have been over and above his distributive share as one of the Masonian Proprietors, besides an unexplained allotment of shares to several members of his family. Following the business of the session, the proprietary, hereafter known as "The Proprietors of Middle Monadnock Township No. 2," adjourned to the first Tuesday of June, and from that date to the second Tuesday, for the drawing of lots. Meanwhile Captain Peter Powers and his surveyors, chainmen, and axmen had faithfully attended to their great labor involving the cutting and marking of approximately two hundred miles of blazed lines through the almost unbroken forest. In general these lines may still be traced by farm boundaries and long ranges of stone wall that were laid upon the original divisional lines of settler's rights. The plan of lots adopted consisted of ten ranges, one-half mile, or 160 rods, in width, bounded by east and west lines approximately seven miles in length, and divided by north and south lines at an average distance of one hundred rods apart, making 22 lots in each range, or 220 lots, of an average content of one hundred acres, in the township. A large allowance for uneven ground and "swag of chain" resulted in an overplus of acreage amounting by recent accurate survey of the U. S. Geological

Survey to five square miles, making a total area of forty square miles in the township.

Seven lots around the pinnacle of Monadnock, consisting wholly of rocky waste, were withdrawn from the list before the drawing of lots. These were lots numbered 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the first range from the north boundary of the township, and 5, 6, and 7, in the second range. The remaining 213 lots were then divided into 71 settler's rights of three lots each, of which 18 rights, or approximately one-fourth of the township, were reserved to the Masonian Proprietors. Three other rights or shares were reserved, "to be granted and appropriated free of charge, one for the first settled minister in said Township, one for the support of the Ministry, and one for the School there forever." Another right of three lots, known as "law lots," was granted to William Parker of Portsmouth, counsel for the society, to meet the expense of anticipated litigation. Other conditions contained in the grant of the township were of the usual nature. All lots were subject to right of way for the necessary roads to be laid out through them as occasion might require. It was further provided that within four years forty rights or shares, with certain specified exceptions, "Be entered upon and three Acres of Land at the Least Cleared inclosed and fited for Mowing or Tillage, and that within the term of six months then Next Coming there be on each of the said forty Shares a House Built, the Room Sixteen feet square at the least, fitted and furnished for Comfortable dwelling therein and Some Person Resident therein for three Years then next Coming with the Additional Improvement as aforesaid of two Acres Each year for Each Settler." A further condition of the grant was that a good convenient meeting-house be built in the township, as near the center of the town as convenience would permit, within six years of the date of the grant, and ten acres of land be reserved for a common, or for public uses. The grantees were also empowered to assess such further sums upon their membership as might be necessary for carrying on the work of settlement.

In the granting of settler's rights the associates were empowered to deal with delinquent settlers in the name of the proprietary to the extent of entering upon delinquent rights to "Amove Oust and expell the occupant," provided that within one year they cause such delinquent right to be settled as stipulated in the conditions of the grant. A further condition that soon ceased to be operative was "That all white Pine trees fit for Masting his Majestys Royal Navey Growing on said Tract of Land be and hereby are granted to his Majesty and

his Heirs and Successors forever." As conditions in America following the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748 were still unsettled, limitations of time for settlement were made dependent on the condition that "there be no Indian War affecting any of the terms and Conditions aforesaid." An important provision, in view of the fact that lawsuits were still pending with claimants under the grant of the Rowley Canada township, was the agreement that the Masonian Proprietors would defend the title of the grantees, their heirs, and assigns through the law to King and Council, if need be, "on any action that shall or may be brought against them by any person claiming the land by any other title than that of the grantors." It was under this provision that final action was taken four years later in a suit begun against trespassers in Rowley Canada, as related in the previous chapter.

The adjourned meeting of the proprietors at the house of Captain Joseph French in Dunstable on the second Tuesday of June, 1750, for drawing lots in Middle Monadnock township, marked its transition from associated to individual ownership. The tabulated results of the drawing are given below, with names of Masonian Proprietors for whom lots were reserved indicated by asterisks. Names not so designated are those of the new proprietors of Monadnock Township No. Two. These, with the exception of Deacon Hubbard, first named, were largely from Dunstable and vicinity, and most of them familiar acquaintances or former business associates of Colonel Blanchard. Space does not permit more than a passing introduction to any of them, but it may be said that they were the representative men of their time and generally well-to-do and respected citizens in the towns in which they lived.

PROPRIETORS OF JAFFREY, 1750

A List of the Proprietors of the Monadnock Township

	Draught		Range		Range		Range	
	No	Range	No	Range	No	Range	No	Range
*William Parker Esq ^r	1	12	5	6	8	4	3	
Jonathan Hubbard Jun ^r	2	12	4	6	9	2	1	
Oliver Farwell	3	12	3	14	1	15	1	
Thomas March	4	12	2	13	2	11	2	
Ministry Lotts	5	12	6	12	1	12	10	
Elias Eliot	6	12	7	3	1	8	2	
James Stewart	7	11	7	3	3	20	6	
Ministers Lotts	8	11	6	3	2	12	9	
John Kendell	9	11	5	1	1	20	7	

Joseph Blanchard Jun ^r	10	10	7	4	6	2	2
Barnabas Davis	11	10	6	2	3	22	8
William Rindge	12	10	5	22	7	21	7
Peter Powers	13	9	4	3	6	22	10
Eleazer Blanchard	14	9	6	4	1	16	1
Joseph Blanchard Jun ^r	15	8	6	4	2	21	10
*Thomas Packer Esq ^r	16	13	4	6	3	1	3
*John Moffatt Esq ^r	17	13	5	1	7	2	5
Paul March	18	13	6	16	8	2	10
Peter Powers	19	13	7	1	10	3	10
*John Wentworth Esq ^r	20	13	8	19	8	21	9
Thomas Parker Jun ^r	21	13	9	1	6	12	8
*Matthew Livermore Esq ^r	22	19	1	18	10	14	9
Benjamin Bellows	23	14	8	18	9	22	4
*Richard Wibird Esq ^r	24	14	6	1	9	11	8
*John T: Mason & *Jn ^o Thomlinson Esq ^{rs}	25	14	5	17	6	1	4
Sampson Stoddard Esq ^r	26	14	4	17	4	21	4
Daniel Emerson	27	14	3	19	4	17	1
Josiah Browne	28	16	5	20	3	18	3
Stephen March	29	15	3	19	3	10	8
Benjamin Winn	30	15	4	7	7	5	8
John Scott	31	15	5	18	8	18	7
*Daniel Peirce & *M ^{rs} Mary Moore	32	15	6	17	7	18	6
Samuel Garish	33	15	7	17	9	17	10
*Theodore Atkinson Esq ^r	34	15	8	19	7	10	10
John Hart	35	15	9	2	9	5	3
John Chamberlin	36	15	10	14	10	22	6
Joseph Winn Jun ^r	37	16	10	19	9	13	1
*Sam ^l Solly & *Clem ^t March Esq ^{rs}	38	16	9	19	6	20	8
*George Jaffrey	39	16	7	17	8	10	2
Joseph Blanchard Jun ^r	40	16	6	5	10	13	10
Joseph Blodgett Jun ^r	41	15	2	17	5	22	5
Samuel Cumings	42	16	4	7	3	8	3
School Lotts	43	16	3	14	2	11	10
Matthew Thornton Esq ^r	44	16	2	7	6	11	1
*Mark H ^s Wentworth Esq ^r	45	17	2	9	3	19	2
John Butterfield	46	20	2	9	5	21	5
Josiah Brown	47	18	2	11	3	8	10
William Garish	48	19	5	20	5	1	2
Nathaniel Peirce	49	7	5	4	5	4	9
*Jotham Odiorne Esq ^r	50	7	4	8	4	21	8
Peter Powers	51	6	4	5	5	21	6
Benjamin Bellows	52	6	5	3	5	5	7
*Joshua Peirce	53	6	6	22	9	9	1
Jonathan Cummings	54	7	9	19	10	9	2
John Usher	55	7	10	6	10	13	3
Jonathan Hubbard Jun ^r	56	9	7	9	10	18	5
Joseph French	57	9	8	9	9	10	1

Peter Powers	58	10	3	3	7	18	1
Peleg Lawrence	59	8	7	10	9	2	4
Isaac Williams	60	8	8	7	8	17	3
David Addams	61	8	9	4	10	11	9
James Stewart	62	5	9	3	8	5	6
*Nathaniel Meserve Esq ^r	63	2	7	2	6	5	4
David Willson	64	2	8	1	8	6	7
*John Rindge	65	21	2	10	4	3	9
Randall McDaniel	66	22	1	21	1	20	9
Jonathan Hubbard Jun ^r	67	22	2	10	7	20	4
*Joseph Blanchard	68	22	3	14	7	4	7
Robert Fletcher Jun ^r	69	21	3	11	4	4	8
Joseph Emerson	70	3	4	4	4	20	10
*Thomas Wallingford Esq ^r	71	8	5	1	5	18	4

*Masonian Proprietors

A True Copy of the List of the Proprietors of Menadnock Township Number two with the Number of Lotts belonging to Each Proprietor as drawn by them the first Tuesday of June 1750—Attest Joseph Blanchard Jun^r Prop^s Cl^k
a true Copy Examined attest Geo: Jaffrey Prop^s Cl—

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, pages 384-385. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 83.)

Mountain lots, numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8, range 1, and numbers 5, 6, 7, range 2, were not drawn.

Among the Masonian Proprietors named in the foregoing list, George Jaffrey, III, was an active member and clerk of the society. Mark Hunking and John Wentworth were brothers of Benning Wentworth, then Royal Governor of the Province, and Jotham Odiorne, Richard Wibird, Samuel Solley, Theodore Atkinson, and Joshua Peirce were members of his Council. Captain John Thomlinson, of London, will be remembered as a stout protagonist for New Hampshire in the boundary dispute, and William Parker, of Portsmouth, in whose name the draft of law lots appears, was counsel for the Masonian Proprietors.

John Wentworth, the last Royal Governor in New Hampshire, received his commission in 1766, and about this time Theodore Atkinson, Jr., George Jaffrey, III, Daniel Peirce, brother of Joshua, and Daniel Rindge became members of his Council. Governor John Wentworth was a son of Mark Hunking Wentworth, Masonian Proprietor, and nephew of Benning Wentworth, the former governor. George Jaffrey, III, now clerk of the proprietors, and Theodore Atkinson, president of the Masonian Proprietors and secretary of state, were sons of former councilors. Among the other grantees of Middle Monadnock was Hon. Matthew Thornton, who was also the principal promoter of Monadnock No. Three, now Dublin. He was a

resident of Merrimack, formerly a part of Dunstable, and a townsman of Joseph Blanchard. He was a leading citizen of the province, and afterward a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

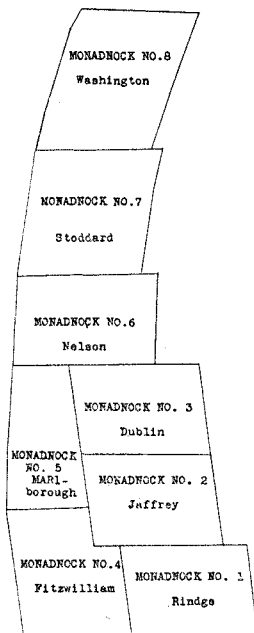
Of lesser note, but first named in the list of grantees of Middle Monadnock, was Deacon Jonathan Hubbard of Lunenburg, who sometimes served as moderator at meetings of the proprietors. He bore the title of major as well as many other appellations of honor and trust in his township. He was also interested in other townships, particularly Monadnock No. One (Rindge). By tradition, a mishap which befell him while engaged in the survey of that township, made Hubbard Pond, an attractive body of water, but not of the limpid purity for which New Hampshire ponds are generally noted, his namesake and perpetual memorial. It is said that while thus engaged the deacon slipped or fell from a rolling log into the muddy water. As an event in colonial history this unfortunate episode is negligible, but as a spectacle—such is human nature—it made its impress upon the ages. No family of the name, so far as known, ever lived or owned land in the vicinity but for nearly two hundred years the name has remained inseparably attached to the watery basin in the woods of Rindge with which it was so unhappily associated.

