

History of Bristol County Massachusetts -Taunton-

CHAPTER LVIII.¹

TAUNTON.

Boundaries-Topography-City Organization-Population.

[PREFATORY NOTE.-No one can be more sensible than myself of the incompleteness of the following sketch. It is not claimed to be a history; at the best, it is but a contribution towards a history. But, Imperfect as it is, it has extended much further than was contemplated when I consented to write something concerning the early planting of the town and its first settlers. No history of Taunton has yet been written.

Mr. Bayliss furnished much interesting and important matter relating to its history for the first fifty years, and Rev. Mr. Emery, in his "Ministry of Taunton," gave a great deal more, covering a much longer period, which is of great value. Sketches, reminiscences, and single items have from time to time been given to the public, but all this has necessarily been fragmentary and, of course, unsatisfactory.

In what is here presented it has been my object, so far as possible, to let the fathers speak for themselves, and therefore original papers, to a greater extent perhaps than some will approve, have been given in their integrity. Some of the more important laws of the colonial period, defining the duties of town officers, have also been given in full rather than abstracts from them, for it was a characteristic of the early legislation to give the reasons for particular enactments in the enactment themselves in ample and explicit phrase, so that from these laws a truer and more graphic picture of the period can be obtained than from almost any other source. "The reason of the law is the life of the law." For the same reason the orders of the General Court and the votes of the proprietors are in most instances given at length. An abstract or paraphrase might be more brief, but the original flavor would be gone.

It has been a personal satisfaction to commune for a time with the fathers and founders of our ancient town and the earlier generations of their successors. A higher appreciation of their sturdy manhood and Integrity has thus been gained. If it shall have this effect in any degree upon those who may read what is here written, my best expectations will be realized.

JAMES HENRY DEAN.
TAUNTON, May, 1883

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THE city of Taunton is in the northeasterly part of Bristol County, and is bounded on the northwest by Norton, on the northeast by Easton, On the east by Raynham, Middleborough, and Lakeville, on the south by Berkley and Dighton, and on the west by Rehoboth. In its greatest length, from northwest to southeast, it measures rather over ten miles; its greatest breadth, being across its northwesterly portion, from northeast to southwest, is nine miles, while across its central portion, between Raynham and Berkley, it is less than two miles. Its present outline is extremely irregular and awkward, the result of setting off several new towns from the original territory, in which more regard seems to have been had for the symmetry of the parts thus taken than of the part that remained. It has few marked topographical features, the surface being generally level. Prospect Hill, two and a half miles north of City Square, is one hundred and seventy-five feet above City Square, and is the highest point within the city limits. At its southerly base lies Prospect Hill Pond, a beautiful sheet of water, surrounded by high land, except on the southerly side, from which a small outlet flows easterly into the Fowling Pond in Raynham. Still farther northwesterly are Scadding's and Watson's Ponds, which are connected by an outlet from the latter, Scadding's also receiving a small stream flowing from Winnicunnett Pond, which lies just across the northwesterly boundary in Norton. Mill River is the outlet of Scadding's Pond, and flows in a southerly direction through the manufacturing villages of Whittenton, Britanniaville, and Hopewell, affording water-power to each, and also to several manufactories in the centre, and empties into Taunton River at the Neck of Land. Three-Mile River, formed by the junction of Rumford and Wading Rivers in Norton, flows through the villages of Oakland and Westville, in the westerly part of the city, to the village of North Dighton, which is partly in Taunton, and from there it forms the boundary between Taunton and Dighton for a distance of a mile and a half, until it empties into Taunton River. It furnishes valuable water-power in each of the villages named. The principal stream is Taunton River, called by the inhabitants the Great River, to distinguish it from Mill River, which is commonly called the Little River. It has its sources in several small streams in Plymouth County, forms the boundary between Raynham and Middleborough, Taunton and Middleborough, and the southerly boundary between Raynham and Taunton. At East Taunton there is a dam which furnishes a head of water for the Old Colony Iron Company, located there. The tide ebbs and flows to this point, and tugs and scows ascend thus far with freight. The head of navigation for sailing vessels is at Weir village, which has a large and important trade in iron, coal, and grain. Some seventeen miles below this place, at Fall River, it empties into Mount Hope Bay.

In the easterly part of the city there are several ponds, known as Furnace Pond, Robinson & King's Pond, Dean Factory Pond, and Bear-Hole Pond, which afford by their outlets water-power for several saw-mills.

There are forests of considerable extent in the outlying districts, the largest being the Great Cedar Swamp, several miles in extent, which covers the northeasterly corner of the territory. Apart from this the prevailing growth is white-pine, although there are large oak

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and maple forests, interspersed with chestnut, beech, ash, and other hardwood trees, and pitch-pine is found to some extent.

On the first Monday of January 1865, two hundred and twenty-eight years, at least, after the first settlement of Cohannet, and two hundred and twenty-five years after receiving the name of Taunton, a city organization was inaugurated, and the territory was divided into eight wards. The population at that time was 16,005. In 1765 the number of families in the town was 493, and the population was 2745; in 1800 the population was 3860; in 1810, 3907; in 1820, 4520. Since the organization of the city the population has increased as follows: 1870, 19,629; 1875, 20,445; 1880, 21,213.

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CHAPTER LIX.

TAUNTON¹-(Continued.)

Early Explorations—First Settlement-Acquisition of Territory.

TAUNTON is the oldest settlement in Bristol County, and the third in order of time, after Plymouth itself, in Plymouth Colony, Scituate having been incorporated in 1636, Duxbury in 1637, and Taunton in 1639. A romantic interest attaches to the pioneers in any new enterprise, and especially to, those who found a new settlement in a wild and uninhabited region. And when such enterprise is exposed to dangers from savage attack, made more fearful by reason of distance from friendly help, our admiration is kindled for adventure so daring and heroic. Such an interest in the first settlers of Taunton must always be felt by the successive generations of dwellers in this ancient town. Could the name of the very first settler be known, the date when he “ sat down” here, the location of the lands he first cleared the spot on which stood his first rude dwelling, it would satisfy that strong natural desire to ascertain the origin of things, and a spot so interesting would doubtless be marked by some permanent memorial.

But such certainty of knowledge is now probably unattainable by the most patient research. The settlement of Plymouth was made before the eyes of the world. Every detail in the movements of the “ Mayflower,” from Provincetown to Plymouth Harbor, has been preserved, and the rock on the shore upon which her immortal ship’s company stepped as they landed has become the “ bead of the corner” in our national temple. The towns north and south of Plymouth, upon the seashore, were settled mostly by Plymouth men, and under the immediate supervision of the parent colony, and so their very earliest beginnings are known. But the early settlers of Taunton were not from Plymouth, although they were men of a like spirit with those colonists. The location was far inland, and they had no annalist among them like Winslow or Bradford to record their doings. Their early history must be gleaned from the proprietary records, often tantalizing in their character, from the dealings of the government of Plymouth Colony with the town after its incorporation, and from deeds, wills, and correspondence that chance has preserved, and allusions found in the dealings of other towns with this.

The first Europeans who traversed the territory were undoubtedly Edward Winslow, afterwards Governor of Plymouth Colony, and Stephen Hopkins, on their journey to visit Massasoit in June or July, 1621. The narrative of this visit in “ Mourt’s Relation,” written most probably by Winslow himself, has been often cited, but it has an appropriate place in this history, and is here given in part. The original orthography and punctuation are retained:

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"It seemed good to the Company for many considerations to send some amongst them to Massasoit, the greatest Commander amongst the Savages, bordering about us; partly to know where to find them, if occasion served, as also to see their strength, discover the Country, prevent abuses in their disorderly coming unto us, make satisfaction for some conceived injuries to be done on our parts, and to continue the league of Peace and Friendship, between them and us. For these, and the like ends, it pleased the Governour to make choice of Steven Hopkins, & Edward Winsloe to goe unto him, and having a fit opportunitie, by reason of a Savage, called Tisquantum (that could speake English) comming unto us; with all expedition provided a Horsemans coat, of red cotton, and laced with a slight lace for a present, that both they and their message might be the more acceptable amongst them. The Message was as followeth:

That forasmuch as his subjects came often and without fears, upon all occasions amongst us, so wee were now come unto him, and in witness of the love and good will the English beare unto him, the Governour hath sent him a coat, desiring that the Peace and Amitie that was betweene them and us might be continued, not that we feared them, but because we intended not to injure any desiring to live peaceably: and as with all men, so especially with them our nearest neighbours. But whereas his people came very often, and very many together unto us, bringing for the most part their wives and children with them, they were wellcome; yet we being but strangers as yet at Patuxet, alias Now Plimmouth, and not knowing how our Come might prosper, we could no longer give them such entertainment as we had done, and as we desired still to doe: yet if he would be pleased to come himselfe, or any speciall friend of his desired to see us, comming from him they should be wellcome; and to the end we might know them from others, our Governour had sent him a copper Chayne, desiring if any Messenger should come from him to us, we might know him by bringing it with him, and hearken and give credit to his Message accordingly. Also requesting him that such as have skins, should bring them to us, and that he would hinder the multitude from oppressing its with them, and whereas at our first arrivall at Paomet (called by us Cape Cod) we found there Corns buried in the ground, and finding no inhabitants but some graves of dead new buried, took the Corne, resolving ever we could heare of any that had right thereunto, to make satisfaction to the full for if, yet since we understand the owners thereof were fled for fears of us, our desire was either to pay them with the like quantitie of corne, English meale, or any other Commodities we had to pleasure them withall; requesting him that some one of his men might signifie so much unto them, and we would content him for his paines. And last of all, our Governour requested one favour of him, which was, that he would exchange some of their Corne for feeds, with us, that we might make tryall which best agreed with the soyle where we live. "With these presents and message we set forward the tenth June, about 9 a clocke in the Morning, our guide resolving that night to rest at Namaschet, a Towne under Masamyt, and conceived by us to bee very neere, because the Inhabitants flocked so thicke upon every slight occasion amongst us: but wee found it to bee some fifteen English myles. On the way we found some ten or twelve men women and children, which had pestered us, till wee were wearie of them perceiving that (as the manner of them all is) where victuall is easihest to be got, there they live, especially in the summer: by reason whereof our Bay affording many Lobsters, they resort every spring tide thither: & now returned with us to Namaschet. Thither we came about 3 a clocke after noons, the Inhabitants entertaining us with joy, in the best manner they could, giving us a kinds of bread called by them Maizium and the spawn of Shads, which then they got in abundance, in so much as they gave us spoones to eate them, with these they boyled mustie Acorns, but of the Shads we eate heartily. After this they desired one of our men to shoote at a Crow, complaining what damage they sustained in their Corns by them, who shooting some fourscore off and killing, they much admired it, as other shots on other occasions. After this Tisquantum told us wee should hardly in one day reach Pakanokick, moving us to goe some 8 myles further, where we should finde more store and better victuals than there: Being willing to hasten our journey we went, and came thither at Sunne setting, where we found many of the Nomaschencks (they so calling the men of

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Nomaschet) fishing upon a Ware which they had made on a River which belonged to them, where they caught abundance of Busse. These welcommed us also, gave us of their fish, and we them of our victuals, not doubting but we should have enough where ere we came. There we lodged in the open fields: for houses they had none, though they spent the most of the Summer there. The head of this River is reported to bee not farre from the place of our abode, upon it are, and have been many Townes, it being a good length. The ground is very good on both sides, it being for the most part cleered: Thousands of men have lived there, which dyed In a great plague not long since: and pittly it was and is to see, so many goodly fieldes, & so well seated, without men to dress and manure the same. Upon this River dwelleth Massasoyit It commeth into theSea at the Narrohiganset Bay, where the French men so much use. Ashipp, may goe many myles up it, as the Salvages report, and a shallop, to the head of it: but so farre as wee saw, wee are sure a Shallop may.

"But to returne to our Journey: The next morning wee brake ourfast, tooke our leave and departed, being then accompanied with somesixe Savages, having gone about sixe myles by the River side, at aknowne shole place, it beeing low water, they spake to us to put off our breeches, for we must wade thorow. Heere let me not forget the vallour and courage of some of the Savages, on the opposite side of the river, for there were remaining alive only 2 men, both aged, especially the one being above threescore; These two espying a company of men entring the River, ran very swiftly & law in the grasse to meet us at the banck, where with shrill voyces and great courage standing charged upon us with their taiwes, they demanded what we were, supposing us to be enemies, and thinking to take advantage on us in the water: but seeing we were friends, they welcomed us with such foode as they had, and we bestowed a small bracelet of Beades on them. Thus farre wee are sure the Tide ebbs and flows.

"Having here againe refreshed our selves, we proceeded In our Journey, the weather being very hats for travell, yet the Country so wellwatered that a man could scarce be drie, but he should have a spring at hand to coole his thirst, beside small Rivers in abundance; but the Savages will not willingly drinke, but at a spring bead. When wee came to any small Brooke where no bridge was; two of them desired to carry us through of their owns accords, also fearing wee were or would be weary, offered to carry our peeces, also if we would lay off any of our clothes, we should have them carried; and as the one of them had found more special kindnesse from one of the Messengers, and the other Savage from the other so they shewed their thankefuhesse accordingly in affording us all helpe and furtherance in the Journey.

" As we passed along, we observed that there were few places by the River, but had beene inhabited, by reason whereof, much ground was cleare, save of weedes which growe higher than our heads. There is much good Timber both Cake, Wahut tree, Firre, Beech, and exceeding great Chesnut trees. The country in respect of the lying of it, is both Champanie and hilly, like many places in England. In some places its very rockie both above ground and in it: And though the Countrey bee wilde and over-growne with woods, yet the tree stand not thicke, but a man may well ride a horse amongst them.

"Passing on at length, one of the company, an Indian. espied a man., and told the rest of it, we asked them if they feared a they that if they were Narrohiggansetmen they would not trust them, whereat, we called for our peeces and bid them not to feare; for though they were twenty, we two alone would not care for them: but they hayling him, bee proved a friend, and had only two women with him: their baskets were empty, but they fetched water in their bottles, so that we dranke with them and departed. After we met another man with other two women, which had beene at Randevow by the salt water, and their baskets were full of rusted

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Crab fishes, and other dried shell fish, of which they gave us, and we ate and drank with them: and gave each of the women a string of Beades, and departed.

“After we came to a Towne of Massasois, where we eat Oysters and other fish. From thence we went to Packanokick.”

The date given as the time of starting on this expedition is probably wrong, as the 10th of June fell on Sunday, when these strict observers of the Lord's day would be most unlikely to undertake such a journey. Morton, in the “New England Memorial,” gives July 2d, which was Monday, as the time, and Bradford, in his “History of Plymouth Plantation,” gives the same date. This agrees better with other events narrated by Winslow, and is probably correct. Namaschet, the Indian village where they first stopped, is in the town of Middleborough, upon Namasket River, which is an outlet of Assowompset Pond, and empties into Taunton River. There the first English settlement in that town was made, and it still bears the name of Namasket village. The place where they spent the night was on Taunton River, in the northwesterly part of Middleborough, called by the Indians, together with the region in that vicinity, Tetiquet. A pleasant village in the same locality perpetuates the name as Titicut. It was also anciently known as the Old Indian Wear. From there it seems they followed the river until they reached “the known shore place,” which was undoubtedly at Squawbetty, or East Taunton, at or near the location of the Old Colony Iron-Works, where they crossed the river and continued their journey on the northerly and westerly side, probably along the route of the present road from East Taunton to Taunton Green, through Dean Street, and so following the river southerly, through the present towns of Dighton, Somerset, and Swansea, to “Packanokick,” the residence of “Massasoit,” in what is now Warren, R. I. In March, 1623, Winslow made another visit to Massasoit, his companion being John Hampden, thought by Hon. Francis Bayliss, in his “History of Plymouth Colony,” and by Dr. Belknap, in “American Biography,” to be the English patriot of that name so prominent in the time of Charles I. The first part of Winslow's narrative is as follows:

“During the time that the captain (Standish) was at Macomet, newscame to Plymouth that Massassowat was like to die, and that at the same time there was a Dutch ship driven so high on the shore by stress of weather, right before his dwelling, that till the tides increased she could not be got off. Now, it being a commendable manner of the Indians, when any, especially of note are dangerously sick, for all that profess friendship to them to visit them in their extremity, either in their persons or else to send some acceptable persons to them; therefore, it was thought meet, being a good and warrantable action, that we had ever professed friendship so we should now maintain the same by observing this their laudable custom; and the rather because we desired to have some conference with the Dutch, not knowing when we should have so fit an opportunity. To that end myself, having formerly been there and understanding in some measure the Dutch tongue, the Governor laid this service upon myself, and fitted me with some cordials to administer to him: having one Master John

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Hamden, a gentleman of London, who then wintered with us and desired much to see the country for my comfort, and Hobbamock for our guide. So we set forward and lodged the first night at Nemasket, where we had friendly entertainment.

"The next day about one of the clock we came to a ferry in Conbatants' country, where upon discharge of my piece divers Indians came to us from a house not far off."

The "ferry" referred to is thought to have been where Slade's Ferry now is, between Somerset and Fall River. It is reasonable to suppose that Winslow took the same route as on his former visit, stopping as he says, the first night at "Nemasket," and following the river till he reached the ferry. As to the identity of his companion with the John Hampden of the English revolution, Drake, in his edition of Bayliss, says, "It is pretty certain that the patriot was a resident of London between 1619 and 1623. On a survey of what is at present known on the subject, it seems quite probable that Dr. Belknap conjectured rationally, and that there is more than a probability that the afterwards renowned gentleman was once in New England." Savage, however, in "Genealogical Dictionary," strongly dissents from this conclusion, and rather ridicules the idea. In this balancing of probabilities, aided by the few known facts the preponderance is rather in favor of the belief that the renowned patriot did winter in Plymouth, and desiring much to see the country, followed the course of our beautiful river from Titicut to the "ferry" with Winslow, and with him visited the sick sachem of the Wampanoags.