THE BOUNDARY AGAIN

Colonel Blanchard's Monadnock series of townships was now under way. The first three were granted and their lots distributed, but the old ghost of a disputed title would not down. Colonel Blanchard had known all along that the largest part of the granted territory in the three townships was beyond the limits of Mason's Patent, and encroached on Crown land. Something must be done before this knowledge became common property. The governor, Benning Wentworth, was a friend and relative of most of the proprietors. It was now imperative that action should be taken to fix their neglected head line, or western boundary, which had been so long in question. The public good demanded the occupancy of these border lands; to open them for settlement would be service to the King. The proprietors chose Daniel Peirce and Theodore Atkinson a committee to confer with the governor and request the appointment of an agent on the part of the Crown to act with them in establishing the line between Mason's Patent and the adjoining Crown land. The committee reported that the governor had received them favorably and had ordered them to run the line. No mention is found of the par-

ticipation requested on the part of the Crown, or of terminal points or the course of the intermediate line agreed upon between the parties at interest. The mandate was promptly obeyed. Joseph Blanchard was ordered to run the line and young Joseph Blanchard, then twenty-one years of age, was entrusted with the work under instructions from his father.

In the summer of 1751, with instruments, camp equipment and supplies, Blanchard's party left Dunstable for Monomnock Pond in the present town of Rindge. There they picked up the province line and followed it to the southwest corner of Monadnock No. One (Rindge). From there they continued on the province line six miles farther west or a distance of $67\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the sea, and set up a monument. At this point, which conveniently became the southwest



corner of Mason's Patent and included a new line of Monadnock townships, they turned northward marking their line heavily all the way so that ages after might not mistake it. Behind them they left the famous curved boundary which circled and greatly expanded the Masonian grant on the west. For its justification they argued that as the Masonian grant extended to a depth of sixty miles from the sea, only a curved line drawn with a radius of sixty miles from the sea would satisfy its requirements. But the reason for the adoption of a radius of $67\frac{1}{4}$ miles does not appear. This was clearly an after thought, but so are all advanced ideas. With a center on the province line at the sea, three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimack River, the point of beginning of the curve as drawn was several miles below the center of the circle and its course would incline slightly to the

west until the center line was reached and then would incline eastward throughout the following quadrant. Following the curve so projected, as nearly as practicable, young Blanchard ran his first course north by the needle seven miles, and set up the northwest corner of his projected township, thence inclining a bit to the east he ran another chord of his circle and marked another township cor-

ner. At one point bordering on Upper Ashuelot township (now Keene), he was met by a relief company with supplies. From this place the work was continued, the surveyors crossing the present Sunapee Lake on a raft of logs and marking chords from five to eight miles in length for future town boundaries until 67 miles from the province line had been reached, near New Found Lake which was also crossed (*State Papers*, Vol. 29, p. 307ff). By this time some of the men became "Worried," supplies were exhausted, and the immediate object of the expedition having been accomplished, the party packed their instruments and returned home. Under the conditions and with the instruments available, it appears that young Blanchard did a remarkably accurate piece of work, as even today an arc of a circle drawn with a sixty-seven mile radius from the sea on the map of New Hampshire touches closely the boundaries of the original townships granted along the line. Following this survey Colonel Blanchard was given authority to grant townships within the new boundary by the following vote of the Masonian Proprietors, found in *N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXIX, p. 444, here condensed:

Dec. 6, 1751, Whereas Joseph Blanchard esqr., at the request of Props has caused the head or westerly line to be run as far as Bakers Pond [New Found Lake] and whereas it will be of service and Benefit to this Society that there should be a Number of towns settled as soon as may be near said head line therefore Joseph Blanchard Esq is desired, authorized & impowered &c to agree with any Number of persons desiring to make settlement joining on and within sd line to agree with them upon Such limitations Conditions and Reservations as he shall judge proper and in behalf of Said proprietors to make grants accordingly of Such Tracts for Townships as he shall judge will be most Convenient for making good Settlements for Benefit of the Settlers the publick good and Benefit of the Proprietors . . .

Under this authority, the remaining towns in his Monadnock octave were promptly surveyed and granted and with minor changes in boundaries have continued to the present day. The eight Monadnock townships provided for in large part by the expanded western boundary, or head line, were granted by Blanchard to new owners generally called the proprietors of the township named on the following dates: Monadnock No. 3, afterward the town of Dublin, November 3, 1749; Monadnock No. 2, Jaffrey, November 30, 1749; Monadnock No. 1, Rindge, February 14, 1749/50; Monadnock No. 5, Marlborough, April 29, 1751; Monadnock No. 4, Fitzwilliam, January 15, 1751/2; Monadnock No. 6, Nelson, May 10, 1752; Monadnock No. 7, Stoddard, May 10, 1752; Monadnock No. 8, Washington, Dec. 11, 1752. (See chart on opposite page.) But the new boundary was not to remain unquestioned. Towns on the west of the

line granted by the state claimed that their boundaries had been infringed by Blanchard's mistakes. To satisfy criticism, in 1769 the curved line was run throughout by Robert Fletcher, with the verbal consent of Isaac Rindge, Surveyor General of His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire. It does not appear that material errors were found in the previous Blanchard survey. An extensive territory had been mapped and granted between the controverted straight and curved boundaries by the Masonian Proprietors and these townships were now firmly planted and could not easily be dispossessed.

Following the Revolution the influence of the Masonian Proprietors was less potent in affairs of state, and in 1787, by act of legislature it was ordered that the Masonian boundary be run in a straight line from a starting point sixty miles from the sea as fixed by early grants. This point was found to be in the south line of Rindge, one and one-fourth miles from the southwest corner of the township. For this work Joseph Blanchard, Jr., surveyor of the original curved line, was employed with Charles Clapham as an associate, and from the starting point then established they ran a line north 39 degrees east ninety-three and one-half miles to its eastern terminus, a point near the south line of Conway. By this corrected survey, which largely justified the early claims of Rowley Canada, it appears that all the Monadnock townships except a part of Rindge and a small corner of Jaffrey were entirely outside of Mason's Patent.

The Masonian Proprietors were now in the predicament of their Massachusetts predecessors in having granted territorial rights they did not own. In this exigency immediate action was imperative to validate the grant of many townships and thousands of acres now settled and occupied. An act of legislature was passed quieting the settlers in their holdings by their paying to the state the small price of wild land for the rights they had occupied and improved, and settlement was made with the Masonian Proprietors by which they bought from the state all lands between the controverted boundaries for \$40,000 in state securities and \$800 in specie.

SETTLEMENT AND THE SCOTCH-IRISH

The beginnings of Middle Monadnock were unpropitious. At the same meeting with the drawing of lots a gratuity of one hundred and forty-two pounds derived from the sale of privileged rights in the township was voted "to the first five men that go on with their Fameleys in one year this date and continue there the space of one

year and fulfill the first article of ye grant." None came. The risks and hardships were too great. The grantees were in danger of losing all their investment for failure to meet conditions of their grant. There was a meeting-house to build, roads to clear and acres and acres of forest "to be fitted for mowing and tillage." Four years passed and they had hardly begun. In such straits they sent Colonel Blanchard to Portsmouth to beg that the Masonian Proprietors "out of their wonted goodness" would grant them an extension of time. The proprietors were lenient because they could do no better. They re-granted the township after four years delay on the same conditions as at first.

About this time there was a glimmer of light from the east. When Nature has work to do which she cannot do herself, she creates a man or race of men for the purpose. Our Jaffrey first settlers were neither Puritans nor Pilgrims, but better than either for the purpose. In 1718, from the north of Ireland, came a new influx of seekers after homes and freedom of worship. They had previously sent an emissary to Governor Shute of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, bearing a petition signed by three hundred and twenty of their number, in which they expressed to him their "Sincere and hearty Inclination to Transport themselves to his very Excellent and renowned Plantation." Governor Shute received their representative with lofty assurances of distinguished consideration, while all the time, so they say, he harbored in the back of his head the benevolent purpose to plant them in Maine and New Hampshire as a barrier against the Indians. With this bright prospect before them, in that same year five small ships came over bringing about one hundred and twenty families. They were easily persuaded to settle in the wilderness for they had little in common with the older Massachusetts settlers. These people brought with them the potato, which was a godsend to New England, and also the highly developed manufacture of linen. They flourished greatly in their new soil, as some accounts have it, on a very little water; but they were at the same time frugal and industrious and of a religious nature differing more in expression than in substance from that of their Puritan neighbors. They proved themselves good men at need and they came just in the nick of time in our history. No such fighting men ever came over the water and they supplied a large share of the fighting blood that was needed for the Indian wars and the later Revolutionary struggle.

One company of these immigrants settled in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, another, in the year 1719, founded the town of Londonderry,

New Hampshire; and from these two sources were derived nearly all the pioneers of Peterborough and Middle Monadnock. The township of Londonderry was quickly full, after the complement of towns in those days, and as it grew it swarmed every year, like a wild bee tree in the forest, and sent out new colonies into the wilderness. And wherever these colonists went there was fiddling and dancing; and new towns sprang up under their feet with such names as Derry, Derryfield, Dublin, Antrim, Coleraine, Limerick and Kilkenny. They were no respecters of persons and never learned to crook the pliant hinges of the knee to any man. They wanted freedom and ownership of land, which meant homes of their own. In their progressive migrations our way they occupied the Society Land, later in part named Antrim; they filled the township of Peterborough to the brim and then flowed over into Middle Monadnock.

These were the people, neighbors of Colonel Blanchard in his home town, who laid the foundations of community life in Middle Monadnock. They came slowly at first and many moved on to new fields, but with few exceptions they constituted the pioneer population of Middle Monadnock and its succeeding town of Jaffrey. Matthew Wright, first of Londonderry and later of Peterborough, bought land in Middle Monadnock in 1752, and with his sons was probably engaged in clearing soon after. When Colonel Blanchard in his Gargantuan humor so carelessly "throd" the Peterborough township over onto the East Mountain in 1749, he left three or four border families behind, who probably thus became the first settlers in Middle Monadnock without having moved at all. Of these men were John Davidson, 1753, reputed first permanent settler in Jaffrey, and Thomas Turner, who bought of Joseph Blanchard land which as shown by early maps they occupied in Peterborough.

In 1766 we have the final repercussion of the old Rowley Canada quarrel. Richard Peabody and Joel Russell, Massachusetts grantees, still held on near the south border of the town though their holdings had been regranted over their heads. The immediate region was now well filled with the new Scotch-Irish settlers. There were old Matthew Wright and his grown up sons, Joseph and Francis, his prospective sons-in-law, Matthew Wallace and Thomas Davidson, with others of the clan, the Turners, Greggs and Littles, to aid in time of need. The trouble was all about a fence, a matter that has set great nations by the ears. In all regular and well governed towns there were, in the old days, fence viewers, men of sound judgment and judicial powers, for emergencies like this, but Monadnock Num-

ber Two, "not being a town or place incorporate," had no such tribunal to which its people could appeal. The seat of government was sixty miles away in Portsmouth by the sea, but here was an infraction of the King's Peace so extreme as to invoke the majesty of law. It had cost £25 to serve a writ in the Platts suit in Monadnock Number One by a Portsmouth officer twelve years before. We find no record of the expense on this occasion. The court record of this unfortunate happening gives us the names of five inhabitants of the township at the date named.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

At His Majestys Court of General Sessions of the Peace held at Portsmouth, Within and for the said Province of New Hampshire on the first Tuesday of June, 1766—

The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King upon their oath present,

That Matthew Wright, John Little, William Greg, Joseph Turner, Francis Wright, Matthew Wallace, and Solomon Turner, all yeomen, and all of the place called Menadnick No (2) within the said Province of New Hampshire (the said Menadnoc No (2) being no Town parish or place Incorporate as Disturbers of the Peace of our Lord the King, did on or about the first Day of April 1766 at said Menadnock (No 2) assemble together unlawfully and then and there with force and arms Viz With Axes Hatchets and Clubs did break and enter a Certain Close in said Menadnoc NO 2 in the possession of one Joel Russell, Husbandman of said Menadnoc No 2 the close being commonly called and Known by the name of Peabodys Pasture on the southerly side of said Menadnock and the said Matthew Wright, John Little, William Greg, Joseph Turner, Francis Wright, Matthew Wallis and Solomon Turner did then and there in manner as aforesaid cut down and destroy, sixty Rods of the said Joel's Log Fence of the value of three pounds and of the said Joel's Wood fence to the value of three pounds then and there standing and being To the great damage of said Joel and Contrary to the Law of the Land and the King's Peace.

This is a true bill

Wyseman Clagett
pro Domi Rege
Jonathan Page
Foreman.

In making this unhappy record of discord and strife in the pastoral quiet and "Peace of our Lord the King," we yet could wish for a few more particulars of this violent and unlawful outbreak among neighbors. What did old Matthew and the boys say for themselves? The trouble was, no doubt, rooted in the still smouldering Rowley Canada claim. That ancient close called "Peabody's Pasture" was now a part of the ministry lot or the adjoining school lot in the new township of Middle Monadnock, both public lots, which these ardent townsmen would free from the encumbrance of fences and private exploitation. But such high handed procedure was unlawful, and

Russell, probably abetted by his neighbor, Richard Peabody, properly took the case to court. Brief notations to the record indicate that the case was continued from term to term and finally settled out of court, with Richard Peabody and William Crossett as witnesses to the settlement.

Following this affair, or perhaps connected with it, the two men most affected by the disruption of the former land grants in the vicinity, John Hale and Richard Peabody, again petitioned the Masonian Proprietors in relation to their claims, with such particularity of statement as to make these petitions a valuable addition to the authentic sources of Jaffrey history, amply warranting their preservation in these pages.

To the Honourable Theodore Atkinson Esq^r And Others Grantees to John Tuften Mason Esq^r

The Memorial of John Hale of Boxford in the Prov^{ce} of the Massachusetts Bay Humbly Sheweth

Whereas Your Memorialist about 24 Years ago Purchas'd of Nath^l Fellows of Portsmouth a Proprietors Share in the Township called Rowley Canada Granted 1738 by the Prov^{ce} of the Massachusetts Bay To Joseph Pike and others—And Entred upon it Built a House and Cleared about 30 or 40 Acres of the Land and Paid the Taxes on it And possess'd it for Some Years Not Doubting but he had a Legal Title to Said Lands and that on your Extending M^r Masons Claim to those Lands he gave them up whereby He Suffered Great Loss Having Expended more than An Hundred Pounds Lawful Money on them: And others Under Your Grant Rec^d the Benefit of his Cost & Labours He Therefore Prays Gent: that you^l take the matter under Consideration (his Loss and Interest on it Amounting to More then Two Hundred Pounds Lawfull money) And According to your wonted Goodness make him a Grant of Some Tract of your Lands forfeited for not Settling according to Grant in a place called the middle menadnick N^o 2 or Else where or Grant him a Propriety in Some Lands who by Your Clemency may in Some measure have And obtain for his Great Loss—and as in Duty Bound Ever Pray

Boxford Dec^r 8 1766

John Hale

Two months after the foregoing memorial, to which no response has been found, the following petition of Richard Peabody is recorded in *Masonian Papers*, Volume 7, page 149.

To the Honourable Theodore Atkinson Esq^r and others Grantees to John Tuften Mason Esq^r

The Memorial of Richard Peabody of Boxford in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay Humbly Sheweth

Whereas Your Memorialist was formerly a Grantee on a tract of Land Granted by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay Called Rowley Canada And had 2 Contiguous 80 Acre Lotts in it by allotment and purchase of which he has had the Quiet possession for more then 20 Years And has made large improvements on it by clearing More then 60 Acres of the Land and by Building a Good House And Barn on it——

Which Land on Settlement of the Province Line fell within the Province of New Hampshire and Masons Grant: and at the Laying out the Menadnocks N^o 1 and N^o 2 fell within the Grants of those Towns—

Your Memorialist further Shews that he had purchased part of his Said Lotts of a Proprietor of Said N^o 1 and the remainder of them is Contained in a Lott of Land of 100 Acres Allotted for the Ministry in Said N^o 2—And that Considering the great costs he had been at on Said 100 Acres he has often apply'd to the Proprietors of said No 2 to take other lands for the Ministry in lieu of Said 100 Acres And let him enjoy his Improvements on it, who gave him Encouragem^t they would do it but have Since Utterly refused—Gent: You may remember your letter to them Some time Since which was faithfully Delivered—They called a Meeting to take the Exchange of Lands under Consideration Agreeable to your Proposal but would Not at the Meeting make the Exchanges—Your Memorialist therefore Prays that You' take the matter Under Consideration And According to Your wonted clemency, and the Encouragem^t he had when last with you Provide that he may be Secured in his Possession of said Lands by Exchange or otherwise or grant him relief Some other way And he as in duty bound will Ever Pray

Boxford Feb: 2^d 1767

Richard Peabody

Richard Peabody was a man of character not to be ignored, and the township of Middle Monadnock could ill afford to lose his constructive energy and counsel, or that of the descendants of some of his twelve children, who, under more favorable auspices, might have remained to honor the township chosen by their ancestor for his permanent home. By persistence and the justice of his claim, Richard Peabody gained a hearing and partial justice from the new proprietors of the township, through the good offices of the Masonian Proprietors.

On April 19, 1768, it was "Voted by the Proprietors that lot No. 20, Range 1, and 50 acres of the 8th lot, and 50 acres of the 9th lot in the 5th range, be taken and accepted in Lieu of Public Lots 11 and 12 in the 10th range and to be appropriated for the same public uses and aforsd Props give all their rights and title to the above 11 and 12 lots to Richard Peabody his heirs &c."

For ten years longer, Richard Peabody retained undisputed ownership of his Middle Monadnock and Jaffrey homestead, though his residence during a part of this period appears to have been in Boxford. In 1778 he sold his Jaffrey real estate to Thomas Mower (see Genealogy, page 543) in whose family it remained for nearly a century.

In 1767 Middle Monadnock, finding itself still in arrears upon the requirements of settlement, appointed Matthew Thornton, Esq., agent for a further extension of two years in the charter of the township. The prayer of the petitioner was granted and the charter of the grantees was renewed, March 13, 1767, by which they were "to

have two years from this day to finish and compleat Settlement of said Township agreeable to terms and conditions of their grant."

By 1768, when Grout and Gilmore made a report to the Proprietors, after nearly twenty years of effort, thirty names of settlers are found, which would indicate hardly more than one hundred inhabitants, as many of them were young single men who worked alone or in partnership with others in clearing ground for their prospective homes.

REPORT OF SETTLEMENT BY GROUT AND GILMORE, 1768

SETTLERS ON FREE LOTS IN MONADNOCK N^o 2

1th on the first draught family mneal	1
5th on the fifth draught family hale—	1
8th on the eighth draught family Grout	1
20th on the twentieth two families Smiley & Hop ⁿ —	2
22 on the twenty Second family wright—	1
29th on the 29 th three Settlers two families above measure	2
71 on 71 draught a family nicholds—	1
	<hr/>
Families	9

SETTLERS THAT ABIDE CONSTANTLY & C ON SETTLING RIGHTS

6th on 6th draught a family Gilmore—	1
7th on 7th two families organ & wallas—	2
11th draught family Taggott—	1
13th draught family Davis—	1
15th draught family Hunt—	1
18th Settler constantly no house much work done Gilmore—	1
26th draught family mcalister—	1
28th a family turner W ^m —	1
29th a family turner Sol—	1
42 draught family Little—	1
44th a family walker—	1
47th a Constant Settler no house Grout	1
48th a family Borland—	1
51st a family swan—	1
59th a Settler—Hogg—	1
60th a Settler wid Henderson—	1
66th a Settler Jos Turner	1
69th a Settler Davidson—	1
56th a Settler Harper—	1
	<hr/>
23 draught a Settler improvement ^s & c F Wright—	1
	<hr/>
	21
70th Draught purchased by my self & expected to exchange one Lot for the minister Lot upon which I now Dwell & have done thereon more than Severall Duties	1
	<hr/>
	22

31 draught family &c Caldwell—	1
The above s ^d Settles 22 Rights from 40	<u>23</u>
Remains	18
ten more are privileged	<u>10</u>

SOME BEGININGS ON SETTLING RIGHTS &c

on Second Draught Some work Rie Sowd Mitchel—	1
3 ^d Draught Some work Rie Raised house frame &c Homes—	1
19th Some work done about ten Load of Hay cut yearly &c gilmore—	1
21 draught improvements sufficient wright & gilmore	1
30th improvements Little—	1
41 draught meadow fenced on 17-5 Saw mill built on 22 in	1
5 by Davidson meadow fenced by turner Jos	
49 a few days cutting trees Glover—	1
62 Some cutting down on Lot No 5 in 6 Range Hunter—	1
67th Some work on all the Lotts Turners & Homes—	1
4 draught Some cutting down mitchel—	<u>1</u>
No meeting House built	10

The aforesd is a true account of the Settling Rights in Middle Monadnock N^o two Carefully examined &c & Humbly Submitted by us Subscribers & Inhabitance

John Grout

Roger Gilmore

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 389ff. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, p. 89.)