In the accounts of these visits, Winslow gives the only original description we have by an actual observer of the territory of Taunton and the other towns on Taunton River as it appeared before any settlements were made by the English. His graphic picture is of very deep interest. The ground was very good on both sides, springs and small streams abounded; thousands of men had lived there who died in a great plague; much ground was clear, save of weeds, which grew higher than their heads; there was much good timber, and pity it was to see so many goodly fields, and so well seated, without men to dress and manure the same. The vacant ground, deserted, depopulated waited for a superior race to enter in and subdue it and multiply therein. Just how long it waited for the beginning of a permanent settlement we know not. There is a tradition, mentioned by Mr. Bayliss, that settlers were here as early as 1626; but the tradition fastens upon no names or localities, and has nothing to support it. In Plymouth Colony Records, vol. i. p. 53, under date of March 7, 1636-37, there is a list of one hundred and twenty-three names, headed, "The names of the Freemen." At the end of the list, enclosed in a bracket, are the following seven names: Mr. William Poole, Mr. John Gilbert, Sr., Mr. Henry Andrews, John Stronge, John Deane, Walter Deane, Edward Case, and against them the words, "of Cohannett." This was the Indian name of the locality, and the name by which the settlement was at first designated.

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The residence of no others in the list is designated, except " Mr. John Lathrop, pastor of Scituate." The best of evidence is thus furnished that early in the year 1637 a settlement was already established here having at least seven freemen. In vol. xi. of the same records (Laws), p. 27, under date of Oct. 2, 1637, in the margin, are these words, " Taunton began here to be added to this booke." In vol. i. p. 105, Dec. 4, 1638, is this entry, " John Strong is sworne constable of Cohannett until June next." In vol. xi. again, p. 31, March 5, 1638-39, it is ordered, "That Captaine Poole shall exercise the inhabitants of Cohannett in their armes." Ancient Cohannett had thus both a civil and military organization. The appointment of constable was a recognition of the settlement as a separate town. No formal acts of incorporation were passed in that early time, as was the custom afterwards, but when a community had acquired the quality of permanence, had sufficient numbers to form a church and support a minister, and a reasonable prospect of being able to defend itself against Indian attacks, it was allowed by the government at Plymouth to have officers and an organization of its own, and was thenceforth treated as a political unit. The only civil officer, entrusted with executive functions also, appointed for the towns for a long time was the constable. He represented the power and authority of the General Court. He was the right hand of the government in each separate community. He performed the duties of a sheriff, of a police-officer, of a collector of public rates and taxes, and was the guardian of the good order and morals of the inhabitants. The importance and comprehensive nature of his duties may best be seen by the form of oath prescribed, which was as follows:

"You shall swear to be truly loyal to our sovereign lord, King Charles, his heirs and successors. You shall faithfully serve in the office of constable for the ward of for the present year, according to that measure of wisdom, understanding, and discretion God hath given you in which time you shall diligently see that His Majesty's peace commanded be not broken, but shall carry the person or persons before the Governor of this corporation or some one of his assistants, and there attend the hearing of the case, and such order as shall be given you. You shall apprehend all suspicious persons and bring them before the said Governor or some one of his assistants as aforesaid. You shall duly and truly serve such warrants and give such summons as shall be directed to you from the Governor or assistants before mentioned, and shall labor to advance the peace and happiness of this corporation, and to oppose anything that shall seem to annoy the same by all due means and courses. So help you God, who is the God of truth and punisher of falsehood."

After the civil organization was effected, the next thing to be done was to appoint a military officer, who should form a company from those of suitable age and exercise them in their arms. And so Capt. Poole was appointed to that duty. Although the treaty made by the Plymouth Colony with Massasoit in 1621 had thus far been faithfully kept, yet as the colonists were few in number and somewhat widely separated, and the Indian character was not entirely reliable, common prudence dictated the necessity of keeping themselves constantly on a war footing. The General Court made strict regulations as to the number of arms, the amount of ammunition and other military stores that should be kept in readiness by the towns, and prescribed regular days for the trainings. Up to the year 1639 the whole body of the freemen had been required to attend the General Courts at Plymouth. In this body thus constituted resided the authority for making all needful regulations and laws. As

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the number of freemen increased, and new settlements sprang up at considerable distances from Plymouth, this duty became not only inconvenient but extremely burdensome. It was apparent the system must soon become entirely impracticable. To meet this difficulty the General Court at a session held March 5, 1638, old style (1639, new style), inaugurated the representative system by passing an act as follows: "Whereas, complaint is made that the freemen are put to many inconveniences by their continual attendance at the courts; it is therefore enacted by the court, and the authority thereof, for the care of the several towns of this government, that each town shall make choice of two of their freemen, and the town of Plymouth of four, to be committees or deputies to join with the bench, to enact and make all such laws and ordinances as shall be judged to be good and wholesome for the whole, provided that the laws they do enact shall be propounded one court to be considered of till the next, and then to be confirmed if they shall be approved of, except the case require present confirmation; and if any act shall be confirmed by the court and committees which upon further deliberation shall prove prejudicial to the whole, that the freemen at the next election court, after meeting together, may repeal the same and enact any other useful for the whole; and that every township shall bear their committee's charges, which is two shillings and sixpence a day, and that such as are not freemen but have taken the oath of fidelity, and are masters of families, and inhabitants of the said town, as they are to bear part in the charges of the committees, are to have a vote in the choice of them, provided they choose them, only of the freemen of the said town whereof they are; but if such committees shall be insufficient or troublesome, that then the bench and the other committees may dismiss them, and the town to choose other freemen in their places." At the next session of the General Court, June 4, 1639, deputies were present from Plymouth, Duxbury, Scituate, Sandwich, Cohannett, and Yarmouth. Capt. William Poole, Mr. John Gilbert, and Henry Andrews are named as the deputies from Cohannett. Among the acts passed at the session held March 3d following (1640) appears this brief statement: "That Cohannett shall be called Taunton." No further legislation upon the subject appears. By these few words the Indian Cohannett became the English Taunton. In a report made by a committee of the town many years after, the reason for the change of name is given in these words: "In honor and love to our dear and native country, we called this place Taunton." But this act was not the incorporation of the town, although it is commonly spoken of as such. No new powers were thereby conferred. Under its former name civil and military officers had been appointed, and it had been represented by deputies in the General Court. The precise date when the settlement became a town may be difficult to fix, because, as has already been stated, no formal act creating the town was ever passed. The appointment of a constable in December, 1638, is a significant fact; the naming of the seven freemen in March, 1637, as of Cohannett seems to be such a recognition of its distinct character as to warrant the belief that it was then clothed with the authority of a town.

The first purchase of territory, it is generally agreed, was made in 1637. The names of the purchasers, with the shares owned by each, stand in the following order:

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Henry Uxley	8	
Richard Williams		12
Joseph Wilson	8	
Benjamin Wilson		8
William Coy	8	
George Hall	12	
David Corwithy	12	
Mr. William Pool	12	
George Macy	8	
William Phillips	8	
William Hailstone	8	
William Parker	12	
John Parker	8	
John Richmond	6	
William Holloway	12	
The Widow Randal		6
Francis Doty	12	
William Dunn	8	
William Harvey	8	
Hezekiah Hoar	8	
Walter Dean	12	
John Dean	12	
John Strong	12	
Henry Andrews	12	
Thomas Cooke	6	
John Smith	12	
Mr. Thomas Farwell		12
Edward Cage	8	
John Kingsley	12	
Richard Paul	6	
Richard Smith	12	
Mr. John Gilbert	12	
William Scadding		12
John Bryantl	6	
Anthony Slocum	8	
John Gengille	8	
Francis Street	8	
Hugh Rossiter	8	
John Gilbert	12	
Thomas Gilbert	12	
Robert Hobell	6	
Richard Burt	8	
John Crossman	6	
John Luther	6	
John Drake	12	
Mr. John Brown		

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The foregoing list is given upon the authority of Mr. Bayliss. It is not identical with the list now to be found in the proprietors' records, which is the only one now known to exist. Mr. Bayliss, writing fifty years ago, probably had access to some papers among the old records which have since been lost. The most of the names on both lists, however, are the same. The deed, if any was given by the Indian owners of the territory, has long since disappeared, and no copy of it is on record.

This first purchase has been called by Mr. Bayliss and by others following him the "Tetiquet purchase," on the supposition that it was made from the Tetiquet Indians. There are not sufficient grounds for such belief, as will hereafter be shown.

In 1640 the territory thus purchased was run out and bounded by a committee appointed by the court, in pursuance, of the authority constantly exercised over purchases of lands and the boundaries of towns. The report of the committee is found in Plymouth Colonial Records, vol. ii. page. 99, and is here given:

"The limits and bounds of the town of Taunton, alias Cohannett, within the Government of Plymouth, bounded and ranged for length and breadth, by order of the Court, by Miles Standish and John Brown, gentlemen assistants in the government, the nineteenth day of June, anno domini 1640, in the year of our sovereign Lord, Charles etc., as follows, viz.:

"Imprimis. From two marked trees near unto Assonet, a neck of land lying between Assonet and them lying southerly, and from the said marked trees ranging east and by south four miles; ranging also from the extent of the four miles north and by west; also from two marked trees near the Three-Mile River lying southerly of Taunton, the range to run four miles west and by north; and from the extent of this last-mentioned four miles, the range to run north and by west eight miles; moreover, from the extent of this eight miles range, then the range to run on the east and by south line to meet with the former expressed north and by west line upon a long square; always provided, that if these ranges do not take in a place of Schadingmore meadows, the said Schadingmore meadows to be included as belonging to the aforesaid town of Taunton, with one thousand acres of upland near adjacent unto said meadows; provided likewise, that these lines do not entitle the said town of Taunton to intermeddle within two miles of Teightaquid.

"MILES STANDISH.
"JOHN BROWN."

John Brown, of the above committee, was the same person as Mr. John Brown the last in the list of purchasers. He afterwards removed to Rehoboth, and was for many years one of the Governor's assistants. The only permanent monument given in the boundaries of the town is Three-Mile River. The starting point was undoubtedly on the east side of Taunton River, opposite to and somewhat north of the mouth of Three-Mile River. From thence the line extended four miles east and by south, thence north and by west, making an acute angle twenty-two and one-half degrees less than a right angle. Then returning, crossing the river, and starting from a point near Three-Mile River, where the present line between

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Taunton and Dighton first strikes the river, it ran four miles west and by north, making the whole line eight miles in length. Thence running eight miles north and by west, making an obtuse angle twenty-two and one-half degrees more than a right angle, and from thence running again east and by south, making an acute angle and meeting the first north and by west line. It was intended to be eight miles on a side, but the measurements in those days were liberal. It was not rectangular but diamond-shaped, and was hence called a long square. The northerly angle was within about two miles of the Massachusetts Colony line, and near the centre of the present town of Mansfield.

It was not long before a request was made for an increase of pasture and meadow lands, and in March, 1640, the court answered it by passing the following order:

“Whereas, the Inhabitants of Cohannett, now called Taunton, have complained of their great want of meadow grounds, the which has been seriously weighed and considered upon special order of the whole court, and finding their want to be such that unless they be supped of meadow lands they cannot comfortably there subsist, the court doth therefore now order and grant the meadow lands at Assonet and betwixt Taunton and Assonet on both sides of the river unto the said inhabitants of Taunton, provided always that the ministers and people now there which are fit and do precede and continue In a church estate there the space of seven years next ensuing (except some special act of God do hinder the same), that then the meadow lands aforesaid shall be to them and their heirs forever. And the court doth further order that they will see Mr. Hooke, Mr. Streete, and Mrs. Pool shall have competent meadow and uplands for farms laid forth for them about May next, by Capt. Standish and such others with him as shall be especially assigned thereto.”

In June, 1643, another grant was made, as follows:

Concerning the request of the inhabitants of Taunton for wood and lands.

“ The Court is willing to condescend thus far, that those lands which belong to Hesbone may be procured them by all due means, and with what convenient speed may be; also, that the best and speediest means be used to procure them further enlargement on that side the main river to answer Mr. Hook's and Mr. Street's farms on the otherside; and whereas, they desire the neck of Assonet for pasturing young beasts, it is also granted by the (Court, provided leave can be procured from Ussamcquin, and all payments to be made by themselves without any charge to the Country; but whereas, the timber is requested below the Baldbounds, that we cannot grant without great detriment to another plantation intended below that.”

Rev. William Hooke, the first minister of Taunton, Rev. Nicholas Streete settled at the same time as teacher of the church, and the successor of Mr. Hooke in the pastoral office, and Elizabeth Pool, sister of Capt. William Pool, who has been called the foundress of Taunton, are the persons referred to by those names in the foregoing grants. At the General Court held Oct. 5, 1663, an enlargement of territory on the southeast was granted, as follows:

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"The inhabitants of the town of Taunton having several times, for divers years, complained of the straitness of the bounds of their town, said having petitioned the Court for some enlargement, the Court, having desired some to take a view of what they have desired, and finding that it is not likely to be prejudicial to any, they grant as follows, viz.:

That the path which goeth from Namasakett to Assonot River be their bounds on the southeast, and so by a line from thence to Baiting Brook, and from Baiting Brook a north line till it meet with their opposite line called the Long Square, provided that it come not within two miles of Tetacutt; also it is granted that the inhabitants of Taunton that have interest in the Iron-works there shall have free liberty to cut wood on those lands for the use of their iron-works, but not any foreigner, excepting Richard Church, Of Hingham."

The largest addition of territory was made in June, 1668, and was called the North Purchase. It comprised all the lands between Bridgewater on the east, Rehoboth North Purchase (now Attleborough) on the west, the Massachusetts line on the north, and Taunton first purchase on the south. The whole of the present town of Easton, nearly all of Mansfield, and almost half of Norton was included in this purchase. The movement culminating in this purchase commenced as early as 1661. In October of that year the Plymouth-Court made this order:

"The Court have granted unto the ancient freemen of Taunton, that in case any land can be found on the north side of Taunton bounds, towards Secounke cartway, which will not fall within any lands already put in for by the children of the first comers, that they may make report thereof to the Court; and a competency shall be granted unto them, if the Court shall see reason."

The matter was again referred to by the court held in June, 1662, when the major, Capt. Southworth, and Capt. Bradford were appointed to purchase lands on the northerly bounds of Taunton of the Indians in behalf of thirty-two persons named in the order, several of whom belonged in Plymouth. In October following Capt. Willett and some others whom he should think best were requested by the court to view the bounds of Taunton, wherein they desired to be enlarged, and if he should see it convenient, and not prejudicial to others, to confirm it to them. The matter then seems to have rested until 1668, when the grant was made as follows:

"Whereas the General Court of New Plymouth have empowered Mr. Thomas Prence, Major Josias Winslow, Capt. Thomas Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth to take notice of some purchases of land lately made by Capt. Thomas Willett, and to settle and dispose the said lands for the Colony's use; know therefore all whom it may anyway concern, that the above named Mr. Thomas Prence, Capt. Thomas Southworth, Mr. Constant Southworth, and Major Josias Winslow, by virtue of power by and from the said Court, devised unto them, have and by these presents do bargain, sell, grant, ahen, allot, confer and make over unto Richard Williams, Walter Dean, George Macy, James Walker, Joseph Wilbore, William Harvey, Thomas Leonard, John Turner, Henry Andrews, John Cobb, George Hall, John Hall, Samuel Hall, James Leonard, sen'r., Nathaniel Williams, Thomas Williams, Nicholas White, sen'r., Nicholas White, jun'r., Hezekiah Hoar, Alice Dean, Robert Crossman, Shadrach Wilbore, Thomas Caswell, John Macomber, John Smith, Edward Rew, John Parker, Samuel Paul, Thomas Linkon, sen'r., Thomas Harvey, the elder, Nathaniel Thayer, Thomas Linkon, Jr.,

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Peter Pitts, Jonah Austin, sen'r., John Richmond, Samuel Williams, Christopher Thrasher, Mistress Jane Gilbert, George Watson, Samuel Smith, James Burt, Richard Burt, John Tisdale, sen'r., John Tisdale, jun'r., James Phillips, Edward Babbitt, John Hatheway, Jonathan Briggs, Increase Robinson, John Bryant, **Thomas Harvey**, jun'r., Proprietors of the town of Taunton, and to their heirs forever, a certain tract of land lying and being on the northerly side of Taunton, aforesaid, and is bounded as followeth, viz.:

Beginning on the northwest, at the bounds of the lands formerly sold by us unto the town of Rehoboth, and to be bounded on the northerly side by the Massachusetts line, until it cometh to beare with the western bounds of the town of Bridgewater, and so from the said Massachusetts line ty a south line home to the bounds of Taunton, and thence by a westerly line until it meets with the bounds of Rehoboth, aforesaid, and so to follow all the lands within this compass, excepting only a small parcell granted unto John Bundy, and also a grant made unto Thomas Briggs (the son of Clement Briggs), together with the meadows, woods, waters, and all other benefits, privileges, emoluments, profits, and immunities thereunto appertaining and belonging.

"To Have and to Hold," etc.

Dated June 1, 1668. The consideration paid was one hundred pounds.

The name of Mr. George Shove was afterwards, March 8, 1682, affixed in the margin by order of the court upon satisfactory proof that he was a proprietor. Mr. Shove was the third minister of Taunton.