REPORT OF SETTLEMENT, 1770, BY ENOCH HALE

AN ACCOMPT OF THE SETTLEMENTS IN MONADNOCK N^o 2 IN Y^e PROVINCE OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE

- 1 Dra^t William Parker Esq^r Settled by Alexander m^oneil
- 2 Dra^t Jonathan Hubbard Jun^r Settled by William mitchel
- 3 Dra^t olliver Farewell Settled by Robart Homs
- 4 Dra^t Thomas March—
- 5 Dra^t ministry Right—
- 6 Dra^t Elias Eliot Settled by John Gilmore
- 7 Dra^t James Stuart two Lotts Settled by organ and Warllace
- 8 Dra^t minester Right—
- 9 Dra^t John Kindle—
- 10 Dra^r Joseph Blanchard Jun^r priviledg Right—one Lott Improved by Robart Holms
- 11 Dra^t Barnabas Davis Settled by munroe and fitch
- 12 Dra^t William Rindge—
- 13 Dra^t Peter Powers Settled by Daniel Davis
- 14 Dra^t Eliezer Blanchard priviledg Right—one Lott Improved by James Nickels
- 15 Dra^t Joseph Blanchard Jun^r Settled by Ephraim Hunt and mills on y^e Same
- 16 Dra^t Thomas Packer Esq^r
- 17 Dra^t John Moffatt Esq^r—one Lott Improved by Robart Wier
- 18 Dra^t Paul March Settled by Roger Gilmore

- 19 Dra^t Peter Powers priviledge Right one Lott Improved by Roger Gilmore
- 20 Dra^t John Wentworth Esq^r Settled by William Smiley
- 21 Dra^t Thomas Parker jun^r Largely Improved by Wright and Gilmore
- 22 Dra^t matthew Livermore Esq^r Settled by matthew Wright
- 23 Dra^t Benjamin Bellows Esq^r Settled by Francis Wright
- 24 Dra^t Richard Wibard Esq^r one Lott Improved by Joseph Caldwell
- 25 Dra^t John Tufton mason Esq^r Settled by William Hodge
- 26 Dra^t Samson Stodard Settled by And^w m^cAllester
- 27 Dra^t Daniel Emerson Settled by James Nickels
- 28 Dra^t Josiah Brown Settled by William Turner
- 29 Dra^t Stephen march three Lotts Settled Cristy Russell and Turner one being
ment for Cummins Right 54th Dra^t
- 30 Dra^t Benjamin Winn priviledge Right a barn & Improved
- 31 Dra^t John Scott Settled by James Caldwell Jun^r
- 32 Dra^t Peirce and Moor—
- 33 Dra^t Samuel Garrish Settled by Jonathan Hopkinson
- 34 Dra^t Theoder Atkinson Esq^r—
- 35 Dra^t John Hart Esq^r—
- 36 Dra^t John Chamberlin—
- 37 Dra^t Joseph Winn Jun^r
- 38 Dra^t Solley and march Esq—one Lott Improved by George Warllace
- 39 Dra^t George Jaffrey Esq^r—
- 40 Dra^t Joseph Blanchard Jun^r priviledge Right
- 41 Dra^t Joseph Blodget Jun^r Settled by Thomas Caldwell a Saw mill
- 42 Dra^t Samuel Cummins Settled by John Little
- 43 Dra^t School Right—
- 44 Dra^t matthew Thornton Esq^r Settled by Thomas Walker
- 45 Dra^t m Hunkin Wentworth Esq^r—
- 46 Dra^t John Butterfield priviledge Right
- 47 Dra^t Josiah Brown—
- 48 Dra^t William Garrish Settled by John Borland
- 49 Dra^t Nathaniel peirce Esq^r Settled by Thomas Emery
- 50 Dra^t Jonathan odiorne Esq^r—
- 51 Dra^t peter powers Settled by John Swan
- 52 Dra^t Benjamin Bellows Esq^r—
- 53 Dra^t Joshua peirce Esq^r—
- 54 Dra^t Jonathan Cummins Settled as above mentioned by Solomon Turner
- 55 Dra^t John Usher Settleing Duty Don by Enoch Hale but no house
- 56 Dra^t Jonathan Hubbard Jun^r Settled by John Harper
- 57 Dra^t Joseph French Esq^r—
- 58 Dra^t peter powers Settled by Jonathan parker privi^e Right
- 59 Dra^t peleg Larrance Settled by Joseph Hodge
- 60 Dra^t Isaac Williams Settled by James Caldwell
- 61 Dra^t David Adams Settled by Hugh Dunlap
- 62 Dra^t James Stuart Settleing Duty Don by David Hunter
- 63 Dra^t Nathaniel meserve Esq^r
- 64 Dra^t David Wilson—
- 65 Dra^t John Rindge Esq^r—
- 66 Dra^t Randel mcDaniel Settled by Joseph Turner

- 67 Dra^t Jonathan Hubbard Jun^r Settleing Duty Don by Thomas Turner
 68 Dra^t Joseph Blanchard Esq^r Well Improved by Thomas Davidson
 69 Dra^t Robart fletcher Jun^r Settled by John Davidson
 70 Dra^t Joseph Emerson Settled by John Grout
 71 Dra^t Thomas Wallensford Esq^r—

The Rights that appeareth to be Delinquent Are as folloeth viz:

The 4 Dra^t Thomas March

The 9 Dra^t John Kindle

The 12 Dra^t William Rindge

The 35 Dra^t John Hart Esq^r

36 Dra^t John Chamberlin

and 37 Dra^t Joseph Winn Jun^r

The 47 Dra^t Josiah Brown

The 52 Dra^t Benjaⁿ Bellows Esq^r

The 57 Dra^t Joseph French Esq^r

and 64 Dra^t David Wilson

A True Accompt Err^s Excepted per me

Enoch Hale

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, pages 393-395. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 93.)

SETTLERS

JOHN DAVIDSON, of Londonderry, by tradition the first permanent settler in Jaffrey, is probably entitled to that honor. His place of settlement in Middle Monadnock, now Jaffrey, was in the strip of land severed from the west side of Peterborough by Colonel Joseph Blanchard in making room for his Monadnock townships in 1749, and he, with others, without the trouble of moving, found himself in a new township in which he had received no rights, and like the unfortunate settlers of Rowley Canada was compelled "at a dear rate" to settle with the insatiable agent of the new proprietors for the homestead right he had previously acquired by purchase and the sweat of his face. The exact date of his settlement in Peterborough has not been found. By tradition, his eldest daughter was the first white child born in the territory now Jaffrey.

The township of Peterborough, settled under a Massachusetts charter, is reported in 1748 (*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 185-187) as having "nigh 40 Dwelling Houses," when interrupted by an Indian War in 1744-5. On the return of peace in 1748-9, Thomas Davidson, next younger brother of John, is named as of Peterborough, September 28, 1752, when he bought of Colonel Blanchard, lots 18 and 19, range 1, and lot 21, range 3, the last of which was included in the original township of Peterborough and presumably covered land on which he had previously performed settler's duty.

In August, 1753, John Davidson, likewise bought from Colonel Blanchard three lots of land in Middle Monadnock, equivalent to a settler's right, one of which, lot 20, range 3, had been previous to the grant of Middle Monadnock, a part of Peterborough, and the supposed place of settlement of John Davidson. It remained his homestead until his death January 18, 1811, aged 85 years (see Genealogy, Vol. II, p. 222). In the year 1833 the place became the Jaffrey Town Farm. It is now the summer home of Clement R. Lamson, Esq., of Boston. Other lots in the same strip, occupied by the pioneer Turner family of Peterborough, became by the same process with their settlers a part of the new township of Middle Monadnock, now Jaffrey. Granting the settlement of John Davidson in Peterborough as early as that of his brother, Thomas, in 1752 or before, no record has been found of a permanent settler in this territory before that thus established by John Davidson.

MATTHEW WRIGHT, with members of his family, was for many years the largest resident landowner in Middle Monadnock (see Volume II, page 874). His first purchase, made in 1752, consisted of three lots, on one of which, lot 14, range 9, he built his house. In 1756 he added to his holdings 700 acres bought from Joseph Blanchard, and in 1759 the purchase of lot 13, range 9, east of Gilmore Pond, brought his holdings to 1,100 acres, to which we may add lots 22 in ranges 3 and 4, adjoining the west line of Peterborough, which he sold in 1760 to Thomas Davidson, his son-in-law. Another sale, in 1773, that of lot 18 in the 9th range to Jacob Pierce, included the farm on Sawyer Hill owned (1930) by John Harling. The record of his purchases and sales, probably incomplete, indicates that Matthew Wright was before 1766 owner of not less than 1,800 acres of land in the new township, now Jaffrey. In 1765 he acquired from Matthew Wallace, his son-in-law, lot 3, range 3, on the west side of Monadnock, for 300 pounds Old Tenor. In 1757 Matthew Wright and Mary, his wife, "of Londonderry," deeded land in that town, indicating that he kept his legal residence there for some years after his actual removal to his new holdings, as Middle Monadnock was then an unincorporated place. In 1762 Matthew Wright, named as a resident "of a place called Middle Monadnock," sold to his son Joseph, "a minor," for 700 pounds, "one half quantity and quality" of 400 acres of land in a body, consisting of lots 14 in the 7th, 8th, and 9th ranges, and lot 13, in the 9th range, in Middle Monadnock; and two years later for the same consideration he disposed of the other half to his son, Francis. A part of this property, known as the Wright or Dana

Jaquith farm, now owned by Emile Labrie, remained in the family many years. In 1757 his oldest daughter, Anna, married Thomas Davidson, an occasion of unusual social festivity, as related in the *History of Peterborough*. The young lady is said to have borrowed from Mrs. Elizabeth Holmes (see Peterborough Sesqui-Centennial Address by Hon. Nathaniel Holmes, 1889) her large wooden bowl that was carved out of a huge oak knot, and held nearly half a bushel, as a receptacle for the barley broth with which they regaled their guests gathered in the orchard for the wedding. This famous bowl, still in existence in 1889, came from Antrim County, Ireland, and was supposed to be two hundred years old. Nothing is said about more inspiring beverages but, from the character of the people and the customs of those days, it is not to be supposed that they were wanting.

According to all accounts, Matthew Wright was a man of great native ability and an original thinker, but a hard drinker and a preacher of infidel doctrines, a characterization so far as the doctrines were concerned which doubtless meant far more in those days than in our own. In Smith's *History of Peterborough*, we have the following unflattering account of Matthew Wright, in connection with the Davidson family:

It has been supposed that the tendency to this vice [drunkenness] in Dea. Davidson's family came from the maternal side, and was owing to the injurious influence of Matthew Wright upon the young men, his grandsons. Mr. Wright was a man of superior talents and attractive powers, but very intemperate. He professed to be an infidel and wished everybody he met to be like himself. His opinions were very abhorrent to the people of his day. It is said that on the day of his death, he called his son Francis to his bedside and said: "When I am dead, I want you to *tak* the big jug and gang down to New Ipswich and get it filled with rum, and when I am buried give the poor divils all the rum they want."

It may be said that this provision for the obsequies was in accordance with the customs of these people, and was entirely consonant with the strictest piety. It was an old saying that a Scot's funeral was merrier than his wedding. A like story is told of a most estimable maiden lady who, being about to die and anxious to leave a favorable impression upon the world, sent for her nephew and said to him, "Willy, I'm deeing, and as ye'll hae charge of a' I leave, mind now, that as meikle whiskey be drunk at my funeral as there was at my baptism."

It is fair to say that Cutter's *History of Jaffrey* tells a story of another sort, to the effect that a neighbor, Joseph Horton, once stopped at Wright's house to escape a shower and was detained for the night.

While there the family knelt, as was their custom, for the evening prayer, and when on rising the old man noticed that his neighbor had not knelt with the rest, he was filled with righteous indignation. "You are worse than a Papist," said he, "and if it did not rain so hard I would turn ye out of my house this very night." The first story is, however, circumstantially told by a relative of the Davidson family, and collateral evidence of its truth is found, which makes it seem that the story in Cutter's History has strayed from its relation to some more likely man.

ROBERT GILMORE, a well-to-do citizen of Londonderry, bought in 1756 two settler's rights of 300 acres each in Middle Monadnock. These lots he evidently acquired as an outlet for the expanding energies of his growing family. He had at this time two vigorous sons, John and Roger, aged nineteen and seventeen, who were destined to play a large part in the development of the new township. It may be assumed with practical certainty that these young men were soon on the ground, clearing land, building cabins, and securing their title by performing the prescribed labors of settlement. Two of these lots, numbers 12 and 13 in the 7th range, north of Gilmore Pond and covering the section south of Jaffrey Center later known as Slab City, became the homestead of John Gilmore and his descendants. In April, 1763, when they were of age, they received deeds from their father of the 600 acres he had purchased seven years before at a charge of twelve hundred pounds, which they had improved to comfortable occupancy. But 600 acres was not enough to satisfy the ambitions of these two energetic young men; they wanted all that joined them. In November, 1763, they bought for the seemingly extravagant price of 140 pounds, of Thomas Parker of Litchfield, "a certain lot of land in Menadnock No. 2 commonly known by the Name of Parker's Pond Lott, in the Eighth Range said Lott is Number twelve." What these two practical young men wanted of so much water remains a mystery. There was a "joker" here, hence the name. Thomas Parker had acquired the lot in the original drawing in June, 1750, and had got a blank which for thirteen years he could not sell, as the lot was nearly all in the pond now known as Gilmore. Fortunately for the buyers, who, we hope, had some sense of scenic values, this pond, one of the clearest and most beautiful bodies of water in the Monadnock region, remains the fitting and the only surviving memorial to the Gilmore family in the township which they so greatly served and honored.

But still unsatisfied and looking for new wildernesses to conquer,

the Gilmore brothers, January 19, 1768, bought of Paul March of Portsmouth, for 90 Spanish milled dollars, another "one whole original Proprietor's share in Monadnock No. 2, 13 in ye sixth range, No. 16 in ye Eighth Range & No. 2 in ye Tenth Range." Here was a total of one thousand acres in possession of the two young men with land hunger still unsated. Lot 13 in the sixth range became the homestead of Roger Gilmore for the rest of his long and useful life. It included the fine hill east of Jaffrey Center Village, now the Cutter homestead, where he built his house in which, until the building of the meeting-house, most of the town meetings were held after the incorporation of the town.

The following letter to the "Gentlemen Grantors," a little more than a year after the date of their purchase, indicates commendable progress in the work of settlement.

Middel me Monadnick N 2 March y^e 10: 1769

Gentleman Grant Tors Brother and I Bought ye Right that was Paul March January Sixtey Eaight And Upon Seaid Right Wee have Goot Twentey Ackers of Land Clearied on Seaid Right and his Goot ye Timber for Hoss [house] and Wee Entend to Rais it This Mounth and Gentleman wee Beg y^e faver of you as you ar men of Honnor that you Would Not Hurt Us in Ouer Entrest for wee have don Ever Thing In ouer power to Bring forward y^e Setlement of This Place—

John Gilmore

Roger Gilmore

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 388. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 87.)

There is internal evidence that this letter was the unassisted work of the elder brother. Roger Gilmore's handwriting upon the early records of the town has no such latitude of spelling as here shown, and the fact that he was much employed as a land surveyor and town officer and served many years as justice of the peace, proves that he was a man of good education for his time. (See Volume II, page 332.)

WILLIAM CHRISTY and his brother Peter, of Londonderry, sons and heirs of Peter Christy, deceased, bought of Thomas Dunshee, March 15, 1757, the 40th draft of lots in Jaffrey, containing lot 16, range 6, lot 5, range 10, and lot 13, range 10. William and Peter were not of age at the time and the transaction of £260 was paid by George Moor and Thomas Christy, executors "of ye Last Will & Testament of Peter Christy, late of Londonderry." They probably came to the new township soon after and commenced settler's duty on their holdings. Of Peter no further mention is found, but William disposed of lot 16, range 6 (the present Fred W. Moore farm) to William Smiley, on April 2, 1770; and on September 20, 1771, he sold lot 13, range 10 (the later Isaac Bailey farm), to Jonathan Parker, Jr.

By the report of Grout and Gilmore, 1769, and again of Enoch Hale in 1770, he is credited with the settlement of the 29th draft, containing lot 15, range 3, lot 19, range 3, and lot 10, range 8. He settled on lot 15, range 3, (now the farm of Blick Brothers), which together with lot 15, range 2, next adjoining to the north, he sold to Alexander Milliken of Wilton, April 27, 1773, after which his name does not again appear in the township.

JAMES TURNER, of Peterborough, bought of Joseph Blanchard, lot 20 in range 4, March 28, 1757, for 30 pounds, and performed settlement duty. How long he was here is not known. He was probably another brother of Joseph and William Turner. A deed of land in Jaffrey to Joseph Turner from Joseph Blanchard, was executed the same day. This lot, part of the 67th draft, is not known to have been occupied since the burning of the house of John Butters, a later resident, in 1794.

JOHN BORLAND, of Londonderry (see Genealogy, volume II, page 87), bought a settler's right in Middle Monadnock of Joseph Blanchard, February 2, 1758. He settled on lot 19, range 5, now the farm of W. E. Nutting, where he lived for eleven years, when he sold his farm with a dwelling house and barn to Jonathan Stanley and became a miller in the section now known as East Jaffrey village, then called Borland's Mills. (See Mills and Stores.)

MATTHEW WALLACE, a representative of the best of the Scotch-Irish stock, is worthy of remembrance as a constructive force in the organization and settlement of the town of Jaffrey. With Dennis Organ, he bought and performed settler's duty upon the seventh draft of lots, consisting of lot 11, range 7, lot 3, range 3, and lot 20, range 6. Lot 3, range 3, was a mountain lot unsuited for settlement. By a division of their holdings, Organ settled on lot 11, range 7, and Wallace owned and cleared lot 20, range 6, for many years the Clark M. Pierce farm. Matthew Wallace, according to the record of Hon. Ezra S. Stearns, came to Jaffrey in 1762. He was evidently a man of more than ordinary native ability and of good education, considering the opportunities of his time. He was for many years justice of the peace, and also served as clerk of the Proprietors of Monadnock No. 2 in the formative years preceding its incorporation in 1773. It is one of the irreparable losses of the town that these records, covering a period of more than twenty-four years from the grant of the township by the Masonian Proprietors, 1749, to a date sometime after the incorporation of the town, were lost probably through the lack of a proper storage place for town records and culpable negligence

on the part of their custodians. Their importance was early recognized and Roger Gilmore was appointed in 1798, an agent to obtain these papers for the town. That he attended to the duty assigned him is shown by the record, June 10, 1798, of ten dollars paid to Roger Gilmore "for procuring the proprietors papers of Jaffrey and for expense, being the papers that were in Esqr. Wallaces hands."

In 1774, after the incorporation of the town, he was moderator of town meeting, and the same year he was appointed, with Roger Gilmore and William Turner, a committee to build the meeting-house, the highest honor and responsibility that could be conferred upon a citizen at the time. He became the owner of considerable real estate, and in 1774 he sold to Luke Wheelock of Lunenburg, Massachusetts, the place near the outlet of Contoocook Lake, known as the Carey farm, now abandoned. In July, of this year, the Peterborough road was laid out by his house and was the highway still in use, leading from the present Peterborough Road past the present house of W. E. Nutting to the Baldwin Corner. His wife died about 1775, and he married (second) Margaret Morrison of Peterborough. From this time his interests were largely in Peterborough where he lived on the Samuel Morrison or Swan place, in the south part of the town. In Peterborough he was town clerk, selectman, justice of the peace, and in 1784 and 1785 he represented Peterborough in the legislature, of which, the record shows, he was an active member. He continued to own real estate in Jaffrey and perhaps in 1785 returned to his Jaffrey farm to live, as the following year, September 23, 1786, Matthew Wallace "of Jaffrey" deeded to Jason Hemenway of Jaffrey, his homestead which he had settled twenty years before. The next year we find him in Acworth, New Hampshire, where he seems to have met with financial reverses. He was appointed justice of the peace, but we next hear of him in 1792, in a most distressful situation in Keene Jail where he had been confined nearly a year for debt. The injustice of imprisonment for debt was at that period being actively agitated; and from his prison Matthew Wallace made a moving appeal to the General Court for relief on the ground of poverty and the needs of a large family dependent upon him for support. The time was ripe for action upon this long-time injustice, and he was relieved by the passage of an act for the relief of prisoners for debt in certain cases, for which his appeal may have furnished the final argument. This act applied to cases where there was no available property, and the debtor subscribed to the so-called "poor debtor's oath." Final repeal of the law of imprisonment for debt was enacted in 1840.

In 1792, after regaining his liberty, he removed to Berlin, Vermont, where he died June 1, 1825.

SOLOMON TURNER came from Peterborough soon after Dec. 15, 1762, when he bought of Joseph Blanchard three lots in the new township of Monadnock No. 2, lot 10, range 8, lot 20, range 9, and lot 20, range 1. (See Volume II, page 816.) On April 16, 1766, he sold lot 20, range 9, to Jonathan Hopkinson. He settled on lot 10, range 8, near Gilmore Pond, at present owned by Mrs. Anne Kimball. On June 19, 1772, he sold the lot, exclusive of six acres in the southwest corner previously sold to Joseph Hogg, to William Turner. The lot was in part owned by the Dutton family for nearly one hundred years to 1876. On October 19, 1768, Solomon Turner bought at a tax sale the delinquent proprietor's right of Jonathan Cummings, consisting of lot 7 in range 9, lot 19 in range 10, and lot 9 in range 2, "Except the Lott No. Nineteen in the Tenth Range & Sixty acres out of the North end of the Lot No. Nine in the Second Range." Having comfortably settled on lot 10, range 8, he immediately took up the improvement of his new lot, No. 7 in range 9, to which he removed and lived until 1781, when he is said to have removed to New York State. In June, 1772, he sold his former homestead to William Turner, as stated above, and on April 26, 1774, a road was laid out from Joseph Hogg's house westerly by Solomon Turner's house, to the Rindge road.

GEORGE CLARK, JR., of Londonderry, made his first purchase in Middle Monadnock, January 16, 1762, when he bought of James Moore, of Peterborough Slip (Sharon), lot 22, range 10, for 42 pounds new tenor. Clark sold the lot to John Barnett, of Londonderry, February 4, 1764, for £260 old tenor, Barnett "to do settler's duty," but twenty days later (February 24, 1764) John Barnett deeded the lot back to Clark, for the same consideration. By another record, February, 1765, John Barnett of Londonderry, sold this same lot, No. 22, range 10, to Jonathan Hopkinson, "for nine pounds Sterling Money of Grt. Britain." George Clark, probably son of George Clark, Jr., bought, October 31, 1771, when he was of Monadnock No. 2, the tenth lot in the tenth range. Nearly ten years later, February 6, 1781, he sold the "most part" of the lot to David Chadwick. (See Volume II, page 164.)

JONATHAN HOPKINSON (see Volume II, page 409), for ten years a useful citizen of Middle Monadnock, came from Monadnock No. 1 (Rindge) in 1763, when he bought from Robert Boyes lot 21, range 10, with two mills on the same, in present Squantum village. In February, 1765, he bought the next lot to the east, of John Barnett

of Londonderry, conditioned on the performance of settler's duty. In 1768 he sold these two lots with two mills, a "mansion house" and barn, to Ephraim Hunt, and the same year he bought lot 21, range 9, the next lot north of this first purchase, now the farm of Benjamin G. Wilson, where he again performed settler's duty and probably lived until the sale of the place to Oliver Prescott as stated hereafter.

JOHN SWAN, of the Peterborough family of the name and called "John Swan ye 3d" in the deed by which he acquired title, June 1, 1763, to lot 21, range 6, in Middle Monadnock, was the first settler on this lot, which now comprises the larger part of the farm of Charles Jurva. A condition attached to the sale was that Swan "settle & improve (the lot) so that remaining part of the right [lot 6, range 4, and lot 5, range 5] shall not be forfeited or any part thereof for want of being settled & to work all the Highway work laid out on said Right until town shall be incorporated." Grout and Gilmore returned a "family Swan" as settled on the 51st draft, of which this lot is a part, in 1768; and Enoch Hale's report gives John Swan as the settler on the same draft. On June 24, 1772, Swan sold the west half of the lot to James Haywood, and the east half to Benjamin Nutting of Woburn, for £33-6-8. At this time he was a resident of Peterborough Slip (Sharon). He married Sarah Taggart.