Meantime a movement had been set on foot to procure lands down the river for an enlargement in that direction. In July, 1667, the court granted unto some ancient freemen living in Taunton, viz.:

Richard Williams, Walter Dean, George Hall, Allis Dean, (the wife of John Dean, deceased), Mr. John Pool, Peter Pitts, James Walker, and Henry Andrews, that they shall have some supphes of land upon the west side of Taunton River, if not already granted to any other, or some other place if it may be Obtained. Again, in March, 1672, " James Walker and John Richmond are authorized by the court to purchase the land of the Indians in the behalf of the town of Taunton, lying on the west side of Taunton River, from the Three Mile River down to a place called the Store House." The town also took action in the matter as follows:

"This 6th of May, 1669. The town hath voted and chosen Lieut. George Macy, Henry Andrews, and Joseph Wilbore to go down to Philip Sachem and confirm with him about buying of ye land from the Three Mile River down as far as Store House point, as far as the meadows, and to buy it of ye Sachem as far as they can into ye woods from ye Great River, and what bargain the above said men shall make with him the town doth engage to inform, and the above said men are to go down about the abovesaid design the next week."

" This 18th of December, 1671. It is voted and agreed upon by ye town that the selectmen now in being are now empowered to use the best of their

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discretion for ye procuring of ye land down ye river from ye Three-Mile River to Store House point, that it may be confirmed to our township by the Court.”

“This 19th October, 1672. It is voted, and ye town bath chosen Lieut. George Macy, Ensign Thomas Leonard, and William Witherell, to go to Plymouth to act for ye good of ye town, about ye new purchase down ye river as need may require for ye good of ye town.

“ This 2d of September, 1672. The purchasers or free inhabitants of Taunton being in a probable way to purchase a certain tract of land lying down ye great river, of Philip Sachem, therefore, for the better managing of ye purchase of ye said land, and for the procuring of firm deeds from ye said Sachem and for ye looking to ye payment of ye purchase of the said land, the abovesaid purchasers bath chosen this committee following: William Brenton, Esq., Walter Dean, **William Harvey**, Lieut. George Macy, James Walker, John Richmond, Richard Williams.”

This committee were given full power to make deeds of the Indians, proportion what every man should pay, and if any man should fail to pay he should lose his right. In furtherance of the plan of Masisasoit and sachem of the Pokanokets, conveying a tract three miles by four, beginning at Three-Mile River, and extending southerly by the Great River three miles, and westerly from the river four miles, for the consideration of one hundred and forty-three pounds. This deed was dated Sept. 28, 1672. By a deed dated Oct. 1, 1672, Philip conveyed to Mr. Constant Southworth, treasurer of the colony, “the other mile in breadth and four miles in length, adjoining the three miles in breadth and four miles in length already sold to Taunton men,” which deed Mr. Southworth assigned to the committee. The consideration paid was forty-seven pounds. The whole tract, four miles square, was conveyed by the committee to the associates by a declaratory deed, which is recorded in the Taunton Proprietors’ Records, vol. iv. p. 232, and is as follows:

“Know all men whom it may concern, that whereas we, William Brenton, Esqr., Richard Williams, Walter Dean, James Walker, **William Harvey**, and John Richmond, hath through difficulty obtained of Philip, Sachem, and of Mr. Constant Southworth, as Treasurer for ye Colony of New Plymouth, a tract of land containing four mile square, lying and situated below ye Three-Mile River (so called), for themselves and their associates, as appears by deeds, we, ye above said William Brenton, Esq., Richard Williams, Walter Dean, James Walker, **William Harvey**, and John Richmond, do, by these presents, declare to be our associates, and to be equally interested in ye above said four miles of land, the now living free inhabitants of ye town of Taunton, whose names are underwritten, always provided that all these associates shall truly and faithfully pay, or cause to be paid, their full proportion to ye purchase, and all other necessary charges expended In or about ye above said land, as they shall be appointed, both to ye sum and special and time and place of payment; but if any of these associates shall refuse or fail to pay their fall proportion to all payments as above said, they shall lose their right and interest to ye above said land, and it shall be forfeited to ye remainder of ye associates. Thirdly, That these associates shall not make any alienation of

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their part or interest in ye above said land to any foreigner, except first approved by the town of Taunton. The names of ye associates.

“John Tisdale, sen’r, George Shove, Giles Gilbert, John Macomber, sen’r, John Dean, Peter Pitts, Mr. John Pool, Edward Rew, Henry Andrews, Jr., Nicholas White, sen’r, Thomas Leonard, Thomas Dean, James Tisdale, Thomas Linkon, sen’r, Francis Smith, George Watson, Shadrach Wilbore, Samuel Smith, Samuel Holloway, Joseph Hall, George Macy, Hezekiah Hoar, James Phillips, Joseph Wilbore, Thomas Gilbert, Christopher Thrasher, John Cob, Thomas Caswell, Samuel Pitts, Samuel Hall, Nathaniel Williams, Joseph Williams, Israel Dean, Thomas Linkon, Jr., James Burt, Richard Stacy, John Smith, sen’r, Robert Crossman, sen’r, Malachi Holloway, Mary Street, Henry Andrews, John Hall, John Hathaway, Aaron Knap, Richard Burt, John Briant, Edward Bobit, William Wetherell, Samuel Williams, James Leonard, sen’r, Robert Thornton, John Tisdale, Jr., Jonathan Briggs, John Turner, Jonah Austin, sen’r John Hodges, **Thomas Harvey**, sen’r, William Paull, Easter Gollop, Nathaniel Thayer, Increase Robinson, Ezra Dean, Peter Walker, Nicholas White, Jr., James Leonard, Jr., Richard Stephens, Jonah Austin, Jr., John Smith, Jr., Aaron Knap, Jr., Joseph Willis, **Thomas Harvey**, Jr., William Hailstone, Israel Thrasher, James Bell, John Linkon, Thomas Williams, Richard Briggs, John Macomber, Jr., ye son of John Macomber, John Eddy, Isaac Dean, James Walker, Jr., Samuel Macy, Jared Talbot, Stephen Caswell, William Witherell, Edward Cobb, Thomas Armsbee. These persons named we acknowledge to be our associates upon the condition above written.

November 26, 1672.

“WALTER DEAN,”RICHARD WILLIAMS, **WILLIAM HARVEY**, “JAMES WALKER, “JOHN RICHMOND.”

Assonet Neck was conveyed, Nov. 12, 1677, by Constant Southworth, treasurer of the colony, to George Shove, James Walker, James Tisdale, Walter Dean, **William Harvey**, and Richard Williams. This and several other unoccupied tracts of territory in this part of the colony had been pledged by the government for the payment of the soldiers engaged in the Indian war of 1675 and 1676. The lands on the east side of Taunton River, between the bounds of the first purchase and Assonet Neck, seem to have been included in the previous grants of 1640 and 1643, which were in somewhat indefinite terms. In July, 1682, the following order was, passed: “This court orders the land called Assonett Necke, being purchased by some of Taunton, that the said tract of land shall be in the township of Taunton.” This was the last grant of territory to the town of Taunton. It now included the present towns of Dighton, Berkley, Raynham, Norton, Easton, and Mansfield. But it was not until 1711, when Norton was incorporated, that it began to be shorn of its large dimensions. As to the question of whom the first purchase was made, in the absence of the original deed and of any copy, other proof must be resorted to for an answer. In the first place the purchase was made under the direction and by the permission of the Plymouth Court, who acknowledged Massasoit as the chief sachem and owner of all the territory in Plymouth Colony. The boundaries as fixed by Standish and Browne provide that these lines do not entitle the said town of Taunton to intermeddle within two miles of Titicut. The territory of Bridgewater was bought of Massasoit. The North Purchase is said to have been made of King

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Philip, the son and successor of Massasoit, by the committee of the General Court, who conveyed it to the Taunton proprietors. The South Purchase was also made of Philip. In a confirmatory deed, given by Governor Hinckley in 1685, intended to include all the lands then belonging to Taunton, it is recited that " the first settlers, proprietors, and some of the said inhabitants, having also purchased the said lands of Woosoquequen (alias Ousamequin, Massasoit), the then chief sachem of Mount Hope and the Pokanket country, and since confirmed unto them by Philip, his son," etc. This is a significant recognition of the fact that the first purchase was made of Massasoit. Still more significant is the confirmatory deed of King Philip given in 1663. Mr. Bayliss simply refers to the deed without giving a copy, and as it is interesting in itself and has an important bearing upon the point in question it is here presented:

PHILIP'S CONFIRMATORY DEED.

March 23, 1663. These Presents witnesseth, That whereas there was a plantation granted by the Court of Plymouth in the year one thousand six hundred thirty-eight (named Taunton) to sundry persons who there sat down, viz., Capt. William Pool, Mr. John Gilbert, Henry Andrews, John Dean, Walter Dean, and sundry others, the bounds of which plantation are expressed in the grant of the Court of Plymouth according to the several points of the compass, therein expressed, which plantation so bounded as above mentioned, together with the meadows upon the Great River downward so far as the Store House Point so called, with all the meadows of Assonett and Broad Cove, with a small tract of land bought of Isbben lying betwixt the marked tree at the pond and the mouth of the Nistoquahamock on the Three-Mile River, which lands and meadows with their appurtenances immunities, and privileges whatsoever so bought of Ossamequin by the parties above-mentioned: I Philip Sachem do therefore by these presents, ratify and confirm for myself any heirs and successors the granted premises made by the Court of Plymouth and also assented unto by Ossamequin my father, to the aforesaid inhabitants of Taunton and their heirs and successors forever, peaceably to enjoy without molestation or disturbance from, by or under me. Witness my hand and seal the day and year above written.

"PHILIP THE SACHEM
"his P mark
"Witness and [seal].

JOHN SASSOMON, *Interpreter*.
"The mark X of PEMICHASOZA allis NIMROD.

"This confirmation was signed and sealed before me the day and year above expressed.

" Witness my hand, THOMAS WILLETT."

A communication from John Richmond, son of the first John Richmond, refers to the first purchase as to a matter within his personal knowledge, and would seem to settle the question. Such parts as have a bearing upon the matter are as follows:

"Taunton, April 30, 1698. A communication from John Richmond addressed to Lieut. Col. Elisha Hutchinson, Esq., Capt. Samuel Sewall, Esq., and Elisha Cook, Esq., Boston.

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"After referring to a dispute with Bridgewater men about town bounds, and to what his neighbor Hathaway had said, he proceeds:

"And, first, I desire it may be considered how inconsistent to justice their Sense is, for they say and sense it that although Taunton hath the eldest grant, yet it is theirs notwithstanding, because it was granted before; and although it be Taunton's by purchase from the Indians three times over, for we bought it first of Woosamequin in the year '39 or '40 (this was in my minority), the sum paid I know not; then we bought all again of Philip, and paid him sixteen pounds for it; then we bought that very spot of Josiah, he claiming some land there, u appears by his deed; then we bought that spot again, *with* other lands, of **Maj.** Bradford, he had twenty pounds more; and they have owned that they never made any purchase, yet theirs because granted before," etc. (Stat. Archives, vol. cxiii. p. 167.)

The evidence to support the contrary view consists of a statement made in a quit-claim deed given in 1888 to a committee of the town of Taunton by Josiah, *alias* Charles, and Peter and David Hunter, three Indians,—Josiah being the great-grandson of Chickaitabut and the other two Indians of Titicut. The statement is as follows:

" Know ye, that whereas it doth appear to the said Josiah and Peter and David, both by Indian and English Testamonies that Mrs. Elizabeth Pool, formerly of Taunton, is the government of New Plymouth afore-said died, for and in behalf of the said town of Taunton, purchase the lands of Titicut in The ysar 1637, and that the right owners of the said lands did them make sale thereof to the said Mrs. Elizabeth Pool as abovesaid, sand received pay of her for it, and those Indians or Indian Sachems that formerly were the right owners of these lania at said Titi. ont, being those that were the predecessors of the said Josiah, alias Charles, and Peter and David. Know ye therefore," etc.

The deed purports to convoy "so much of the lands of all sorts, formerly called Titicut lands, as are and do he within the township of said Taunton, by virtue of agreements wade between the agents of said Taunton and the agents of Bridgewater, on the northwestwardly side of Titicut River, and between the agents of said Taunton and the agents of Middle-bury on the southeastwardly side of said river." The object of this deed is apparent. There had been controversies between Taunton and Bridgewater and Taunton and Middleborough about their respective bounds. These controversies had been mutually settled by the agents of the towns, and the three Indians named claimed that the bounds of Taunton, as thus established, included some of the Titicut lands bordering on the Titicut River. The Taunton proprietors were willing to pay a small sum to quiet the tithe, and so the deed was procured. The subject matter of the deed has nothing to do with the original eight-mile h)urcbm of the territory of Taunton, and whatever else It may prove or suggest, it has no tendency to prove that Elizabeth Pool or any other person made that purchase of the Titicut Indians.

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There is a deposition of five Indians preserved in the Plymouth Colony Records, vol. ii. p. 157, relating to the extent of Chickatabut's lands, which tends to the same conclusion. It is as follows:

" Pecunke, Ahumpum, Catscimah, Webacowett, and Masbanomett do all affirm that Chickatawbutt his bounds did extend from Nishamagoquansnett, near Duxbery mill, to Teghtacutt, near Taunton, and to Nunckatatesett, and from thence in a straight mine to Wauamampuke, which is the head of Charles River; this they do all solemnly affirm, saying, God knoweth it to be true, and knoweth their hearts.

" Dated the 1st of the 4th month., 1650.

" Witness:

" Encrease Nowell.

"John Eliot.

"Joan Hoare."

Upon these facts there is a moral certainty that the original purchase, whether made directly by Henry Uxley and his associates or by a committee of the Plymouth government who conveyed to them, was made of Massasoit.

The military affairs of the town can be more satisfactorily treated in a Separate chapter, which will next be given, and afterwards the general history so far as practicable.

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CHAPTER LX.'

TAUNTON. — (Continued.)

MILITARY AFFAIRS DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD.

MILITARY organization and discipline were among the very earliest matters for which provision was made by the colony. In 1634 it was ordered "That all and every person within the colony be subject to such military order for training and exercise of arms as shall be thought meet, agreed on, and prescribed by the Governor and assistants." In 1641 it was ordered that a barrel of powder, and lead or bullets answerable, be provided by every township. In 1640 it was required that there be six trainings a year. Th is law was re-enacted several limes until 1677, when the number of trainings was reduced to four a year.

As has been already mentioned, as early as March, 163849, it was ordered "that Capt. Poole shall exercise the inhabitants of Cohannett in their armes." No other military officer seems to have been appointed until June, 1651, when Mr. Oliver Purchase was " allowed and approved to be ensign-bearer of the military company of Taunton." In October following, James Wyatt was similarly appointed to be lieutenant.

Sept. 27, 1642, a special session of the court was held to provide forces for an offensive and defensive war against time Indians. All time inhabitants were warned, yet, in the language of the record, " they appeared by their several deputies as they had liberty to do." Capt. William Poole and Henry Andrews appeared for Taunton. Intelligence had been received of a general conspiracy among the Indians to cut off all the English, and prompt and vigorous measures were adopted to meet the danger. The several towns were rated to defray the charges for the soldiers that might be sent forth. Taunton's rate was two rounds, ten shillings. A Council of War was chosen, consisting of the Governor and eleven other persons, one of whom was Mr. John Browne, of Taunton, who were invested with extraordinary powers in all matters relating to the military forces of the colony.

It was also "agreed and concluded that Mr. Edward Winslow, Mr. Tymothy Hatherly, and Capt. Miles Standish shall be sent into the Bay to and have power to agitate and conclude with them for a presen combination with them in the present wars, and to treat with them about a further combination or

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league but not to conclude that without consent of time cour here.” This was the first step taken by Plymouth Colony towards a general confederation of the New England colonies. It resulted in 1643 in the adoption of articles of confederation between the colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven. Plymouth authorized Edward Winslow and William Collyor to subscribe the articles in time name of the colony, which was done at Boston, Sept. 7, 1643.

One of the articles provided that the commissioners for each: jurisdiction from time to time should bring in a true account of all their males from sixteen years old to sixty being inhabitants. The charges of all just wars, boils in men, provisions, and all other disbursements were to be borne by the members of the confederation in proportion to the number of males thus returned. In obedience to this requirement each of the towns in the colony sent in a list of their males between the prescribed ages. These lists are given in volume viii. of Plymouth Colonial Records, and are of very great value as showing nearly the entire adult population of the colony at that date. The Taunton list is here given. It constituted Capt. Pooh’s company:

Mr. John Browne.	Walter Deane.
Nr. William Poole	William Dodges.
John Browne.	William Phillips.
Jamee Browne.	John Macamber.
James Walker.	Thomas Coggin.
Oliver Purchase.	James Wyatt.
Thomas Gilbert.	Edward Rev.
Richard Stacye.	Thomas Harvey.
Wihlham Hollway.	James Chichester.
Tymothy Hollway.	William Seward.
Willlam Parker.	Am Knapp.
Poster Polite.	John Barratt.
John Parker.	Nicholas Plart.
William Hailstone.	William Powell.
Edward Bobbett.	William Wethereil.
Richard Paule.	. Hezekiah Here.
Anthony Slocome.	George Macie. .
Edward Cost.	George Hail.
Thomas Farewell.	John Perry.
Toblas Saunders.	Benjamin Wilson.
Henry Andrewee.	Mr. Street.
John Gallop.	Richerd Willas.
John Gilbert, Jr.	William Evans.
John Stongs.	Christopher Thrasher.
Thomas Cassell.	Thomas Coke.

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John Deane.
Edward Abbott.

Thomas Cooks, Jr.
John Gingell, —54.