JAMES TAGGART, of Peterborough, a brother-in-law of John Swan, was the first settler on lot 22, range 8, which he bought of Joseph Caldwell, for "five Spanish Milld Dollars," on July 3, 1763. He probably immediately came to the place to perform settlement duty, as in the report of Grout and Gilmore a "family Taggott" is named the settler on the 11th draft, containing lot 22, range 8, lot 10, range 6, and lot 2, range 3. In 1769 he sold his lot to Josiah Munroe of Lexington, Massachusetts, and returned to Peterborough, thence in 1788 to Dublin.

SILAS RUSSELL, born October 10, 1742, the eldest child of Joel Russell, another reputed first settler of Jaffrey, married Keziah Phillips, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1765, and probably immediately took up the settlement of lot 19, range 3, in Middle Monadnock, where in 1768 he was a settler on the 29th draft. In their report to the proprietors, Grout and Gilmore said that there were on the 29th draft "three Settlers two families above measure," the only draft reported under such favorable prospects of permanent settlement. The other settlers were William Christy on lot 15, range 3, and Solomon Turner on lot 10, range 8. In November, 1769, Silas Russell signed a remonstrance against an exchange of land for a minister lot then occu-

pied by John Grout. In December, 1773, he sold his farm to Isaac Baldwin, who sold in May, 1780, to Samuel Parker. The place is the now abandoned farm on the north side of the Old Peterborough Road about midway between Lincoln and Dean corners, and is owned by W. E. Nutting.

JOHN HARPER, of Harvard, Massachusetts, settled on lots 8 and 9 in range 7, which he bought of Robert Boyes of Londonderry, October 10, 1765. The place is now part of the Royce farm. For a more complete account of John Harper, see Volume II, page 374.

DAVID HUNTER of Londonderry, bought of his brother, Robert, of the same place, the fifth lot in the sixth range in Middle Monadnock No. 2, excepting five acres in southeast corner, April 2, 1773, for £3 18s. On May 10, 1783, Jane Hunter of Windham, "Heir at law to David Hunter, Deceased," sold to John Buss of Leominster, Massachusetts, for £285, the "Whole of the farm that the said David Hunter Died Possessed off and belongs to the Right which Belonged to Robert Boyes, Esq., Deceased. Said Farm contains about 145 Acres, . . . Reserving 5 acres in the south east corner thereof to the Heirs of the sd Robert Boyes." It is now the farm of George A. Adams. David Hunter died in Revolutionary service. (See Revolutionary record.) By 1768 he had begun the improvement of the lot, as reported by Grout and Gilmore to the proprietors of the township. He was a son of David Hunter, of Londonderry, who died previous to November 27, 1765, when Robert Hunter, above named, "was chosen guardian of David and Ann Hunter, children of David, minors upwards of 14 years."

JOHN HENDERSON, whose pioneering was cut short by his death previous to December 5, 1766 (see Volume II, page 396), began the settlement of lot 17, range 3, at present the farm of Martin P. Garfield. According to the report of Grout and Gilmore, "Widow Henderson" was a settler on the 60th draft in 1768, consisting of the lot above named, and also lots 7 and 8, range 8. She probably sold to James Caldwell, who is reported by Enoch Hale as settler on this draft in 1770.

JOHN LITTLE, probably from Lunenburg, Massachusetts, settled before 1766 on the 30th draft of lots, where he improved and erected buildings on lot 15, range 4, the present George R. Brown farm. By Enoch Hale's report in 1770 to the proprietors, he had by that date built a barn, probably in 1768 or 1769. In the report of Grout and Gilmore he is also credited with the settling of the 42nd draft in 1768, containing lot 16, range 4, which has remained a part of the farm

ever since. He sold his farm to Samuel Phillips of Andover, Massachusetts, and it became a part of the endowment of the famous Phillips Academy. The farm was sold in 1780 by the Trustees of Phillips Academy to Simpson Stewart.

ANDREW McALLISTER (see Genealogical record in Volume II) is reported by Cutter's *History of Jaffrey* to have performed settlement on lot 14, range 4, for many years occupied by the Bryant family, now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Kingman of Providence, Rhode Island. This lot was part of the 26th draft, on which the reports of Grout and Gilmore (1768) and Enoch Hale (1770) to the proprietors of the township credit McAllister with settling duty. His petition, given below, states that he settled on lot 19, range 4, which is in the 27th draft. Andrew McAllister came to Jaffrey before November, 1767. Of the outcome of the distressful situation revealed in the following petitions, no record has been found:

Sr After My Kind Regards to you these may Inform you that I have got a Certificate and Drawn a Petition as well as I Could and Would be vary much obliged to you if you Would Cary it to y^e Lord Proprtors and Lay it Befor them and Represent my Case to them telling them I am A poore Man and Came onto y^e Land honastly Expecting to have it for Performing Settlement and it may Be that there mercy Will be Plased to Give me the other Lott Belonging to y^e S^d Right I Would A Com Down my Selfe and a seen you but I am Not Able for I have not A Dun A days Work this Summer for I have hurt my Selfe Working on this Land and I never Expect to be Well all my days—

S^r Send me A Line after you have Been at Portsmouth and if I am Able I Will Com and Se you I am very much obliged to you and I Will Satisfy you for your Truble

this from your Humble Sar^t

Andrew M^cAllaster

N B There is Eight or ten Rights of Land in this town forfeitted and if you had any thoughts of Buying them from ye Lord Proprietors I Will Do the utmost of my Power of Informing you Where thy are

To M^r Jonas Minot—

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 395. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 94.)

PETITION OF ANDREW McALLISTER, 1772

To the Hon'ble Theoadore Atkinson Esq^r & the other Proprietors of Masons Patant Lying in the Province of Newhampshire the Petition of Andrew m^cAllaster Who humbly Sheweth that William Morrow of Londonderry Bargened With your Petitionr for to Settle A Right of Land in Monadnock N^o 2 Which Right of Land Was drawn by M^r Daniel Emorison and promised to Give your Petitionar the Lott N^o 19 in the 4 Range for doing all y^e Duty and performing Settlement Which Was in y^e year 1770 and your Petitionar Buelt a house and Cleared Eight or ten Acres of Land and Performed Settlement According to My Bargan on Said Lott and is now thretnd by William Morrow that he will Dispose me of s^d Land & as I Understand the Right of Land Was forfeitted and Belonged to your

Hon^{rs} Before I Entred in Said Lott your Petitioner therefore Humbly Prays that your honours in your Wisdom and Goodness Would Grant the Said Lott to your Petitioner on terms of Settlement that he may not be Disapointed of his Expectation nor Turned off his Labour and your Petitioner as in Duty Shall Allway Pray

Andrew McAllaster

Monadnock N^o 2 September y^e 7th day 1772—

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 396. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 95.)

CERTIFICATE IN FAVOR OF McALLISTER, 1772

Monadnock N^o 2 Sep^t y^e 3 day 1772—

These may Certify your Honours that Andrew M^oAllaster hes Settled the Right of Land that Was Drawn by M^r Daniel Emorison in Monadnock N^o 2 & there is No other Settler on any of y^e other Lotts

As Witness our hands

Matthew Wallace

John Stanley

Roger Gilmore

John Gilmore

George Wallace

Jonathan Stanley

Siles Russel—

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 396. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 96.)

DENNIS ORGAN was associated with Matthew Wallace in the settlement of the seventh draft, consisting of lot 11, range 7, lot 3, range 3, and lot 20, range 6, as reported by Grout and Gilmore in 1769, and by Enoch Hale in 1770. Organ settled on lot 11, range 7 (the Walter Heath place), which he sold March 25, 1777, to Josiah French of Hollis, New Hampshire, clothier, "with all the buildings standing on the lot." He then removed to Pepperell, Massachusetts, where he lived until after 1790 when he settled in Stoddard, New Hampshire. He sold land in Stoddard in 1795 and probably thereafter lived in Acworth, where he deeded land as late as 1808, the last date we have of him. He married Lois, daughter of Bezaleel Sawyer, a neighbor in Jaffrey. He performed Revolutionary service from Pepperell.

WILLIAM MITCHELL settled on lot 12, range 4, before 1768 and is credited with "some work Rie Sowd," by the report of Grout and Gilmore to the proprietors of the township in 1769. The place is now the summer residence of Clarence H. Hillsmith. William Mitchell was auditor of accounts and deer-reeve in 1774; surveyor of roads and sealer of leather in 1775; and surveyor of roads in 1776. He left the township in 1777 or 1778.

ROBERT HOLMES, scion of an early Londonderry family, settled on lot 12, range 3, before 1768, when he had cleared land, sown rye, and "Raised house frame," as reported to the proprietors of the township by Grout and Gilmore. The place is now the farm of Ernest

McCoy. Holmes owned and settled lots 1, ranges 3 and 4, also. On March 2, 1774, he sold his Jaffrey holdings to Joshua and Joseph Thorndike and Samuel Thorndike Woodbury, and removed from town. The statement in Cutter's *History of Jaffrey* (page 34) that the first framed house in town was built on this farm by Robert Holmes is plainly an error as appears from facts related in this chapter and the preceding chapter on Rowley Canada.

JAMES NICHOLS, or Nickles, one of the most active and useful of the pioneers of Jaffrey in the Middle Monadnock period, came to the township before April 19, 1768, when he served on a committee with John Grout and William Smiley to sell certain delinquent settler's rights to meet charges assessed against them. He also served on a committee to provide supplies of preaching, the first record that has been found of such service in the township. He performed settler's duty on two settler's rights, No. 71, drawn by Thomas Wallingford, where he was living in 1768 according to the report of settlement by Grout and Gilmore. The right contained lots 8 and 1 in range 5, and lot 18 in range 4. In the report of Enoch Hale, covering the year 1769, he had improved one lot in the 14th draft, said to have been lot 16 in range 1, near Frost Pond, afterward owned by the Frost family, now and for many years abandoned. According to the same report he was settled on the 27th draft, containing lot 17, range 1, next east of his other lot, and containing his dwelling house.

James Nichols was born in Londonderry in 1733, and was grandson of James Nichols, one of the immigrant founders of that township. He was twice married and had thirteen children. His first wife was Dinah Woodburn of Londonderry, who is supposed to have died in Middle Monadnock in 1771. On May 2, 1772, he married Hannah Caldwell, then of Middle Monadnock (Jaffrey) and daughter of James Caldwell (see Volume II, page 134). Of their sons, probably born in Jaffrey, William and Woodburn were "lost at sea."

Sometime before the incorporation of Middle Monadnock as Jaffrey in 1773, James Nichols and family removed to Belfast, Maine, of which he was one of the thirty-five original proprietors. He died in Searsport, a part of the original town of Belfast, May 10, 1818.

During the Revolution Belfast had an exciting history, in which James Nichols bore a leading part. The town is said to have suffered more in the first year of the war than any other in New England except Boston, as it was at the mercy of ships of war which frequented that part of the coast. The settlers were at this time largely dependent on wild game for their support and a supply of ammunition

was stored in their fort for their individual use as needed. This ammunition at the breaking out of hostilities, the commander, being a loyalist, refused to deliver to its owners, whereupon James Nichols and a man named John Davidson were appointed a committee to wait on the commander and demand their rights. They were refused and treated in a haughty and insolent manner. Meanwhile, an armed company of the settlers that had been waiting a signal in the woods came forward, and thus supported, Nichols again demanded their rights in a manner that commanded respect. They were invited in and each man served with his due share of the ammunition. In the following months, people with large families suffered great hardships for want of provisions, James Nichols as much as anyone. Under such circumstances three trading vessels came into the harbor one afternoon and Nichols bought of them two bags of Indian corn with butter which he brought from home. As it was late in the day and he was eight miles from home, he went ashore to spend the night at a neighbor's, intending to go aboard next day for his corn. But in the night the vessels were captured by an American privateersman or free-booter named Cargill, who refused to give up the corn, and as he had a force of 200 men nothing could be done about it. Cargill then burned the fort to ashes and departed. In recounting the affair to his friend Davidson, Nichols said, "If ever he comes within the length of my arm off Sabbath day, I will blacken his eyes for him." The next summer Cargill was back, out of luck and begging assistance in spite of all he had so unrighteously done on his previous visit. In the course of his search for relief, he met Nichols who was as good as his word. At the first salutation he knocked the beggar down and blackened his eyes, as he said he would, it fortunately being "off Sabbath day."