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Twenty-five of the foregoing names are found in the list of original purchasers. Of the twenty other males on that list some were dead, some are known to have left the town, and others were probably above sixty.

A special court was called Oct. 10, 1643, upon occasion of the insurrection of the Indians against the Dutch and English at Manhattan. It was concluded and agreed upon to raise and make ready thirty men

for the war, according to their proportion with the other confederates. "The rule which was thought most equal for number of persons in every township was to take one of a score in every township." Taunton was to furnish three, and was to pay a rate of two pounds ten shillings towards the charges. John Strong and Richard Williams were time deputies from Taunton at this court. The proposed expedition seems not to have been sent forth.

At time court held Aug. 20, 1644, "Attachments are to be sent forth to bring in the bodies of George Massey, John Maycumber, Thomas Coggen & Jacob Wilson, for non appearance this Court, for making the allarum at Taunton."

Governor Winslow and Mr. John Browns, of Taunton, were chosen commissioners by Plymouth Colony for the year 1644, to treat with the commissioners from the other colonies of tire confederation, each colony being allowed to send two.

There was another alarm of war in 1645, occasioned by the threats of the Narragansett Indians against Uncas, sachem of the Monheagans. The commissioners of the United Colonies met in Boston in July, and

determined to raise a force of three hundred men, of which Plymouth was to provide forty. These were under the command of Capt. Standish, who went forth about the middle of August to the relief of Uncas, and marched as far as Rehoboth, where he was to meet the forces from Massachusetts. But time Narragansett sachems, becoming alarmed, in the mean time repaired to Boston and sued for peace. A treaty was the result, and the troops were recalled. "The towns of Taunton and Rehoboth were freed from sending forth any men in regard they are frontier towns, and billeted the soldiers during the time they, were forth." The towns were rated for the charges of the war. Taunton's rate was five pounds, two shillings, and sixpence. The court for special consideration abated twenty shillings to Barnstable and forty shillings to Taunton, adding that it should not be a precedent for after-times; "and Rehoboth was not rated at all, both because it was a new plantation, and billeted all the soldiers freely during all the time they staid there."

July 7, 1646, the court ordered that the committees. of every town send the names of all their males from sixteen years of age to sixty to the Governor, sealed up, by the 1st of August next. If such lists were sent in they do not appear on the published records.

At the General Court, June, 1649, the whole body of freemen assembled, and on account of the unsettled state of public affairs in their native country, unanimously concluded not to proceed in the election of magistrates and other officers, and that all officers should continue in their places for the year to come. Charles I. had been beheaded January 30th of that year, and the sombre shadow of the English revolution fell upon the young colony.

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At the meeting of the court in October news had been received that the Indians had been murdering some of the English at Stamford, in Connecticut, and other places, and threats were made of further violence. The commissioners for the United Colonies had signified to the several colonies to be in readiness with their forces in case of need. The court therefore ordered that due provision, both of men and ammunition, with powder and shot and necessary provision for forty men for three months, be forthwith made, and that every town provide for their own men. Capt. Standish was appointed general officer. No further action in the matter appears.

March, 1652, the grand jury presented time town of Taunton for not having a common stock of Powder and shot according to order. It is added to the record, "They will endeavor forthwith to provide." Other towns in the colony were frequently presented for their shortcomings in failing to keep up military discipline, or in not having the required stock of ammunition on hand.

In April, 1658, the court took action as follows: "Whereas, We have intelligence out of our native country of danger that may be towards us in regard of the great variance betwixt the two nations of Holland and England, the court have ordered that warrants be directed to every town within the government forthwith, to require them to make choice of two deputies for each town, to meet with the magistrates at Plymouth, on Wednesday, the sixth of April next, and with them to treat and conclude of such military affairs as through God's blessing may probably tend to our present and future safety."

Ensign Purchase appeared as deputy from Taunton. Lieut. Wyatt, the other deputy, was fined for his nonappearance. Important military orders were adopted affecting all the towns in the colony, the principal of which were these: Fifty pounds to be raised from the several towns for the purchase of powder and shot, arms and locks sent out of England; the military officers of every company to present the defects of the arms of their companies at the next Court of Assistants; a military watch in every town to be continued until further order; all men, though above the age of sixty, to watch in their turn, except such as through both age and poverty are disabled, either by finding a sufficient man or in their own person; and such widows as have estates to bear their part by finding one to watch according to their proportions; that a considerable company of half pikes be provided in every town at the charge of the township; that every town should provide a barrel of powder and bullets in proportion for every fifty soldiers; that no man make an alarm without apparent danger, one gunshot in the night to be taken as an alarm to the town, to be answered by any man hearing the same; three shots or continued shooting, or the beat of a drum, to be an alarm to be taken from town to town; that in case any town be distressed by real assault upon them, such towns as have certain intelligence thereof to afford relief; that one-third of every company bring their arms, with powder and shot, to the meetings on the Lord's day, forenoon and afternoon. The court also recommended to every town to provide some place of security whither they might bring their wives and children in times of imminent danger. They also engaged, in behalf of the country, to provide the sum of thirty pounds to hire a guard for the Governor's person, and the deputies undertook, in behalf of their several towns, to provide their proportions, Ensign Purchase engaging for Taunton. In regard of the many appearances of danger towards the country by enemies, and the great necessity of counsel and advice. in that respect, the court thought it meet to

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make choice of a Council of War. Nine persons were accordingly elected, one of whom was Mr. John Browne, formerly of Taunton.

This Council met at Plymouth, May 12, 1658, and having received intelligence from the commissioners met at Boston of their agitations concerning a war with the Dutch in these parts of America, concluded after due deliberation to be in readiness, through the help of God, to assist and engage therein according to their proportions and utmost abilities. Warrants were accordingly issued for the pressing of sixty men able and fit for war, if need shall require, to be taken from the several towns according to their proportion. Plymouth was to provide seven, Duxburrow six, Scituate nine, Sandwich six, Taunton five, Yarmouth six, Barnstable six, Marshfield six, Rehoboth six, Eastham three. The commanders appointed for the expedition were Miles Standish for captain, Thomas Southworth for lieutenant, and Hezekiah Hoar, of Taunton, for ensign.

A query was proposed to be made to the next court, whether such persons as are pressed to go forth as soldiers on public service, their estates shall be liable to be rated towards the payment of their wages or not.

It seems there was no call for this expedition during the year. At a meeting of the Council at Plymouth, June 20, 1654, warrants were issued in the name of His Highness the Lord Protector of England, Ireland, and Scotland for the pressing of fifty men to go forth with Maj. Robert Sedgwick and Capt. John Leveritt on an intended expedition against the Dutch at the Monhatoes. Of this number Taunton was to furnish five. Matthew Fuller was substituted for lieutenant; this other officers were the same as for the first expedition. On the 23d of June, however, tidings were received of a peace between England and Holland, and all further preparations ceased.

At the court held Oct. 3, 1654, the commissioners for Plymouth informed the court that at their last meeting it had been determined to send a certain number of horse and footmen on a special message to Ninnegrett, the Niantick sachem, and in case there should be necessity they had jointly agreed to send a second supply of men out of the four United Colonies to war against the said Ninnegrett. Warrants were accordingly directed to the constables of each town to press the due proportion of men out of each town. Five was the share of Taunton. The following year the towns were rated to pay the charges of the expedition, Taunton's amount being £3 14s.

At time October court, 1655, "In answer to a petition preferred by three men belonging to the ironworks at Taunton, requesting that they may be exempted from training, the court doth grant that at such time as when their worke is at hand that they are exempted, unless upon some special care or watching that may arise." The names of these three men are not given. In June, 1662, appears this order: "James Leonard, of Taunton, was freed from training in the military company of Taunton in reference to his calling, being a bloomer, and in respect to a former order of court wherein he was exempted in that respect." By the reference to the former order it is probable he was one of the three before exempted. James Leonard was one of the founders of the iron-works in Taunton in 1652, said to be the first establishment of the kind in North America. This action of the court shows the high value set upon the enterprise by the government. It is also a pleasant and significant foreshadowing of the policy ever since pursued by Massachusetts in fostering her manufactures.

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In 1656, Capt. Miles Standish died at an advanced age. In all military matters he was most trusted and rehed upon, and a few years before had been appointed chief military officer of the colony, but without any other distinctive military title other that of captain. In 1658 the court, by joint consent, agreed that a chief military officer should be chosen to be styled a major, and at a meeting of the Council of War in October of that year, Capt. Josias Winslow was chosen to that office and received his commission as major. A council, with whom he was to be ready on all occasions to advise, was also appointed, consisting of nineteen military officers, of whom Capt. William Poole, of Taunton, was one.

The country's stock of powder and lead was disposed of among some of the towns where it was thought most convenient for the public use. A barrel of powder and a quantity of lead was committed to the charge of James Leonard, of Taunton.

James Wyatt, the lieutenant of the Taunton company, was found dead in his meadow, July 5, 1664, and a jury was summoned to inquire into the cause of his death. The jury found that on the day mentioned he rode to a meadow of his to cut grass, a servant of his, an Indian boy, following him, and when he came to the meadow he found his master dead. John Hall, Thomas Deane, and James Bell rode to the meadow, and there found that he had cut some grass, and was gone out of the meadow, and was there fallen down dead; and upon search the said jury finds not any cause of any violent death, but the immediate hand of the Lord.

The following June (1665), Ensign George Macey was appointed lieutenant and Thomas Leonard ensign. Oliver Purchase, the former ensign, had removed to Lynn as early as 1660, and probably some time before, as in that year he was a deputy from Lynn to the General Court in Boston.

The Council of War met at Plymouth, April 2, 1667, and passed a number of important orders. From the character of some of these orders the meeting seems to have been occasioned by the hostilities then in progress between Charles II and the Dutch and French. It was determined "that Dutch and French be looked upon as our common enemy while so to our nation, and shall be resisted, opposed, and expelled by the forces of this jurisdiction to their utmost power, and that all advantages shall be used to that end." The Indian sachems were advised to employ their men in looking out to sea for shipping, and give speedy intelligence to the English of any vessel and their motions. It was ordered that every town provide some "place of retire" for their women and children in case of an alarm, as the discretion of each place may guide them, that so the men may with less distraction face an enemy. Men were appointed to be of council with the commissioned officers in each town, and it was ordered "that it shall be in the power of such as are appointed a council in every town, in any exigent or sudden occasion, to dispose of the general stock of arms and ammunition in that town, or any part of it as occasion may require." James Walker, **William Harvey**, and Richard Williams were appointed to be of council in Taunton.

In 1671, James Walker was chosen one of the general Council of War.

Taunton had now been settled for more than thirty years. It had gradually increased in population. Settlements had been pushed northerly as far as Winnicunnet Pond, where in 1669, William Witherell had established himself on its southeasterly shore. Southerly, on the easterly side of the Great River, the settlements had extended

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nearly if not quite to Assonet Neck, and on the westerly side below Three-Mile River, while to the eastward they reached beyond Squabinanset and nearly to Titicut. Of course the dwellings were scattered, and, in the remote parts of the town, widely separated.

While during all this the military discipline had been carefully attended to, and there had been several occasions when soldiers were called forth upon some alarm of war, and constant watchfulness had been exercised in respect to their Indian neighbors, it had really been a period of substantial peace. Of an Indian war they had had no experience. The possibility of such a war was perhaps always before them, but with so little probability that it occasioned no uneasiness. The Pequot war was over before the settlement of Taunton, and it was mainly confined to Connecticut. During the lifetime of the good old Massasoit the treaty made by him with Plymouth was faithfully observed. Upon his death, in 1681, he was succeeded by his oldest son, Wamsutta *alias* Alexander. He lived only about a year, dying some time in 1662. His brother Pometacom, or Metacomet, as it is sometimes written, but better known by his English name Philip, then became the chief sachem or the Wampanoags. It soon became evident that Philip was no lover of the English. He could not look complacently upon the rapid growth of their settlements, and the consequent crowding of his race into constantly narrowing quarters. The Plymouth government became suspicious of him. Rumors came to them that he was secretly plotting with the Narragansetts and other tribes against them for their extermination. He was sent for to make his appearance at Plymouth on the 6th of August, 1682, that he might clear himself from these suspicions. Philip appeared, and professed himself desirous to continue the friendship and amity that had formerly subsisted between them and his deceased father and brother, and he signed a treaty of submission and mutual friendship and helpfulness. His uncle Uncompowett also signed the treaty.

In the summer of 1667 he was again sent for to clear up reports that he had expressed himself ready to join with the French or Dutch against the English. He again succeeded in putting a fair face upon the matter, and upon his earnest protestations of friendship was allowed to depart, and for three years nothing occurred to occasion any special apprehension. Early in 1671, from some real or pretended injury to his planting lands by the English he began to make hostile demonstrations, and the Plymouth government, taking the alarm, sent messengers to Boston with a request that the Massachusetts government would use its endeavors to induce Philip to become peaceable. They also sent messengers to Philip to discover his intentions. Massachusetts, anxious to prevent a rupture, sent word to Philip to meet certain gentlemen whom they would appoint, with others from Plymouth, at Taunton, that they might, if possible, reconcile the differences that existed between them. William Davis, William Hudson, and Thomas Brattle were deputed on the part of Massachusetts, and Governor Prence, Josias Winslow, and Constant Southworth, with some others, appeared for Plymouth. They met at Taunton, April 10th, and while conferring together a messenger from Philip arrived with the information that he was at Three-Mile River (some four miles south of the village), and wished the Governor of Plymouth to meet him there. This the Governor declined to do, and sent Mr. James Brown and Mr. Roger Williams to desire Philip to come to the Green, that being the place appointed for the meeting. They found Philip with quite a body of his men painted and equipped as if expecting a battle.

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Philip finally consented to come if hostages were left with his men, and Mr. Brown and Mr. Williams remained with a part of his men as hostages.

He then came accompanied by some of his force as far as the grist-mill, which stood on the west side of Mill River, between the present Cohannet and Winthrop Streets, having taken the precaution to post senthels on Crossmnan's Hill in his rear, and again sent for the Governor to meet him there. The townspeople within the Plymouth men becoming exasperated, were eager to attack Philip, but the Massachusetts commissioners wisely interposed, and prevented so rash an outbreak, and prevailed on Philip to come to the Green, he stipulated that the conference should be held in the meeting-house, he and his men to occupy one side, and the English the other.

Never before had the old meeting-house witnessed so remarkable a scene. Civilization and barbarism were arrayed against each other, and the result could not be doubtful. Our sympathies are involuntarily awakened for the proud and independent race destined to fade away. But it was a crisis for the broader and more important interests of civilization and Christianity. Had Philip succeeded in the scheme which he was then engaged in maturing, of uniting all the native tribes of New England and New York for the extermination of all the European settlements, its effects, it can be seen, would have been most disastrous to the highest interests of humanity.

Philip, being confronted with the charges made by the commissioners, at first denied having any hostile designs, and averred that his warlike preparations were directed against the Narragansetts; but upon being told that they had proof that he was on better terms within them than ever, he was covered with confusion and acknowledged the truth of the charges. He was required by the commissioners to make reparation for past injuries and to give security against such injuries in the future. The first part of the requirements was abandoned, but he was required to give up his arms. The following submission was drawn up, which he signed. It may be found in Mather's "Brief History of King Philip's War."

"TAUNTON, April 10th, 1671.

"Whereas my father, my brother, and myself, have formerly submitted ourselves and our people unto the king's majesty of England, and to this colony of New Plymouth, by solemn covenant under our hand; but I having of late, through my indiscretion, and the naughtness of my heart, violated and broken this my covenant with my friends, by taking up arms with evil intent against them, and that groundlessly; I being now deeply sensible of my unfaithfulness and folly, do desire at this time solemnly to renew my covenant with my ancient friends, and my father's friends above mentioned, and do desire (that) this may testify to the world against me, if ever I shall again fall in my faithfulness towards them (whom I have now and at all times found so kind to me) or any other of the English colonies; and as a real pledge of my true intentions, for the future to be faithful and friendly, I do freely engage to resign up unto the government of New Plymouth, all my English arms, to be kept by them for their security, so long as they shall see reason. For the true performance of the premises, I have hereunto set my hand, together with the rest of my council.

"The mark of PHILIP chief sachem of Pocanoket.

"The mark of TAVOSER.

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"The mark of WOONKAPONEBUNT. of	"In presence
"The mark of CAPT. WISPOKE. DAVIS.	"WILLIAM
"The mark of NIMROD. HUDSON.	"WILLIAM
BRATTLE."	"THOMAS

It was obvious that so humiliating a submission would not result in a permanent peace. Some of his captains were so angry at him on account of it that they could scarcely forbear seeking immediate vengeance. Hubbard says that one of them, of far better courage than himself, when he saw his cowardly temper and disposition, flung down his arms, saying he would never own him again or fight under him, and immediately joined the English, and fought on their side throughout the war that followed.

The arms of the Indians were not sent in as the Plymouth government claimed they ought to have been by the terms of the treaty. It could not reasonably have been expected. Firearms had become a necessity to the Indians, not only for offensive and defensive warfare, but as instruments in procuring a livelihood. It is not strange, then, that in June following the court should find reason to complain that Philip, instead of influencing his subjects to bring in their arms, had taken means to secrete them and carry them away beyond their reach. The arms that had been surrendered were distributed among the towns, and Philip saw that his own arms, instead of being returned, were likely to be used against him.

Active measures were taken by the government at Plymouth to secure the submission of the various small tribes in their vicinity. At a meeting of the Council of War, July 8, 1671, it was agreed that one hundred men should be pressed out of the towns to go forth under command of Maj. Winslow against the Seconet Indians in case they should fail to submit themselves and give up their arms. Taunton was to send twelve men. William Witherell, of Taunton, was one of the "sergeants." The 8th day of August was to be the time of their setting forth, "on which day the towns of Taunton, Rehoboth, Bridgewater, and Swansey are to cause their soldiers that

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are to be sent forth to give meeting to the major and the rest of the company, at or near Assounet, about John Tisdall's farm,"

The Council of War met again the 23d of August. The principal subject of consideration was the failure of Philip to comply with the terms of the treaty made at Taunton. It was determined to require his personal appearance "to make his purgation in reference to the premises," and in case of his refusal to "endeavor his reducement by force." Inasmuch as a war with Philip would concern all the English plantations, it was decided to send letters to the neighboring colonies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as to Philip. The letter to Philip was sent by Mr. James Walker (of Taunton), one of the council, "and he was ordered to request the company of Mr. Roger Williams and Mr. James Browne to go with him at the delivery of the said letter," in which Philip was required to make his personal appearance at Plymouth the 13th of September next.

Philip (did not appear in answer to the summons, but instead repaired to Massachusetts and there made complaint of the Plymouth authorities. A letter was sent by some of the gentlemen in place there to the Governor of Plymouth, intimating that they did not understand the covenants and engagements of the treaty as their Plymouth brethren did, and offering their mediation in the premises. This offer was accepted, and the commissioners of Massachusetts and Connecticut (who were then in Boston) and some other gentlemen were invited to come to Plymouth and afford their help. "Accordingly on the 24th of September, 1671, Mr. John Winthrop, Governor of Connecticut, Maj.-Gen. Leverett, Mr. Thomas Danforth, Capt. William Davis, with divers others came to Plymouth and had a fair and deliberate hearing of the controversy between our colony and the said sachem, Philip, he being present, at which meeting it was proved by sufficient testimony to the conviction of the said Philip and satisfaction of all that audience, both the said gentlemen and others, that he had broken his covenant made within our colony at Taunton in April last in divers particulars, as also carried very unkindly unto us divers ways." A series of articles was then drawn up and read to him for his acceptance or rejection as he should see cause, the substance of which was that he and his subjects acknowledged themselves subjects of the King of England and the government of New Plymouth, that he promised to pay one hundred pounds damages provided he could have three years to do it in, that he would send in to the

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Governor five wolves' heads yearly, that he would refer any difference between himself and the English to the Governor of Plymouth to rectify, that he would not make war but with the Governor's approbation, and that he would not dispose of any of his hands without the approval of the Plymouth government. Probably Philip saw no other way out of his present difficulty but to yield, and accordingly he with seven of his council signed the articles. But, as the result showed, he went on to perfect his vast scheme of uniting the Indian tribes in a general war with the English. This was the last agreement or treaty made by Philip with the colonists.

Another speck of war appeared in the distance in the latter part of 1673. At the meeting of the General Court in December of that year the following action was taken:

This court upon serious consideration of the injurious actings of the Dutch, our neighbors at New York, in the surprisal of several vessels and goods of our confederates, and refusing to make just satisfaction for the same upon demand, . . . minding also that they have declared these their actings to be grounded on the national quarrel between them and us and Europe, and accordingly declare their commission and orders to be to do all possible spoil and damage to the State's enemies by land and water, . . . for our more necessary defense we judge it requisite to endeavor their removal, and in raise and maintain one hundred men in the expedition, if we can at present be supplied with what is necessary for their march or voyage.

And that instructions be given to the commanders-in-chief, first to summon them to yield, with their promise of enjoying their estates and liberties.

The names of the commanders chosen by the court were Captains James Cudworth, for captain; Mr. Jobs Gorum, for lieutenant; Mr.

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He was on the military list of 1643. He was one of the surveyors of the highways in 1649 and 1655, constable in 1650, a deputy from 1672 to 1677 inclusive, and again in 1686, and one of the selectmen from 1671 to 1686 inclusive. In 1665 he was appointed lieutenant of the Taunton company, and held the office through the Indian war. His connection with the military affairs of the town is given in the chapter on that subject. His house-lot was on Dean Street, between Capt. Pool's on the east and **William Harvey's** on the west. He died Aug. 17 1693. His will was dated June 20, 1693, and proved Sept. 5, 1693. In it be mentions his daughters, Elizabeth Hodges, Sarah Make, Mary Williams, Rebecca Williams, Deborah, and wife Susannah; also his grandchild, Samuel Hodges. He left no sons.

William Harvey was probably quite a young man at the settlement of the town. He was married April 2, 1639, to Joane Hucker, the second recorded marriage in Cohannet. He was admitted a freeman in 1656, but strangely his name is not on the military list of 1643. His first home lot was on the easterly corner of the present Winter Street, fronting on Dear Street, and a strip two rods wide was sold to the town for the town Way, then called Hoar's Lane, since Winter Street. He was chosen constable in 1661, in 1662 one of the surveyors, and in 1664 a deputy to the General Court. From that time until 1690 there were but two or three years that he was not in office as a deputy or selectman, and often holding both offices the same year. No man in the town seems to have been more constantly trusted by his fellow townsmen with the responsibilities of public office

He died in 1691, leaving a will, in which he mention his sons Thomas, Jonathan, and Joseph, a deceased son, and Nathan Thare, Jr., who was the son probably of a deceased daughter.

Richard Williams was born probably about 1606 for in his will, dated May 6, 1686, he calls himself about eighty. He was descended from a family o that name in Glamorganshire, in Wales. He married Frances Dighton, of Gloucestershire, England, sister of Catharine Dighton, who was married to Governor Thomas Dudley. It is supposed by some that he, with others of the first settlers, was here in 1636 or earher, and established himself in his business of a tanner. His name is on the military list of 1643, but it was not until 1644 that he was admitted as a freeman. At a special court held in October, 1643, upon occasion of an insurrection of the Indians against the Dutch and English, he, with John Strong, were deputies from Taunton. He was a deputy again in 1645, and from that time until 1665 was deputy, thirteen years. In 1666 be was' one of the selectmen, and from that time until 1677 served in that office, eleven years. After that year, owing doubtless to his great age, his name does not appear in connection with public office.

He was evidently a man of large organizing power and great business capacity, and held a large landed estate. In 1675 he owned the right of Henry Uxley, Anthony Slocum, and John Gingille. He was for many years a deacon of the church. Mr. Bayliss relates concerning him that " when blind and deaf from age, he was accustomed to attend public worship, saying,

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'that although he could neither see nor hear, yet it was consoling to his feelings to know that he was present while the people of God were at their worship.'" He died in 1692, leaving a will which was proved Oct. 10, 1693, in which is this clause, " To my son Nathaniel, to his heirs and assigns forever, I bequeath the land, house, and barn, Which now he possesseth, being part of the lots which I bought of Henry Uxley, in estimation half an acre more or less, with rights in future divisions belonging to said lots." His home lot was on Dean Street, and included the estate owned by the late Nathaniel Williams. He had the following children: John, Samuel, Nathaniel, Joseph, Thomas, Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Hannah. In a deed he calls Samuel a tailor.

John Deane was the grandson of Walter Deane, of South Chatd, a village in Somersetshire, about ten miles south of Taunton, in England, who died in 1591, and the son of William Deane of the same place, who died in 1634. He came from Dorchester to Taunton, and was one of the seven first freemen of Cohannett, already referred to. His wife's name was Alice. He was the constable of the town in 1640 and 1654, a surveyor of highways in 1640, and in 1657 one of the selectmen. His home lot was on Deane Street, between that of his brother Walter on the east, and that of John Strong on the west. It has remained in the family ever since, the house of the late Joseph Warren Deane, and the new house of Benjamin T. Kinnicutt standing on the original lot. He died in 1660, leaving a will in which occurs this passage:

" My will is that these my overseers, with the consent of my wife, shall in case there be no settled minister in Taunton, they shall have full power to sell either the whole or part of these my housings and lands, so as my children and posterity may remove elsewhere where they may enjoy God in His ordinances."

He left the following children : John (born about 1639 ; according to tradition, the first white child born in Taunton), Thomas, Israel, Isaac, Nathaniel, and Elizabeth. His wife Alice survived him. He was one of the largest land-owners in town. Walter Deane was a younger brother of John, noticed above, and came with him to Taunton. He was a freeman at the same date with his brother. He married Ellinor Strong, a sister of John Strong, by whom he had three children, viz., Joseph, Ezra, and Benjamin. He was a tanner by trade, and his son Ezra succeeded to his business. In 1640 he was a deputy to the General Court. He was chosen one of the selectmen in 1666, and annually thereafter until 1686, a period of twenty-one years of continuous service, unless the year 1670 be excepted, for which year the Plymouth records mention only two selectmen for Taunton, but as the usual number was five, it is most likely there is an omission in the record. He was a deacon in the church, and besides filling the public offices already mentioned, he was frequently on committees for apportioning lands, settling disputed boundaries, and matters of that nature, and, appears to have taken a prominent part in all the additional purchases of territory. His home lot was on Deane Street between that of his brother John on the west and Hezekiah Hoar on the east. The "Old Alger House," so called, stands on his original lot. The date of his death is not certainly known. He and his wife Ellinor join in a deed to Isaac Dean, dated Nov. 25, 1693, and that is the latest date at which we know that he was living. It is probable that he died soon afterwards. No record of any settlement of his estate has been found. He seems to have conveyed his real estate to his children before his death. Henry Uxley, whose name stands first on the list of purchasers, must have left the settlement very soon after coming, for his name appears nowhere else on any public record as being an

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inhabitant of Taunton. Neither can he be traced to any other settlement. He passed out of sight and out of knowledge utterly. Were it not that Richard Williams gives in his will to one of his sons, a house standing on a lot he bought of Henry Uxley, we might almost suspect he was a myth and never had any real existence.

James Walker, although not one of the original purchasers, joined the settlement early, probably while in his minority. His name first appears in the list of 1643 as being subject to military duty. He was admitted a freeman in 1650. Rev. James. B. R. Walker, in his history of the Walker family, expresses the belief that he was the youth of fifteen years, who, with his sister " Sarra," aged seventeen, embarked in London, April 15, 1635, in the " Elizabeth" for this country. They were called servants to Mr. John Browne. He was doubtless their uncle, although in his deed to James Walker and John Tisdale, which has been given in another place, he calls Walker his cousin. Rev. Mr. Walker also believes that the brother and sister were the children of the Widow Walker who settled in Rehoboth.

James Walker married Elizabeth, the daughter of William Phillips, and his sister married John Tisdale. He was constable of the town in 1652 and 1685. He was chosen a deputy in 1654, and served fourteen years in ail in that capacity, the last year being 1679. He was one of the board of selectmen eight years, 1666 being the first and 1679 the last year of his service. He was also one of the Town Council in 1667 and 1676. In 1662 he was authorized to administer oaths and to marry persons. In 1664 he was an excise officer, in 1671 an inspector of ordinaries, and in 1677 one of the committee appointed to distribute the contributions of Irish Christians among the sufferers by the Indian war. It will be seen by this enumeration that he was an important man in the town. In other parts of this history this fact still further appears. For his second wife he married Sarah, the widow of Edward Rew, and daughter of

John Richmond, Sr. He died Feb. 15, 1691, aged seventy-three years, and was buried in the Walker burying-ground, in the southerly part of the city, between Somerset Avenue and the Great River. Five of the original purchasers outlived the Plymouth government, viz., William Harvey, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, Hezekiah Hoar, and George Macey. The place of their graves no man knoweth unto this day.

History of Bristol County Massachusetts

-Taunton-

CHAPTER LXIII.

TAUNTON.1(Continued.)

Ancient Burying-Grounds and Inscriptions from Old Gravestones

List of Officers, 1638-1691.

THE oldest burying-ground in the city is that at the Neck of Land. Here doubtless "the rude fore fathers of the hamlet sleep," the graves of many of them now unmarked by any stone. There is no record of the laying out or of its boundaries. It is probable that at first it extended across the present street before the building of Neck of Land bridge and the opening of the road to it; and this may account for the fact that the graves of those who first died can not be found. The burying-grounds in Taunton and vicinity have been carefully explored, and the inscriptions on the stones faithfully copied by Deacon Edgar H. Reed, and by his kind permission some of the oldest among them will be here given, commencing with the above-named burying-ground:

"Elizabeth Smith, aged 40, died Jan. 31, 1687"

"Damaris Smith, aged 21 years, died 29th of October, 1689."

"Abigail Thayer, died the 20th of August, in the year 1691, in the 52^d year of her age."

"Joseph Leonard, died the 18th of October, in the year 1692, in the 44th year of his age."

"Here hes buried Capt. James Leonard, who died Nov. 1, 1726, in the 84th year of his age."

"Here hes buried Mrs. Lydia Leonard, ye wife of Capt. James Leonard, who died July 4, 1705, in ye 47th year of her age."

"Here heth The body of Major Thomas Leonard, Esq., aged 72 years, died Nov. 24, 1713."-

"Here heth the body of Mary, the widow of Major Thomas Leonard, Esq., aged 81 years, died Dec. 1, 1723."

"Here heth the body of John Deane, aged 77, died in the year 1711, XXXXXXXX Feb. the 18th."

"In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Dean, died March ye 15th, 1749, aged 73."

"Here hes the body of John Dean, died July ye 31, 1724, in the 50th year of his age"

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"In memory of Mrs. Hannah Dean, wife of Mr. John Dean, died July 15, 1748, in the 71st year of her age."

" Here hes the body of Israel Dean, aged 74, died in the year 1719, July the 4th."

"Erected In memory of Mr. Israel Dean, who died Nov. 29, 1794, 1 the 82d year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Sarah Dean, wife of Mr. Israel Dean, who died Sept. 3, 1773, in the 57th year of her age."

"In memory of M. D. Joshua Dean, son of Mr. Israel Dean & Sarah his wife, died Sept. 15, 1761, in the 25th year of his age."

"In memory of ye Hon. Seth Williams, Esq., who died May ye 13th, 1761, in ye 86th year of his ago."

"In memory of Mary, ye wife of ye Hon. Seth Williams, Esq., who died June 8, 1746, in ye 66th year of her age."

"In memory of the Hon. Benjamin Williams, Esq., who died March 18, 1784, aged 64."

" In memory of Mrs. Anna Williams, widow of the late Hall. Benjamin Williams, Esq., who died Jan. 1.2, 1793, aged 68."

"In memory of Samuel Williams, Esq., who departed this life April ye 17, 1765, in the 86th year of his age, and of

Mrs. Abigail Williams, his wife, who departed this life Feb. 23, 1779, in the 94th year of her age," " Here hes the body of Elder Henry Hodges, aged 65, died in year 1717, Sept. 30."

" Here heth the body of Charity Burt, the wife of Richard Burt, aged 76, died in the year 1711, June the 11."

"Here hes the body of Grace Burt, the wife of Abel Burt, aged 43, died 17 (probably 1709), Sept. ye 19."

"In memory of Lieut. Abel Burt. He died Nov. ye 16, 1766, in the 75th year of his age."

"Here hes the body of William Briggs, Cooper, aged 62, died Apl.21, 1725."

"John Wb its, died Sept. 3, 1726, aged 77."XXXXXX" Here hes the body of Ephraim Burt, aged 31, died in the year 1704, Nov. ye 52,

"Here Both ye body of Richard Godfree. He died Aug. 14, 1725, aged 74 years."

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" Hears lays the body of Mary, the wife of Richard Godfree, ye 1st; died Nov. ye 5, 1732, in ye 78th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. John Godfree, Esq. He died Nov.ye4,A.D.1758, aged 67 years and 4 days; and Mrs. Joannah, his wife. She diedMarch ye 9, 1765, aged 78 years, wanting 16 days."

" Erected In memory of George Godfrey, Esq., who died June 30,1793, in ye 73d year of his age."

" Erected in memory of Mrs. Bethiah Godfrey, wife of George Godfrey, Esq., who died Jau'y ye 27, A.D. 1786, in ye 63d year of her age."

" Here hes the body of Joseph Hall, aged 63, died In the year 1705, Apl. 1711

"Here hes the body of Joseph Willis, aged 60, die in ye year 1704-5, Jan. 31."

" Here hes the body of John Richmond, aged 88, died in ye year 1715, Octo. ye V'

" Here hes the body of Abigail Richmond, aged 86, and died Aug. 1, 1727."

" Here heth ye body of Sarah, ye wife of Edward Cobb, died Aug. 13, 1726, aged 66 years."

"Here Lieth the body of Ensigne Thomas Gilbert, aged 82, died April ye 20, in ye year 1723."

"Here heth the body of Annah Gilbert, the wife of Ensign Thomas Gilbert, aged 71, died May ye 9th, in the year 1722."

"Hears Lyeth ye Body of John Tisdale, aged 57 years, died Jan'y 26, 1728."

"In memory of Mr. Abrabam Dennis, who died July 2,1782, in his 70th Year."

" In memory of Mrs. Sarah Dennis, wife of Mr. Abraham Dennis, who died April 8,1794, in her 73d year."

"In memory of Capt. Jonathan Ingell, who departed this life Feb. 8, 1802, In the 82d year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Bethiah Ingell, wife of Capt. Jonathan Ingell, deceased Aug. 4, 1771, in the 44th year of her age."

The Walker burying-ground, on Somerset Avenue near Dighton, contains the gravestone having the oldest legible inscription of any in town, marking the grave-of Elizabeth, the wife of the first James Walker.

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This and other of the older ones are given below:

"Here hes the body of Elizabeth Walker, the wife of James Walker, aged 59, died In the year 1678, A lig. the littla."XXXXXXX

"Here hes the body of James Walker, aged 73, died In the year 1691, Feb. the 15th."I

"Here heth ye body of James Walker, aged 72 years, i6nd died June ye 22,1718."