During this troublesome period there were in the township eighteen families, or one hundred persons in all, and when danger threatened they resorted to Nichols' garrison, which was their best defence from musket balls, it being made of larger trees than the rest.

In James Nichols we have a true representative of the sturdy Scotch-Irish stock that settled the township of Middle Monadnock.

WILLIAM SMILEY of Londonderry, born in Ireland in 1727, came by way of Peterborough to Middle Monadnock before 1768, where he settled near Gilmore Pond, at first called Smiley Pond, on lot 13, range 8. A slight depression in the open field east of the summer home of Mrs. Jessie Bradley, is said to mark the site of his home. He was an influential and useful citizen of the township and its successor, the town of Jaffrey. (See Smiley family record in Volume II, page 703.)

JOSEPH FITCH of Bedford, Massachusetts, was associated with Josiah Munroe, of Lexington, a brother-in-law, in the settlement of the 11th draft, as reported by Enoch Hale in his statement on the progress of settlement in 1770. It appears that Fitch later made settlement on lot 15, range 8 (in draft No. 34), the north half of which he sold, November 11, 1770, to his sister, Molly (Fitch) Blodgett, wife of Jonathan Blodgett. The place is now the farm of Joseph Lemire. The south half he sold, December 22, 1770, to Solomon Cutler of Lexington.

JOSIAH MUNROE, as stated above, settled on the 11th draft. On May 10, 1769, James Taggart (*quod vide*) sold lot 22, range 8, to Munroe, who further improved the settlement and sold, April 10, 1771, the south half of the lot (Witt hill north of the B. G. Wilson place), with buildings, to Joel French of Billerica, Massachusetts, and nearly seven months later, November 13, he sold the north half with buildings (present LeMay place) to Samuel Butters, "3d of Wilmington, Massachusetts." (See genealogical record in Volume II.)

THOMAS WALKER was in Rindge as early as 1767, and married there, March 29, 1768, Abigail Philbrick. He came to Middle Monadnock (Jaffrey) in 1768, and settled on the 44th draft, consisting of lot 12, range 2, lot 7, range 6, and lot 11, range 1. He improved lot 7, range 6, south of the Nightingale and Caldwell places, the south part of which, "containing 40 acres by measure with improvements and a dwelling House Standing on the premises," he sold July 8, 1771, to Henry Coffeen, for eighteen pounds. The cellar of this place may still be seen on a road, long abandoned, from the present Mountain Shade House on the Mountain Road to the Spaulding or Lang place near Priest Corner.

HUGH DUNLAP was a settler in Peterborough from 1757 to about 1769, when he settled on lot 11, range 9, in Middle Monadnock. This lot he sold to Bezaleel Sawyer of Townsend, Massachusetts, November 3, 1772, and thereafter he occupied lot 19, range 6, which he bought from George Wallace, Nov. 11, 1772. At present it is the farm of Frank Hyrk. (See Volume II, page 253.)

ROBERT GLOVER, JR., of Nottingham West (now Hudson), bought lot 7, range 5, from Enoch Hale on July 21, 1768, for £15, and immediately came to perform settler's duty on the lot, and that year Grout and Gilmore, in their report on the progress of settlement in the township, credit him with "a few days cutting trees." The lot is now occupied by the Nightingale and Caldwell places on the Mountain Road.

ROBERT WIER of Londonderry, bought, May 28, 1768, of John

Moffatt of Portsmouth, a Masonian Proprietor, lot 13, range 5, in Middle Monadnock, for fifty Spanish milled dollars. This lot, situated northeast of the present Jaffrey Center village, lies east of the present Thorndike Road and includes the place owned by the Rev. C. S. Mills. He acquired other real estate, and, at the incorporation of the town of Jaffrey in 1773, was one of the largest landholders. On April 22, 1777, he sold the north part of the lot, for £30, to Alexander Douglas, of Worcester; and in 1778, he sold to Elias Whitney, a 100-acre farm, now owned in part by Professor Charles Palache. On June 26, 1778, then of Walpole, he sold to Samuel Adams of Jaffrey, lot 11, range 5. He served as town clerk and selectman in 1776. In 1778 he sold to Samuel Buss 71 acres west of the present Shattuck Inn, where substantial foundations of former buildings still remain, the transaction being dated Walpole. This was perhaps his homestead in Jaffrey.

JOHN WIER, of Londonderry, a brother of Robert, bought in May, 1768, of John Moffatt of Portsmouth, land in Monadnock No. 2, being two original lots, lot 1, range 7, adjoining the present Troy line and known as the Field place, and lot 2, range 5, west of Monadnock, in the section traversed by the Troy road. The following year he sold his two lots to Moses Barnett of Londonderry, and ten years later settled in Walpole. He married Rebecca, daughter of John Livingstone, and had seven children.

JONATHAN PARKER, JR., seems to have lived interchangeably in Monadnocks No. 1 and No. 2. In 1768 he was highway surveyor in No. 1. In 1770 Jonathan Parker, Jr., of Monadnock No. 2, sold to Robert Gilmore, lot 10, range 3, in the 58th draft. That same year he is recorded by Enoch Hale as a settler on the 58th draft, consisting of lot 10, range 3, lot 3, range 7, and lot 18, range 1. In 1776 he signed the Association Test in Rindge. In 1804 he was of Clarendon, Vermont.

HENRY COFFEEN (see Volume II, page 171) came to Middle Monadnock from Monadnock No. 1 (Rindge) in 1770 and immediately became a leader and large landholder in the township. He lived on lot 3, range 7, in the 58th draft.

Among the settlers of Middle Monadnock who continued to reside in the succeeding town of Jaffrey, were many whose settlement is told at length in their genealogical records in the second volume of this work, and are only briefly mentioned in this chapter. Of these, Joseph Turner was an early occupant of lot 21, range 1, which he purchased of Joseph Blanchard on March 28, 1757. William and

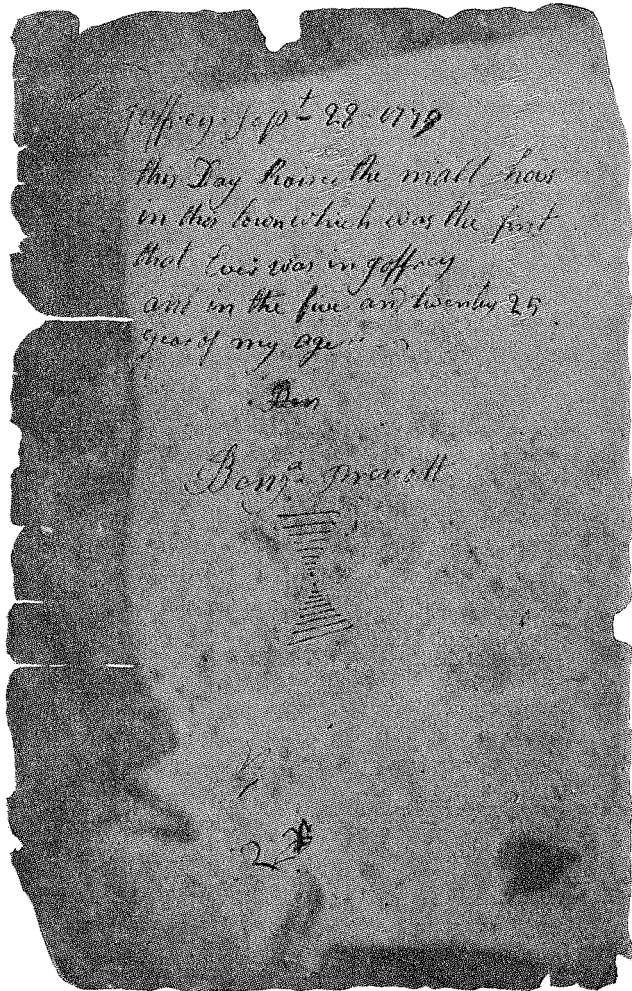


COL. BENJAMIN PRESCOTT
From Portrait Painted in 1814

Thomas Turner, brothers of Joseph, bought land from Joseph Blanchard on May 26, 1758. William bought lot 21, range 5, lot 18, range 5, and lot 18, range 3, and settled on lot 18, range 5, later known as the Baldwin farm; Thomas bought lot 22, range 2, near his brother Joseph, and lot 22, range 5, which includes the present Hadley Crossing on the Peterborough road. Joseph Hogg, Jr., settled on lot 10, range 9, after March 21, 1763. The place is still known as the Hodge farm, and is owned by James Murphy. William Hogg settled on the so-called Dean Hill, lot 17, range 6, which he bought of Reuben Kidder of New Ipswich on June 30, 1766. Kendall Bryant and his son, John, came to the township in the fall of 1772, when they bought from George Moors of Londonderry, lots 14 and 17 in range 4. They lived on lot 14, range 4, which remained in the family until 1865. It is now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Kingman of Providence, Rhode Island. Four members of the Caldwell family of Londonderry were pioneers in Middle Monadnock. The account of their settlement is given at length in Volume II, pages 131 to 135. Alexander McNeal came from Londonderry and settled on lot 12, range 5, near the present Shattuck Inn, where he built a house (see Volume II, page 525). Captain Jonathan Stanley, an experienced town officer and prominent citizen of Rindge, came to Monadnock No. 2 in 1769, and in the following years lent to the younger township the benefit of his experience as an organizing force. He bought, of John Borland, the farm now owned by W. E. Nutting.

BENJAMIN PRESCOTT of Westford, Massachusetts, a sturdy youth of eighteen years, came to Middle Monadnock, which was to be his home for the rest of his long life, in the fall of 1772. His father, Deacon Oliver Prescott of Westford, on October 31, of that year, his son being a minor, had bought for him lot 21, range 9, in the new township, which continued in the Prescott family for one hundred years. It is now the farm of Benjamin G. Wilson. This lot in the original apportionment was drawn by John Wentworth, one of the Masonian Proprietors, and was accordingly exempt from settler's duty and charges until sold and improved. Before 1768 it came into possession of Joseph Caldwell of Peterborough, who in that year sold it to Jonathan Hopkinson, previous to this time owner of a saw and grist mill in the section now known as Squantum. Hopkinson evidently lived on the place and performed settler's duty to the extent of building a cabin and clearing the number of acres required to secure his title, until on the date named he sold the lot for two hundred

pounds to Deacon Oliver Prescott. Here the young man lived by himself, an active if lonely life, until his marriage in 1775, widening his fields and cutting and hauling to mill timber for a large two-story



BENJAMIN PRESCOTT'S MEMORANDUM

house, one of the first of its type in the township. Further particulars of his useful and honorable career may be found in the biographical section of the present volume and in Volume II, page 614.