"In memory of Bathsheba, wife of James Walker, died Feb. ye 24, 1738, in ye 85th year of her age." I

" In memory of Mr. Peter Walker, who deceased Jan'y ye 25, A.D. 1770, In ye 81st year of his age."

"In memory of Sarah, ye wife of Mr. Peter Walker, who died Nov. ye 22, 1760, in ye 72d year of her age."

"Here hes the body of Peter Walker, aged 60, died in the year 1711, April 4th."

"Here heth ye body of Hannah Walker, the wife of Peter Walker, aged 44 years, died Jan. 16, 1704."

"Here hes the body of Joseph Atwood, aged 47, died In the year169f,XXXXXFeb. 12."

"Here Both the body of Esther Atwood, the wife of Joseph Atwood, aged 46 years, died in the year 1696, in April ye 8th"

" Here hes the body of Nathaniel French, aged 73, died June the 14th,in the year 1711."

"Here heth the body of Mary, the wife of Nathaniel French, died May the 18,1731, in the 73d year of her age."

"In memory of Cornelius White, who died Apl. ye 18,1754, in ye 79th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Mehitabel White, wife of Mr. Cornelius White, who died Apl. ye 13, 1759, in ye 74th year of her age."

" In memory of Mr. Edward Blake, who died July 25, A.D. 1759, in ye 70th year of his age."

"In memory of Ann, widow of Mr. Edward Blake, who died Nov. ye 21,1790, in ye 93d year of her age."

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"In memory of Mr. Thomas Baynes, who died Xch. 6, 1756, aged about 69 years."

" In memory of Esther, ye wife of Thomas Bayliss, who died May 7th 1754, in ye 67th year of her age."

"In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Bayliss, wife of Mr. Nicholas Bayless, who died Feb. ye 8, 1791, in ye 75th year of her age.

"The best of wives And the best of mothers."

The Cooper burying-ground, half a mile south of the Weir, on Berkley Street.
Some of the earher inscriptions:

" Here hes ye body of Capt. Nathaniel Gilbert, who died Aug. 17,1765,in ye Sad year of his age. "XXXXXXX" " In memory of Mrs. Hannah, widow of Capt. Nathaniel Gilbert, who died Jan'y ye 28th, 1772, in ye 82d year of her age." "O the frailty of man.

"Sacred to the memory of Capt. Samuel Gilbert, who died Aug. 7, 1796, in the 73d year of his age."

"In memory of Elizabeth, ye wife of James Copper, died Jan. ye 5th, 1750, In ye 39th year of her age."

"In memory of Mrs. Lydia, wife of Capt. James Cooper, who died June 11, 1793, aged 57 years."

"In memory of Lieut. Israel Tisdale, who died Octo. ye 27, 1769, in ye 62d year of his age."

"In memory of Mr. John Hart, who died May ye 20, 1757, In ye 30th year of his age."

" In memory of Mrs. Hannah Hart, yo wife of Mr. James Hart. She died April Ye 25th, 1776, in ye 45th year of her age."

Burying-ground on Somerset Avenue near Sandy Hill :

"In memory of Mr. James Ingel, who died Sept. 21, 1762, In ye 33d year of his age."

"In memory of Mr. Abner Harris, who died May ye 19,1756, in ye 46th year of his ago."

"In memory of Doct. Micah Pratt, died Dec. ye 31st, A.D. 1758, in ye 67th year of his age."

"In memory of Marey, ye wife of Doct. Micah Pratt, died April ye 26, A:D. 17612,. in ye 80th year of her age."

History of Bristol County Massachusetts -Taunton-

"Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Sarah, widow of Doct. Micah Pratt. She died Jan. 26, 1806, in the 83d year of her ago."

"In memory of Doct. Micah Pratt, died Octo. ye lit A.D. 1765, In ye 44th year of his age."

The old Episcopal Church burying-ground on the Providence Old Road, two miles west of the Green:

" In memory of InsNathaniel Burt, who died Nov. ye 12, 1765, in ye 74th year of his age. He was one of ye first erectors of ye Church of St. Thomas In Taunton.",

" In memory of Mrs. Constance Burt, who died Nov. 24, 1777, in ye 82d year of her age. Widow of Mr. Nathaniel Burt."

"In memory of Mr. Peter Walker, who died Aug. ye 6, 1767, in the 68th year of his age."

"In memory of Lieut. Samuel Andrews, who died Feb. ye 5th, 1799, in ye 71st year of his age."

"In memory of Mr. Thomas Burt, who died Jan. 3d, 1801, in ye 81st year of his age."

"In memory of Capt. Richard Cobb, who died Nov. ye 8, 1772, in ye 56th year of his age."

"In memory of Mr. Benjamin Crossman, who died May ye 24th, 1792, in ye 85th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Bethiah wife of Mr. Benjamin Crossman, who died Aug. ye 26th 1786, in ye 67th year of her age."

The Oakland Cemetery on Glebe Street:

"In memory of Loved Tisdale, who died May 19, 1755, aged 47 years."

" In memory of Abigail, ya wife of Loved Tisdale, died Octo. ye 31, 1748, in ye 36 year of her age."

"In memory of Ebenezer Porter, aged 39 years & 3 months, died March 26, 1741."

"Here hes the body of Samuel Haskins, 2d, died Sept. 11, 1732, inthe 53d year of his age."

"In memory of Lieut. Henry Hodges, who died Sept. ye 18, 1755, In the 70th year of his age."

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"Here hes the body of William Briggs, lot, died Jan. 3, 1728, inthe 83d year of his age."

"Here hes the body of Elizabeth, the wife of William Briggs,Cooper, died Nov. 27, 1729, in ye 59th year of her age."

"Here hes the body of William Briggs, 2d, died Feb. 20, 1731, inthe 54th year of his age."

" Here hes the body of Mehitebell, the wife of William Briggs ye 2d,died Octo. ye 17,1732, in the 62d year of her age."

" In memory of Lieut. Nathaniel Briggs, who died Aug. 14,1775, in the 75th year of his ago."

"In memory of Judath, ye wife of Nathaniel Briggs, who died Nov. 22,1774 in the 77th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. Nathaniel Ogden, A.B., of Fairfield, New Jersey, Preacher of the Gospel, who died July 11, 1796. 28. He had preached only seven Lord's days, when our high expectations of his future usefuhess were suddenly blasted.

When friends do part, or where their ashes fall, It matters not, to die in Christ is all."

"In memory of Mary, wife of Nathaniel Shores, died Dec. 20,1753, in the 74th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. David Stacy, who died Octo. 22, 1790, in the 76th year of his ago."

"In memory of Lucy, wife of David Stacy, died Aug 17, 1762, in the 35th year of her age."

"in memory of Mrs. Jean Cobb, relict of Mr. John Cobb, deceased March ye 19, 1736, in ye 85th year of her age."

" In memory of Bus. Morgan Cobb, died Sept. 30, 1755, in the 82d year of his age."

" In memory of Abigail, wife of Morgan Cobb, died Jan. 30, 1765, in the 81st year of her age."

" In memory of Mr. Thomas Burt, who died March ye 29,1774, in ye 85th year of his age."

" In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Burt, wife of Mr. Thomas Burt, died July ye 16th, A.D. 1772, in ye 70th year of her age."

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"In memory of Dea. Daniel Wilde, who died Aug. 11, 1792, in yo 74th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Sarah, wife of Mr. Daniel Wilde. She died Feb. 24, 1777, aged 42."

"In memory of Mrs. Anna, widow of Deacon Daniel Wilde, who died Sept. 23, 1794, in the ?4th year of her age."XXXXXX

"In memory of Ensign Ebenezer Willis, who died May ye 30,1790, in ye 68th year of his age."

"In memory of Abigail, wife of William Briggs, who died Sept. 2, 1775, in the 71st year of her age."

"In memory of John Reed, who was born March 29, 1752, and died Feb 24,1841, the son of John Reed, who was born in 1722, and died Dec.1788, the son of William Reed, who died about 1734, the son of John Reed, who was born in 1648 or 1649, came to this town about1680, and died in Dighton Jan. 13,1720-1, probably the son of William Reads, who was an inhabitant of Weymouth In 1636."

"In memory of Mrs. Mary, relict of John Reed, Esq., died Oct. 12. 1843, aged 91 years."

From an old burying-ground, called the Walker burying-ground, in the west part of the town, the following are taken:

" Col. Eathan Walker, died June the 6th, A.D. 1775, in the 69th year of his age."

" Bethiah Walker, the wife of Capt. Eathan Walker, died May 11, A.D. 1759, in the 49th year of her age."

" Eliakim Walker, died Feb. 21, A.D. 1785, in the 81st year of his age."

" Mary, wife of Eliakim Walker, died Dec. A.D. 1785, in the 79th year of her age."

The two following are from a burying-ground half a mile northeast of the almshouse:

" In memory of Deacon Samuel Sumner, who departed this life July ye 26, A.D. 1671, in ye 64th year of his age.

" Blessed are ye dead that die in ye Lord."

In memory of Rebecca Staples, died Jan. 7,1809, aged 89 years. 3 months, and 4 days, widow of Mr. Seth Staples."

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From the burying-ground north of Prospect Hill:

“ In memory of Mrs. Hepzibah, wife of Mr. Solomon Wetherell. She died April ye 1, 1782, in ye 34th year of her age.”

“ In memory of Mrs. Rhoda White, wife of Mr. Elijah White, who died July ye 17, A.D. 1787, in ye 46 year of her age.”

From the “ Richmond Town” burying-ground:

“Here hes interred the remains of Deacon Edward Richmond, who departed this life Feb. 16, 1771, in ye 75th year of his age.”

“ In memory of Mr. Edward Richmond, who died October 14,1802, in his 79th year.”

“ In memory of Mr. Eleazer Richmond, who died Feb. 27,1802 In his 66th year.”

“In memory of Mr. Isaac Richmond, who died Dec. ye 16, A.D. 1784, in ye 49th year of his age.”

“ In memory of Mr. Simeon Richmond, son of Mr. Seth Richmond. He died Nov. 7, 1793, in ye 23d year of his age.”

From the Caswell Street burying-ground, East Taunton:

“In memory of Mr. Samuel Wilbore, who died March 21, 1773, in ye year of his age.”

“In memory of Mrs. Damaris, wife of Mr. Samuel Wilbore, who died March 25, 1773, in ye 71st year of her age.”

“In memory of Mr. Samuel Wilbore, who died June 29, 1774, in ye 50th year of his age.”

“Here hes the body of James Washburn, died the 4th day of August, the 44th year of his age, 1741.”

“In memory of Ensign Jonathan King, who died March ye 15th, 1754, in the 42d year of his age.”

“ Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Bethsheba, wife of Capt. Jonah King. She died Apl. 15, A.D. 1780, in ye 35th year, of her age.”

From the Pine Hill Cemetery in East Taunton:

“In memory of Lieut. Israel Dean, who deceased March 23, 1760, in ye 76th year of his age.”

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" In memory of Mrs. Ruth Dean, ye widow of Lieut. Israel Deane who died April ye 18, 1769, in ye 80th year of her age."

"Memento mortis.

"In memory of Lieut. Noah Dean, who departed this life Aug. 24, AD, 1794, in the 64th year of his Age."

"In Memory of Capt. Ebenezer Dean. He died Jan. 30, 1774, in ye 72d year of his age."

"Here hes the body of Mrs. Rachel Dean, the wife of Capt. Ebenezer Dean, who deceased Mch. 31, 1768, in ye 63d year of her age,"

" In memory of Mrs. Prudence, wife of Capt. Ebenezer Dean, who died March 10 , 1787, in ye 55th year of her age."

" In memory of Mrs. Sarah, wife of Col. George Williams. She died Nov. 26, A.D. 1797, in the 83d year of her age."

"In memory of Capt. Ephaint Dean, who died in Gloucester June 23d, 1775, in the 75th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Mary Dean, the wife of Capt. Ephraim Dean, who died Octo. ye 8, 1766, in ye 67th year of her age."

"In memory of Mrs. Martha Dean, the wife of Capt. Ephraim Dean, she died May ye 9, 1775, in the 72d year of her age."

" In memory of Mrs. Abigail, widow of Geo. Godfrey, Esq., and form erly wife of Mr. Philip Dean, she died Jan'y 23d, 1820, aged 84 years."

"In memory of Mrs. Abigail Macomber, who died Aug. 15, 1793, in ye 71st year of her age. This was the wife of Mr. John Macomber."

"In memory of Lieut. Joshua Dean. He died June ye 10, 1772, in ye 45th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Abigail, widow of Lieut. Joshua Dean, who died May ye 20, 1800, in ye 72d year of her age."

" In memory of Lieut. Israel Dean, who died July 23, 1775, in ye 55th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Abiah Dean, wife of Mr. Israel Dean, who died Mch. ye 1, 1750, in ye 25th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. Joshua Deane, who died Aug. ye 27, 1773, In ye 58th year of his age."

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"In memory of Mrs. Ruth Macomber, the wife of Mr. James Macomber, who deceased Octo. ye 10, 1770, aged 42 years & 11 months."

"In memory of Miss Silence Richmond, who died Sept. 18, 1790, in her 31st year."

"Sacred to the memory of Deacon Benj. Deane, who departed this life Apl. 14, 1799, in the 74th year of his age."

"In memory of Mr. Benjamin Deane who died Jan. 6, 1785, in ye 86th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Ziporah, wife of Mr. Benj. Dean, who died Sept. 27, 1778, in ye 75th year of her age."

From the ancient burying-ground on Staples Street, in the easterly part of the town :

Eliphalet Williams, 1778 (footstone). In memory of Mr. Samuel Williams, who died Sept. ye 7, A.D. 1777, in ye 72^d year of his age.

"Waiting the resurrection of the just."

"In memory of Mr. Abiel Haskins who died June 16, 1788, in ye 74th year of his age."

"Sacred to the memory of Mr. Stephen Haskins who departed this life Dec. 20, 1799, in ye 59th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Phebe, wife of Mr. Stephen Haskins, who died May ye 29th, 1787, in ye 37th year of her age."

"Sarah, daughter of Elijah & Sarah Macomber, and relict of Joseph Atwood, died Octo. 30, 1867, aged 104 years, 2 months and 13 days."

"In memory of Mr. Jude Hoar, died Feb'y the 26th day 1761" (No age.)

"Samuel Hoarde, deceased, Feb. the 13th day, year 1746." (No age.)

"Samuel Hoard, Jr., April 5th day, year 1736." (No age.)

"Jacob Hoar, deceased, March 24th day, year 1736." (No age.)

"Sarah Hoards, deceased, Jan'y 13th day, year 1753." (No age.)

"Jacob Hoar, died 1756." (No more.)

"Elizabeth Hoard, died Feb. 2 day, 1766." (No more.)

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"In memory of Des. William Hoard, who died April 25, 1795, aged 73 years, 3 mos., & 14 days."

"In memory of Mrs. Sarah Hoar, died Nov. 15 day, 1774, aged 47 years, 11 mos., & 14 days."

"Nehemiah Hoar, died 1765" (No more.)

"Rebekah Hoar, deceased, July the 12 day, 1765." (No more.)

"In memory of Dea. Nathaniel Macomber, who died Nov. 10, 1787, in ye 79th year of his age. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

"In memory of Priscilla, widow of Dec. Nathaniel Macomber. She died Oct. 30, 1793, in ye 84th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. John Macomber, who died Dec ye 14, 1747, in ye 67th year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Macomber, wife of Mr. John Macomber, who died May ye 2, 1732; in the 47th year of her age."

"In memory of Mrs. Esther Southworth, wife of Capt. Ichabod Southworth. She died Feb., 1760, in ye 82^d year of her age."

"In memory of Nathaniel Staple, who deceased Feb. ye 26, 1769, in ye 84th year of his age."

"In memory of Macy, ye wife of Nathaniel Staple, who deceased Sept. ye 8, 1757, in ye 68th year of her age."

"In memory of Hannah Haskins, died Feb. 17, 1746." (All.)

"In memory of Mrs. Christian, wife of Mr. Samuel Richmond, who died Feb. ye 7th, 1784, in ye 58th year of her age."

"In memory of Mr. Samuel Richmond, who died March 10, 1790, in ye 70th year of his age."

"Thankful Richmond, wife of Samuel Richmond, died Oct. the 20th, 1758, in the 37th year of her age."

"Sacred to the memory of Lieut. Josiah Macomber, who departed this life Nov. 18, A.D. 1801, in ye 91st year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Ruth, wife of Lieut. Josiah Macomber, died Sept. 19, 1791, in the 81st year of her age."

"In memory of Mrs. Judith Macomber, wife of Mr. Elijah Macomber, who died Oct. ye 1st, 1745, in ye 23^d year of her age."

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The Plain, or, as it is now mostly called, the North burying-ground, was given to the town by the proprietors in 1748, as the following votes show :

“ At a meeting of Proprietors, 20th June, 1748, Voted, To ye inhabitants of ye old township of Taunton, ten acres of land, etc., for a Burying-place where Samuel Danforth is buried.

“ 2d, Voted, That John Godfrey, Esq., Capt. James Leonard, and Capt. Morgan Cobb be a committee to lay it out.”

After the laying out of this ground most of the burials from the central portion of the town were made there, and it has continued to be used until within a few years, when it became so crowded that a large tract of land at Mayflower Hill was purchased and laid out as a public cemetery. The oldest inscription found in the North burying-ground is the following

“In memory of Hannah, ye wife of Capt. James Leonard, who died Aug. ye 2, 1725, in ye 60th year of her age.”

Rev. Samuel Danforth died in 1727, and was there buried. The remains of Elizabeth Pool were removed there in 1771, as already narrated. Rev. Josiah Crocker and Rev. Chester Isham were buried there. The families of Leonard, Fales, Padelford, Crocker, and others who were distinguished in public affairs the latter part of the last and the early part of the present centuries rest there. As it is so near the centre of the town, and so well cared for by the Public authorities, there is not the same need of copying the inscriptions as in the case of the older and more distant burying-grounds, besides the graves are so numerous that it would be impracticable. A few only are selected, as follows:

Here hes ye body of Samuel Caswell, MD., who died Aug. ye 13th, 1755, AE ToGs Sue 35.XXXXXX

In Seventeen Hundred and Fifty-Five, Relentless Death Did us Deprive of a very Useful Life to Neighbor, Friend, to child and wife, He safely Did Administer As a Physician, Consulting more his Patient's health Than all extorted gain. We that do love his memory Would like him live, yet when we die We may enjoy felicity.”

“Here hes ye body of Mrs. Elizabeth McKinstry, basely murdered, by a negro boy June ye 4, 1763, aged 28.

Watch, for ye know not the manner nor the moment of your death.”

“Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth, relict of the late Rev. Samuel Hopkins, D.D., of Newport, R. I, who died April 9, 1814, aged 75. Her soul was charged with pleasing hope, Those hopes by God were given, And though her body sleeps in dust, Her soul ascends to heaven.”

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I

The last mentioned was the last wife of the celebrated Rev. Dr. Hopkins, founder of the school of theology bearing his name.

In the list of burying-grounds thus far noticed those opened Since 1800 are not included. They are as follows: The Westville burying-ground, the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the cemetery at the Weir in the rear of Plain Street, Mayflower Hill Cemetery, the Catholic cemeteries, and probably some others in private grounds. It is not proposed to notice them further.

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LIST OF OFFICERS-1638-1691.

- 1638.-John Strong, constable.
- 1639.-William Pool, John Gilbert, Henry Andrews, deputies; John Strong, constable.
- 1640.-Edward Case, Walter Deane, deputies; John Deane, constable.
- 1641.-William Pool, John Strong, deputies; William Parker, constable
- 1642.-John Strong, John Parker, deputies; William Parker, constable
- 1643.-Henry Andrews, John Strong, deputies; William Parker, constable.
- 1644.-William Pool, deputy; James Wyatt, constable and surveyor.
- 1645.-William Parker, Richard Williams, deputies; George Hall, constable; James Burt, surveyor.
- 1646-Richard Williams, deputy; Oliver Purchase, constable; James Wyatt, excise officer.
- 1647.-Henry Andrews, Edward Case, deputies; Oliver Purchase, constable; Edward Slocumb, Edward Rew, surveyors; James Wyatt, excise officer.
- 1648.-Richard Williams, Edward Case, deputies; Thomas Gilbert, constable; John Deane, Richard Stacy, surveyors; James Wyatt, excise officer.
- 1649.-Henry Andrews, Edward Case, deputies; Thomas Gilbert, constable; James Wyatt, George Macey, surveyors.
- 1650.-Richard Williams, Oliver Purchase, deputies; George Macey, constable; Thomas Lincoh, Edward Case, surveyors.
- 1651.-Oliver Purchase, Richard Williams, deputies; William Hodges, constable; Hezekiah Hoar, John Gallop, surveyors.
- 1652-Thomas Gilbert, James Wyatt, deputies; James Walker, constable; Richard Paul, Clement Mayfield, surveyors.
- 1653.-James Wyatt, Richard Williams, deputies; William Parker, constable; John Cobb, William Phillips, surveyors.
- 1654.-Richard Williams, James Walker, deputies; John Deane, constable; Anthony Slocum, James Burt, surveyors.
- 1655-James Wyatt, Richard Williams, deputies; John Tisdall, constable; George Macey, Francis Smith, surveyors.

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- 1656.-James Wyatt, Richard Williams, deputies; Francis Smith, constable ; Henry Andrews, Robert Thornton, surveyors.
- 1667.-James Wyatt, Richard Williams, deputies; Hezekiah Hoar, constable; Richard Stacy, Jonas Austin, surveyors.
- 1668.-William Parker, James Walker, deputies; Peter Pitts, constable; John Cobb, Richard Burt, surveyors.
- 1659.-Richard Williams, James Walker, deputies; John Thalall, constable.
- 1660.-James Wyatt, James Walker, deputies; Henry Andrews, constable.
- 1661.-James Wyatt, James Walker, deputies; William Harvey, constable.
- 1662.-James Wyatt, James Walker, deputies; William Witherell, constable; Anthony Slocum, William Harvey, surveyors.
- 1663.-James Wyatt, deputy (one deputy was returned back); Hezekiah Hoar, constable; James Leonard, Samuel Smith, surveyors.
- 1664.-William Harvey, Richard Williams, deputies; Francis Smith, constable; James Walker, Francis Smith, excise officers.
- 1665.-Richard Williams, William Harvey, deputies; Joseph Wilbore, constable.
- 1666.-George Hall, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, James Walker, William Harvey, selectmen; James Walker, William Harvey, deputies; John Hall, constable; John Cobb, Samuel Williams, surveyors
- 1667.-George Hall, Walter Deane, James Walker, Richard Williams, William Harvey, selectmen ; William Harvey, James Walker, deputies; Richard Burt, constable.
- 1668.-George Hall, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, William Harvey, James Walker, selectmen; James Walker, William Harvey, deputies; Samuel Smith, constable; George Macey, Peter Pitts, surveyors.
- 1669.-George Hall, Walter' Deane, William Harvey, James Walker, Richard Williams, selectmen; William Harvey, James Walker, deputies; Israel Deane, constable; Edward Row, James Leonard, Jr., surveyors.
- 1670.-William Harvey, James Walker, selectmen. (No other names given in the record; probably an omission in the record.) William Harvey, James Walker, deputies; Nathaniel Williams, constable. (No surveyors named).
- 1671.-George Macey, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, James Walker, William Harvey, selectmen; William Harvey, William Witherell, deputies; Joseph Wilbore, constable; John Macomber, Encrease Robinson, surveyors.

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- 1672.-George Macey, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, John Tisdall, Sr., William Harvey, selectmen; William Harvey, George Macey, deputies; Richard Stevens, Hezekiah Hoar; constables; James Walker, Thomas Leonard, surveyors.
- 1673.-Walter Deane, Richard Williams, George Macey, William Harvey, John Tisdall, selectmen; William Harvey, George Macey, deputies; Aaron Knapp, Sr., John Deane, constables; John Cobb, Joseph Wilbore, surveyors.
- 1674.-Walter Deane, George Macey, Richard Williams, William Harvey, John Tisdall, selectmen; George Macey, John Tisdall, deputies; John Richmond, Shadrach Wilbore, constables; Edward Rew, Israel Deane, surveyors.,
- 1676.-Richard Williams, Walter Deane, William Harvey, George Macey, John Tisdall, Sr., selectmen; George Macey, William Harvey, deputies; James Tisdall, Thomas Deane, constables; John Turner, John Bryant, surveyors.
- 1676.-Richard Williams, Walter Deane, George Macey, William Harvey, Samuel Smith, selectmen; George Macey, William Harvey, deputies; John Hathaway, William Witherell, constables.
- 1677.-George Macey, William Harvey, Richard Williams, Walter Deane, Samuel Smith, selectmen; William Harvey, George Macey, deputies; Thomas Gilbert, Joseph Hall, constables; Thomas Lincoh, Isaac Deane, surveyors.
- 1678.-George Macey, William Harvey, Walter Deane, James Walker, Samuel Smith, selectmen; James Walker, Samuel Smith, deputies; Samuel Williams, Thomas Harvey, Sr., constables; James Tisdall, James Leonard, Jr., surveyors.
- 1679.-George Macey, William Harvey, Walter Deane, James Walker, Samuel Smith, selectmen; James Walker, Samuel Smith, deputies; Joseph Willis, Isaac Deane, constables; Robert Creasman, Thomas Gilbert, surveyors.
- 1680.-William Harvey, Walter Deane, George Macey, Thomas Leonard, selectmen; John Hathaway, Thomas Leonard, deputies; Gyles Gilbert, Thomas Williams, constables; Joseph Hall, Joseph Wilbore, surveyors.
- 1681.-George Macey, William Harvey, Walter Deane, John Hathaway, Thomas Leonard, selectmen; Thomas Leonard, John Hathaway, deputies; Henry Hodges, Ezra Deane, constables; Thomas Harvey, Joseph Willis, surveyors.
- 1682.-George Macey, Thomas Leonard, William Harvey, Walter Deane, John Hathaway, selectmen; John Hathaway, Thomas Leonard, deputies; John White, James Walker, Jr., constables; Robert Crossman, Sr., Samuel Thrasher, surveyors.
- 1683.-William Harvey, George Macey, John Hathaway, Thomas Leonard, Walter Deane, selectmen ; Thomas Leonard, John Hathaway, deputies; Samuel Hall, Sr., John Smith, Jr., constables; Gyles Gilbert, John Lincoh, surveyors.

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1684.-George Macey, Thomas Leonard, Walter Deane, John Hathaway, Sr., John Hall, selectmen ; Thomas Leonard, John Hathaway, deputies; Joseph Wilbore, John Hodges, constables.

1685.-Walter Deane, William Witherell, John Hall, Thomas Leonard, George Macey, selectmen; Thomas Leonard, William Witherell, Sr., deputies; John Richmond, James Walker, Sr., constables; ????? Bryant, Joseph Tisdale, surveyors.

1686.-George Macey, Thomas Leonard, Walter Deane, William Harvey, John Hall, selectmen; George Macey, Thomas Leonard, deputies; James Leonard, Joseph Tillden, constables.

During the usurpation of ANDROS? the Plymouth government was suspended, and no record of officers is to be found during those years, 1687-88.

The names of Henry Hodges and William Harvey as selectmen for both those years are ascertained from the proprietors' records; the names of their associates do not appear.

1689-Thomas Leonard, William Harvey, Henry Hodges, Nathaniel Williams, James Leonard, Jr., selectmen; Thomas Leonard, Nathaniel Williams, deputies; Thomas Leonard, John Hall, deputies at August court.

1690-William Harvey, Thomas Leonard, Nathaniel Williams, Henry Hodges, James Leonard, Jr., selectmen; Thomas Leonard, William Harvey, deputies.

1691.-Nathaniel Williams, Thomas Leonard, James ???????? Hall, Henry Hodges, selectmen; John Hall, John Hathaway, deputies.

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LIST OF FREEMEN.

William Poole, John Gilbert, Sr., Henry Andrews, John Strong, John Deane, Walter Deane, Edward Case, William Parker, 1637; John Parker, -1641; John Tisdall, 1643; William Holloway, William Hailstone, Richard Williams, 1644; George Hall, 1645; Oliver Pur chase, 1646; James Wyatt, 1648; James Walker, 1650; William Hodges, Thomas Gilbert, 1651; George Macey, John Bryant, 1654; **William Harvey**, 1656; Anthony Slocum, 1657; William Witherell, Peter Pitts, Thomas Lincoh, 1658.

Additional from List of 1670.

Jonas Austin, Edward Babbitt, John Bryant, Richard Burt, Jonathan Briggs, John Cobb, Israel Deane, Thomas Deane, John Hathaway, John Hall, Aaron Knapp, Thomas Leonard, James Leonard, Jr., James Phillips, Samuel Phillips (1686), John Pole, Encrease Robinson, George Shove, Francis Smith, Samuel Smith, John Tisdall, Jr., James Tisdall, Samuel Williams, Joseph Williams, Nathaniel Williams.

Additional from List of 1683-84.

John Creasman, Robert Croseman (1686), Ezra Deane, John Deane (2d), Joseph Deane, Samuel Danforth, Gyles Gilbert, Thomas Gilbert, John Hathaway, Jr., Samuel Hall, Sr., **Thomas Harvey, Sr., Thomas Harvey, Jr.**, William Hall, Henry Hodges, Edward Richmond (1,691), John Richmond, Nathaniel Shove, Uriah Leonard (1690), Richard Stevens, Israel Thrasher, Joseph Thrasher, Joseph Wil bore, Shadrach Wilbore.

Those who took the Oath of Fidelity only.

James Bell, James Burt, Richard Burt, Sr., Thomas Brayman, John Briggs, Thomas Cooke, Thomas Caswell, Edward Cobb, John Cloy, Thomas Cilton, Robert Crossman, William Farance, John Gungill, Hezekiah Hoar, Jabesh Hackett, Timothy Halloway, Th???????? James Lennett, Daniel Mokene, John Macomber, Jei h New. land, Richard Paul, Edward Rew, John Richmond, Sr., Hughe Rocester, William Scadding, Nicholas Streete, Francis Streets, Richard Smith, William Shepherd, Richard Stacye, Peti Christopher Thrasher, John Turner, Thomas Willington, Nicholas White.

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CHAPTER LXIV.

TAUNTON.-(Continued.)

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.1

THE Clergy," writes the Hon. F. Bayliss, historian of Plymouth Colony, " the clergy were the principal instruments in keeping alive the spirit and enterprise of the English race in the wilds of America." The first ministers of New England were no mean men. They were highly educated, and their names are registered among the foremost of that or any other age.

By Rev. S. Hopkins Emery.

Taunton claims that her two ministers, in the beginning of its settlement, were inferior to none of them. They rank in ability, scholarly attainments, and commanding influence with Wilson and Cotton, of Boston, Higginson and Williams, of Salem, and the Mathers of Dorchester and Cambridge.

It was in 1637, Rev. William Hooke was instrumental in gathering a church in Taunton. Mr. Savage calls him " the spiritual guide of the settlement." He was its first pastor, having for an associate in the ministry, according to the custom of the times, another eminent man, Rev. Nicholas Street. The former was known as pastor, the latter as teacher. Their church, according to Thomas Lechford, in a pamphlet published in England in 1642, numbered " ten or twenty." We have no Taunton record giving the exact number or names of members. Mr. Hooke, a native of Southampton, England, in 1601, at the early age of twentytwo, proceeded to the degree of Master of Arts in Trinity College, Oxford, " at which time," remarks Wood, " he was esteemed a close student and a religious person."

Having preached several years in the mother-country, he was attracted to New England, and in both lands earned such a reputation that Cotton Mather could say of him, " He was a learned, holy, and humble man." Dr. Trumbull also makes mention of him as a man " of great learning and piety, possessing excellent pulpit talents." One of his sermons, preached in Taunton, July 23, 1640, on a day appointed by the churches for public humiliation in behalf of England in time of feared danger, was so well liked that it was printed in London in 1641, bearing the title of " New England's Tears for Old England's Fears."

A second sermon, " preached upon a day of general humiliation in the churches of New England in the behalf of Old England and Ireland's sad condition, by William Hooke, minister of God's Word at Taunton, in New England," was printed in London in 1645. These sermons were "entrusted in the hands of a worthy member of the honorable House of Commons, who desired they might be printed for the public good." Such a publication was a rare testimonial from the House of Commons to the merit of the Taunton preacher. The report of his sermons having reached New Haven, the church and people, who had listened to such a remarkable man as John Davenport, call him to serve as Davenport's associate in the ministry, after serving the church in Taunton seven years. He had a successful ministry of twelve years in New Haven, when he returned to England, led thither by his interest in the Commonwealth, related as he was to the Protector, of whose family he became a

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member, acting as domestic chaplain. His wife, sister of W balley, one of Cromwell's trusted friends, had preceded him.

Rev. Nicholas Street, the colleague and successor of Mr. Hooke in the ministry of Taunton, was also his successor in the church of New Haven. This was on the " 26th of the 9th, 1659." On the removal of Mr. Davenport to Boston as Wilson's successor, Mr. Street became sole pastor of the church, so continuing until his death, April 22, 1674. It is not quite certain who was Mr. Street's first wife. Mr. Bayhes' statement that it was the sister of Elizabeth Pool lacks confirmation. We are sure, however, that his second wife was the widow of Governor Newman, and his descendants are numerous in Connecticut and elsewhere. The earliest Taunton ministers were not only eminent in their profession, but influential in all town affairs both in Taunton and New Haven. They were resorted to for Counsel, and their words on all subjects were weighty. Their churches, of course, were of the prevailing New England order, and they, as dissenting ministers, were the recognized leaders of the people.

The third Taunton minister was Rev. George Shove. Ordained in 1665, he remained sole pastor till his death in 1687. Little is known of his work as a minister, but he was largely interested in the secular as well as spiritual affairs of the town, and his name appears as one of the proprietors in the Taunton North Purchase, as also one of the six original proprietors of Assonet Neck in 1680. He was interested in schools, and is credited with the statement that in 1685 there were " eighty scholars on the list of Taunton school, some of whom had entered Latin." His own son Seth was one of these, a graduate of Cambridge, and the first minister of Danbury, Conn. Rev. Mr. Shove was thrice married, his first wife being the daughter of Rev. Samuel Newman, the renowned minister of Rehoboth. He had ten children, and his descendants are numerous in New England, many of them belonging to the Society of Friends.

The fourth minister of Taunton was an eminent man, the Rev. Samuel Danforth, sort of Rev. Samuel Danforth, the minister of Roxbury. His mother was the daughter of Rev. John Wilson, pastor of the First Church of Boston. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1683, and married a daughter of Rev. James Allen, a colleague of Rev. John Davenport in Boston. " The town was extremely anxious to obtain Mr. Danforth," writes Mr. Bayhes. Capt. Bartholomew Tipping, for his services in securing him, received "ten acres of land adjoining his own." He afterwards sold Mr. Danforth his house and lot, which were not far from the bridge, on what is now Washington Street, and which included the water privilege where the cotton-mill stands. Mr. Danforth, like his predecessor, receiving but a small salary, by economy and industry secured a considerable estate. He was a man of versatile talents, and could not only preach good sermons, but as occasion required counsel and instruct his parishioners in law and medicine. He was influential in all civil and religious matters, not only in his own town but in the colony. Hence we find him preaching " a sermon before His Excellency the Governour the Honourable Council, and Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, on May 26, 1714, being the Anniversary Day of the Election of Councillors of the said Province," and "published by their order."