JOHN GROUT

The records of Jaffrey contain no reference to John Groat, a reputed first settler. His career was over before the town was incorporated. His valedictory may well be that of Middle Monadnock Township wherein he lived during nearly its whole period of settlement, and endured "Hardships too many to be here set forth." For a hundred years "old lawyer Groat" was a mere legendary figure in the haze of our early history, and yet he was a man of remarkable native ability, thwarted by circumstances, that found its fruition in the distinguished careers of many of his descendants (see Genealogy, Volume II, page 354ff). By his own report, made with Roger Gilmore, to the proprietors of the township, he was a settler in Middle Monadnock on the draft of Joseph Emerson, which contained two lots on the mountain, numbered 3 and 4 in the 4th range of lots, best described to modern understanding as lying on both sides of the private road leading from the highway to the Half-way House on Monadnock; and a third lot, No. 20 in the 10th range, in the south-eastern corner of the township, now in large part the farm of Frederick A. Stratton. The last named lot was the place of settlement of John Groat, when largely by the performance of settler's duty he became owner of the three lots. He had been a leading citizen of Lunenburg and held office in that town through 1754. In the public service he had been often associated with Deacon Jonathan Hubbard, an acquaintance which, probably following financial disaster in his home town, brought him in middle age, with his wife and younger children, to a lonely existence in the wilderness. The exact place of his settlement is not known with certainty, but on the west bank of the mill brook and the south side of the present highway leading from the Stratton homestead to Squantum village there are still to be found evidences of an ancient habitation that may have been the cabin of John Groat. The original excavation was of a size corresponding to the sixteen foot cabin prescribed in the conditions of settlement. Natural meadows close by, furnishing fodder for his cow, and the running stream by his door may have been the attractions of this particular spot. As the east line of his lot is now drawn, his house was a few feet outside his boundary, but with all the land about him unoccupied, this would hardly disturb his sense of security in his temporary habitation. His later statement that for three years he was alone in the township is not supported by the results of historical research. There were at this period other settlers in Middle Monadnock, but they were so far away that the sense of

loneliness was unrelieved. The Rowley Canada mill was near-by, but then abandoned. His nearest neighbor, so far as now appears, was Moses Hale, near Grassy Pond in the present town of Rindge. The propinquity happily resulted in the marriage of Abigail Grout to Nathan Hale, who later gained fame as commander of a New Hampshire regiment in the Revolution.

No record of sale of Grout's home lot has been found, but within three or four years after his arrival in the township, we find him living in a house ready built by John Hale under the Rowley Canada grant, and later "improved" and occupied by Moses Stickney. This place Grout improved to a "comfortable inheritance," unmindful of the fact that his new home by a queer meddling of Fate, had been drawn as a portion of a promised right of the first settled minister of the township, yet to come and claim his own. In his new home Grout had watchful neighbors a-plenty, but they were of a new sort that did not mingle freely with the older element from the Province of Massachusetts Bay. What right, said they, had John Grout on the minister's lot of which, until the arrival of their promised shepherd, they felt themselves trustees? There was talk. Grout heard it all and became concerned for his homestead right. In 1769 he made his first appeal to the Masonian Proprietors for protection as follows:

To the Proprietors of the Right of John Tufton Mason Esq^r of that tract of Land Lying in the province of New Hampshire known by the Name of the Mason Grant Humbly sheweth that John Grout your petitioner eleven years past moved into the Township called Monadnock No two in s^d Grant & for conveniency of Settlement purchased a House then already built with some improvements Made by Moses Stickney on Lott No twelve in the ninth Range Drawn in the Right of the first settled minister have Continued thereon have made Larger improvements thereon to a Comfortable inheritance—

your petitioner Humbly moves that he may be quieted on s^d Lott giving another in exchange therefor equal in Situation & goodness so that the Minister Right be not Lessened nor Hurt or otherways to be Releived and quieted on the premisses as the Hon^{ble} proprietors shall think fit and as in Duty bound shall ever pray

February 14 1769

John Grout

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, page 388. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 86.)

Evidently there was no response to his appeal and a month later it was renewed and accompanied by the report of the condition of settlement signed by himself and Roger Gilmore as it appears on a previous page.

To the proprietors of the Right of John Tufton Mason, Esq^r Humbly Sheweth—

That John Grout your Hon^{rs} petitioner has Lived Constantly in a place called the middle Monadnock N^o two for more than the Space of eleven years with a

Large Family about three years whereof was alone having no other family in S^d place my Rodes to cut out & improve at my own Cost attended with Hardships too many to be here set forth I have improved & Supported my family by improving on a Lot drawn in the Right of the first Settled minister near the outside of sd township have been using means to exchange the same for another Lot of my own as good and Convenient as that have had no Success therein am in great danger of Loosing all my Labor done thereon to the utter Ruining of my Self & family except the same be Secured to me speedily by the Compassionate care & interposition of the proprietors aforesd

I would further beg leave to Lay before the Hon^{ble} proprietors the State of the Settlement of S^d Township in a Scheedule annexed wherein it appears that many Rights are altogether Delinquent & Others Delinquent in part as appears by the annexed and as your Honers petitioner through many Hardships has upon his own Cost bin the first & principle Settler there & done that Service there which Delinquents ought to have done & as he has a Large family sufficient to Settle every delinquent Right your petitioner would humbly move that the same be granted to him for that purpose

and as in Duty bound shall ever pray

March 15th 1769

John Grout

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, pages 388-389. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 88.)

The second appeal brought the desired response. The Masonian Proprietors, wishing above all things peace and quiet among their settlers in a township where things were going none too well, requested Colonel Reuben Kidder of New Ipswich, near at hand, to go to Monadnock No. 2 and examine the proposition of Mr. John Grout to the end that "he might be quieted and the Minister Right be not Lessened nor Hurt." It was a delicate mission for the colonel, as all will know who have had occasion to deal with such personal matters as homestead rights. His verdict and its consequences appear in the following records, which are of special interest as containing in the list of protestants the names, nowhere else to be found, of nearly every settler in the township.

Monodnock n° 2 July 21 1769

To the Honerabel George Jaffer Esq^r

on Reciving a Later from your self Desiring me to go and Satel the Afair between Mr. John Grout the Propritors of monodnock N° 2 I have ben this Day vewed the Lots My Judgment is that mr Grout Give a Deed to the Propritors of the Lot N° 4 in the 4 Rang and 30 acors of the Est Side of the Lot N° 3 in the 4 Range in Exchang for the Lot No 12 in 9 Rang

Reuben Kidder

In Compliance With y^e above Judgment We y^e Subscribers a Committee for y^e Propriators of y^e above mentioned township Have Rec^d a Deed of mr Grout

of ye above mentioned Land and Pray for Directions from your Honr how that Mr. Grout Shall have his title &c—

John Gilmore
Alexr McNeall
John Harper

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol XXVII, page 391. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 90.)

REMONSTRANCE BY INHABITANTS OF JAFFREY TO PROPRIETORS

1769

to Colo. Atkison Esqr

Sir We thought it Our duty to inform Your Honnours that Ruben Kidder Esqr Came According to Your Honours apointment at Your Proprietors Metting to Vuw and Vallue the Lot that John Grout Lives Upon (Viz) the Ministers Lot and Likewise the Land that the said Grout was willing to Give for the Said Lot and the Land that the Said Kidder Excepted of Lyeth Upon the Side of the Monadnock Mountain Which is Not fit for a Setteltment and We the Subscribers is Not Willing to Accept of it and Prays Your honour Not to Let it Go that Way the Above Said John Grout has had A Leash of the Said Ministers Land these twelve Years past And s^d Least is good Untill there is a Settled Minister in this Place the Said Grout Sayeth that he hath five Lots in this town Ship But he Would Give no Other But that Mountain Land And will have it for that Land Which We Look Upon Nixt to Nothing and Prays Your Honour Would Either Let it Stand for A Minister or Other wise Give Land as Good

Sir No More But Would take Leve to Subscribe our Selves Your Honours Humble Servents

Middle Monadnock N° 2 November y° 7: A D 1769

Silas Russell	william mitchell	William Turner
thomas Turner	John Borland	thomas daveson
Solomon torner	Amos orgon	Robart homs
robert wier	Joseph turner	Mathew Wright
Matthew Wallace	John Swan	George Wallace
William Smiley	Alex ^r m ^c neall	James Caldwell Ser ^t
Thomas Caldwell	John Little	William Cristey
James Caldwell Jn ^r	Francis Wright	

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVII, pages 391-392. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 6, page 91.)

By this protest it appears that the generous judgment of Colonel Kidder was nullified and the proposed exchange of lots was never consummated. Again Grout appealed to the proprietors without effect.

Here was an old man, broken in body and mind, threatened with the loss of the very roof over his head after all his hardships and labors, left with no place he could call his own. He now made his final prayer to the superior powers in whose hands was all that he held dear.

To the Honble the proprietors of the Right of John Tufton Mason Eq^r

The Dying imperfect words & Letters of a Dying man I have Layen A Dying above 3 years uncapable of properly writing to your Hon^{rs} and uncapable of Coming unto you I would Beeg Leave in as good words as capable of to wind of short praying that I may be certifeed in writing the State of the place that No Sudden forfeiture may be taken wile I a dying and famelly ignorant

Your dying friend

John Grout

april 30—1770

(*N. H. State Papers*, Vol. XXVIII, page 488. *Masonian Papers*, Vol. 8, page 159.)

It has been assumed by some that all this lachrymose wailing was mere trickery on the part of a cunning old man, by collusion with an agent susceptible to bribes, to impose upon the guileless shepherd of the people, yet to come, worthless mountain land for the right that was his due. The facts do not warrant such a sweeping conclusion. Colonel Reuben Kidder was by all accounts an honorable man. The history of his home town and of the State cast no reflections upon his character. He heard both sides, and his judgment does credit to his humanity. He viewed the mountain land and also the homestead on which the old man had spent so much labor. It was not true that Grout had other lots but would give only his worthless land for the fertile acres that belonged in the minister's right. What he offered was all he had as will appear. But the protest of all the people stayed the just award, and the old man lingered on, a great fear consuming his weakened heart. He was quieted at last, but not until he was quieted in the grave.

The old man died that summer—he was not an old man in years but he had “endured hardships too many to mention,” and his final petition was indeed the last appeal—the imperfect words of a dying man. In January, 1771, three good men, Nathaniel Russell, Hugh Dunlap, and Roger Gilmore, were called to appraise his estate. It made a scanty show. There was one ox, a colt, a red cow, a black cow, a heifer, and one steer, a calf, a sheep, a few farming tools and household goods, a concordance and other books, an ax, an old loom, pewter, chests and casks, and “one lot of land in Middle Monadnock,” altogether £30-7-4. But that was not all. There were many debts and the estate was insolvent.

It was hoped that the judge would allow the widow Johannah to have the red cow but the cow died a few days after her master and left the widow disconsolate. They say that old John was buried where the meeting-house now stands, and it is quite likely that it was so. They had not laid out the burying ground then and there was

no meeting-house. But death came with them into the wilderness and where else would they bury their dead than on the public land reserved for the purpose? And so it came about that the poor settler, who could not call the roof above his head his own, gained the proudest monument of them all.

But there were brighter days ahead; there was to be a new town with a meeting-house, and school, and a lot set apart to bury the dead. Moreover, the old controversy was settled at last. The boys came home to the funeral and as soon as it could be arranged they fixed things up. On January 14, 1771, the Masonian grantors, by arrangement with a committee representing the township, exchanged with Jonathan Grout of Petersham, Hilkiiah and Elijah, sons of John and Johannah Grout, lot No. 4 in the 6th range of lots, no doubt acquired for the purpose, "for the use and Benefit of the first settled minister," in place of lot No. 12 in the 9th range, previously drawn for the purpose, but long occupied and improved by John Grout.