The ministry of Mr. Danforth extended from 1687, the year of his ordination, to his death in 1727, a period of forty years. " He was peculiarly fortunate," writes one familiar with the history of his time, " in retaining the attachment of his people. They were eager to settle him, and their interest in him continued to the end." Mr. Danforth was interested in the

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Indians, visited them often, acquired their language, and prepared an Indian dictionary, a copy of which is in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Mr. Danforth, like his predecessors, in the beginning of his ministry preached to the scattered families of his flock, gathered in their own house of worship, where now stands the beautiful stone church of the First Parish, coming from what are now Norton, Dighton, Easton, Raynham, Berkley, Assonet Neck, and Mansfield. These separate townships sprung up for the most part during his ministry, and no wonder they felt the need of shortening the distance between their homes and the coveted sanctuary for themselves and those who should come after them. We have seen the correspondence between the mother-church and these several colonies, conducted in a Christian spirit, but revealing the extreme reluctance with which these colonies are sent out.

It was a church, therefore, weakened by many removals which called the fifth minister of Taunton, Rev. Thomas Clapp. His ministry was shorter, extending only from 1729 to 1738, less than ten years. Mr. Clapp was a native of Scituate, son of John Clapp, born in 1705, and a graduate of Harvard College in 1725. He was married to Mary, daughter of Judge George Leonard, of Norton, in 1731. He was cousin of the eminent President Clapp, of Yale College. On concluding his ministry in Taunton the office was laid aside, and returning to Scituate, his native place, he became colonel of the militia, justice of the peace, for many years a representative of the town, and also judge of Plymouth Colony. The manuscript sermons of Mr. Clapp, which I have seen, show him to have been no mean preacher. He is described by a contemporary as "social in his temper, extremely fond of company, and very hospitable." His house in Taunton was pleasantly situated on the river near the head of Dean Street, now occupied by Col. Gordon.

The sixth Taunton minister was Rev. Josiah Crocker, a man of excellent pulpit talent, and eminent as a preacher in his time. He was a son of Josiah and Desire Crocker, of Yarmouth. His grandmother was a daughter of Governor Hinckley, and sister-in-law of Deputy Governor William Bradford, and through him related to Prince and the Mayhews. His mother was a daughter of Hon. John Thacher, granddaughter of Hon. John Howland, and great-granddaughter of Hon. John Carver, the first Governor of Plymouth Colony. Mr. Crocker graduated at Harvard College in 1738. When nineteen years of age was ordained in Taunton, May 19, 1742. His pastorate continued till Nov. 1, 1765, a period of more than three-and-twenty years. He continued to reside in Taunton, and was here buried in 1774. "Of all the preachers I ever heard," once remarked Deacon Eddy, of Bridgewater, who remembered his sermons, "none surpassed Mr. Crocker in his earnest yet tender, persuasive manner." Chief Justice Parsons made a similar remark, many years ago, to the Hon. Samuel Crocker, of Taunton. The Taunton minister was a great friend of Whitefield and the Tennents. Mr. Whitefield preached in his pulpit, and Mr. Baves is accountable for the remark, "Many were displeased with him for this." The people in Taunton, as elsewhere, were divided concerning what were called "new measures." But Mr. Crocker entered into them most heartily, and would be called, at the present time a revival preacher. He was often invited to preach in neighboring towns, and persons came from a long distance, even as far as Plymouth, to listen to his sermons. The story is told of a woman who quieted her baby, weary from the long march, by shouting "Crocker's ahead."

Mr. Crocker was twice married, and had seven sons and two daughters. Josiah, the eldest son, settled in Taunton, and married a daughter of Hon. Zephaniah Leonard. Their children

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who reached adult age were Samuel and William Augustus, the former so long known in Taunton as, the senior member of the manufacturing firm of Crocker & Richmond, the latter father of the Crocker Brothers, who have been identified with the copper-works and other large manufacturing interests of Taunton for so many years.

After the dismissal of Mr. Crocker in 1765, several ministers occupied the pulpit as candidates for settlement, but Rev. Caleb Barnum became the seventh pastor. He was a native of Danbury, Conn. His first pastorate was at Wrentham, Mass. He was installed in Taunton, Feb. 2, 1769. He is particularly remembered as the patriotic minister of Taunton, not only advocating the cause of American independence with his fervent appeals, but entering the Continental army as a chaplain and laying down his life in the service. He endured great hardships with exemplary Christian fortitude, and when obliged by the condition of his health to leave for home, rested on the way at Pittsfield, where he died the 23d day of August, 1776, in the fortieth year of his age. Rev. Mr. Allen, of Pittsfield, who was with him in his last hours, dwells gratefully on his "serenity of mind," his "most exemplary patience and submission to the will of heaven." Being asked his present views in the approach of death of the goodness of the American cause, for which he was sacrificing his life, his reply was the most memorable one, "I have no doubts concerning the justice and goodness of that cause, and had I a thousand lives they should all be willingly laid down in it."

Mr. Barnum left a widow and seven children. Priscilla, who married a Vickery, was the mother of Charles R. Vickery, Esq., and Mrs. Paddock Dean, of Taunton ; Alina, who married a Child, was the mother of Mr. George Child, long a grocer in Taunton, and his sisters Mary and Jane Child.

The successor of Mr. Barnum was Rev. Elias Jones, who came hither from Halifax, Nova Scotia. His ministry was very short, hardly a year. Installed in April, 1777, we find him leaving in 1778. "A young man of prepossessing manners and address and fine talents for the pulpit," he nevertheless "fell into such error," we are informed, as made the church willing to part with him. Nothing is known of him afterward.

Rev. Ephraim Judson was the ninth minister of the parish, a Man of marked ability and of wide influence. He was a native of Woodbury, Conn., a graduate of Yale College in 1763. His first settlement was in Norwich, Conn. His ministry in Taunton commenced in 1780, where he continued ten years. His eccentricities are remarkable, many instances of which are remembered, but cannot here be recorded. He was blunt, abrupt, fearless, uncompromising, made many friends and some enemies.

The parish was divided at the close Of his ministry in 1790. For a time he continued with a portion who removed their meeting to the west part of the town, but subsequently settled in Sheffield, Mass., where he continued in the ministry until his death, Feb. 23, 1813, at the age of seventy-five. Upon the stone which marks the place of his burial may be found the inscription, "A learned Divine, an acute logician, and an evangelical preacher. He was mild, courteous, and hospitable. By his numerous friends he was deem'd a wise counsellor, an active peacemaker, and a sincere Christian. What he was in truth the Great Day will disclose."

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The successor of Mr. Judson in the First Parish was Rev. John Foster, whose career was not altogether honorable to the holy office he held, whilst his abilities in certain directions were of a high order. But his ministry, which began in 1792, terminated in 1799, to the relief of the people.

His successor was an altogether different style of a man, whose memory is very precious, even to the present time, Rev. John Pison. He was a native of Boston, and was graduated at Cambridge College in 1792. In 1799 he came to Taunton as a candidate, and was ordained in January, 1800. President Kirkland, then of Boston, preached the sermon. Hon. Francis Baynes, who loved him as a brother, writes thus affectionately of him: "Guile and envy had no place in his heart. The increasing thrift and comfort of his neighbors were to him a source of constant gratification. The happiness of others increased his own. He would have banished want and woe and suffering from the whole human race." Many instances are given of his disinterested charity. His name in all the region was a synonym for sympathy and good will to all. He never married. His parish was his family; he was wedded to his flock. A beautiful tablet on the interior wall of the stone church of the First Parish expresses in its inscription the high appreciation of this minister by the parish :

" In memory of Rev. John Pison, for 21 years minister of this church. Born in Boston, A.D. 1762. Ordained in Taunton, Jan. 15, 1800. Died in Taunton, Jan. 7, 1821, Est. 59.

" In his intercourse with men, the most genial humor was joined with the most tender sympathy. His compassion was unbounded, and all his substance was given to the needy. While many knew in him a man trained and accurate scholar, all could see and admire the humility, charity, piety, and self-sacrifice of the faithful pastor.

To keep here his name in honor, friends who knew him have erected this tablet A.D. 1860."

Mr. Pison was succeeded by Rev. Luther Hamilton. Born in Conway in 1798, he was graduated at Williams College in 1817, ordained in Taunton in 1821, and resigned in 1832. His successor was Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D.D., a native of Groton in 1795, a graduate of Cambridge in 1814, and a pastor in Taunton from 1833 to 1842. On leaving Taunton he officiated as minister at large in Boston. Dr. Bigelow was a scholarly man, and quite influential in his denomination. He published several sermons and addresses, as also a book of "Travels."

Rev. Charles H. Brigham followed Dr. Bigelow in 1844. Like Mr. Pison, whose ministry he much admired, he was a native of Boston, a graduate of Cambridge, and never married. He was also ardently devoted to his parish and parish work. His attachment to the people was reciprocated, as the tablet on the church wall opposite Mr. Pison's in its inscription shows:.

"IN MEMORIAM.

Rev. Charles Henry Brigham, minister of this church A.D. 1844 to A.D. 1866. Born in Boston, July 27, 1820. Ordained in Taunton, March 27, 1844. Died in Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1879. A scholar of varied learning, a citizen of wise public spirit, a preacher direct and sincere in speech, he rendered eminent service to letters, education, and religion, while by his sagacity, devotion, frankness, and sympathy he made his people his personal friends.

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The zeal of his youth and the energy of his manhood were given to this society, and to honor his memory as a teacher and a man this tablet is placed here A.D. 1881."

Mr. Brigham was succeeded by Rev. Fielder Israel, whose pastorate extended from Dec. 23, 1869, to July 21, 1872. He is now settled in Salem, Mass.

The next minister was Rev. Eli Fay, who entered upon his work Feb. 26, 1873, and resigned to accept a pastorate in Sheffield, England, in October, 1876.

The last pastor was Rev. Frederic Meakin, who commenced his labors in 1878, September 25th, and closed them in September, 1882, for a visit to Europe with his family, where he proposes remaining for some time for rest and study. The parish is at present without a pastor. The "Church -Green," as it is called, is one of the most charming spots in the city. It is the spot selected by the first settlers of Taunton for a church site. On this hallowed ground they first began to worship, in a rude edifice, of course, in the beginning. When their meeting-house, as they called it, was begun or finished we know not, only this record remains, "In 1647 the calf pasture was sold to Henry Andrews for building the meeting-house." This answered the purpose till May 19, 1729. "This day we began to raise the meeting-house in Taunton," an extract from a paper in the handwriting of John, the father of Brig.-Gen. Godfrey. This was the second Taunton meeting-house, built by Samuel, the son of Richard Williams, with two galleries, according to the custom of the times. The third was built in 1789, by Mr. Demonds, of Scituate, was a large wooden structure,, removed to Spring Street, to make room for the building of the present substantial stone edifice, and was still occupied for church purposes, first by the Universalist Society, next by what is now the Winslow Church, and then by the Free-Will Baptist Church, until in 1867 it was bought and taken down by Mr. Francis Dean, to enlarge his homestead between Summer and Spring Streets.

The Congregational Church in West Taunton. The division of sentiment in the First Parish at the close of Rev. Mr. Judson's ministry in 1790 led to a separation, all the church but three men and one woman leaving the parish, and worshipping apart first in Deacon Isaac Tubb's barn, and afterwards in a meeting-house built in the west part of the town beyond the Episcopal glebe, and not far from the Oakland burial-place. This place of worship continued till 1824, when the present meeting-house in Westville was built in what was considered a more central location.

Rev. Mr. Judson supplied the church for a time, followed by temporary supplies from Messrs. Preston, Wines, Farrington, and Ogdon. The last named died, and was buried in the churchyard, his stone bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Mr. Nath. Ogdon, A. B., of Fairfield, N. J., Preacher of the Gospel, who died July 11, 1796, aged 28. He had preached only seven Lord's Days when our, high expectations of his future usefulness were suddenly blasted."

Rev. Samuel W. Colburn was the first settled minister, his ministry extending only from 1809 to the latter part of 1812. On the 19th of April, 1815, Rev. Alvan Cobb was ordained and installed his successor, whose pastorate was a long and most useful one, extending to the period of his death in 1861, April 2, nearly forty-six years. He was contemporary and intimately associated with Rev. Orin Fowler, of Fall River; Rev. Sylvester Holmes, of New

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Bedford; Rev. Thomas Robbins, D.D., of Mattapoisett; Rev. Constanthe Blodgett, D.D., of Pawtucket; Rev. Thomas Shepard, D.D., of Bristol; Rev. Thomas Andros, of Berkley; Rev. Philip Colby, of North Middleboro to Taunton in 1849, he engaged in the employ of J. S. Rounds, becoming associated RS partner in about the same years, and, on the death of Mr. Rounds, in 1850, succeeded to the entire business. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 11(, is now conducting successfully the largest mercantile business in Southeastern Massachusetts. Not a politician, an aspirant for political honors, he has never held any public office, but has given faithful service in offices of trust in mercantile, educational, and industrial affairs. He is a member of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Church, and is identified with the Republican party. His wife is Mrs. Lucy P. Johnson, by whom he has one daughter, Addie W. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Josephus Skinner, father of Nathan H., was born in Mansfield, Mass., June 15, 1796. At the age of twenty-five he moved to Troy, N. Y., and remained three years. He spent the same length of time in North Middleboro, Mass., and then removed to Norton, Mass., where he has since resided. He married Rebecca, daughter of Nathan and Olive (Crossman) Flick, born in Taunton, Aug. 10, 1802. Thomas Skinner, father of Josephus, was born in Mansfield, Mass., Apr. 17, 1751, living there until his decease in 1844, with the exception of the time spent in active service in the army of the Revolution. Occupation, farmer.

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VII]EARLY HISTORY OF THE PRESBREY FAMILY AND LIFE OF SILAS DEAN PRESBREY.

Among the papers that came officially into the possession of the administrator of the estate of the late Cpt. Seth Presbrey, of Taunton, was a document saying across its back the following inscription : “ To the generations of Presbreys in coming time I bequeath this genealogical document.” This paper is dated Taunton, April, 1845, and the statements therein are undoubtedly trustworthy. From it is condensed the history of the first three generations given in this article. The name is generally spelled Presbrey, but some scholars claim that as there is no such spelling in books of heraldry it is erroneous and should be spelled Presbury, and there in, those of the family who adopt the spelling, neither or not with justice it is difficult with our 1)re,,(!nt light to say. William Presbrey, the great-grandfather of the writer of the “ genealogical document” described above, was born in the city of London about the year 1610, and when ten years of age was impressed on board a man-of-war, where he remained until he was about twenty-one years of age. One summer, while the ship was lying in the harbor of Boston, he with others of the crew were permitted to go on shore, when he took occasion to stray away from his companions. Passing through what was afterwards called Roxbury, he pushed on through fields and woods, subsisting upon berries, and continued his wandering for four days, when he found himself in Taunton. He first stopped at the house of Mr. Nathaniel Crossman, on what is now called Cohannet Street, at a point nearly opposite White’s Music Hall, perhaps a little farther down the hill towards the river. Mr. Crossman was a farmer, miller, and shoemaker, and hired the young stranger for a year or two as man-of-all-work. It is said that Presbrey rigged the first properly-equipped vessel on Taunton River, which was a sloop built at Benjamin King’s landing in Raynham. He eventually bought land and built a house near “Spring Brook,” where he lived, after taking for his wife one Hannah Smith, till he reached the ripe age of eighty-one years. They had two sons, William and Joseph, and one daughter, Hannah, who died a young woman. The older son, William, was a coaster and shoemaker, and lived in that part of Taunton known as the Weir. He married Mary White, and died at about the age of forty-five, leaving five sons and four daughters, as follows: William, Seth, John, Simeon, Levi, Lydia, Mary, Abigail, Betsey, “ who all married and left families.” William, a coaster and trader, married Lydia Pratt, and lived at the Weir, and died at the age of eightytwo, leaving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Seth, coaster and trader, married Sarah Pratt; lived at the Weir, and died at the age of eighty-one, leaving children and grandchildren.

John, having the same business as his brothers, was living in 1845, and was eighty-five years old. He married Prudence Pratt, and they became the parents of a large family.

Simeon, a carpenter, lived in Norton; married Abigail Newton, and died at the age of about seventyfive. They too had a large family.

Levi was a land surveyor; married Lina Pratt; went to Canada to survey a tract of land, and was frozen to death, while traveling on horseback, in the winter of 1800. He was thirty years old, and left children.

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Lydia married Samuel Haskins; removed to Cayuga, and lived and died there, aged seventy-five, leaving a family.

Mary married Francis Goward, and lived in Easton, and died aged about eighty. She too had a family. -

Betsey married Jail Hathaway, and lived in Freetown, now Troy, and died at about eighty, leaving children and grandchildren.

Abigail married Abijah Leonard, and lived in Mansfield, and died at about eighty, leaving children and grandchildren.

The other son of the original William, Joseph, was a carpenter; lived at the Weir; married Molly Baker, and died aged about seventy-five years, leaving two sons and four daughters,- Elisha, Joseph, Sarah, Patty, Mary, and Hannah. Elisha passed the earher years of his life near the Weir; was a carpenter; married Wealthea Wilbar, and had several children;